

SOUNDBOARD

Newsletter for the Alabama Music Teachers Association

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From the President



As I sit here contemplating the coming changes in the Board this summer, I am remembering the past two years and all those who volunteer. People who work diligently and tirelessly. People who have a passion for our organization and its impact on ourselves and our students. I am also remembering the people who have worked hard on this Board many years ago. Some of these people have moved away, some have retired, and some have passed on.


I remember those who have had a huge impact on my own life. Ida Truss, a former AMTA President, was the teacher who put me in multiple recitals and AMTA auditions every year. She gave me opportunities to perform and learn, and gave me nerves of steel when it came to performing. Roy McAllister, also an AMTA President, was the college professor who taught

me to perform with the “complete” package of musicality and technique. He helped me learn how to sing with my fingers and gave me confidence in my ability as a pianist. Maurice Hinson, who was very active in MTNA, taught me that performance was incomplete without understanding, that I needed to research and study each piece of music I performed. They all taught me to practice and study. These teachers shaped my musical background.

All of us have people in our lives that have influenced us. Donna Shugart, Nancy Wingard, Elbert Lingo, and Edna Brown are people in our organization who helped me grow as a piano teacher. Nancy is still influencing people with her judging and teaching. Edna Brown was not an officer with AMTA, but she supported AMTA and sent her students to auditions and other performances. Kevin Chance was one of her most notable students. Edna spent her life at Birmingham-Southern College and Conservatory, striving to make our students as prepared as they could be. MTNA will honor her memory by naming her a Foundation Fellow in April at the Gala during the National Conference. We are proud to call her one of our own. Thanks to so many of you who helped raise the money for this honor.

Who are you influencing? Are your students going to honor your name when you retire? **Become** more involved with the workings of our wonderful organization. **Send** your students to the many auditions, recitals, and festivals sponsored by the local, state, and national organization. **Volunteer.** **Go** to meetings and Conferences. **Tell** others about us. **Contact** us with your ideas of how we can improve. It takes **all** of us to keep this legacy vital to the music world in Alabama.

---Jodean Tingle, NCTM
AMTA President 2014-2016



The Montgomery Music Teachers Forum

Our current membership includes:

Les Ames	Betty Gallops	Mildred Little	Patricia Vines
Eunhee Ashley	Adonis Gonzales	Nora McGalliard	Summer Whatley
Evaughn Balkcom	Theresa Gordon	Aeri Moon	Cathy Whigham
Susan Bishop	Ruth Graham	Jane Potts	Donna Wilson
Carrie Carboni	Sally Hester	Vadim Serebryany	Hui-Ting Yang
Ruth Dunbar	Skye Jenkins	Ron Shinn	Sallye York
Kathryn Elder	Hae Na Ji	Elise Smith	
Corine Free	Stephanie Jones	Sarah Tanner	
Dot Fuller	Arlene Judy	Ann Thorington	

MMTF sponsors several annual events. In the fall the Mark McGowin Recital and the Janis McCulley Hymn Festival are held at local churches. In the spring the Helen Boykin Festival, the Helen Boykin Honors Recital, and the AMTA District Auditions are held. Over these events, several awards are given to outstanding music students for achieving a high level of musical achievement.

Report from the First Vice-President

I'm hoping everyone is getting excited for our upcoming AMTA conference! We have the fabulous Ingrid Clarfield as guest clinician and the talented Joel Hastings as our guest artist. The schedule will be available in April on the AMTA website. Below is the hotel information.

For the AMTA conference June 2-4, 2016 at Auburn University, we have two hotels blocked off for a group rate. This information will also be available on the AMTA website.

The Hotel at Auburn University has blocked off 15 rooms for our conference attendees. This hotel is within walking distance to the music building on campus. Please follow the link below to reserve your room for the rate of \$134. The cutoff date is May 2nd to receive this AMTA rate. If you try to reserve your room before that date and there are no more rooms available, please call the hotel to see if more rooms are available to add to our group.

<https://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?groupID=1573047&hotelID=6493>

Our second hotel secured for our AMTA conference attendees is at Clarion Inn. This hotel is about a 5 minute drive from campus. The group rate is \$62 and the cutoff date to reserve at this rate is May 19th.



Wiregrass Music Teachers Forum

Established 1995

Annual Events

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



Annual Scholarships

- o College Music Major Scholarships
- o Summer Music Camp Scholarships

Janet Blair, President

Rebecca McManus, Vice-President

Hilda Hagins, Secretary/Treasurer

2016-2018 Slate of Officers

The AMTA nominating committee consisting of Frances Schwemmer, Barbara Shinn, Brent Reeves, Jodean Tingle and Wendy Freeland, have compiled the following slate of officers for the 2016-18 term. Voting will take place at the Annual Business Meeting during the State Conference, June 2-4.

Many thanks to the individuals who are willing to serve in these elected positions!

State President: Sarah Tanner
 Immediate Past President: Jodean Tingle
 1st Vice President (Conference): Joshua Pifer
 2nd Vice President (Membership): Mark DeGoti
 Judges' coordinator - Margery Whatley
 State auditions coordinator – Kevin Chance
 Secretary – Steven DiBlasi
 Treasurer - Alice Eaton
 MTNA Auditions Coordinator - Jeremy Samolesky
 Clinician - Kevin Chance

Submitted by Dr. Wendy Freeland, NCTM, Jacksonville State University

Composition News

The 2016-17 Alabama
 Commissioned Composer will be
 Dr. Thomas W. Reiner, Assistant
 Professor of Psychology, Troy
 University.

Submitted by Lori Ardivino,
 AMTA Composition Competition
 & Commissions Chair



2014 – 2016 Officers

President:
 Diana A. Pettit
Vice-President:
 Frances Schwemmer
Secretary:
 Laura Knaupp
Treasurer and Arts Council Representative:
 Ka Man Ng
Recital and Social Media Chair:
 Lisa Belk
Technology Chair and Immediate Past President:
 Wendy Bramhall

Visit us at www.hsvmta.org

Piano Studies

Auburn University | www.auburn.edu/music

Piano Auditions

Saturday, February 13 and 20, 2016



Degrees

- Bachelor of Music Degree (Performance)
- Bachelor of Arts in Music
- Bachelor of Music Education
- Master of Education in Music Education
- Specialist in Education in Music Education
- Doctor of Philosophy in Music Education

Piano Faculty

- Laurelie Gheesling
- Josh Pifer
- Jeremy Samolesky
Area Coordinator



COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
Department of Music

www.auburn.edu

Auburn University is an equal opportunity educational institution/employer

Scrollworks Youth Music School

Jessica Chriesman is the Event Coordinator for [Scrollworks Youth Music School](#). Scrollworks is a program of the nonprofit Metropolitan Youth Orchestras of Central Alabama for low-income, at-risk and disabled youth in Birmingham. Jessica is currently looking for musicians who are interested in performing for the students during their lunchtime concert series *Performance Today*. “We believe that when our students see successful music students and professional musicians, it keeps them motivated and practicing. *Performance Today* provides the perfect platform for this,” says Chriesman.

Performance Today is a half hour mini concert that starts at noon on Saturdays. In addition to performing, many of the visiting performers entertain questions from the students or give tips on practicing, instrument maintenance, etc.

It is a great opportunity for music students to perform a new piece in front of a low pressure audience, or for seasoned musicians to entertain and inform a new generation of musicians. They are open to any sized group (including soloists) and any style of music.

Right now many of the Saturdays in the Spring Semester are open beginning January 23rd. If you are interested in performing please contact Jessica with the date that you prefer and she can let you know if it's available. You are welcome to share this performance opportunity with any students or colleagues who may be interested.

Submitted by,
Jessica Chriesman
Media Specialist
Event Coordinator
Assistant Site Manager

Metropolitan Youth Orchestras of Central Alabama
1500 6th Ave N Birmingham, AL 35203
PO Box 811, Birmingham, Alabama 35201
[205-908-8843](tel:205-908-8843)

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AUDITION DATES

Saturday, January 30, 2016
 Monday, February 15, 2016
 Saturday, February 27, 2016

CAREERS IN MUSIC DAY

Thursday, November 5



I AM *true*
BLUE



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 STATE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF MUSIC
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Thank You!

AMTA received a thank you card from Paul Wolf, the state and Southern Division winner in Young Artist Voice. He thanked us for the travel expenses to Nationals this year.

He also appreciates the honor of representing the state of Alabama at the competition.



AMTA & MTNA Important Contact Info

Contact lists for AMTA Local Association Presidents can be found at the end of this newsletter or on the AMTA website at <http://almta.org/local-associations>. Contact lists for AMTA executive board members can also be found at the end of the newsletter or at <http://almta.org/board>. The contact list for the MTNA national and division board of directors can be found at <http://www.mtna.org/about-mtna/board-of-directors/>.

AMTA District VIII Audition Info

Audition Date: April 16, 2016

Location: First Baptist Church
600 Governors Drive
Huntsville, AL 35801

Deadline for forms: March 25, 2016

Mail to: Frances Schwemmer,
126 Robin Lane
Huntsville, AL 35802

Applications may be mailed or left on the front porch at 126 Robin Lane from March 18-25.

For detailed information on submitting your forms, visit our HMTA web site at hsvmta.org.

Students **must** bring their music books to the audition in order to receive a grade, otherwise a grade of "C" (comments only) will be given.

Out of district students are welcomed, but teachers (not students) should contact Frances first by email or phone to check for available slots.

***NOTE—the entry fee has been raised from \$20 to \$25 per entrant.**

Volunteers are needed to help with this event! Please include a note with your student forms or contact Frances if you would be willing to work on Friday, April 16 to help set up, or on audition day, Saturday, April 17.

Adjudication forms can be picked up on the porch of 126 Robin Lane on Sunday, April 18 from 12-5 pm. All forms not picked up by 5:00 pm will be mailed.

If you have any questions, please give district chair Frances Schwemmer a call at 256-881-6879 or email her at eddosch@aol.com.

SHOALS AREA MUSIC TEACHERS FORUM

The Shoals Area Music Teachers Forum began their calendar year 2015-2016 with a business meeting at the home of President Elizabeth Counts. Carol Lynn and Kristie Smith shared their wonderful AMTA conference experiences with members, especially the sessions presented by Dr. Peter Mack.

Our September meeting was a “first” for our forum, as we held a “Member Panel Discussion”. Each member presented a short session on the topic of their choice. A few of the topics included “Practice and Performance,” “Keyboard Theory: Pacing/Organization” and “Studio Book Keeping”. Every topic resulted in engaging discussion.

October’s “Repertoire Sharing” was held at the home of Noel Beck and included many “walks down teaching pieces memory lane” as well as being introduced to many new pieces and composers. October 17 was also the date of our yearly “Make It Minor” piano performance PARTY. Each student performed a solo selection written in a minor key. Most students performed in Halloween costumes, which added a festive “note”.

The 1st Sunday in November is always reserved for our “Ritz Recital”. This performance event is for our more advancing students and is held at the beautiful art deco Ritz Theater in the historic downtown area of Sheffield.

On February 6, we were treated to the true delights of “Piano Lab” clinician Dr. Kevin Chance. The “piano lab” was held on the campus of the University of North Alabama and involved 6 students of varying levels of advancement. Each student’s piece was also at varying levels of preparation. Kevin worked masterfully with every student in a most engaging manner, all the while putting the students at ease. The best testament...one of the students remarked, “I can’t believe we were there for over 2 hours. It went by SO FAST! He’s a great teacher!”



Piano lab with Kevin Chance

Students are l-r standing: Siras Keyse, Emily Kate Hayes, Miriam Gallagher, Dr. Chance. Sitting l-r Mallory Brewer, Bella Peralta, Sophia Ye.

Shoals (cont.)

Our annual Music Olympics will be held in March. Music Olympics is unique in that students of all ages and levels of advancement can enter from 1-6 events, ranging from Recital Listening, Keyboard Theory, Written Theory, Music Composers and Solo/Duet Performance, just to name a few. The day long event closes with a medal/awards ceremony and Honors Recital.

District AMTA Auditions will be held April 9.

On July 19, we will hold our WC Handy Festival *Kidz Jamm*. Students perform 1 piece in the style of Jazz or Blues. Each performer is backed up by a rhythm section consisting a bass player and drummer.

The Shoals Area Music Teachers Forum is a small, but very dedicated group of teachers whose mission is to share our deep love of music with our students and to strive to continue our own musical journey through enriching continuing educational opportunities.

Submitted by Elizabeth Counts
Photo by Kristie Smith

Alabama Southern Division Winners!

The winners will perform at the MTNA national conference in April.

Southern Senior Performance Voice - 7 entries

Winner: Anna Lee (AL), Soprano
Teacher: Ginger Beazley

Southern Young Artist Composition - 7 entries

Winner: Andrew Bullard (AL)
Teacher: Joshua Pifer

Southern Young Artist Performance Brass - 7 entries

Alternate: Daniel Haddock (AL), Trumpet
Teacher: Mark DeGoti

Southern Young Artist Performance Voice - 8 entries

Winner: Paul Wolf (AL), Tenor
Teacher: Paul Houghtaling

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

OLD-TIME

piano playing

CONTEST AND FESTIVAL



The *World Championship of Old-Time Piano Playing* began on the back platform of an old railroad caboose in Monticello, IL in 1975, the brainstorm of The Monticello Railroad Museum's founder and contest emcee Ted Lemen. Capitalizing on the box office success of the movie "The Sting," this small gathering of music-lovers quickly blossomed necessitating a move to larger facilities. After 41 years, most recently in Peoria, IL, this contest and festival has moved to a new home in Oxford, MS at The University of Mississippi.

Held annually to coincide with Memorial Day weekend, this event has become truly international in scope, boasting the largest, most comprehensive competitive events for pianists steeped in the musical genres of ragtime, honky-tonk, boogie-woogie, traditional jazz and blues. Students up to age 18 can compete for cash prizes and trophies in the Junior Division while the Regular Division contestants vie for trophies and larger prizes in excess of \$5,000. Performers compete in period costume, are interviewed before each round, and show their incredible musical skills in an attempt to advance to the Finals. Complete rules and guidelines are posted on the event web site.

Smaller contests precede the main competition. These include a New Rag Contest, Duet Contest and a "Cutting" Contest, a throwback to the days of Fats Waller and Eubie Blake where contestants try to "cut" the competition and the audience chooses the winner. Workshops by acclaimed guest artists and the world's greatest sing-along are held around the competitions with a guest artist concert concluding the weekend's activities. Off-site excursions, catered events at local restaurants and the "Ring of Ragtime" at venues on the historic Oxford Square add a refreshing dimension to the festivities.

If you love ragtime, jazz, blues, honky-tonk, boogie or novelty songs from the days of *Tin Pan Alley*, then you'll have the time of your life in Oxford on Memorial Day weekend. To capture the flavor of this event, visit "The Entertainers" trailer on line at <http://theentertainersmovie.com>. For a fun-filled five days of fabulous music, go to <http://oldtimepianocontest.org> and register for this year's World Championship. Find us on [Facebook](#) for regular updates and follow us on Twitter @WCOldTimePiano.

All-event passes are available for purchase on line at the event web site. Passes include admission to all competitive events plus the sing-long and workshops. Tickets for catered events, the bus tour & luncheon, the opening Tune-ups party and the guest artist concert are also available for separate advance purchase on the web site. Order forms may be requested by contacting the artistic director Ian Hominick at oldtimepianocontest@olemiss.edu.

Guest artists include three-time champions Brian Holland and Adam Swanson as well as concerts from Sue Keller and "Blind Boy" Jerron Paxton. We'll see you in Oxford May 26-30, 2016. This much fun ... ought to be against the law!

SCHOLARSHIPS AUDITION DATES

November 14, 2015 & March 12, 2016

AVAILABLE DEGREE EMPHASES:

Music Performance, Piano Pedagogy, Music Education, Music Technology, Music Business, Liberal Arts, Church Music, Jazz

Minors in Music available

Contact melody.ng@uah.edu for campus visits and lessons with faculty
Individual appointments available for auditions.

AWARD-WINNING KEYBOARD FACULTY

Dr. Melody Ng Assistant Professor, Artist-Teacher in Piano

Dr. David Miller, Organ

Ingrid von Spakovsky Weaver, Classical Piano

John Miller, Classical & Jazz Piano

Keith Taylor, Classical & Jazz Piano



THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE



BIRMINGHAM METRO MUSIC FORUM NEWS

The Birmingham Metro Music Forum has enjoyed several successful events thus far: There have been four monthly recitals featuring performances by students of BMMF members; piano technician Mike Reese gave an informative and enlightening program, *Developing a Technician's Touch*, for the BMMF fall meeting; the New Music Festival scheduled in November went well and was a great experience for all who performed and attended. Most recently, the BMMF Theory Examinations (which also included ear training and sight reading) and Master Class were held at Samford University. The dynamic Dr. Melody Ng of UAH conducted a fabulous master class, engaging not only the students performing, but also the entire audience. The master class was followed by a presentation of certificates and trophies. What a wonderful opportunity for all the students who participated!

We look forward to having Dr. Hui-Ting Yang, Steinway Artist and Troy University piano faculty member, present *Breaking Bad Habits, Not Spirits* at our winter meeting on February 17 and Dr. Adam Clark from Middle Tennessee State University present *Modern Marvels: Lowell Liebermann's Album for the Young, Op. 43* at our spring meeting on April 20. Both meetings begin at 9:30 a.m. at Alabama Piano Gallery. Upcoming BMMF Monthly Recitals are scheduled for March 5 and April 2 at Alabama Piano Gallery at 2:00 p.m.

For more information, please visit the BMMF website: www.metromusicforum.com

Submitted by Margery Whatley

B i r m i n g h a m

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 and the annual theory exams in January.

<i>President</i>	<i>Margery Whatley</i>
<i>Immediate Past-President</i>	<i>Barbara Shinn</i>
<i>Vice-President</i>	<i>Brent Reeves</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Marni Ferderber</i>
<i>Treasurer/Membership</i>	<i>Kathy Burdette</i>
<i>Monthly Recitals Chair</i>	<i>Tatiana Kasman</i>
<i>New Music Festival Chair</i>	<i>Karen Krekelberg</i>
<i>Scholarship Chair</i>	<i>Moya Nordlund</i>
<i>Theory Exams Chair</i>	<i>Becky Schultz</i>
<i>Webmaster</i>	<i>Ronald Shinn</i>

<http://www.metromusicforum.com>



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- State-of-the-art facilities and an all-Steinway school
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- Piano studio recitals each semester
- Piano Ensemble course with instructor Tatiana Kasman
- Scholarships available
- Sample lessons available. Email kasman@uab.edu or call (205) 934-8942 for details.

UAB Piano Faculty :
Dr. Yakov Kasman, Professor/Artist-In-Residence
www.yakovkasman.com

UAB Piano in the News

- October 25** UAB Piano Series presents renowned American pianist Norman Krieger. Reynolds-Kirschbaum Recital Hall, 4:00 pm.
- November 17** UAB Piano Studio and Piano Ensembles recital. Mary Culp Hulsey Recital Hall, 7:30 pm.
- January 31** UAB Piano Series presents Steven Lin, prizewinner of the international piano competitions. Reynolds-Kirschbaum Recital Hall, 4:00 pm.

We are proud of UAB piano students Eamon Griffith, Eric Mobley, and Aleksandra Kasman successfully competing in various recent state, regional, national and international piano competitions!

Audition and scholarship dates for pianists:

February 12

March 5

April 9 (admission only)

or by appointment

www.uab.edu/cas/music/



PIANO STUDIES at



University of South Alabama Department of Music



More info at www.southalabama.edu/colleges/music

CONTACT PIANO FACULTY:

Dr. Robert Holm
Professor
Piano,
Keyboard Area
Coordinator



rholm@southalabama.edu



Dr. Jasmin Arakawa
Assistant Professor
Piano,
Accompanying

arakawa@southalabama.edu

Undergraduate Degrees:
BM Performance
BM Music Education
BM Elective Studies in
Business,
and Specific Outside Fields

Graduate Degrees:
MM Performance
MM Collaborative Keyboard

Audition & Scholarship DATES

November 14, 2015
January 9, February 27,
March 19, April 9, 2016
or by appointment

USA Department of Music
5751 Laidlaw
Performing Arts Center
Mobile, AL

PHONE: (251) 460-6136

Report from the Alabama MTNA Foundation Chair

BEACHES....(Oh, me...Freudian slip!) Sorry about that! Guess these lovely mild days are getting to me!

Hope you all are having a great teaching year and are busy making preparations for auditions, recitals, and the state conference. Included in this busy season is our dues payment which underlies all these activities. Many of our members have utilized the convenience of adding a foundation contribution to their dues when paying annually. To those of you who haven't already started this and made it a habit, I would urge you to do so. Even adding \$5 to your dues, if you've never given a penny, would help our foundation and fulfill your responsibility to support it. So, please consider giving this year. In 2015 Alabama contributed \$962.00 to our foundation. To all those who gave so generously, a heartfelt "Thank you" is extended!

Marche Altom	Cynthia MrCrae
Ginger Beazley	Wendy McGee
Manley Blackwell	Amy Morgan
Kathy Burdette	Seth McCollough
Janet Blair	Jeanne O'Connell
Kevin Chance	Diana Pettit
Yeong A Chi	Josh Pifer
Claire Crenshaw	Elizabeth Rutland
Mary Crowell	Connie Scheigert
Laura Deel	Frances Schwemmer
Susie Dempsey	Barbara Shinn
Tammy Dennis	Ron Shinn
Alice Butler Eaton	Mary Slaton
Carol Evers	Connie Teague
Audrey Fine	Jodean Tingle
Wendy Freeland	Nancy Vinson
Karen Hicks	Margery Whatley
Karen Hickok	Vincentine Williams
Karen Kreckelberger	Nancy Wingard

Again, to all of you, Thank you for supporting our foundation! Your support is the backbone of the many programs sponsored through our foundation. This year at MTNA National Conference, Edna Lovett Brown will be honored with an MTNA Foundation Fellow in her name. This is a very special posthumous award for a highly esteemed colleague. Thanks so much to Kevin Chance and all those who contributed to this endeavor.

In the meantime, please be considering your responsibility to our foundation and how much you can send to support our programs this year. We are only as strong as the monies that are given for support to keep things running smoothly. Without these foundation funds, all the programs, scholarships and grants our foundation supports would have to be diminished. Therefore, it is up to every single member in our organization to accept the responsibility to help keep our foundation strong for now and the future.

You can send contributions at this link or address: <http://www.mtnafoundation.org/contribute/>

MTNA National Headquarters
1 W 4th St, Ste 1550
Cincinnati, OH 45202

P.S. BEACHES wasn't exactly a Freudian slip, but a little "tease". More information to follow.....

—submitted by Connie Teague, MTNA Foundation Chair

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