

SoundBoard

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Alabama Music Teachers Association

A Letter from the AMTA President

Dear AMTA Members,

How have we already arrived at the last quarter of the year? Whether you are preparing students for competitions or holiday recitals, I hope this season will prove rewarding for you and your students.

The AMTA Board met in-person on September 16 to discuss a broad range of topics, the most substantial of which was maintaining the financial strength of our organization. Treasurer Cindy St. Clair continues to do a wonderful job looking ahead and strategizing with the Board to make sure that we can continue to provide quality opportunities and experiences for students and teachers. Other topics included the transition of our website to a new host site is in the works (thank you to Ron Shinn for navigating the transition for us – a tremendous amount of work!) Ron also served on the Handbook Committee with Kevin Chance and Susan Hoop to begin revising it to better serve AMTA teachers and students. The revised theory sheets for Pre-College District Piano Auditions are now available on the website. Thank you to the members of the committee for working on these important updates!

Another topic of discussion at this most recent board meeting was the next AMTA Conference. First Vice President/President-Elect Rachel Park will share more details of the conference, but I hope you will begin making plans now to attend as it is going to be spectacular!





Prior to our AMTA Conference, we have the MTNA National Conference in our very own Southern Division! The conference will take place March 16-20 in Atlanta, Georgia – closer than it has been in quite a long time. I sincerely hope you will plan to be there, particularly if you have never had the wonderful experience of attending a national conference.

As we enter a season of planning, travel, and celebrations, please allow me to express my continued gratitude for your support of AMTA!

Sincerely,

Laura Beth Mitchell-Bisset, NCTM – AMTA President

I just received and read a magazine published by the Frances Clark Center. It is for ages 8 - 14 and is quite interesting. I had group classes this past Saturday and I read some of the facts to them. One example is the answer to the average number of strings inside a piano -- It's 230! Subscriptions rates and more information is found at kids.pianoinspires.com. Inquires: Piano Inspires Kids, Frances Clark Center, P.O.Box 651, Kingston, NJ 08528. Toll free: 1-800-487-6188. They offer group subscriptions as well as single rates. It is a quarterly magazine.

Frances Schwemmer –AMTA, Independent Music Teacher Chair

Alabama MTNA Competition, November 3-4, 2023

There were 5 registered in Young Artist Piano, 7 in Junior Piano, and 10 in Senior Piano. In three categories there was only one contestant, so they are Representatives in their categories. Congratulations to those who placed and their teachers.

Young Artist Brass: Representative - Harrison Bruner, Horn, Charles Snead teacher
Young Artist Woodwind: Representative - Grant Bagley, Saxophone, Michael Pendowski teacher
Junior String: Representative - Lauren Kang, Violin, Sheryl Staples teacher

Young Artist Piano:

Winner - Yongtong Tan, University of Alabama, Kevin Chance teacher
Alternate - Charles Yaeger, Birmingham-Southern College, Ron Shinn teacher
Honorable Mention - Enoch Yang, Auburn University, Jeremy Samolesky teacher

Junior Piano:

Winner - Daniel Bae, Pike Road Alabama, Haein Kim teacher
Alternate - Andrew Zhang, Auburn Alabama, Jeremy Samolesky teacher
Honorable Mentions - Huan xin Chen, Daphne Alabama, Robert Holm teacher, Don Han Chen, Daphne Alabama, Robert Holm teacher, Irene Kim, Pike Road Alabama, Haein Kim teacher

Senior Piano:

Winner - Ken Wan, Phoenix City Alabama, Yien Wang teacher
Alternate - Autumn Kim, Pike Road Alabama, Aeri Moon teacher
Honorable Mention - Ian Shen, Tuscaloosa Alabama, Kevin Chance teacher.

Our judges were Yiwen Zhang of Montevallo, Katherine Benson of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Ryan Fogg of Carson-Newman in Tennessee, and Eva Polgar of East Tennessee State University.

Jodean Tingle, AMTA MTNA Competitions Chair

A Letter from First Vice-President



Dear AMTA members,

As the colorful autumn leaves wave their beautiful hands to us, I would like to send a warm heartfelt greeting to each of the AMTA members! At this time of the year, as we are looking back the paths that we have walked through during the year of 2023, we can recall so many beautiful memories, thankful events, and proud achievements. I would like to express my grateful heart for your hard work, dedication, professionalism, and sincere effort to support the music education for the next generation in Alabama as the proud AMTA members and

music educators. I wish you all to celebrate the fruitful, festive, and blessed season of the year!

Here's some updates about the upcoming **2024 AMTA Annual State Conference!**

<p style="text-align: center;">Schedule June 6th through 8th, 2024 (Thursday-Saturday)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Place Jacksonville State University 274 Mason Hall, Music Building 700 Pelham Road North Jacksonville, AL 36265</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Member's Banquet Thursday, June 6th, 2024 @. 6:00pm Merrill Hall, Atrium, Jacksonville State University</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Official Hotel Hampton Inn, Jacksonville, AL The special rate \$119 is available for AMTA members until May 1, 2024. JSU campus housing is also available with the unbeatable rate. It is located within 3 minutes walking distance from the Mason Hall. The reservation link will be available in early next year.</p>

Artina McCain, Guest Artist Hailed by the New York Times as a "virtuoso pianist" McCain, has built a formidable career as a performer, educator and speaker. As a recitalist, her credits include performances at Wigmore Hall and Barbican Centre in London, Weill Hall at Carnegie and Merkin Hall in New York City and more. Other highlights include guest appearances with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Memphis Symphony Orchestra and Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra. In 2022, she was the mistress of ceremony for the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. Dedicated to promoting the works of Black and other underrepresented composers, McCain curates Underrepresented Composers Concerts for multiple arts organizations. She is an American Prize winner for her solo piano recordings of these works and won a Gold Global Music Award for her recent album project Heritage. In 2021, Hal Leonard published her transcriptions of Twenty-Four Traditional African American Folk Songs.



Dennis Alexander, Guest Clinician His over 450 publications and recordings have earned him an international reputation as one of the world's most prolific and popular composers of educational piano music for students at all levels. Professor Alexander taught applied piano and piano pedagogy at the University of Montana, Missoula, California State Fullerton and California State Northridge. He currently lives in Albuquerque, NM where he maintains a studio of adult students and continues to present workshops for local, state, and national organizations. In August of 2015, he was awarded a "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy in recognition of his extraordinary service to the music teaching profession and in 2020 was awarded

UAB COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

The University of Alabama at Birmingham



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- Piano Ensemble course
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Email: kasman@uab.edu



Faculty:

- Dr. Yakov Kasman, *Distinguished Professor of Piano/ Artist-in-Residence*
Van Cliburn International Piano Competition Silver Medalist
- Tatiana Kasman, *Instructor of Piano Ensemble*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

October 29	UAB PIANO SERIES - JOSE RAMON MENDEZ: <i>recital</i>
November 2	UAB PIANO STUDIO: <i>Tchaikovsky's The Seasons recital</i>
November 12	UAB PIANO STUDIO AND ENSEMBLES: <i>recital</i>
November 20	DINA KASMAN: <i>UAB alumna recital</i>
January 21	UAB PIANO SERIES - BRYAN WALLICK: <i>recital</i>
March 24	UAB PIANO SERIES - ESTER AND SUN-A PARK: <i>recital</i>
April 11	MARY ELISA WAGNER: <i>Senior student recital</i>
April 14	UAB PIANO STUDIO AND ENSEMBLES: <i>recital</i>
April 18	ELIZABETH CHOJNACKI: <i>Senior student recital</i>
May 19	UAB PIANO DAY FOR PRE-COLLEGE STUDENTS: masterclass by Dr. Kasman and Polyphonic Music Festival

UAB Piano in the News

2023-24 season

www.uab.edu/cas/music

the prestigious MTNA/Frances Clark Pedagogy Award for his two collections of “Nocturnes for Piano.” Mr. Alexander was invited to conduct the intermediate master class at the MTNA National Conference in Reno, NV in 2023.

In addition to the sessions, recital, and master classes by the guest artist and clinician, we are also looking forward to having recitals, presentations, and poster sessions offered by our own AMTA members. If you would like to share your recent research or presentation, please contact Rachel Park by email, kpark@jsu.edu. The call for the proposal will be announced in early Spring.

Please visit the AMTA website for more detailed information about the upcoming conference!

<https://www.almta.org/conference.php>

Many blessings and happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Rachel Park
First Vice President, AMTA

Local Association News:

The Birmingham Metro Music Forum had its first meeting of the year on October 18th. We enjoyed a wonderful presentation by Dr. Ron Shinn and Mrs. Barbara Shinn entitled “Piano Duet Repertoire and Rehearsal Recommendations”. They not only treated us to a lovely program of duets, but also shared a meticulously prepared list of duets which included not only the publisher information but also included the level of each duet. We had a great group in attendance and are excited about future events including a presentation by Dr. Hannah Roberts in February titled “Getting Started on Intermediate Literature”, and another in April by Dr. Josh Pifer titled “The Wonders of the Pianist’s Wrists”. It promises to be a great year!

Birmingham Metro Music Forum



The Birmingham Metro Music Forum strives to promote and enhance musical life and education in the Metro Birmingham area by offering continuing education opportunities for teachers, district auditions, monthly recitals, scholarships for music camps and an annual theory exam in January.

President Susan Berg	Monthly Recitals Chair Tatiana Kasman
Immediate Past President Cindy St. Clair	Scholarship Chair Jodean Tingle
Vice President Lucy DeSa	Theory Exams Chair Olivia Jones
Secretary Jessica Terry	Webmaster Ronald Shinn
Treasurer/Membership Kathy Burdette	

For more information, please see our website at metromusicforum.com.





NATIONAL CONFERENCE

MARCH 16-20 • ATLANTA, GEORGIA • HILTON ATLANTA

The MTNA National Conference, held annually, brings together the most representative cross-section of the MTNA membership. This year evening recitals, a keynote speaker and four master classes will be among the headlining events at this premier conference for studio music teachers. Arrive a day early to take advantage of the five Pedagogy Saturday tracks. And, all the annual favorites like the Exhibit Hall, showcases and the MTNA Competitions will be back!

FEATURED GUESTS



Sean Chen
Tuesday Evening Recital
Advanced Piano Master Class



Sonya Headlam
Soprano
Opening Session Recital



Martin Néron
Pianist
Opening Session Recital



Theresa Bogard, NCTM
Technique
Master Class



Alex McDonald Intermediate
Piano
Master Class



Kevin Olson
Elementary Piano
Master Class



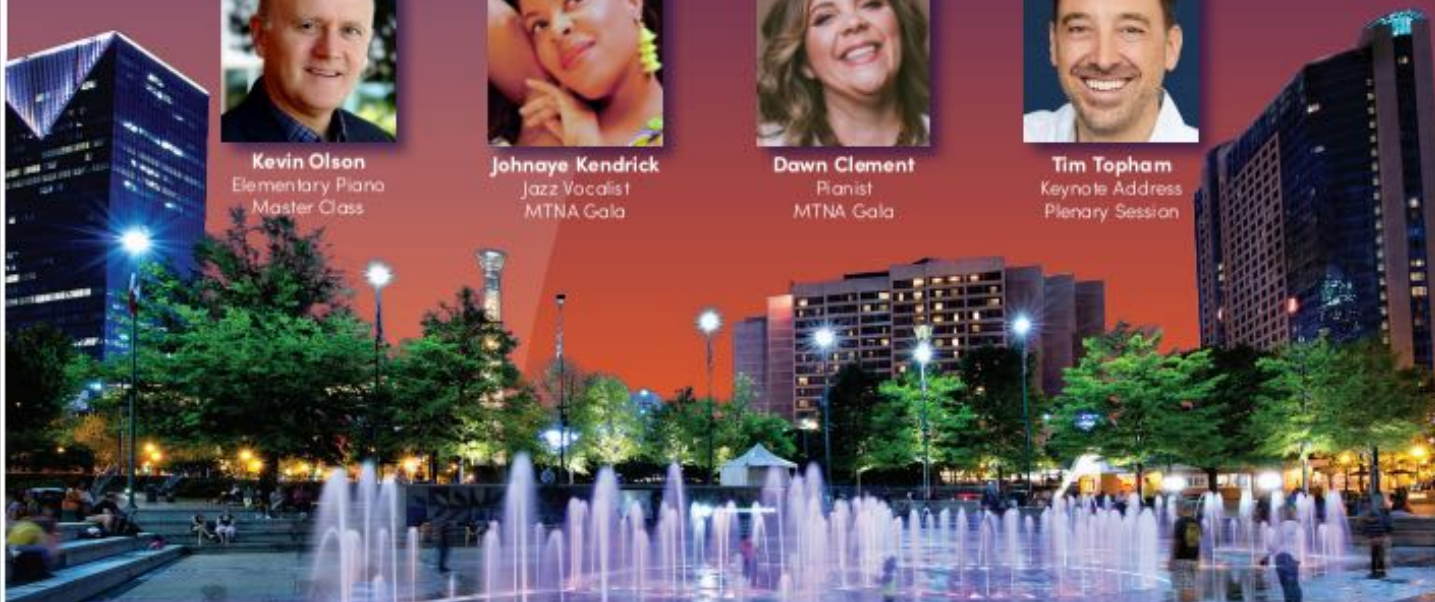
Johnaye Kendrick
Jazz Vocalist
MTNA Gala



Dawn Clement
Pianist
MTNA Gala



Tim Topham
Keynote Address
Plenary Session



Visit www.mtna.org for more information



Local Association News:

WAMTA Local Association News: West Alabama Music Teachers Association has kicked off an exciting year of activities and performance events planned for our students.

Our Fall Recital on October 28 at Shelton State Community College was the first student event WAMTA has hosted since before the pandemic, and it was a great success! It was wonderful to see the interest our students had in participating and in sharing their music with family and friends. Future events planned for this year include:

- Christmas at Capstone Recital - December 9, 2023
 - Spring Festival - February 24, 2024
 - AMTA District Auditions - April 6, 2024
 - Spring Recital - April 20, 2024
- Hannah Roberts, WAMTA President

The Montgomery Music Teachers Forum

2023-2024 Membership

Thomas Austin
Kaylee Barr
Susan Bishop
A Yeong Chi
Hope Coon
Kathryn Elder
Corine Free

Emily Howard
Kyunghee Jeon
Stephanie Jones
Haein Kim
Hae Na Ji
Christy Kreitz
Chin-Mei Li
James Lockett

Brenda Luchsinger
Nora McGalliard
Aeri Moon
Kirk Redman
Myra Sellers
Ron Shinn
Sarah Tanner
Donna Wilson

MMTF sponsors several annual events.

In the spring, the Helen Boykin Festival, the Helen Boykin Honors Recital, AMTA District piano auditions, and AMTA state strings auditions are all held at Booker T. Washington Magnet. Over these events, several awards are given to outstanding music students for achieving a high level of musical achievement.

NEW- Virtual Auditions

Hello,

I would like to announce that a new district will be formed for virtual auditions! This will be for the district level only; there will be no virtual auditions at the state level. Video submissions for the district auditions must be submitted by April 6, 2024 through Tenuto. The application deadline is March 23, 2024. Teachers are highly encouraged to use this format if a student has a conflict instead of signing up for other physical district dates, though this option is still available if absolutely necessary. There is no geographic restriction for the district and all three levels (Bronze, Silver, and Gold) are welcome to enter. The format will be similar to virtual submissions in the past, but here is an overview:

- Two videos will be required, one for the audition pieces and one for theory (if Silver or Gold).
- Theory requirements will be sent out the day before the due date of April 6th.
- Just like in the live auditions, theory must be performed without reference materials and the spelling of chords and intervals must be done out loud.
- Students must upload their videos to YouTube and submit the link to Tenuto.
- Videos should be “unlisted” and the title should preferably read: AMTA District Audition (Name of Student). Videos should not be marked as “Made for Kids.”
- The piano pieces must be announced either in the video or in the video description, including the key and opus number.
- The student’s face, head, hands and feet must be visible in video.
- There is no need to submit scores, although we may contact you for the score by the judge’s request.

We are excited for this new district to move forward and hope that it proves to be a flexible and useful option for AMTA members!

Olivia Scott, NCTM – Virtual District Chair



BALDWIN COUNTY MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Already the fall of 2023 has been filled with many positive activities for our students.

College Fair

A College Fair was held at the Steinway Piano Gallery in Spanish Fort to give our older students an opportunity to inquire with the various colleges in our region looking at the many degree options available, seeking admissions requirements, inquiring about financial aids opportunities and meeting many professors of music departments from the participating colleges and universities. Many students not only from the BCMTA studios were invited, but all the high school



music

2023 COLLEGE FAIR

The Baldwin County Music Teachers Association invites all high school students to an informal meet and greet with music faculty from local higher education institution!

Confirmed Schools Include:

USA UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
UNIVERSITY of MOBILE
THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
UNIVERSITY of MONTEVALLO
UNIVERSITY of WEST FLORIDA
WILLIAM C. COKER UNIVERSITY

Saturday, October 14, 2022
10:00-12:00 PM

programs were invited to attend, as well. There was a great turn out.

Thank you Steinway Piano Gallery for hosting this important event for all students in Baldwin County.

Fall Recitals

October 21 was the day that gathered many of the students from the Studios of BCMTA for a Fall Recital. They were held in Giddens Auditorium on the Fairhope Campus of Coastal Alabama Community College. Because so many students wished to participate we were required to have two full recitals. Pianists, Vocalists, a Harpist, and Guitar

players gathered on stage in their finest to present wonderful music for family, friends, neighbors and all interested music lovers. Of course, the students did well and all enjoyed the skill and musicianship.



Keyboard Hymn Festival

There were NO spooks or trolls at the Keyboard Hymn Festival on October 30 held at First Baptist Church in Fairhope, just serene, devoted students seeking to learn hymns as another alternative to their normal piano literature. The Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions provides the judges who give nurturing and encouraging comments to those students who are involved. No memorization is needed so



many students chose to show their interest in hymns. This is always a great opportunity for students who may be intimidated with memorized performances. BCMTA hosts this event each year.

Future events

Our students are eagerly preparing for Christmas Carols along with pieces for the Gulf Coast Steinway Society Piano Competition held on February 10 at the University of Mobile. Winners of each of the 4 categories: Elementary, Middle School, High School and Undergraduate College are invited to perform at Carnegie Hall, New York in mid June. Will this not be an incentive to work those fingers? Plus there is a cash prize for winners. All worth the effort.

There are also many other events coming this spring which motivate our students to achieve their best in the private study of their instrument.

Jeanne O'Connell – Vice President of BCMTA

AMTA Local Association Presidents
2023-2024

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<p>Baldwin County MTA Christy Meyers (251) 930-1082 christy@steinwayes.com</p>	<p>Northeast Alabama MTA Dr. Rachel Park, NCTM (323) 803-8995 kpark@jsu.edu</p>
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<p>Mobile MTA Emma Holm (251)454-9602 Emma.ka.holm@gmail.com</p>	<p>Wiregrass MTF Carol Windham (334) 464-1398 crlwindham@aol.com</p>

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