



# SOUNDBOARD

A Publication of the Alabama Music Teachers Association

Op. 67 No. 2

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## *Letter from the President*

Happy Spring! I hope your start to 2020 has been a great and productive one.

I would like to begin by congratulating and recognizing our outstanding young students who placed in Southern Division Competitions for MTNA.

Young Artist Performance Voice Winner:  
Claudia Affan, voice-soprano - teacher: Matthew Hoch

Senior Performance Piano Winner:  
Luke Turner, piano - teacher: Heather Conner

Senior Performance Woodwinds Alternate:  
Raleigh Williams, flute - teacher: Nancy Vinson

Both Claudia Affan and Luke Turner will be competing as National Finalists in Chicago. If you are attending the National Conference, please go and support them as they perform and compete.



I hope many of you will be able to attend the MTNA National Conference in Chicago, Illinois. Our own VP/President Elect, Melody Ng, will be presenting a session. Our Southern Division Director, Diane Blanchard, will be organizing and hosting the Southern Division reception for us on Sunday evening. It is a lovely event and a great opportunity to meet old and new colleagues from other southern states. Please let me know if you are planning to attend the national conference and would like to attend the Southern Division Reception. The more the merrier!

I would like to thank all our board members who have been working so very hard to serve all our students and members. I am very excited for our AMTA State Conference again this year. We have a star studded line up again. Melody Ng has been working hard in planning and organizing your state conference which will be held again in Huntsville at UAH from May 28 – 30, 2020. Please see what Melody has written in this newsletter and on the website.

I encourage all young budding composers to participate in our student composition competition this spring. The deadline for submission is April 3 to Brittney Patterson. (see following link for more information: <http://www.almta.org/composition-competition.php>) Teachers, please encourage your students to be creative. Remember, without composers we would be out of a job!

Members, if you know any composers, both professional and collegiate, please encourage them to submit and apply for the AMTA Composer Commission Competition. Submissions are directed towards our Composition Chair Brittney Patterson.

AMTA District and State Piano Auditions have had a makeover this year and I have received many positive comments on the new three tiered system. Our hopes are to grow numbers and more participation, and it looks so far that we will achieve this. Please read carefully about the new three tiered system of “Gold, Silver, and Bronze Levels”. Information can be found on your website at: <http://www.almta.org/audition-info.php>.

I would like to give a special shout out to Ron Shinn for helping out Kevin Chance and other State Chairs with updating the forms on line. This has taken many hours of hard work and we are all very grateful for your kindness and giving.

February 21 – 23, 2020 was AMTA Statewide Music Weekend. Many of your Local Associations were able to add or reorganize events to happen on this one weekend. Thank you Local Association Presidents and members. Alabama is the first state in MTNA to attempt a statewide project like this to generate excitement all across the state over one weekend. Hopefully this will lead to more membership and a larger presence of AMTA across our state. I will be proudly reporting on this at the National Conference.

Your AMTA Membership Directory on the website is finally accurate and up to date. A special thanks to Barbara and Ron Shinn and Steven DiBlasi for the hundreds of hours they spent since the beginning of the summer to update our directory. Now the directory has only actively paid members listed. If you do not see your name in the directory, please rejoin and pay your membership dues and as soon as you do you will be back on the list. Barbara is updating it regularly. Please remember, this year we will be able to truly enforce our policy of non-member fees for District, State, and AMTA Sponsored events if you did not join before November 1, 2019.

AMTA is delighted to welcome Kathryn Lamb as our new Strings Chair. We are so excited to have you on our board. I would like to thank Frances Schwemmer and Susan Hoop for volunteering to help out this year to make this strings chair transition smoother.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to be a part of our amazing and dedicated organization and am very thankful for all our unselfishly committed board members. Thank you for all your support and allowing me to serve as your president. AMTA is a strong state affiliate and we continue to strive to serve, to create performance and educational opportunities for our students and members, and to promote the cause of music.

I hope to see all of you at our AMTA State Conference where we can reconnect, celebrate, and learn.

Sincerely,  
Josh Pifer – AMTA President

## ***AMTA 2020-2022 Nominated Slate of Officers***

**Immediate Past President—Josh Pifer  
President—Melody Ng**

**First Vice President/President Elect—Laura Beth Mitchell-Bisset**

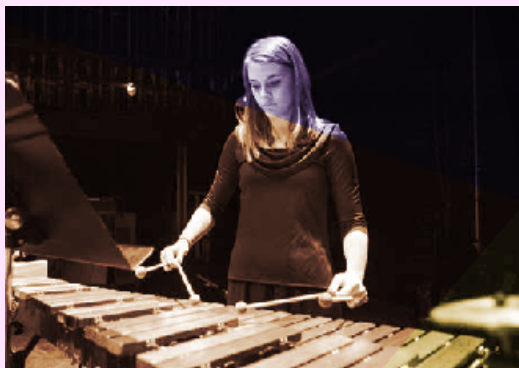
**Second Vice President of Membership—Barbara Shinn**

**Treasurer—Matthew Wilson**

**Secretary—Cindy St. Clair**

**Judges Coordinator—Eun-Hee Park**

**State Auditions Coordinator—Kevin Chance**



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# UNIVERSITY of MONTEVALLO

## DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

### Events for Middle & High School Students

Festival of Voices — Sept. 29-30

All-State Choir Workshop — Oct. 19

Single Reed Symposium — Nov. 16-17

Men's Festival Chorus — Jan. 10

Middle School Honor Band Festival — Feb. 21-22

High School Honor Band Festival — March 6-8

### Scholarship Auditions

Nov. 9, 2019

Feb. 1, 2020

Feb. 29, 2020



# *AMTA Statewide Music Weekend*

## *February 21-23, 2020*

Seven Local Associations hosted musical events open and free to the public during our first AMTA Statewide Music Weekend.

### **Northeast Alabama Music Teachers Association**

Friday, February 21st, 2020, 1:45-2:45pm  
 First Baptist Church, Jacksonville AL.  
 230 7<sup>th</sup> Street NE, Jacksonville AL.

Lecture: "Performing Your Best on All Fronts!"

This lecture presentation by Dr. Cynthia MacCrae helped participants perform with more confidence, focused intent, and enthusiasm. She discussed how to use the heart, mind, and body to help reach new heights on and off the stage. The presentation was geared to musicians, but is also applicable to actors and beneficial to people from all walks of life.

### **Mobile Music Teachers Association**

Saturday, February 22nd, 2020, 9:00a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
 University of South Alabama in Laidlaw Performing Arts Center.

51<sup>st</sup> Annual Sonata Competition

This contest was for students ages 7 through adult.

### **Shoals Area Music Teachers Forum**

Saturday, February 22  
 Kennedy Douglass Center for the Arts in Florence  
 217 East Tuscaloosa Street, Florence, Alabama 35630

Community Concert

An afternoon of music was presented by students playing 1-3 pieces each in 30- minute recitals. In addition to the piano students, others performed on string, brass, and woodwind instruments as well as guitar. Libby Counts and Linda Lightsey chaired the event. The beautiful Kennedy Douglass Center opens onto Wilson Park in downtown Florence which is a regular community gathering place for music and arts festivals.

### **West Alabama Music Teachers Association**

Saturday, February 22, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.  
 Moody Music Building Recital Hall at the University of Alabama.

Lecture Recital

Mr. Omar Roy, Instructor at the University of Alabama, presented "Narrative in the Piano Literature of Franz Liszt." He discussed literary influences in Liszt's piano music and concluded with a performance of "Vallee d'Obermann" from Anees de Pelerinage I (Suisse). Mr. Roy was a major prize winner at the EMTA Collegiate Scholarship Competition in 2009 and 2011. He is a candidate for the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance and Pedagogy at the University of Oklahoma where he studied piano with Jeongwang Ham and Edward Gates and pedagogy with Jane McGrath and Barbara Fast.

### **Birmingham Metro Music Forum**

Sunday, February 23, 2020 at 3:00 PM  
Birmingham Southern College, Hill Recital Hall

#### University of North Georgia Faculty Performers Concert

The 1716 Collective presented music from a wide array of music styles and genres featuring faculty from the University of North Georgia. Works included solos and chamber music for voice, violin, cello, saxophone, bass, and piano. The collective champions and presents music throughout the world. They offer an exciting blend of music that features their instruments while touching the soul with endearing melodies. The collective members include Benjamin Schoening, Serena Scibelli, Esther Morgan-Ellis, Luca Lombardi, Diana Peoples, Jose Garcia, and David Peoples.

### **Wiregrass Music Teachers Forum**

Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 at 2:00PM  
Covenant Methodist Church  
3610 W. Main Street, Dothan, AL

#### The Brickle Duo in Concert

The Brickle Duo is a husband and wife team from Tallahassee, Florida. Violinist Marianna Brickle holds a Doctor of Music degree from Florida State University and maintains a vibrant studio at Thomasville Road Academy of the Arts. Pianist David Brickle is a candidate for the Doctor of Music in Piano Performance from Florida State University and serves as Adjunct Professor of Piano at Wallace State Community College in Dothan. The concert featured both solo and duo works by several composers including J. S. Bach, Franz Liszt, and Aaron Copland.

### **Montgomery Music Teachers Forum**

Saturday, February 22, 2020, 8:30 AM—3:00 PM  
Booker T. Washington Magnet High School

Sunday, February 23, 2020 at 2:00 PM  
Providence Presbyterian Church  
2130 Bell Road, Montgomery, AL

#### Federation Junior Festival

Many MMTF teachers entered students in the Federation Junior Festival. Over 100 students participated in the event. Judges selected honor students to perform in a recital the following day.



**Online Programs:**  
Bachelor of Arts in Music

**On-Campus Programs:**  
Bachelor of Arts in Music &  
Bachelor of Science in Music Education

**Preview Day for Prospective Students**  
**May 16, 2020**

Scholarships Available

[www.judson.edu/music](http://www.judson.edu/music)

# *68<sup>th</sup> Annual AMTA Conference*

**May 28 – May 30, 2020**

**The University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, Alabama**

**A Musical Propulsion - Learning, Teaching, and Performing**

Dear AMTA Members,

I hope 2020 is going well for everyone, and that all of you are excited for the upcoming AMTA conference! Our guest artist will be Anthony Padilla, Associate Professor of Piano and Chamber Music from Lawrence University Conservatory of Music. Our guest clinician will be Gail Berenson, past President of MTNA and Professor Emerita of Piano at Ohio University. Our guest string clinicians, Drs. Kristin and Laurel Yu from Valdosta State University, will be providing a string masterclass and session. This year will continue the return of the Winner's Circle Recital. Those students who have been state winners for 2 years in a row in their division will be featured on this winner's recital. The Conference Banquet will be held at UAH – Student Services Building with exquisite and delicious food. We are launching the 2020 state conference with fully packed pedagogical sessions, masterclasses and recitals to propel everyone for a fulfilling musical journey, where we can all celebrate reunions, growth, inspirations, students' development and success, and meet new friends!

We have worked hard to make accommodations affordable for you to attend this year's AMTA Conference and visit the Rocket City. Rooms at the conference hotel has been blocked for conference attendees for a special rate of \$96 per night (Rooms Available: King or 2 Queen Beds). This is a hugely discounted rate specially negotiated for AMTA members – regular rate is \$137. The conference hotel will be the same as last year at Hilton Garden Inn Space & Rocket Center. Hilton Garden Inn Space & Rocket Center is only a short 4-minute drive to the UAH music building - Roberts Hall. The cut-off date is May 4<sup>th</sup> to receive this specially reduced AMTA rate! In addition, we are thrilled that UAH will be offering the newly opened on-campus accommodations again for AMTA members' family and friends for a rate as low as \$25 per room (twin bed, linens included) in a spacious 4-room suite per night. **All details for room reservations for UAH on-campus housing and Conference Hotel can be found at the AMTA Conference website: [www.almta.org/conference.php](http://www.almta.org/conference.php)**

Registration is up and running! You can easily register online or mail in your conference registration form. **Registration form and online registration are available at AMTA website - [www.almta.org/conference-register.php](http://www.almta.org/conference-register.php)**

We are working closely with the visitors' bureau alongside our fantastic local AMTA members and are more than happy to help you plan your meaningful trip up north to Huntsville to attend the state conference and explore the Rocket City area. You can find more visitors' information at the AMTA Conference Website. We can't wait to welcome you to the Rocket City, which houses a beautiful botanical garden, NASA's US Space & Rocket Center, Lowe Mill ARTS & Entertainment (the largest privately owned arts facility in the US), microbreweries, new city development and preservation of the downtown historic district, coupled with plenty of scenic greenways and hiking trails up in the mountains.

You are all amazing and inspirational musicians, and AMTA is an awesome organization! We look forward to seeing everyone soon at the AMTA Conference at UAH!

Sincerely,  
Melody Ng, NCTM – AMTA First Vice President

# LEARN in the key of



The **University of Alabama School of Music** offers a comprehensive musical education with individualized mentoring from world-class faculty. Our **tradition of excellence** shines through our alumni performing and teaching throughout the world and working in every musical corner of our communities.

## DEGREES OFFERED

Bachelor of Music  
Performance, Jazz Studies,  
Composition, Theory,  
Music Therapy

Bachelor of Science  
Musical Audio Engineering  
Music Education

Bachelor of Arts  
General Music  
Music Administration

Master of Music  
Performance, Conducting,  
Composition, Theory, Arranging,  
Musicology

Master of Arts  
Music Education

Doctor of Musical Arts  
Performance, Composition,  
Conducting

PhD Music Education  
EdD Music Education  
Education Specialist

## PERFORMING ENSEMBLES

The Huxford Symphony Orchestra  
Alabama Wind Ensemble  
Symphonic Band  
Concert Band  
The Million Dollar Band  
University Singers  
University Chorus

Women's Chorus  
University of Alabama Opera Theatre  
Contemporary Music Ensemble  
Jazz Ensemble  
Jazz Band and Jazz Combo  
Chamber Music  
Early Music Ensembles



## *Guest Artist: Anthony Padilla*

Anthony Padilla is a professor of piano and chamber music at the Lawrence University Conservatory of Music and the 2017 recipient of Lawrence University's Excellence in Teaching Award. An American pianist of Filipino-Chinese ancestry, Padilla receives public and critical acclaim for performances of “enormous freshness, vitality and poetry” (Chicago Tribune). Recognized internationally as pianist of remarkable sensitivity, refined interpretation and dazzling technique, he joined the Concert Artists Guild’s distinguished roster of soloists in 2000 as the top prizewinner of the Concert Artists Guild International Competition. A native of Richland, Washington, he first performed as soloist with the Mid-Columbia Symphony at age nine, made his debut with the Seattle Symphony Orchestra in 1983, and has since become a popular guest artist with orchestras and at concert series and music festivals throughout North America, Europe and Asia. Highlights include solo and collaborative appearances at the Ravinia, Chautauqua, Schleswig-Holstein, Holzhausen, Victoria, Sarasota, Cascade, Bay View and San Luis Obispo Festivals. After his New York debut recital, the New York Concert Review called him “a strong-willed, steel-fingered tornado; he plays the piano with absolute authority and gives new meaning to the idea of ‘interpretation’ to the extent that the U.S. Patent Office might well grant him a number. Nobody could copy him.”



A graduate of the Eastman School of Music, Mr. Padilla studied with Nelita True, Jeffrey Kahane, Natalya Antonova, Béla Síki, Leonard Richter, Donald Walker and Jorge Bolet. Awarded the prestigious Beethoven Fellowship by the American Pianists Association in 1991, Mr. Padilla is also a laureate of the Gina Bachauer, Cleveland, William Kapell and Walter Naumburg International Piano Competitions. In addition, he has received major prizes from the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts, the Society of American Musicians, the Music Teachers National Association, the Koszciuszko Foundation, the Harvard Musical Association and the Theodore Presser Foundation. He is a founding member of the Arcos Piano Trio, which was recently awarded an Artistic Excellence grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to commission and record chamber works by Latin American composers.

A nationally certified member of the Music Teachers National Association, he is a popular adjudicator and presenter at state, regional and national levels, and his students regularly earn top prizes at MTNA, Wisconsin Music Teachers Association, Neale-Silva, Seattle International and several other competitions. His lecture-recital on “The Classical Sense of Humor” stirred much interest at the MTNA National Convention in Los Angeles. His recordings on Centaur, New World and White Pine include premiere recordings of Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson’s Statements--Second Sonata for Piano, and chamber works by American women and Latin American composers with the Arcos Trio.

**HMTA**  
Huntsville Alabama's Music Teachers Association

For more information on the Huntsville Music Teachers Association, and for a list of our upcoming events, please visit our website at:  
[hsvmta.org](http://hsvmta.org)

## Guest Clinician: Gail Berenson



Gail Berenson is Professor Emerita of Piano at Ohio University, Athens, where she was awarded the “Distinguished Teacher of the Year” Award in 2000 and the “Distinguished Service” Award in 2016. Prior to coming to Ohio, she was on the faculty of the University of Illinois, Urbana. An active performer and passionate chamber music collaborator, she performs with flutist, Alison Brown Sincoff, as a member of the Ohio University Lyric Duo.

As a result of her distinguished work as a piano pedagogue, along with her reputation as an expert on musician wellness issues, she is much in demand as a performer, clinician, masterclass artist, adjudicator, author, reviewer and pedagogy consultant. She has performed and lectured in over thirty-three states and eleven countries. She has been a presenter at the European Piano Teachers Conferences in Manchester, England; Funchal, Madeira; and Amsterdam, Netherlands; served as a guest clinician at the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers’ Association’s National Conferences in Halifax and Vancouver, Canada; and presented sessions at four World Conferences of the International Society of Music Education in Beijing, China; Thessaloniki, Greece; Porto Alegre, Brazil; and Glasgow, Scotland. She has also served as a piano instructor in Yamaha’s Passport to Music program, in cooperation with Crystal Cruise Lines.

Ms. Berenson began to build a reputation as a performing artist early when at age eleven she began accompanying the forty-member male chorus conducted by her piano teacher, appearing in concert throughout Wisconsin and Illinois. A native of Kenosha, Wisconsin, she continued her education at Northwestern University, completing degrees in piano performance, studying piano with Louis Crowder and Guy Duckworth. She also performed in master classes with world-renowned accompanist Gerald Moore, baritone Pierre Bernac, duopianists Vronsky and Babin and, at the Lucerne International Music Festival, with pianist and accomplished chamber musician, Mieczyslaw Horszowski.

Ms. Berenson is one of the co-authors of *A Symposium for Pianists and Teachers: Strategies to Develop Mind and Body for Optimal Performance* and, as a member of the Lorenz Advisory Board she contributed to the innovative piano method, *Piano Discoveries*, and is co-author of *Ask the Professor*. She has also authored three chapters for the fourth edition of the Lyke, Haydon, Rollin book, *Creative Piano Teaching*, published in spring 2011. Ms. Berenson has also written articles for *Keyboard Companion*; the on-line journal, *Piano Pedagogy Forum*; and served as a contributing editor to *Piano & Keyboard*.

She is a Past President of Music Teachers National Association, an association of over 23,000 members, and in 2015 was awarded MTNA’s prestigious “Distinguished Service Award.” She has also held the position of President-Elect, President, Vice President, and Chair of the 2002 and 2003 MTNA National Conference Committees; has served on the 1996 and 1997 Conference Committees; and was one of the founding members of the MTNA Pedagogy Committee. A powerful advocate for musicians’ health, she has served as the founding chair of numerous wellness committees, helping associations begin their foray into this topic. She served as one of the founding members, representing the United States and the piano area, as a member of the International Society of Music Education’s Forum on Instrumental and Vocal Teaching and also helped initiate and chair the Musicians’ Health and Wellness Special Interest Group, currently serving as one of its special advisors. In 2015 she initiated the College Music Society’s Committee on Musicians’ Health and continues to serve as its chair. She has held several national posts with the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy and the World Piano Pedagogy Conference and chaired the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy’s Committee for Pianists’ Wellness for many years. She recently was the recipient of the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy’s 2019 Outstanding Service Recognition Award. A Past President of the Ohio Music Teachers Association, she holds MTNA’s Master Certificate in piano and piano pedagogy and was the recipient of the 1999 OMTA “Certified Teacher of the Year” award and the 2004 OMTA “Collegiate Teacher of the Year” award. In recognition of her significant contributions to the music world and the music teaching profession, she was awarded an MTNA “Foundation Fellow Award” in 2007. Now a resident of Sarasota, Florida, she serves on the Sarasota Concert Association Board and is Co-Chair of the SCA’s Music Matinees Concert Series. Her students are performing and teaching in independent studios and on college faculties throughout the world.

# UAH MUSIC

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- ▶ Liberal Arts
- ▶ Jazz

For more information, contact us at [music@uah.edu](mailto:music@uah.edu).

### 2020 AUDITION DATES

**FEB. 8 & 11,**  
**MAR. 7 & 10**

  
THE UNIVERSITY OF  
ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE

DISCOVER MORE  
**[UAH.EDU/MUSIC](http://UAH.EDU/MUSIC)**

## Birmingham News

Birmingham Metro Music Forum held our annual Theory Exam and Master Class on January 26, 2020. Olivia Jones was the chair of the exam, and there were eight helpers. The students took a written exam on theory based on the Keith Snell Keyboard Theory books. They also did sight reading and ear training. All who passed their exams received trophies.

After the exam, all the students and their parents attended the Master Class with Dr. Yakov Kasman from UAB. Three students performed pieces, and Dr. Kasman gave them helpful advice to better perform. The hour was delightful and very helpful for everybody. Pictured with Dr. Kasman are students Clarisse Nacilla, Shannon Boutwell, and Michael Luster..



On February 23, at 3:00, the group 1716 Collective performed at Birmingham-Southern College for the State-wide Music Weekend. The group included winds, strings, voice, and piano.

Jodean Tingle, NCTM -  
BMMF President

West Alabama Music Teachers Association



- Manley Blackwell
- Kevin Chance, NCTM
- Syble Coats
- Marsha Ford Harrow
- Paul Houghtaling
- Tanya Gilie
- Hyesook Jung
- Paul Lee
- Ashley Lewis
- Jennifer Louie
- Jonathan Noffsinger
- Lillian Roberts, NCTM
- Ben Rosario
- Edisher Savitski
- Misti Short, NCTM
- Cindy St. Clair, NCTM
- Susan Williams
- Kevin Woolsey

## Birmingham Metro Music Forum

Birmingham Metro Music Forum, the local affiliate of the Music Teachers National Association and the Alabama Music Teachers Association, strives to dedicate its efforts to promote and enhance musical life and education in the Metro Birmingham area including district auditions, master classes, monthly recitals, the New Music Festival, scholarships for music camps and the annual theory exams in January.

**President**  
**Vice-President**  
**Immediate Past President**  
**Secretary**  
**Treasurer/Membership**  
**Monthly Recitals Chair**  
**New Music Festival Chair**  
**Theory Exams Chair**  
**Webmaster**



**Jodean Tingle**  
**Lucy DeSa**  
**Brent Reeves**  
**Matthew Wilson**  
**Kathy Burdette**  
**Tatiana Kasman**  
**Karen Krekelberg**  
**Olivia Jones**  
**Ronald Shinn**

## West Alabama News

As part of the AMTA Statewide Music Weekend, WAMTA presented Omar Roy, pianist, in a lecture/recital on Saturday, February 22, 2020 at 2:00 in the Recital Hall at the University of Alabama School of Music. The lecture was entitled "Narrative in Liszt's 'Vallee d'Obermann'" and concluded with a performance of "Vallee d'Obermann" from *Annees de pelerinage I* (Suisse). Mr. Roy is Instructor of Piano at the University of Alabama. He is a candidate for the D.M.A. degree in Piano Performance and Pedagogy at the University of Oklahoma.

The AMTA District IV, Tuscaloosa, Piano Auditions will be held April 4, 2020 at the University of Alabama School of Music. Lillian Roberts is the Chair. Applications should be submitted to her by March 21, 2020.

Our next student recital will be Saturday, March 28, 2020 at 2:00 at Shelton State Community College.

Manley Blackwell - WAMTA President

## *Certification News*

Congratulations to our newest certified member – Olivia Jones! She is a recent graduate in piano from Samford University, has already begun building her private teaching studio in Birmingham and has agreed to be the chairman for the Birmingham Metro Music Forum’s annual theory exams. Congratulations, Olivia!

Other members with certification “work in progress” are Nicholas Robertson (Birmingham) and Heather Weber (Montgomery). We look forward to presenting you as newly certified AMTA members!

Barbara Shinn, NCTM - Certification Chair

## *Baldwin County News*



The Baldwin County music teachers have had another very active fall with our students. On October 26 at the Eastern Shore Presbyterian Church in Fairhope, students gathered to perform a Fall Recital. A total of 31 students playing solos and duets showed off their accomplishments mostly on piano.

Shortly afterwards on November 7, a Keyboard Hymn Festival was held at the First Baptist Church in Fairhope. This event is a joint-ministry effort with the Alabama State Board of Missions. At this event students prepare a hymn at their level with the corresponding scale to perform for a judge. Memorization is not required. More advanced students also perform another selection of their choice. All students went home with certificates of participation and big smiles.

Musicalooza is the BCMTA’s music camp to prepare for the spring competition season. This was held on January 25 in Robertsdale at Grace Fellowship Baptist Church. Students registered for this day camp which included masterclasses, dancing, ear-training, games, rhythm cups and boom-wackers. All wore a t-shirt with the theme of the camp, Jazz. Our guest artist was Adam Schrubbe, a jazz pianist from New Orleans, who taught the blues scale, jazz chords and improvisation to the upper level students. A dance instructor came to give beginning lessons on swing dance. All went home with a ribbon and big smiles having enjoyed the day.

Events that are planned for this spring include a Boys Recital February 8 at the Summerdale Civic Center. This is exclusively an all-boys event. They prepare a memorized selection to share with others. This event seems to be a big hit with the boys who dress in suits and ties without having to share the stage with girls.

Our adults have their day to shine in late March at our Adult Musicale. This is held at the Steinway Piano Gallery in Spanish Fort. The environment is very relaxed and nurturing. Participants share a selection they are working on and are given great encouragement from fellow adults who are pursuing the same instrument.

Of course, many teachers had students participate in the Sonata Contest hosted by the Mobile Music Teachers Association. Also, most of our studios are preparing our students for the District I Auditions in early April held at the University of South Alabama. So as everyone can attest, the BCMTA has a full schedule of events in which our students can gain experience in performing, have fun meeting other like-minded friends, and learn the mastery of music making.

Jeanne O’Connell - BCMTA Member

# sound<sup>of</sup> Samford

## *Division of Music*

Explore studying music in the Division of Music at Samford University's School of the Arts. Join us for our Spring Music Backstage Pass April 24 to meet with students and faculty, attend workshops and classes and see if Samford might be right for you.



For more information, contact [arts@samford.edu](mailto:arts@samford.edu) / 205-726-4111 / [Samford.edu/arts](http://Samford.edu/arts)



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## *Shoals Area News*

Our Forum has had an eventful year so far! We began with an exceptional workshop on Effective Sight-Reading Strategies led by Stephanie Archer in September. Our annual events Make It Minor and the Ritz Recital followed in October and November. We ended 2019 with a delightful Christmas luncheon at Odette in Florence. Linda Lightsey, our newest member, presented an excellent and insightful program on Technique for Beginning Students at our January meeting. Our members received many fun, helpful tips to try in our studios.

We celebrated the AMTA music weekend with a new event, the Shoals Young Musicians Showcase. Linda Lightsey and Libby Counts graciously agreed to serve as coordinators, and we were all happy to prepare our students for this exciting performance opportunity. It was held at the Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts in Florence on February 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Our students were invited to perform on the piano or any other instrument of their choosing, and the event was open to the public. Beautifully designed posters were placed in downtown business windows to publicize the occasion.

Our ever-popular event, Music Olympics, is scheduled for March 7<sup>th</sup>. As our coordinator, Kristie Smith is already hard at work to make it a special day for our students. AMTA district auditions are just around the corner in April with Carol Lynn faithfully at the helm once again. Kidz Jamm, in association with the W.C. Handy Festival, is in July. Our students have the unique opportunity to play a jazz piece accompanied by bass guitar and drums...so much FUN!

We also want to share some exciting news. In addition to our Facebook page, we now have a website: [samtf.org](http://samtf.org). It accomplishes our primary goal of establishing an online presence and allows potential students to find a teacher within our group. We are thrilled about the possibilities of growing the website and enabling Shoals-area residents to learn more about our organization.

Finally, we would be remiss if we didn't acknowledge the exemplary leadership of our president, Noel Beck, these past four years. Many thanks to her and our outstanding members for working so diligently to keep our Forum active, strong and successful!

Lynne Crabtree - SAMTF Member

## *Wiregrass News*

The Wiregrass Music Teachers Forum held the 26<sup>th</sup> annual Sonata Festival on Saturday, February 8, 2020, at Covenant United Methodist Church in Dothan. From the 96 students participating, 50 winners were chosen to perform in a recital on the following Sunday afternoon. Rebecca McManus worked tirelessly as festival chairperson with the help of the other 11 teachers represented. The judges were Sarah Tanner from Montgomery and Eileen Cook from Pensacola.

We were so pleased to present the husband and wife duo, pianist David Brickle and violinist Marianna Brickle, in concert on February 23 as part of the AMTA Statewide Music weekend. The concert featured solo and duo works by J. S. Bach, Aaron Copland, Franz Liszt and more. Forum members Andy Martin, Renee Jones and Lea Hornsby organized this special event.

The District II Auditions will be held at First Baptist Church in Enterprise on April 11. Carol Windham serves as District Chair. Our Honors Recital will follow on Sunday, May 3, also at FBC Enterprise.

Janet Blair - WMTF President

## *Northeast Alabama News*



Students enjoyed putting on their Christmas finery and playing beloved holiday music this past season. A Christmas Recital was presented at the First Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. Fifteen students playing the piano, violin and cello performed for an appreciative, full house.

NEAMTA participated in the upcoming Statewide Music Weekend by featuring Dr. Cynthia MacCrae. The Alabama Music Teachers Association Past President will present “Performing your Best on All Fronts!” Teachers and students of the NEAMTA Chapter as well as music students of Jacksonville State University learned to perform with more confidence, focused intent and enthusiasm. She discussed how to use the heart, mind and body to help reach new heights on and off the stage. The presentation, hosted by JSU’s Department of Music, took place at the First Baptist Church of Jacksonville on February 21<sup>st</sup> from 1:45-2:45 PM and was free and open to all who are interested. The evening before Dr. MacCrae performed a piano recital for the community as part of JSU’s annual Foothills Piano Festival. She added to her musical artistry guided listening suggestions that might be linked to each piece. She suggested thoughts, emotions, moods and imagery such as those of daily hustle and

bustle and releasing stress and welcoming empowerment. This program, also taking place at Jacksonville’s First Baptist Church, began at 7:30 PM on February 20<sup>th</sup> and was free and open to the public.

NEAMTA is also proud to offer a masterclass and recital at Snead State Community College. Pianist Sara Gibbs’ masterclass will take place on March 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM in the Fielder Auditorium in the Administration Building. At 7:00 PM, she will perform with Dr. Steven DiBlasi, SSCC Faculty and AMTA Executive Board Member. For more information, please contact [steven.dibiasi@snead.edu](mailto:steven.dibiasi@snead.edu).

Lastly, our teachers are gearing up for some fun at the Anniston Museum of Natural History. The program entitled “Music with the Animals” on May 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm will feature music about animals, students wearing animal costumes and accessories, a Live Animal Show, and an Instrument Petting Zoo. Student of NEAMTA, the JSU Music Academy, and area teachers will participate. For more information please contact Dr. Wendy Freeland at [wfreeland@jsu.edu](mailto:wfreeland@jsu.edu).

Wendy Freeland, NCTM - NEAMTA President

### *Soundboard Deadlines:*

*Fall:  
October 6*

*Spring:  
February 6*

*Summer:  
July 6*

*District Auditions  
are approaching soon!*

*Visit [www.almta.org](http://www.almta.org) to find your  
district’s deadline.*





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## AUDITION DATES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Saturday, February 22, 2020

Saturday, February 29, 2020



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| APRIL 9  | YPAP senior student recital: FRED SONG, piano   |
| APRIL 11 | YPAP senior student recital: JACOB SKILES, piano  |
| APRIL 19 | UAB Piano Studio and Piano Ensembles recital  |
| APRIL 21 | Pianists MIRA WALKER and DINA KASMAN- winners<br>of the UAB CONCERTO/ARIA COMPETITION-<br>perform as soloists with the Alabama Symphony |
| APRIL 23 | YPAP senior student recital: MIRA WALKER, piano   |
| MAY 16   | SEVENTH UAB PIANO DAY for pre-college students  |

UAB Piano in the News

[www.uab.edu/cas/music](http://www.uab.edu/cas/music)

# *AMTA Executive Board*

## *2019 – 2020*

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## Have something you want to share with the AMTA membership?

All members of AMTA may submit articles or announcements for consideration of inclusion in an issue of the SoundBoard. Please send your articles to Stephanie Archer, SoundBoard editor, at [sarcher@samford.edu](mailto:sarcher@samford.edu). We want to hear from our members! Please do not hesitate to send any feedback regarding this publication. We want to make it the best it can be for all members!