

# SOUNDBOARD

Newsletter for the Alabama Music Teachers Association

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## From the President



What a privilege it is to be an officer for the Alabama Music Teachers Association! The members are willing to be involved in so much that we do. At our Board meeting during the Conference, we had many wonderful ideas for improving the auditions and helping non-piano members and students become more involved. We want to be a well-rounded organization, more than a “piano” organization, and I believe new ideas from Paul Houghtaling and Julianna Steele will help us do just that. Thanks to the rest of the Board for embracing their ideas with enthusiasm.

Enthusiasm – we had this in abundance during the Conference. I want to thank the many volunteers for helping me with smiles and hard work. The West Alabama MTA and especially Hysook Jung helped with the hospitality table. Kevin Chance and Paul Houghtaling were essential in the setup in the building. What a wonderful facility the University of Alabama has! They opened their



## The Chopin Foundation of the United States, Inc.

### ATTENTION PIANO TEACHERS!

#### Do you know?

**The Chopin Foundation's mission is to assist young talented American pianists in their career development.**

#### The Chopin Foundation offers young pianists:

##### National Chopin Piano Competition of the USA

The NCPC is open exclusively to USA pianists. The winners receive cash prizes, a concert tour *and* are sent to Warsaw, Poland (all expenses paid) to enable them participation in the International Chopin Piano Competition, the oldest and most prestigious music competition in the world.

**The next NCPC will be held in Miami, FL  
February 21-March 1, 2015**

##### Public Performance Opportunities

The Chopin Foundation provides young musicians with the chance to perform in a special concert series in South Florida and in collaborations with other presenters around the USA.

##### Scholarships

The Chopin Foundation grants scholarships to promising piano students *ages 14 through 17*, and offers the **"Chopin Prize" at the MTNA Piano Performance Competition.**

##### And Much More ....

For more information please visit [www.chopin.org](http://www.chopin.org), send an email to [info@chopin.org](mailto:info@chopin.org), call 305.868.0624, or send a letter to:  
Chopin Foundation of the United States  
1440 79th Street Cswy, Suite 117  
Miami, FL 33141

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Donations to the Chopin Foundation are tax deductible to the extent indicated by law.

arms to us and allowed us to use as much of the building as we wanted and needed. Having two beautiful recital venues made the planning of recitals and workshops so much easier. Also, the Choral room was perfect for NoteWorthy to set up the music store. Thanks to NoteWorthy for coming each year and providing all the music we could possibly need to purchase. Alfred sent them the Showcase music, and they also added many of Jane Magrath's books for us to see and purchase.

Speaking of Jane, what a superb clinician she is! Everyone enjoyed her topics, and she is a delightful person to know. Not only did she always come prepared for her workshops, but she also attended Bill DeVan's workshop and the banquet. Bill DeVan entertained and taught and gave us much to think about at his workshop on teaching Bach to young students, and Lucy DeSa wowed us all with her humble attitude about herself, even with her tremendous talent. It was great to see her in a workshop setting about collaboration and accompanying.

The student recitals were as impressive as I have ever seen. The talent and poise these young people display is amazing. Then, when we hear the talent of our membership in the Members' Recital, we understand. Fabulous performers on the Concert Hall stage! Most of the talent came from the University of Alabama: Noel Engebretson, Dianne Shultz, Paul Houghtaling, and Kevin Chance were superb. Then, a stunning performance by Margery Whatley ended the performance. Thanks to all those who worked hard and were willing to entertain and impress us.

It is not easy to put together a conference. It takes many people and much time. I appreciate everyone being kind to me and supporting me during the two years I worked as Vice President for Conference. Now please be as helpful and kind to our new First Vice-President, Sarah Cheatham Tanner. She will be planning the 2015 conference, which will be back at the wonderful University of Montevallo. If you have ideas, please contact her. If you want to volunteer, please contact her!

Thank you for choosing me as your President. It is a privilege! I plan to work hard and do the best I can. Let's make our organization even stronger! - Jodean Tingle



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**Dr. Yakov Kasman, Professor/Artist-In-Residence**  
[www.yakovkasman.com](http://www.yakovkasman.com)

### **UAB Piano in the News (Spring 2014)**

- **January 12** UAB Piano Series presents guest pianist Valery Kuleshov.
- **February 7** Alys Stephens Center presents Yakov and Aleksandra Kasman in two-piano recital featuring All-Rachmaninoff program.
- **March 9** UAB Piano Series presents guest pianist Robert Henry.
- **March-April** UAB students became winners of AMTA college auditions: Davis Grimes-solo, Aleksandra Kasman -solo and concerto.
- **April 13** UAB Piano Studio and Piano Ensembles recital.
- **May 17** First Annual UAB Piano Day for pre-college students. Master-class and festival of polyphonic music "Bach and Friends". Reynolds-Kirshbaum Hall.

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

## College Piano Concerto Audition

College piano faculty are encouraged to enter undergraduate and graduate students in this audition. It will take place on Friday, March 13, 2015, at Samford University's Brock Hall. For further audition information and forms please visit <http://almta.org/audition-forms>. The deadline for receiving forms is Friday, February 13, 2015.

Brent Reeves  
Audition Chair  
[brentreevespiano@bellsouth.net](mailto:brentreevespiano@bellsouth.net)



AMTA extends our deepest sympathy to Amanda Penick and her family upon the death of her husband, Clifton S. Penick, who passed away on June 22, 2014.

## Birmingham Metro Music Forum Annual Theory Exams & Master Class

The exams will be held at Samford University on January 17th, 2015, beginning at 9:00 am. All students of AMTA teachers are welcome to participate. So it is time again to start preparing your students for this annual event! Although not all of your students may leap at the idea of taking a written exam, we have found that many of our students respond very well to this alternative type of musical achievement. As always these exams are laid out following the Keith Snell Theory books. There will be a written portion, ear training as well as sight reading. This year we have reserved Bolding Studio at Samford University for a more inviting and intimate space for our masterclass. Remember, each student who passes a level receives a trophy! For more information contact Carrie Black or Barbara Shinn. Hope to see you this January 17th!

Carrie Black, Theory Exam Chairman

**B i r m i n g h a m**  
**Metro**  
**Music**  
**Forum**

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**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 and the annual theory exams in January.

*President:* Barbara Shinn  
*Vice-President:* Brent Reeves  
*Treasurer/Membership:* Kathy Burdette  
*Secretary:* Jody Coombs

<http://www.metromusicforum.com>



## District VIII News about AMTA Auditions in April

First Baptist Church has not given the final approval for our requested date of April 11. As soon as I know I'll send the information to our HMTA President and she will send the information to all members via email. It should be 6 months before the event. I have not updated the Auditions Letter to the teachers because I do not have a confirmed date. As soon as our date is confirmed I'll get this done!

The fee, deadline (3 weeks prior), theory requirements and audition forms will remain the same for this coming year's audition.

Thank You,  
Frances Schwemmer, NCTM, District VIII Chair



### 2012 – 2014 Officers

*President: Diana A. Pettit*  
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Visit us at [www.hsvmta.org](http://www.hsvmta.org)!

## Wiregrass Music Teachers Forum

*Established 1995*

Janet Blair, President  
Rebecca McManus, Vice-President  
Hilda Hagins, Secretary/Treasurer

### Annual events:

- Hymn Festival
- Sonata Festival
- District II Auditions
- Honors Recital

### Annual scholarships:

- College Music Major Scholarship
- Summer Music Camp Scholarships

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**Scholarship auditions:**

Feb. 7, Feb. 28 and March 14, 2015

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**To schedule a visit or sample lesson, contact:  
205-665-6667 or [cmaccrae@montevallo.edu](mailto:cmaccrae@montevallo.edu)**

## Report from the State Foundation Chair

The year is half over and gearing up for school to start soon. Summer seems to end all too quickly, and it's back to work we go! Our state conference in Tuscaloosa this year was really exciting as the guest artists and clinicians were exceptionally inspirational and the venue at the University of Alabama has not been experienced in many years. A change of scenery is always a nice respite!

MTNA Foundation is doing better this year than last year at this time, in monetary terms. We have contributed a total of \$723.50 as of June, 2014. Compared with 2013, this is a much better reflection on Alabama! On behalf of OUR foundation, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our donors!

Manley Blackwell  
Susan Bishop  
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Vincentine Williams

Again, let me thank all of you on behalf of MTNA Foundation! Without YOUR support, our enrichment programs for students and teachers cannot continue as needed. It was truly rewarding to note that Alabama had two national winners in the MTNA National Competitions this year!!! Sometimes there are students who are not able to compete in such events because of financial constraints. This is one of the areas in which the foundation helps. Please, keep this in mind as you consider contributing and taking on your obligation to our foundation. Go online at [mtnafoundation@mtna.org](mailto:mtnafoundation@mtna.org) and read about all the wonderful programs that you can help sponsor. You may contribute online at the above link, or write a check to MTNA Foundation and send to this address:

MTNA Foundation  
441 Vine St., Ste. 3100  
Cincinnati, OH 45202-3004

In closing, I will add that it's lots more fun to contribute when you attend state conference each year. Besides the benefits of all the clinics, recitals, concerts, etc., we usually have a raffle of some type. This year Alice Eaton won the wonderful jar full of 996 M&M's and an autographed copy of Jane Magrath's invaluable *Pianist's Guide to Standard Teaching and Performance Literature*.

It's not too late to get your contribution in for 2014. We can easily double what has already been given. Please do your part to keep our foundation strong. Don't expect the same small group to keep it going every year. Supporting our foundation is just one way that you can help keep the arts strong!

Connie Teague, MTNA Foundation Chair





THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA  
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

## KEYBOARD AT UA PIANO • ORGAN

Offering undergraduate and graduate degrees that span the breadth of performance, music therapy, church music, and music education, the University of Alabama School of Music incorporates a comprehensive and dynamic curriculum to fully prepare our students to be the musical leaders of the future.

### UPCOMING KEYBOARD EVENTS

#### UA Organ and Piano Scholarship Competition Deadline

November 15

**Arunesh Nadgir, piano**

November 24-25

#### UA Keyboard Festival featuring guest artists

**Barry Jordan, Organ and Barry Snyder, Piano**

January 24-25

**Noel Engbretson, piano**

January 28, 7:30 p.m.

**Kevin Chance, piano**

February 23, 2:30 p.m.

**Rachel Heard, piano and Lynn Raley, piano**

March 16, 7:30 p.m.

### AUDITION DATES

#### Spring 2014 Organ and Piano Audition Dates

Saturday, January 11

Monday, February 17

Saturday, March 1

Numerous scholarship and assistantship awards are available for the 2014-2015 school year. Interested students should audition by March 1 for priority consideration.

Contact Kevin Chance (piano) at [ktchance@music.ua.edu](mailto:ktchance@music.ua.edu) or Faythe Freese (organ) at [faythefreese@earthlink.net](mailto:faythefreese@earthlink.net) for more information.

### COMPETITION

Announcing the UA Piano and Organ Scholarship Competitions — January 23, 2014!

Scholarship awards available up to Full In State Tuition at the 2013-2014 Tuition Rate.

No age restrictions to apply! Deadline to apply is November 15, 2013.

Details can be found at [music.ua.edu/piano](http://music.ua.edu/piano) and [music.ua.edu/departments/organ](http://music.ua.edu/departments/organ).

### KEYBOARD AREA FACULTY LISTING

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Dr. Pamela Penick, Instructor of Class Piano

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [WWW.MUSIC.UA.EDU](http://WWW.MUSIC.UA.EDU)**

## Report from the Collegiate Chapters Chair

We had a record number of 6 collegiate members attending and participating this year at the State Conference. Two students: Kevin Eberhart and Zoe Jones from the Alabama A & M Collegiate Chapter gave a wonderful poster presentation on “Performance Anxiety and How the Body Reacts to Anxiety”. Their chapter received Honorable Mention for the Collegiate Chapter Poster Competition. Three students: Nicholas Zollo, Matthew Gardner, & Daniel Norwood from UAH Collegiate Chapter also gave an informative poster presentation on “Performance Anxiety and Performance Routines of Professionals vs. Students”. Their chapter was awarded the Best Collegiate Chapter Poster Award accompanied by a \$50 honorarium. This year we had two wonderful submissions for the Collegiate Member Presentation Competition from Christina Kettering from Auburn, and Cindy St.Clair from UA. The winner of this year’s competition was Cindy St.Clair, and she gave a fantastic mind stimulating presentation on the topic of “Brain Power: Effective mental Preparations and Memorization”. Cindy was also awarded an honorarium of \$100. The Collegiate Luncheon at the conference was a hit, and Dr. Ron Shinn joined us all at Newk’s for a fun time.

I would like to thank all the ALMTA members who attended both the poster presentation and the collegiate member presentation at the conference. I would also like to thank the board and the competition committee for their continuing and encouraging support for the collegiate members, collegiate chapters, and our current and future colleagues.

I would like to take a moment to share with you some words the collegiate members shared with me after attending the conference. “We all had a fantastic time and the conference had so much to offer us. This is the first time that we as college students have been treated like colleagues and given such a warm welcome with professional courtesy and kindness. It was inspiring, exciting, and encouraging. We look forward to attending next year’s conference. Thank you for a wonderful experience.”

Sincerely,  
Joshua Pifer  
Collegiate Chapters / College Faculty Forum Chair  
Lecturer of Piano  
Auburn University  
jkg0013@auburn.edu



Zoe Jones and Kevin Eberhart from the Alabama A&M collegiate chapter



Matthew Gardner, Daniel Norwood, and Nicholas Zollo from the UAH Collegiate Chapter



Collegiate poster presenters with AMTA President Jodean Tingle and Collegiate Chapters Chair Joshua Pifer



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The Montgomery Music Teachers Forum

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MMTF sponsors the annual **Mark McGowin Recital** and the **Janis McCulley Hymn Festival** in the Fall, the **Helen Boykin Festival and Honors Recital** each spring, the **Montgomery District III AMTA Auditions**, and the **Helen Boykin Scholarships**, several annual awards to outstanding music students who have a high level of musical achievement.