



## **A Letter from the AMTA President**

Dear Colleagues,

Hope this newsletter finds you well, and that you and your loved ones are safe and well. Thank you for all your hard work, passion, and professional service to continue fostering the musical learning and performances across Alabama and beyond through your dedicated music teaching.

You have demonstrated time and again your outstanding work, adaptiveness, and perseverance through the great student participation in AMTA auditions and events this year.

We are grateful for the service of former AMTA Board members, Jason Terry, Omar Roy, and Brittney Patterson. Their dedicated work has helped this organization to continue with virtual events successfully during the pandemic. Please join me in welcoming two new Board members, Hannah Roberts, and James Michael

Covington, and past AMTA president Sarah Tanner to the Board. We are very excited to announce that Hannah will serve as Awards Chair, Michael will serve as AMTA & MTNA Composition Competition & Commissioning Chair, and Sarah will serve as the newly combined role as Soundboard Newsletter Editor and Advertising Chair. My deepest gratitude to all AMTA Board Members, Local Association Presidents and Board Members, and entire membership for your devoted time and volunteer work in helping to build AMTA in each area of the state during these challenging times; especially when twenty-four hours are seemingly scarce to split between virtual and in-person life both professionally and privately.

We mourn the loss of two AMTA members, Ruth Glover Graham, and Glenda Potts. Ruth Glover Graham was a long-time teacher and member of AMTA and MMTF. She had helped to organize the Prattville Hymn Festival in the 1970's, and held offices in the local Guild and AMTA. Glenda Potts was a long time member of AMTA and MMTF as well, and was living in Birmingham.



The 2022 MTNA National Conference will be held on March 26–30 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It promises to be the most inclusive conference ever. This in-person conference will also be offered in virtual format for you to enjoy at home right here in Alabama (without the snow)! You can visit the MTNA 2022 Conference website link [here](#) to register and learn more.

Each of you is critical to the organizational success of AMTA. Thank you for all your continuous work and service with your community, local, and state associations. I am honored and humbled to have this wonderful opportunity to serve this amazing organization with all of you. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Hope you have a great start to the winter season!

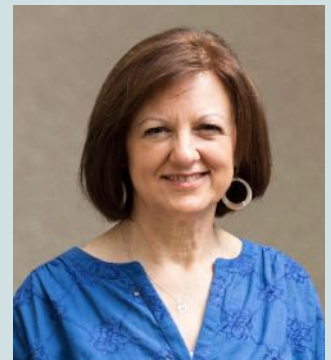
Yours Sincerely,

Melody Ng, NCTM  
AMTA President



## **Certification News**

AMTA congratulates another newly certified member in Sandy Stephenson. Originally from Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, Sandy has resided for the past 30 years in Birmingham, Alabama. She has taught children's choir and private piano lessons for over 40 years. She taught at Samford's Piano Adventures Camp and All Aboard Preschool Music Camp for many years and has led seminars in teaching preschool music and elementary music. Sandy is currently an assistant music director for the youth performing ensembles at Red Mountain Theatre. She has served for the past 16 years as Minister to Children at Double Oak Community Church along with teaching private piano lessons there at the church. Sandy is married to Kelly Stephenson, Care Pastor for Double Oak Community Church and has three children and five grandchildren.



Barbara Shinn, Certification Chair





## UAB Piano Studio

- All-Steinway school
- Young Performing Artists Program
- Scholarships available
- Piano studio recitals each semester
- Piano Ensemble course
- UAB Piano Series guest artist recitals
- Annual UAB Piano Day for pre-college students: Master-Class and Polyphonic Music Festival

*Sample lessons available.*

*Email: [kasman@uab.edu](mailto:kasman@uab.edu)*



## UAB Piano in the News

2021-2022

**Faculty: Dr. Yakov Kasman**

*Distinguished Professor of Piano/Artist-in-Residence  
Van Cliburn International Piano Competition Silver Medalist*

**UAB** student recitals are performed on our  
*Hamburg Steinway concert grand piano.*

**UAB** Piano Studio Alumni recital: February 22, 2022

**UAB** Piano Series is back, bringing top pianists in the  
country to Birmingham!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

October 10 **ASIYA KOREPANOVA:** *Twenty-Four Etudes by Liszt*

January 23 **MARINA LOMAZOV:** *Ragtimes by American Composers and More*

March 27 **KENNY BROBERG:** *Medtner and More*

# Save the date for the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual AMTA Conference

**When: June 2-4, 2022**

**Where: UAB Hulsey Center in Birmingham, AL**

**Mark your calendar to attend the AMTA Conference as we celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> annual conference and a return to an in person format!**

**Our guest artist, Anthony Padilla, and clinician, Gail Berenson both graciously agreed to join us for the 2022 conference.**

**Anthony Padilla, is professor of piano and chamber music at Lawrence University Conservatory of Music and is a laureate of the Cleveland, Gina Bachauer, William Kapell, and Walter Naumburg International Piano Competitions.**

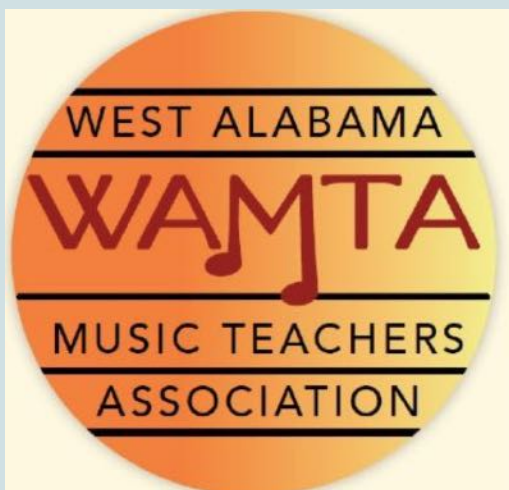
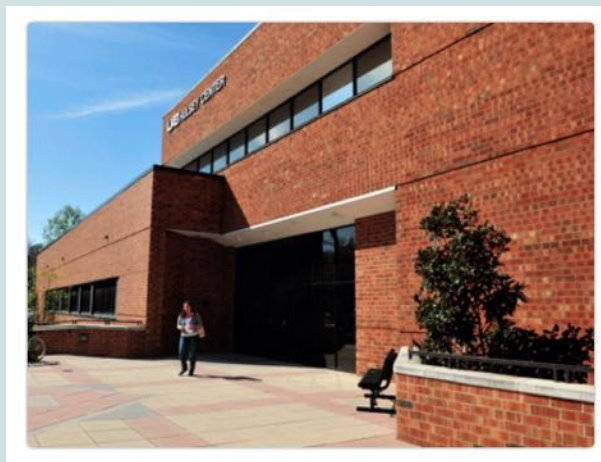
**Gail Berenson is Professor Emerita of Piano at Ohio University, Athens, as well as a Past President of the Music Teachers National Association. Berenson has held several national posts with the National Conference on Piano Pedagogy and the World Pedagogy Conference, and for many years has chaired the Committee for Pianists' Wellness for the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy.**

**In addition to a concert and masterclasses from our guest artist and engaging sessions from our guest clinician, there will be a concert and presentations from AMTA members. Sessions for strings will be presented by Lauren and Kristin Yu and voice sessions from UAB faculty member, Lara Wilson.**

**Check the conference website for more information coming in December!**

**<http://almta.org/conference.php>**

**Laura Beth Mitchell-Bisset, NCTM  
First Vice President**



*Shoals Area  
Music Teachers  
Forum*



**Members**  
Noel Beck  
Yi-Min Cai  
Elizabeth Counts  
Lynne Crabtree  
Christine Enlow  
Linda Lightsey  
Carol Lynn  
Elena Sandrell  
Anita Scott  
Kristie Smith  
Gail Spires

**Events**  
Ritz Recital   Music Olympics   AMTA District Auditions  
Make It Minor   W.C. Handy Festival Kidz Jamm



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**APPLY NOW**

## **WORKSHOPS**

*June 19-July 2, 2022*

Flute | Oboe | Clarinet | Bassoon | Saxophone | French  
Horn | Trumpet | Trombone | Tuba & Euphonium | Violin |  
Viola | Cello | Double Bass | String Quartet | Percussion |  
Electroacoustic Composition

## **YOUNG ARTISTS PROGRAMS**

*July 3-August 13, 2022*

Young Artists Orchestra | Young Artists Wind Ensemble |  
Young Artists Vocal Program | Young Artists Piano  
Program | Young Artists Composition Program | Young  
Artists Harp Program

## Meet a Local Association President

**Dr. Cindy St. Clair, President of Birmingham Metro Music Forum**

**Pianist Cindy St. Clair** has appeared throughout the United States and Europe as a soloist and collaborator. She has had notable performances in the *Classical Music Festival* in Eisenstadt, Austria. She has also been a featured soloist with the Huxford Symphony Orchestra, the University of Alabama Symphonic Band, and the Samford University Orchestra. In demand as a collaborative pianist, Dr. St. Clair has a wealth of experience working with vocalists, ensembles, instrumentalists, choirs, and musical theatre groups. Most recent engagements include performances at the *Music by Women Festival* in Mississippi and at Auburn University. She is currently collaborating on several projects with Christopher Jordan, baritone, relating to music by African American composers.

Dr. St. Clair holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree and a Master of Music degree in Piano Performance from the University of Alabama and a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance from Samford University. Dr. St. Clair also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Paralegal Studies with a concentration in Business from Samford University. She worked 16 years in the legal field prior to pursuing her degrees in music during which time she spent many years serving on the Board of Directors for the Alabama Association of Paralegals, Inc., mentoring students, and presenting lectures at conferences.

Currently, Dr. St. Clair is Interim Chair of the Division of Music at Samford University, as well as Assistant Professor of Piano. Previously, she served as Chair of the Department of Music and Director of the Quality Enhancement Plan for Judson College. In 2019, she received the *Mary Gibson Thompson Teaching Award for Excellence* at Judson. She has won several piano competitions in the region and is frequently invited to adjudicate piano competitions, give masterclasses, and present lectures. She is a certified teacher in piano by the Music Teachers National Association. She now serves on the executive board of the Alabama Music Teachers Association and is the 2021-2022 President of the Birmingham Metro Music Forum.

—submitted by Wendy McGee, AMTA Local Associations Chair



### *Samford University* *School of the Arts Division of Music*

offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in composition, commercial music, music education, music and worship, instrumental, piano and voice performance, piano performance and pedagogy and worship leadership.

**2021-22 Audition and Interview Weekends for Prospective Music Majors**

**Nov. 19-20 ▪ Feb. 4-5 ▪ Feb. 25-26**

*Scholarships Available*

**Contact: Katie Overturf ▪ [arts@samford.edu](mailto:arts@samford.edu) ▪ 205-726-4111 ▪ [Samford.edu/arts](http://Samford.edu/arts)**

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## News from Baldwin County Music Teachers Association

Does it surprise anyone that we are still teaching with masks and sanitizing protocols? This may be the new norm. The Baldwin County Music Teachers have elected new officers for the next term. They are:

**President:** Christy Myers

**Treasurer:** Lindsey Hughes

**First Vice President:** Jeanne O'Connell, NCTM

**Historian/Publicity:** Vincentine Williams, NCTM

**Second Vice President:** Amy Morgan

**Music Camp Chair:** Laura Gruenloh

**Secretary:** Eric Marrero

BCMTA has planned a full year of activities for our students. Despite the pandemic we hope to provide meaningful and productive events to enhance the learning progress of our students.

**\*\*October 23, Fall Recital** Usually two recitals to provide for all the students wishing to play.

**\*\*November 1, Hymn Fest** To promote hymn playing among our students.

**\*\*January 29, 2022 Musicalooza Music Camp.** To promote fellowship among our private students and musical interactions with one another using games, dance, rhythm activities, art activities, Masterclasses, performances.

**\*\*February 5, 2022 Gulf Coast Steinway Society Competition** for all private students along the Gulf Coast.

**\*\*March 12, 2022 Boys' Recital** exclusively for Boys.

**\*\*TBD Adult Musicales** for adult students to perform in a nurturing, relaxed environment without comparison with one another.

**\*\*March 26, 2022 AMTA District Auditions**

**\*\* TBD Guild**

**\*\*May 1, 2022 Senior recital** for all seniors who have committed to private study of their instrument throughout high school.

This holds another full year of events for our students. We hope to make it a great year.



Dr. Kadisha Onalbayeva from the University of Mobile came to our October meeting held at the Steinway Piano Gallery in Spanish Fort to discuss the Gulf Coast Steinway Society Music Competition to be held on Saturday, February 5, 2022 at the University of Mobile and to give tips on how to train students to avoid performance anxiety. Dr. Onalbayeva is standing in the back with Christy Myers, BCMTA President along with many of its members.

Submitted by Jeanne O'Connell, NCTM  
Baldwin County Music Teacher

**Want to include news from your local forum in the next Soundboard?**

**Send to Sarah Tanner at [amtaadvertising@gmail.com](mailto:amtaadvertising@gmail.com) by**

**February 6, 2022 and I'll include it in the next issue!**

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## **AMTA Local Association Presidents** **2021-2022**

<b>Auburn Opelika MTA</b> Christine Adolf (256) 404-0449 <a href="mailto:christine.p.adolf@gmail.com">christine.p.adolf@gmail.com</a>	<b>Montgomery MTF</b> Sarah Cheatham Tanner (334) 269-3870 <a href="mailto:sarah.tanner@mps.k12.al.us">sarah.tanner@mps.k12.al.us</a>
<b>Baldwin County MTA</b> Laurie Gruenloh (251) 947-3044 (251) 978-2449 <a href="mailto:lbgruenloh@gmail.com">lbgruenloh@gmail.com</a>	<b>Northeast Alabama MTA</b> Dr. Rachel Park, (323) 803-8995 <a href="mailto:kpark@jsu.edu">kpark@jsu.edu</a>
<b>Birmingham Metro Music Forum</b> Cindy St. Clair (205) 726-2501 (205) 612-0066 <a href="mailto:cindy.stclair@samford.edu">cindy.stclair@samford.edu</a>	<b>Shoals Area MTF</b> Kristie Smith, NCTM (256) 810-7310 <a href="mailto:klh96@yahoo.com">klh96@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Huntsville MTA</b> Deborah Loach (615) 516-6655 <a href="mailto:dloach@bellsouth.net">dloach@bellsouth.net</a>	<b>West Alabama MTA</b> Manley Blackwell (205) 657-0993 (205) 392-3509 <a href="mailto:meb@uwa.edu">meb@uwa.edu</a>
<b>Mobile MTA</b> Tammy Dennis (251) 422-9566 <a href="mailto:tammydennispiano@gmail.com">tammydennispiano@gmail.com</a>	<b>Wiregrass MTF</b> Carol Windham (334) 464-1398 <a href="mailto:crlwindham@aol.com">crlwindham@aol.com</a>

## AMTA Executive Board

### State President

Melody Ng, NCTM  
256-824-2579  
[melody.ng@uah.edu](mailto:melody.ng@uah.edu)

### 1st Vice-President & President-Elect

Laura Beth Mitchell-Bisset, NCTM  
256-996-0635  
[lemitch@samford.edu](mailto:lemitch@samford.edu)

### 2nd Vice-President & Membership

Barbara Shinn, NCTM  
205-335-8736  
[bashinn@gmail.com](mailto:bashinn@gmail.com)

### Immediate Past President

Joshua K. Pifer  
661-713-5769  
[jkpifer@valdosta.edu](mailto:jkpifer@valdosta.edu)

### Secretary

Scott Schwab  
303-652-7317  
[schwabpiano@gmail.com](mailto:schwabpiano@gmail.com)

### Web Editor & Educational Technology

Ron Shinn, NCTM  
205-601-3694  
[rshinn@samford.edu](mailto:rshinn@samford.edu)

### NCTM Certification

Barbara Shinn, NCTM  
205-335-8736  
[bashinn@gmail.com](mailto:bashinn@gmail.com)

### Treasurer

Cindy St. Clair  
205-612-0066  
[cinjstclair@aol.com](mailto:cinjstclair@aol.com)

### Independent Music Teachers

Frances Schwemmer, NCTM  
256-881-6879  
[eddosch@aol.com](mailto:eddosch@aol.com)

### AMTA State Auditions

Kevin Chance  
585-750-7894  
[k.t.chance@gmail.com](mailto:k.t.chance@gmail.com)



#### **Local Associations**

Wendy McGee, NCTM  
256-652-5210  
[providencemusic1@gmail.com](mailto:providencemusic1@gmail.com)

#### **MTNA Competitions**

Jodean Tingle, NCTM  
205-305-3110  
[jtingle@bsc.edu](mailto:jtingle@bsc.edu)

#### **AMTA & MTNA Composition Competition & Commissioning Chair**

Michael Covington

[jmc0031@auburn.edu](mailto:jmc0031@auburn.edu)

#### **Historian & Publicity**

Kristie Smith  
256-810-7310  
[pianodiva96@gmail.com](mailto:pianodiva96@gmail.com)

#### **SoundBoard Editor**

Sarah Tanner  
334-462-1741  
[amtaadvertising@gmail.com](mailto:amtaadvertising@gmail.com)

#### **Grant Writer**

Daniel DeKonty  
251-298-6388  
[dekontyd@gmail.com](mailto:dekontyd@gmail.com)

#### **MTNA/AMTA Judges Coordinator**

Eun-Hee Park  
205-665-6667  
[eunheepianist@gmail.com](mailto:eunheepianist@gmail.com)

#### **Clinician**

Kevin Chance, NCTM  
585-750-7894  
[k.t.chance@gmail.com](mailto:k.t.chance@gmail.com)

#### **Awards**

Hannah Roberts  
  
[hannah.roberts@ua.edu](mailto:hannah.roberts@ua.edu)

#### **Advertising**

Sarah Tanner  
334-462-1741  
[amtaadvertising@gmail.com](mailto:amtaadvertising@gmail.com)

#### **Collegiate Chapters & College Faculty Forum**

Lillian Roberts  
941-773-7792  
[lroberts@sheltonstate.edu](mailto:lroberts@sheltonstate.edu)

#### **State Foundation**

Daniel DeKonty  
251-298-6388  
[dekontyd@gmail.com](mailto:dekontyd@gmail.com)