



SOUNDBOARD

A Publication of the Alabama Music Teachers Association

Op. 68 No. 3

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Letter from the President

Dear AMTA members,

Hope you have been enjoying the 2021 AMTA Virtual Conference. Thanks to Laura Beth Mitchell-Bisset, AMTA 1st VP and Conference Chair, for her great work in bringing us such fantastic programming in winners' recitals, members' recital, interactive zoom sessions, and presentations. Congratulations to all the teachers and student winners at State auditions and MTNA competitions! Many thanks to our sponsors for the Conference! We truly appreciate all the work from the Conference Virtual Technology Team to provide much needed support! Congratulations and thank you to all the performers at the AMTA members' recital!

This year, we have a record number of participants in the AMTA auditions. Thank you, teachers, for your dedicated work and resilience to continue promoting such high-level music making in Alabama through your students. Congratulations to all the participating students and their families! Thanks to Kevin Chance, AMTA State Auditions Chair, and all the district chairs in making the successful online auditions registration possible! It has been an immense sense of joy to get to enjoy such outstanding student performances.

Congratulations to Susan Hoop for being 2021 AMTA Teacher of the Year (TOY). Thanks to Josh Pifer, AMTA Immediate Past President, and TOY Committee for their work.

We truly appreciate each of you for making a difference in the lives of each student through your commitment in music teaching. I am honored to serve AMTA together with the help from each of you in this exceptional organization. Lastly, I cannot thank the Board Members enough for their incredibly efficient and effective work for AMTA individually and as a team.

Hope you have a delightful summer, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,
Melody Ng, NCTM – AMTA President



The Members of Northeast Alabama Music Teachers Association wish teachers and students a successful year!

Cunnie Abrahams	Melinda Brooks	Wendy Frelaud
Marché Altom	Lindsey Chavers	Trevor Gregory
Louise Ballinger	Rebekah Currier	Rachel Park
Sarah Grace Bottles	Susie Dempsey	Kelley Rowland
Kay Benefield	Steven Dibbas	Damon Shrosphire

69th Annual State Conference

The 2021 AMTA Conference was held virtually to ensure not only that as many as wanted to could participate, but also to ensure the safety of all involved. Though in a different format, this conference had many of the aspects that make an AMTA conference the special event it has always been – time for teachers to connect and share ideas, hear spectacular performances by hard-working students, and take in presentations that introduce new ideas or provide reminders of ideas out of the teaching toolbox rotation.

This conference would not have been possible without the incredible work of many teachers from across the state and their tireless work to prepare and inspire students to excellence. This work is remarkable every year, but is even more so this year as so many difficulties had to be overcome for successful teaching and music making to continue.

Thanks is also due to the AMTA Executive Board for their guidance and input as the final form of this conference took shape. Ron and Barbara Shinn served as the Technology Team/Duo this year and were invaluable in their quick proofreading and checking of many recital programs and lists! President Melody Ng was instrumental in offering advice and ideas to craft the best possible experience for registrants. Special thanks to Jodean Tingle, Stephanie Archer, and Melody Ng who served as moderators for live virtual events. Door prizes were generously provided by restaurants Ashley Mac's and Taco Mama. AMTA Member Sarah Tanner provided a spectacular piece of piano keys collage art from her art studio, Sarah Tanner Art.

The 2021 AMTA Virtual Conference kicked off on May 19 and was free to all registrants. Live Zoom events occurred in June and all conference material will be available to registrants until September 1. Over 100 students submitted videos to celebrate and showcase their winning performances in various competitions. Thanks to Ron Shinn, AMTA web editor for assisting with the conference website updates.

Number of Student Winners' Submissions:

MTNA – AL Winners (5)
 State Piano Division I (37)
 State Piano Division II (31)
 State Piano Division III (19)
 Pre-College Concerto (6)
 Pre-College – Voice (2)
 Collegiate Piano (6)

The virtual conference featured four thought-provoking presentations on a variety of subjects. Dr. Beth McGinnis of Samford University gave an informational presentation on her podcast and website, Hear in Alabama, which focuses on the rich legacy of music in our state. A pedagogical presentation with many useful tips and tricks was given by Sheryl Lott on intermediate piano practice strategies titled, "Thinking and Playing: Practice Better, Learn Faster, Perform More Effectively." Yangmingting Fang gave a tremendously well-researched presentation, "Understanding and Coping with Performance Anxiety." A strings presentation was given by Juan Sebastian Lopez on vibrato exercises for violinists, "Vibrato: Initiation, Intermediate, and Advanced."

Our virtual members' recital offered an exciting range of solo repertoire and ensembles. Three live Zoom Shop Talks gave teachers the chance to swap ideas for advanced, intermediate, and beginning students. A TOY Talk with past recipients of the AMTA Teacher of the Year award explored what AMTA has meant to the careers of some of our most successful and involved members. Thank you to all of the teachers who attended these talks!

Though we were virtual once again this year, the traditions of community and shared knowledge were still present and will certainly return full force for the 70th Annual AMTA Conference in 2022. Hope to see you all there!

Laura Beth Mitchell-Bisset, NCTM – AMTA First Vice President

AMTA Student Auditions

Pre-college Piano Division 1 Winners

Students

Hollis Bailey
 Caroline Chen
 Anna Ai
 Seoyoung Choi
 Elsa Chong
 Jason Han
 Emily Hare
 Aaron Hu
 Aiden Cai
 Hannah Chen
 Sarah Kathrine O'Dell
 Lucy Chen
 Grace Ding
 Brandon Shin
 Hailey Tran
 Athena Zou
 Michael Ding
 Angelina Dong
 Eleanor Kim
 Peter Bayley
 Rikou Chu
 Bobby Gear
 Annie Li
 Alex Liu
 Lucy Park
 Mark Sandrell
 Vassili Trenin
 Edison Yang
 Kasra Tavakoli
 Maxwell Lynch
 Yujin Jung
 Sophia Kong
 Amelia Bosma
 Jeffrey Duan
 James Le
 Seoyeon Lee
 Samantha Li
 Yutong Xie
 Simon Temple
 Sydney Wang
 Eliza Stallworth
 Jack Tompkins

Teachers

Kevin Chance
 Alice Butler
 Susan Hoop
 Sunny Hahn
 Tatiana Kasman
 Heejeong Chae
 Susan Berg
 Alina Voicu
 Debbie Bailie
 Alina Voicu
 Patty Kirkley
 Alina Voicu
 Tatiana Kasman
 Tatiana Kasman
 Sunny Hahn
 Tatiana Kasman
 Tatiana Kasman
 Jeremy Samolesky
 Sunny Hahn
 Susan Hoop
 Alice Butler
 Ingrid Weaver
 Adam Bowles
 Tatiana Kasman
 Sunny Hahn
 Elena Sandrell
 Tatiana Kasman
 Susan Hoop
 Tatiana Kasman
 Kevin Chance
 Kyunghee Jeon
 Alina Voicu
 Susan Hoop
 Susan Hoop
 Liudmila Hoskin
 Lois Lee
 Lin-Ya Hsu
 Joy Xu
 Susan Berg
 Tatiana Kasman
 Alina Voicu
 Renee Jones

Students

Andrew Zhang
 Hyunjun Yuk
 Daniel Bae

Teachers

Jeremy Samolesky
 Hae Na Ji
 Haein Kim

Save the Date:

**MTNA National
 Conference
 March 26-30, 2022
 Minneapolis, MN**

**70th Annual AMTA State
 Conference
 June 2-4, 2022
 Birmingham, AL**

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Division II Winners

<i>Students</i>	<i>Teachers</i>	<i>Students</i>	<i>Teachers</i>
Hendrix Bailey	Kevin Chance	Luke Blackstone	Susan Berg
Nathan Lee	Heekyung Lee	Amy Lee	Sunny Hahn
Richard Chen	Ronald Shinn	Tina Gao	Kathryn Burdette
Brandon Cui	Alina Voicu	Autumn Kim	Aeri Moon
Patrick Pan	Kevin Chance	Anastasia Niewiarowski	Corine Anderson-Free
Sumin Park	Haein Kim	Oliver Pang	Barbara Shinn
Rhea Rastogi	Adonis Gonzalez	Angela Ai	Susan Hoop
Wren Whitaker	Connie Macon	Lydia Bruns	Susan Hoop
Reena Chen	Ronald Shinn	Catherine Hinson	Connie Macon
Erik Wu	Frances Schwemmer	Jessica Wang	Susan Hoop
Ning Zhang	Jeremy Samolesky	Nathaniel Handler	Brent Reeves
Gemma Sommer	Andy Martin	Cynthia Kim	Hae Na Ji
David Caycedo	Tatiana Kasman	Yuexiao Liu	Joy Xu
Nausicaa Chu	Alice Butler	Carol Li	Alina Voicu
Tyler Lee	Patty Kirkley	Jessica Ma	Tatiana Kasman
Connor Moorhouse	Connie Macon	Austin Zhan	Jeremy Samolesky
Alexander Petrukhno	Tatsiana Fedoseyev	Ian Shen	Kevin Chance
Sera Yii	Kyunghee Jeon	Susanna Washburn	Christine Adolf

Division III Winners

<i>Students</i>	<i>Teachers</i>	<i>Students</i>	<i>Teachers</i>
Shannon Boutwell	Ronald Shinn	Jonathan Hamner	Kevin Chance
Johnathan Doyle	Carol Windham	Benjamin Tzou	Jeremy Samolesky
Eleanor Lee	Hyesook Jung	Lindsay Whatley	Margery Whatley
Hannah Evans	Giejung Lee	Adela Sheng	Corine Anderson-Free
Dima Gambino	Dina Kasman	Noah Gregory	Frances Schwemmer
Shelby Hill	Amy Jensen	Vicki Wang	Jeremy Samolesky
Gabriel Feng	Kevin Chance		
Minsoo Park	Aeri Moon		
Raymond Hou	Ronald Shinn		
Emily Lee	Giejung Lee		
Stephen Grigsby	Margery Whatley		
Morgan Loper	Joshua Pifer		
McKaime Patrick	Barbara Shinn		
Ruth Sommer	Andy Martin		
Kendall Whatley	Margery Whatley		
Jonathan Yang	Susan Hoop		
Lillian Zhu	Susan Hoop		



Division I Honorable Mentions

Students

AmyKate Coon
 Roxy Hardy
 Amelia Bains
 Jenny Jae Eun Jung
 Rinat Bajaj
 Annie Cai
 Abigail Chan
 Nikhita Katragadda
 Carrington Buchanan
 Sophia Chen
 Srinika Mekala
 Ainsley Kinzer
 Amelia Culpepper
 Irene Kim
 Darwin Lu
 Olivia Li
 Sebastian Gaffo
 Katherine Jing
 Eli Johnson
 Jinwoo Jung
 Anshita Agarwal
 Hosanna Bearden
 Sarah Blackmon
 Ella Rose Clements
 Willa Coan
 Sabina Kurucz
 Joseph Elson
 Sarah Li
 Maximillian Garson
 Lydia Glaze
 Ruby Goggans
 William Goldmon
 Elizabeth Kanik
 Grace Kim
 Rachel Lee
 Zena Park
 Austin Lu
 Sam Meredith
 Payton Norris
 Claudia Purser
 Sam Shen
 Reagan Spires
 Dee Tully
 Hewitt Whigham
 Robert White

Teachers

Hope Coon
 Stephen Hickok
 Lisa Belk
 Sun Goodloe
 Sun Goodloe
 Debbie Bailie
 Susan Hoop
 Sun Goodloe
 Elizabeth Counts
 Alina Voicu
 Sun Goodloe
 Rebekah Gibson
 Deborah Sarcinelli
 Hae Na Ji
 Rebecca Thornton
 Alina Voicu
 Alice Butler
 Alina Voicu
 Christine Enlow
 Sun Goodloe
 Sun Goodloe
 Alice Eaton
 Thomas Austin
 Corine Anderson-Free
 Connie Macon
 Sun Goodloe
 Susan Berg
 Connie Macon
 Tatsiana Fedoseyev
 Stephen Hickok
 Elizabeth Counts
 Lisa Belk
 Frances Schwemmer
 Sunny Hahn
 Karen Hickok
 Karen Hickok
 Alina Voicu
 Christine Adolf
 Alice Butler
 Elizabeth Counts
 Jennifer Lewis
 Gail Spires
 Marche Altom
 Andy Martin
 Connie Macon

Students

Ronald Zheng
 Tara Samant
 Allie Spink
 Josiah Gallagher
 Ava Im
 Alyssa Wang
 Julianne Kim
 Shreya Tandon
 Sara Lethander
 Sommer Wang
 Hannah Ryan Akers
 Jacob Baker
 Ransom Bracker
 Hannah Choi
 Anthony Choi
 Elsie Cross
 Aidan Cui
 Ryan Wu
 Savannah Feng
 Johannes Gao
 Joanna Hopper
 Charlie Liebner
 Eloise Hoven
 Isabella Hsu
 Caroline Hughey
 Gage Keehn
 Veronica Zhang
 Abigail Li
 Tabitha Lackey
 Audrey McFarland
 Alexandria Niewiarowski
 Ginny Kate Osborne
 Sarah Peter
 Sophia Quinn
 Gracelyn Smith
 Avery Luther
 Liam Meadows
 Cora Moorhouse
 Sage Wang
 Quinn O'Sullivan
 Campbell Patrick
 Luna Qu
 Iris Wu
 Layla Rush
 Katelyn Santiago

Teachers

Alina Voicu
 Corine Anderson-Free
 Rebekah Gibson
 Noel Beck
 Stephen Hickok
 Joy Xu
 Joy Xu
 Tatiana Kasman
 Christine Adolf
 Tatiana Kasman
 Olivia Jones
 Susan Berg
 Deborah Sarcinelli
 Heejeong Chae
 Connie Macon
 Alice Butler
 Alina Voicu
 Alice Butler
 Connie Macon
 Tatiana Kasman
 Deborah Sarcinelli
 Lori Bailey
 Stephen Hickok
 Daniel DeKonty
 Rebekah McLaughlin
 Stephen Hickok
 Heather Byars
 Alina Voicu
 Rebecca Thornton
 Susan Berg
 Corine Anderson-Free
 Liudmila Hoskin
 Connie Macon
 Roy Hoobler
 Laura Rasnick
 Alice Butler
 Donna Wilson
 Connie Macon
 Joy Xu
 Sun Goodloe
 Barbara Shinn
 Alina Voicu
 Alina Voicu
 Elizabeth Counts
 Elizabeth Counts

Students

Harry Xiang
 Evie Venable
 Minlu Wang-He
 Bowen Williams
 Isabel Xu1
 Jungwoo Choi
 Jayden Kim
 Emilia Ng
 Kaylee Pratico
 Simon O'Neill
 Sophia Dooley

Teachers

Stephen Hickok
 Jessica Terry
 Joy Xu
 Andy Martin
 Susan Hoop
 Hae Na Ji
 Hae Na Ji
 Wendy McGee
 Wendy McGee
 Lillian Roberts
 Tatsiana Fedoseyev

**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, scholarships for music camps and the annual theory exams in January.

<p><i>President</i> <i>Vice-President</i> <i>Immediate Past President</i> <i>Secretary</i> <i>Treasurer/Membership</i> <i>Monthly Recitals Chair</i> <i>New Music Festival Chair</i> <i>Scholarship Chair</i> <i>Theory Exams Chair</i> <i>Webmaster</i></p>	<p><i>Jodean Tingle</i> <i>Lucy DeSa</i> <i>Brent Reeves</i> <i>Margery Whitley</i> <i>Kathy Burdette</i> <i>Tatiana Kasman</i> <i>Karen Erekeibery</i> <i>Jodean Tingle</i> <i>Olivia Jones</i> <i>Ronald Shinn</i></p>
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Division II Honorable Mentions**Students**

Samantha Chan
 Nathan Chiu
 Carrigan Crowe
 Katelyn Fu
 Grace Ge
 Timothy Li
 Caden Ernest
 Liam Carey
 Annabelle Coan
 Danielle Nguyen
 Everett Sanders
 Rosa Schwebel
 Emmie Beth Waters
 Courtney Chen
 Isabella Beaty
 Hannah Jacobs
 Kahyeon Jeon
 Elizabeth Lee
 Haruna Nakazawa
 Ian Shin

Teachers

Susan Hoop
 Giejung Lee
 Cathy Taylor
 Frances Schwemmer
 Mary Slaton
 Alina Voicu
 Hilda Hagins
 Adonis Gonzalez
 Connie Macon
 Susan Hoop
 Patty Kirkley
 Tatiana Kasman
 Elizabeth Counts
 Hyesook Jung
 Rebecca McManus
 Andy Martin
 Sunny Hahn
 Giejung Lee
 Nadezhda Bogdan
 Aeri Moon

Students

Emily Tran
 Amy Nance
 Cari Payne
 Larry Gariepy
 Helen Liotta
 John Brinkley
 Christopher Allen Valeri
 Yiwen Wang
 Lily Xie
 Jacinda Gariepy
 Thomas Rowe
 Mona Hong
 Mina Hu
 Sophia Johnson
 Steven Pan
 Daniel Yoon
 Stacy Rose
 Addison Spigener
 Claudia Williams

Teachers

Sunny Hahn
 Wendy McGee
 Corine Anderson-Free
 Susan Hoop
 Elizabeth Counts
 Frances Schwemmer
 Joy Xu
 Kevin Chance
 Jessica Terry
 Susan Hoop
 Steven DiBlasi
 Susan Hoop
 Heather Byars
 Frances Schwemmer
 Susan Hoop
 Kyunghyeon Jeon
 Barbara Laurendine
 Nora McGalliard
 Jessica Terry

Division III Honorable Mentions

<i>Students</i>	<i>Teachers</i>	<i>Students</i>	<i>Teachers</i>
Bethany Bradshaw	Rebecca McManus	Mike Zhang	Frances Schwemmer
Brooks Andrews	Patty Kirkley	Joshua Wales	Donna Wilson
Hayden Hope	Cathy Taylor	Timothy Zhu	Frances Schwemmer
Jimin Lee	Hae Na Ji	Vickie Kim	Hyesook Jung
Brian Chen	Kathryn Burdette	Punarvi Mandadapu	Sun Goodloe
Maria Deng	Connie Macon	Abbie McLemore	Rebekah McLaughlin
Sherwood Dong	Lois Lee	Shannon Kim	Corine Anderson-Free
Minjae Eum	Hae Na Ji	Jade Parkes	Sun Goodloe
Jack Gillet	Corine Anderson-Free	Sherilynn Peng	Barbara Shinn
Yumin Lee	Sunny Hahn	Charlie Yaeger	Susan Berg
Taylor Honeycutt	Justine Seeley	Stana Choi	Jeremy Samolesky
Natalie Ledford	Carol Lynn	Blake Jones	Ronald Shinn
Abigail Royal	Liudmila Hoskin	Namho Koo	Heejeong Chae
		Lilian Qu	Susan Hoop

Piano Concerto

<i>Division I Winners</i>		<i>Division I Honorable Mentions</i>	
<i>Students</i>	<i>Teachers</i>	<i>Students</i>	<i>Teachers</i>
Vassili Trenin	Tatiana Kasman	Jeffrey Duan	Susan Hoop
Brandon Shin	Tatiana Kasman		
<i>Division II Winners</i>		<i>Division II Honorable Mentions</i>	
Jessica Ma	Tatiana Kasman	Gavin Deason	Lillian Roberts
Richard Chen	Ronald Shinn	Elizabeth Haddock	Tatiana Fedoseyev
<i>Division III Winners</i>		<i>Division III Honorable Mentions</i>	
Dima Gambino	Dina Kasman	Shannon Boutwell	Ronald Shinn
Raymond Hou	Ronald Shinn	Anna-Grace Butts	Liudmila Hoskin

Collegiate Winners

<i>Students</i>	<i>Universities</i>	<i>Teachers</i>
Samuel Gaines	University of Alabama	Kevin Chance
Timothy Berry	University of Alabama	Kevin Chance
Dina Kasman	University of Alabama at Birmingham	Yakov Kasman
Chuqiao Guo	University of Alabama	Kevin Chance

	<i>Students</i>	<i>Teachers</i>
<i>Pre-College Woodwinds Winner</i>	Division III Stacey Yoo	Aeri Moon
<i>Pre-College Voice Winner</i>	Division II Jason Wang	Joy Xu
<i>Pre-College Voice Honorable Mention</i>	Division III Malia Rains	Marche Altom
<i>Pre-College Voice Winner</i>	Division III Ella Grace Tippins	Joy Xu

Scholarship Auditions
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Collegiate Piano Solo Honorable Mentions

	<i>Students</i>	<i>Universities</i>	<i>Teachers</i>
Lower div	Trae Cummings	University of Alabama	Kevin Chance
Lower div	Macy Steele	University of Alabama	Kevin Chance
Upper div	Carmen Williams	University of Alabama at Birmingham	Yakov Kasman
Graduate div	Jianing Ling	University of Alabama	Kevin Chance

Collegiate Piano Solo Winners

	<i>Students</i>	<i>Universities</i>	<i>Teachers</i>
Lower div	Samuel Gaines	University of Alabama	Kevin Chance
Lower div	Mary Elisa Wagner	University of Alabama at Birmingham	Yakov Kasman
Lower div	Timothy Berry	University of Alabama	Kevin Chance
Upper div	Jeffrey Bell	University of Alabama	Kevin Chance
Upper div	Dina Kasman	University of Alabama at Birmingham	Yakov Kasman
Graduate div	Zijie Ma	University of Alabama	Kevin Chance
Graduate div	Scott Santoro	University of Alabama	Kevin Chance

ASRA AWARD
WINNER

MTNA Competitions

Alabama MTNA Performance Competition instructions

I hope many of your students will enter the MTNA Performance Competition. Our competition is to be an online audition. The information you need is all on the MTNA.org website under competitions. Please register for the Alabama MTNA Performance Competition online by Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 3:00 P.M. Eastern Time. At that time, you must submit your repertoire list, and it cannot be changed after that. This information will be available to me immediately. I will contact you with further information about submitting an online performance. The performance will be submitted via YouTube. Each piece may be performed separately, but you must title each performance and submit all the performances in one email, sent to AlabamaMTNAPerformanceComp@gmail.com no later than October 29, 2021 at 4:00 central time. Please title your email with your name, category (Junior, Senior, or Young Artist) and instrument (voice, piano, string, wind). If it is received, I will email you back. If you have not heard from me in 24 hours, please resubmit.

PLEASE submit before the deadline in case there is a problem. I will send all of this again to students who have entered through the MTNA website. After all submissions have been received, I will send them to the judges. The results will be tallied by November 10, and all who enter will be notified of the results by November 15.

The information on the MTNA website is very thorough, but if you have any questions, please contact me.

Jodean Tingle – MTNA Competitions Chair

Soundboard Deadlines:

***Fall:
October 6***

***Spring:
February 6***

***Summer:
July 6***

Huntsville News

HMTA worked to remain a vital resource for its members during the Pandemic. Ways HMTA worked to accomplish this are below:

September 18th, 2020, HMTA held its annual membership meeting via Zoom.

HMTA also held 3 Virtual Presentations via Zoom:

October 16th: "The Art of Rhythmic Integrity", by Debi Loach

December 4th: "Teaching with Technology", by Omar Roy

February 19th: "Hidden Treasures, Mining the Repertoire for Gems by Underrepresented Composers", by Dr. Kevin Chance

HMTA also held a Virtual Palooza in December, where students of HMTA members could use the Palooza as virtual recital opportunity.

In April 2021, HMTA presented a virtual Honors Recital, featuring students from HMTA members studio in recital. HMTA Members Recital was put together by HMTA member Phil Weaver.

And any Music Teacher in the Huntsville area is welcome to attend our meetings, presentations, and events. These functions will be listed the HMTA website, hsvmta.org.



-Deborah Loach, HMTA President

Certification News

AMTA has another certified member in **Dr. Steven DiBlasi**. DiBlasi, an accomplished pianist with a passion for whimsy, relocated to NE Alabama to teach at Snead State in the fall of 2015. Besides teaching, he avidly pursues his research interest in musical consilience and enjoys an active performance calendar - including annual tours with his duo partner Gianluca Strazzullo. Steven owes an enormous debt to the tutelage of Dr. Victor Asuncion, Dr. John Baur, and Dr. Kevin Richmond at the University of Memphis and Dr. Wendy Freeland at Jacksonville State University.

Barbara Shinn, NCTM—AMTA Certification Chair



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Distinguished Professor of Piano/Artist-in-Residence;
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2020-21

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STREAM

Congrats to our grads!

Mira Walker (UAB '20) has started her Master of Music in Piano Performance degree program, as well as an associate instructor position at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music.

Jacob Skiles (UAB '20) has started his Master of Music in Piano Performance degree program at Florida State University, where he is also a teaching assistant.

UAB Piano in the News

www.uab.edu/cas/music

Meet the AMTA Local Association Presidents

This is part one of two articles to introduce all of our local association presidents to the AMTA membership. Look for part two in the next issue!

Kristie Smith

President of Shoals Area Music Teachers Forum

My name is Kristie Smith, and I am beginning my second year as president of Shoals Area MTF. I also serve as historian/publicity chair on the state board. I am a collaborative pianist at UNA and teach privately in Florence. I've been married for 16 years and have an almost four-year-old daughter.

Dr. Manley Blackwell

President of West Alabama Music Teachers Association

Dr. Manley Blackwell, pianist, is Emeritus Professor of Music at the University of West Alabama. At UWA he taught studio piano and academic courses in Music Theory, Music History, and Introduction to Music from 1992 until his retirement in 2018. Since retirement, he teaches privately in his home and accompanies academic recitals for music majors at the University of Alabama. He is also an accomplished organist and plays weekly for St. Leo's Catholic Church in Demopolis and St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Livingston.

His degrees include the Bachelor and Master of Music Degrees in Piano Performance from Louisiana State University and the Doctor of Musical Arts Degree from Michigan State University. His teachers include Barbara Fortenberry, Dr. Jack Guerry and Ralph Votapek. For AMTA he served several terms as Judges Coordinator and as Chair of the College Solo Auditions. He is a member of the Tuscaloosa Music Club and the Demopolis Music Study Club.

Carol Windham

President of Wiregrass Music Teachers Forum

I have been teaching piano for 38 years, starting in Evergreen, Alabama in 1983, then continuing in Coffee County in 1988. I have been an applied piano instructor at Enterprise State Community College since the late 1990's. I also play for the vocal students, the concert choir, productions and the upcoming community choir.

I have been Music Assistant at First Baptist Church for over 25 years, mainly playing the piano and occasionally the pipe organ. I also directed our 5-octave handbell choir for over 20 years. When not doing music, I am an avid outdoors person and love fishing!

Dr. Rachel K. Park

President of Northeast Alabama Music Teachers Association

Dr. Rachel Park is an assistant professor of piano at Jacksonville State University. She has given more than a thousand concerts and recitals with various soloists, ensembles, and orchestras throughout the United States and overseas. She has dedicated herself to piano performance and music education with practical applications and insight gained through her wide performance experience.

Rachel received her Doctoral of Musical Arts in Church Music and Piano Performance degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, TX where she also earned her Master of Music degree. She received her Bachelor of Music degree from Sookmyung Women's University in South Korea. Rachel has been a recipient of several awards throughout her career and was named an honorary ambassador for non-profit international organizations such as Food for the Hungry International and the Africa Future Foundation. She has performed on five CD recordings with the Pilgrim Ensemble and King's Brass. Rachel has released a solo piano album of her own arrangements called *The Love and My Songs*. She is looking forward to presenting her debut recital at Carnegie Hall in November 2021. Rachel and her husband Ezra are proud parents of three lovely children.

AMTA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

AMTA is so very excited to award Susan Hoop the honor of **2021 AMTA Teacher of the Year**.

Congratulations Susan!!!

Francis Schwemmer nominated Susan for this year's AMTA Teacher of the Year Award, and Frances was able to collect 17 letters of support for Susan from AMTA colleagues and former students of Susan which all spoke very highly of her commitment and excellence towards AMTA and her students. Since this year's AMTA State Conference was virtual again, we will do a special presentation for Susan at next Year's State Conference banquet and celebrate in person. Please take a moment to send Susan your congratulations for this prestigious award.

Here are some highlights of Susan's contributions to AMTA and HMTA.

- Co-District Chair Hsv. Area for many years
- District Chair for 2 years
- Presented a program for the 2020 AMTA Conference
- Presented a program for the Shoales Area Teachers
- Presented a program for the HMTA
- Presented a program for the Birmingham Teachers
- VP in charge of programs for HMTA - several years
- Volunteer at State AMTA Piano Auditions -- many years
- A member of the AMTA Board -- many years

Has judged for many districts, Sonatina-Sonatina audition, Helen Boykin Festival, Samford Pre-College event
Here are some highlights of Susan's student achievements over the years.

- Susan's student, Timothy Berry won the ASRA Outstanding Senior at the State Conference
- Many students have been selected in AMTA Auditions as Winner, HM or Outstanding in Composition, Solo, Concerto (both upper and lower), and Chamber Music
- Many of her students play for their church services regularly
- Adam Cobb was a college organ major and is now finishing his DMA at FSU this year
- Lori Bailey, a Guntersville-Arab piano teacher, church musician, choir director who works with Susan regularly as her mentor.
- Susan has worked with many teachers who will ask her to hear their students -- and she says yes.

Two students have performed Concerti with the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra for the Young Peoples Concerts held yearly for all 4th graders in the area.

Here is Frances's Letter of Nomination for Susan.

It's simple. Susan teaches students of various levels of talents, all ages, and gives them the basic fundamentals so they can play the piano with enjoyment for the rest of their lives. She strives to select literature that fits the student's level of talent, size, interest level and works to ensure that all students are eligible to enter auditions and play with confidence on the recitals and for group classes.

Susan Hoop has entered AMTA as a student of mine when she moved to Henagar, AL. It was an hour and a half commute to Huntsville for lessons. She studied piano, organ and flute on Saturdays. Her father was the minister of the First United Methodist Church in Moulton and she was the pianist. When it was time for college she went to the University of AL and studied with Amanda Penick. She was an AMTA Winner and/or HM in middle school, high school, and in college and performed successfully on several Master Classes for the AMTA Conferences.



After college she moved to Moulton, AL and taught a large class of students and had 2 state winners her first year of teaching! Susan moved to Huntsville several years later and quickly became an established teacher in Madison and Huntsville. She has maintained a high quality of teaching and has required all students to perform in recitals, other auditions and in AMTA. She has had consistent winners, honorable mention winners, and her students have received outstanding grades every year. She has entered Composition, Chamber Music, Upper and Lower Concerto as well as Solo Auditions. She has accompanied many pre-college violin and viola students in AMTA auditions also.

She was my co-chair of the Huntsville area AMTA District piano auditions for many years. It was my great pleasure to turn this job over to her in 2019. Little did I know that we teachers would have to re-invent the auditions and provide YouTube Videos for auditions in AMTA for TWO years. It was most fortunate that she was doing this. I would have not been able to handle this half as well as she did. She was also a mentor to many teachers guiding us through this maze.

Susan has had the joy of watching many of her students become teachers, ministers of music, church pianists, pre-college music teachers and several have become church organists.

In addition to teaching a full load of students she has raised 3 successful daughters. She was their accompanist for various instruments that they studied, including a college voice major. Susan has been a church organist for most of her adult life and filled in as a sub while in college. She has directed children's choirs, church musicals and just whatever was needed, she said yes. Her husband has faced many health problems and all three daughters have had serious health issues, some that went undiagnosed for many years. Despite these challenges she took care of one or both of her parents for almost 20 years.

Susan has worked at the State AMTA Auditions as a runner, auditor, whatever was needed for many years. On the local scene she is presently the VP in charge of programs for our local Huntsville MTA.

I am pleased to say all of the above about Susan's involvement in teaching as well as community activities supporting the study of music for our young people. I also am proud to say I was her middle school and high school piano teacher inheriting her from Max Camp who moved to SC to teach at the University in Columbia, SC.

Sincerely,

Frances Schwemmer, NCTM

**It's time to
renew your
MTNA
membership!
Don't forget!**



Deadline is October 1

Baldwin County News

The Baldwin County Music Teachers completed the school year with many good things accomplished – all in spite of the global pandemic which prevented most normally scheduled activities. We forged on with our plans even if they had to be changed somewhat.

District I held the Auditions through video recordings accomplished by parents. We thank all those parents who struggled to get just the correct angle and sound from whatever devices they used to present their child in the best light and audio. We thank, also the judges and State Audition staff for adjudicating our students with positive comments and grades. BCMTA was pleased that the State allowed us to proceed with the Auditions, but we hope to resume “in-person” Auditions next year.

For several decades Vincentine Williams has chaired or co-chaired the Auditions for District I. She has fine tuned the process of registration, seeking judges, arranging a location, scheduling students, bringing in volunteers, processing the results to the State and distributing the comment sheets back to the teachers. This is no small challenge. All teachers along the Gulf Coast thank her for her expertise as District Chair. Daniel DeKonty has now taken on that role for the coming year. With his technical expertise we will move into a new era of Auditions. He has especially helped many of us through the last two years of Virtual Recording for the Auditions. We look forward to all that he will bring to this new responsibility. Thank you, Vincentine and Good luck, Daniel.



Each spring the BCMTA offers a Senior Recital for those seniors who have committed to studying throughout their entire high school years. This year had a smaller number of participants with only two. Many years we have as many as 8. This year's event was held at the Steinway Piano Gallery in Spanish Fort. The students were able to perform on a 9-foot Steinway Concert Grand. Each received a Certificate from the State for their accomplishments. Congratulations to our seniors who pursued piano throughout their high school years. The teachers of these students are Vincentine Williams and Tammy Dennis.



One of the newest members of our Association is Brandon Marcus who operates The Studio in Daphne where piano, voice, acting, dance, staging, and stage make-up. Brandon is also a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS). Four of his students participated in the State Competition for NATS also done virtually, all scored in the highest rankings. The Studio has become a great asset to all students in Baldwin County. This broadens the BCMTA's reaches into a variety of musical offerings.

One of our members, Jeanne O'Connell, plays and teaches harp. The Central Gulf Coast Harp Society (CGCHS) normally does a live concert in the spring called Harpfest. Anywhere from 9 to 18 harpists from along the Gulf Coast come together to perform solos, small ensembles and large ensembles including all harps. Venues vary from church sanctuaries to church halls or senior citizen activity rooms. Because of the pandemic the CGCHS had to do this year's performance virtually like some many others. Most of the selections were solos with a few small ensembles and one selection of Dona Nobis Pacem including 5 members. This was uploaded to YouTube this spring for all to enjoy. Making it another effort to bring live music to the masses. The YouTube link is at: https://youtu.be/u1kiVajWH_w



Jeanne O'Connell, NCTM – BCMTA member

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2020 – 2021

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