

Special points of interest:

- AMTA Southern Division Competition Results
- Collegiate Member Presentation Competition
- Collegiate Chapter Poster Presentation Competition

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From the President



Greetings fellow AMTA members! If you are like me, the idea of “new year” is long gone, and you well into your busy-scheduled days. I hope you know there are others like you across the state, tirelessly helping others...note by note and smile by smile.

November brought another successful MTNA Competition held at Auburn University. Dr. Jeremy Samolesky again managed this event flawlessly. There to help with the many tasks were Josh Pifer and Nancy Vinson, along with the

enthusiastic Auburn University MTNA Collegiate Chapter.

I’m very pleased to report on the extraordinary success of our Alabama winners at the 2013 Southern Division MTNA Competitions at UNC-Greensboro, held January 18-21. We are proud to announce that six of our students won and proceed on to the national level. Representing our division at the upcoming national conference in Anaheim, CA March 9-13 will be students Goeun Sim, Kwanza Williams, Eric Tsai, Ariana Maloney and Coreisa Lee.

The AMTA board has been busy at work coming up with ideas to add to our association. We’ve initiated a “Collegiate Presentation Competition” and a “Collegiate Chapter Poster Competition.” Details follow in this issue of *Soundboard*. Also, a waiver has been created to ensure scores downloaded from the internet are obtained in a legally-correct manner. If your student is using scores downloaded from the internet, you and his/her parent must sign this form and submit it with their District and State

Application Audition forms.

The form is found at almta.org. Lastly, I am proud to report AMTA forwarded a check to national headquarters in the amount of \$1000.00 to assist those affected by SuperStorm Sandy. Thank you, Alabama Music Teachers Association!

You still have time to make plans to attend the 2013 MTNA Conference in Anaheim, CA on March 9-13. Also know that MTNA wants your vote in the upcoming election of new officers. Visit MTNA.org and cast your vote.

Lastly, on a personal note, recent months have brought some changes for me, and I’m resuming my maiden name of Freeland. It may be awkward to remember at first, but I trust it will be “old hat” before long.

Keep working hard—I appreciate your camaraderie, value your efforts, and am impressed by your accomplishments.

Wendy Freeland (Faughn),
NCTM
AMTA President

Did you know?

The AMTA Executive Board meets three times a year: October, February and June. A copy of the meeting’s minutes are available to any member upon request. Please contact the AMTA Secretary Misti Short (mistishort@aol.com) to receive your emailed copy.



FOOTHILLS PIANO FESTIVAL at Jacksonville State University

SETH BECKMAN AND GAIL STEWARD IN RECITAL
Friday, Feb. 15, 7:30pm

JSU's Dr. Gail Steward teams up with Dr. Seth Beckman, pianist and Associate Dean of the prestigious Florida State University School of Music, to present works for four hands, one piano. Dr. Steward, a valued member of the Jacksonville community since 2001, shared years of piano study with friend Dr. Beckman at Ball State University.

JEREMY SAMOLESKY IN RECITAL

Thursday, Feb. 28, 7:30pm

Canadian pianist Jeremy Samolesky will bring to audiences the wonderful classical piano repertoire they love. A specialist in both solo piano music and chamber music, Dr. Samolesky serves on the faculty of Auburn University, and holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music in both solo piano music and chamber music.



Birmingham Metro Hosts Annual Theory Exams and Master Class

The Birmingham Metro Music Teachers Forum held the annual theory exams and master class on Saturday, January 19, 2013, at Samford University. 39 students and 5 teachers were involved. Exams are created and prepared by Moya Nordlund and Kathryn Fouse based on the Keith Snell Piano Theory Series. This year students tested in levels Prep through nine. Following the exams the master class was taught by Dr. Jeremy Samolesky of Auburn University. His manner of involving the audience with the performers was

very successful. Three students performed, students of Tatiana Kasman and Barbara Shinn.

Resources for the Collaborative Pianist

Laurie Middaugh, Collaborative Chair



I have been interested in collaborative piano since my freshman of college at the University of Montevallo when I played for a senior voice recital. At that time I was unaware of the many resources available to the young pianist with an interest in making music with others.

I have been fortunate to be able to spend a portion of the last two summers at the American Institute of Musical Study (AIMS) in Graz, Austria, first as a student then as a staff pianist. Conversation among the pianists at AIMS often involved various resources for furthering one's study of collaborative piano. These resources include the many summer programs such as AIMS in Graz, the Schubert Institute, Songfest, Aspen, and many more. There are also many books written by current and previous esteemed pianists known primarily for their collaborative work. *The Art of Accompanying and Coaching* by Kurt Adler, published first in 1965, is still considered to be one of the foremost texts for the collaborative pianist. One of my favorite authors is Gerald Moore, who is credited with bringing the position of the accompanist from a secondary role to that of an equal partner. Moore was a prolific writer with "The Unashamed Accompanist", and "Am I Too Loud?" among the titles. He recorded an album also entitled "The Unashamed Accompanist" in which he not only played many songs and arias but also talked about them as well. He is very funny and clever in his presentation of the various facets of the piano part and how it relates to the vocal line and text. The album was of course originally released on LP and re-released on CD in 1999. "Accompanying Basics" by Joyce Grill has been used as a text for some time. Martin Katz's book, "The Complete Collaborator: The Pianist as Partner", published in 2009, is a valuable resource from one of the most prominent collaborative pianists of our time. In it, Katz addresses the complexities involved in playing orchestral reductions, issues of balance in art song, and many examples of pieces with practical information on technical and musical challenges presented by these pieces.

About a year ago I found the website, "Collaborative Piano Blog", written by Canadian pianist Chris Foley. This blog is particularly useful for the young pianist who has an interest in pursuing collaborative piano. Many topics of interest for the young pianist include overviews of graduate programs in collaborative piano, career possibilities for collaborative pianists, repertoire and practice advice.

The experience of working with other musicians is a rewarding additional to the pianist's musical life. I hope this short list of resources adds to your enjoyment of collaborative music making.

AMTA AT SOUTHERN DIVISION COMPETITIONS

I'm very pleased to report on the extraordinary successes of our Alabama representatives at the 2013 Southern Division MTNA Competitions at UNC-Greensboro, held January 18-21.

Honorable Mentions:

Elisabeth Tsai, Junior Piano
Aleksandra Kasman, Senior Piano
Christina Lewis and Lauren Williams,
Senior Piano Duet
Brian Nabors, Young Artist Composition
Daniel Haddock, Young Artist Brass

Ronald Shinn, Teacher
Yakov Kasman, Teacher
Kevin Chance, Teacher

Sarana Chou, Teacher
Mark DeGoti, Teacher

Alternates:

Judy Oh, Junior Woodwind

Nancy Vinson, Teacher

Winners:

Christopher Bandy, Junior Composition
Goeun Sim, Junior String

Frances Schwemmer, Teacher
Martin Camacho-Zavaleta,
Teacher

Kwanza Williams, Senior Brass
Eric Tsai, Senior String
Ariana Maloney, Senior Voice
Coreisa Lee, Senior Woodwind

Mark DeGoti, Teacher
Sergiu Schwartz, Teacher
Ginger Beazley, Teacher
Kimberly Scott, Teacher



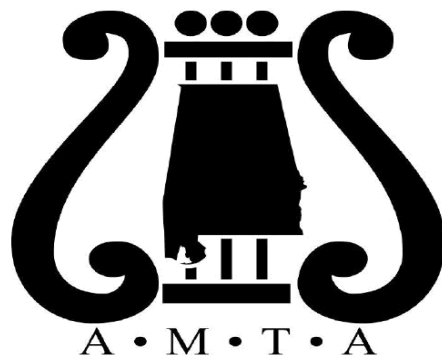
Congratulations to all of our competitors and their teachers for their hard work and dedication in preparing for these competitions, and best of luck to the winners as they compete at the National Conference in Anaheim, California on March 9-13!

Dates for the 2013 Alabama State MTNA Competitions have been confirmed for November 1-2 at Auburn University.

Jeremy Samolesky
MTNA Competitions Chair

JUDGES WORKSHOPS FOR YOUR LOCAL ASSOCIATION

Stay abreast of current audition requirements and ensure that proper adjudication is occurring in your district by hosting a Judges Workshop. Contact State Clinician Debbie Gray to schedule. Funding can be secured by applying for a Local Association Grant. Find guidelines and application under "AMTA Info" at www.almta.org.



Alabama Music Teachers Association Collegiate Member Presentation Competition

AMTA is pleased to announce the Collegiate Member Presentation Competition. The purpose of this event is to feature an exceptional presentation prepared by a collegiate member of AMTA at the annual AMTA State Conference, June 7-9 at the University of Montevallo. The winner will gain the experience of presenting for a professional organization, and will receive a \$100.00 scholarship award.

Suggested topics for presentation include, but are not limited to: pedagogy, method books and/or new materials, technology, technique, repertoire, the musician's health, business, careers in music, and integrating music with other forms of art or disciplines. The presentation's length should not exceed thirty minutes.

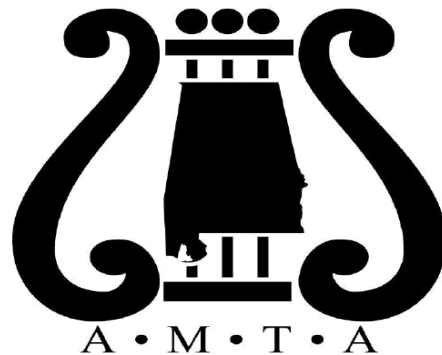
APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Be a collegiate member in good standing of AMTA. University-chapter affiliation is not required. Submit the following:

- Headshot
- Biography
- Resume
- Presentation Abstract
- Proposal for Presentation
- Outline of Presentation
- Two letters of Recommendation
- List of technological or instrumental requirements for presentation

Submit electronically by February, 28th, 2013 to:

Dr. Josh Pifer, AMTA Collegiate Chapter Chair



Alabama Music Teachers Association Collegiate Chapter Poster Presentation Competition

AMTA is pleased to announce the Collegiate Chapter Poster Presentation Competition. The purpose of this event is to feature an exceptional poster presentation prepared by an AMTA collegiate chapter at the annual AMTA State Conference, June 7-9 at the University of Montevallo. The winning chapter will have their poster featured in the Exhibit Hall and will gain the experience of preparing a poster presentation for a professional organization. The winning chapter will receive a \$50.00 award.

Suggested topics for presentation include, but are not limited to: pedagogy, technology, technique, repertoire, the musician's health, business, careers in music, and integrating music with other forms of art or disciplines.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Collegiate students must have their membership requirements up-to-date and submit the following:

Group picture of Collegiate Chapter

Name of Collegiate Chapter

Name of Collegiate Chapter Advisor

Detailed Proposal for Poster Presentation

Two letters of Recommendation, one to be from Collegiate Chapter Advisor

Submit electronically by February, 28th, 2013 to:

Dr. Josh Pifer, AMTA Collegiate Chapter Chair

jkp0013auburn.edu



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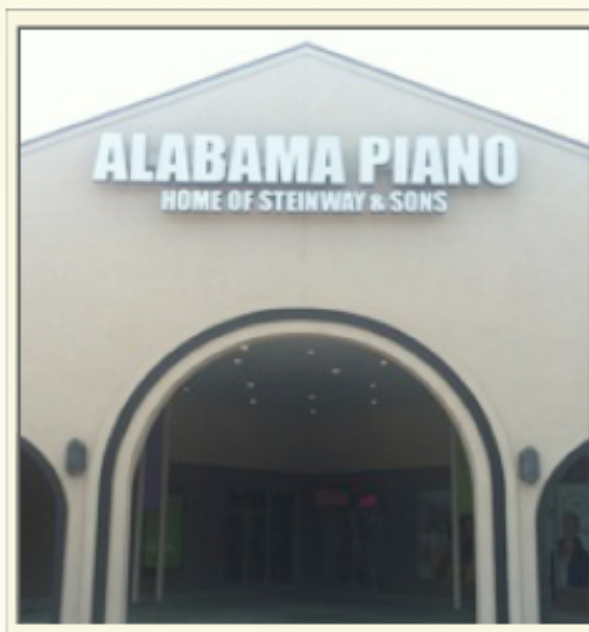
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Born and raised in Montgomery, Ala., Michael Shinn received his bachelor's and master's degrees in piano performance from Juilliard (in 2002 and 2004, respectively) and his D.M.A. from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. His first college teaching experience was at Bronx Community College; he joined the Juilliard Evening Division in 2006 and the College Division in 2007. He also maintains a small private piano studio, and in 2011, he and his wife, music history faculty member Jessica Chow Shinn (D.M.A. '10, collaborative piano), started a music festival in Sonoma County, Calif., called pianoSonoma, where they teach and perform every summer. In his limited spare time, Michael has also been helping Juilliard eLearning, an online music curriculum for schools that launched in January.

When did you first know you wanted to be a musician?

I think I was around 12 years old when I really fell in love with music. In addition to all the support from my pianist-parents, I began listening to some great recordings that really inspired me.

What were some of them?

The first recordings I heard—and really listened to, over and over again—were of Horowitz and Rachmaninoff at the piano. The recording of Horowitz from his return to Moscow is forever engrained into my memory, as are Rachmaninoff's recordings of his own concertos. These were musicians whose freedom and artistry were simply unmatched, and it made a huge impact on me at an early stage.

Who was the teacher or mentor who most inspired you?

Without a doubt, my father, Ronald Shinn. He was my piano teacher until I came to Juilliard as a freshman. Dad has an innate curiosity for musical investigation that has always inspired me to seek more. He is astonishingly supportive and always seems to find a way to inspire his students to achieve a higher level of artistry. I would also add that everything I know about teaching I learned from him.

What's the most embarrassing moment you've had as a performer?

Evidently I have a knack for breaking pianos in a variety of ways. One time, I was performing Debussy's *Images*, and in *Hommage à Rameau*, the entire pedal mechanism began to slip down away from the piano. Debussy sans pedal did not work out so well, so I had to stop and request assistance. Another time, I was playing Ravel's *Jeux d'eau*, and in the black-key glissando, I broke off the F-sharp just above middle C. Unfortunately, the very next piece on the program was in F-sharp minor!

How compatible are being a musician and an entrepreneur?

To be a successful musician one must have a tremendous work ethic and persistence as well as the creativity and innovative thought necessary for artistic excellence. These attributes are exactly the skills required for successful entrepreneurship. I would argue that being a musician and an entrepreneur go hand in hand.

Is there anything you wish you'd known about being an entrepreneur before you became one?

Pursuing any new idea, or rather, pursuing any idea in a new way, creates endless opportunities for learning and growth. While trial-and-error can be a powerful method for learning the how-to, seeking wise advice and following it can certainly streamline one's approach. Furthermore, as artists, we should strive to cultivate our interpersonal skills as we pursue our new and brilliant ideas. While many of us have the work ethic and creativity, successful people skills are the final requirement for entrepreneurial success.

If you could have your students visit any place in the world, where would it be?

I have a feeling my students could tell *me* where to go, as so many have traveled so far! But I'd have to say if they haven't been, Leipzig is the place. It's such a beautiful city with such a rich artistic history. And you can go have a dessert at Café Baum, where Goethe and Schumann were regulars.



(Continue on p.12.)

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UAB Piano in the News

- UAB graduate Kseniia Polstiankina accepted on a full scholarship to the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music to study for her Master's degree.
- UAB sophomore Edward Forstman became a winner of state MTNA Young Artist competition
- UAB Piano Series presents prizewinner of international piano competitions Sara Daneshpour in recital on March 10th of 2013. www.saradaneshpour.com
- Yakov Kasman is invited to be on the faculty at the International Summer Music Academy in Kiev, Ukraine. www.horowitzv.org

For more information visit www.music.uab.edu

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MMTF sponsors the annual **Mark McGowin Recital** 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.

(Continue from p.9)

What are your nonmusic interests or hobbies?

I'm a passionate triathlete, having completed one full Ironman and numerous shorter-distance races over the last six years. It's a wonderful sport that requires the same level of focus and consistency as preparing for a big concert. Even the nerves at the starting line are similar!

What would people be surprised to know about you?

That I'm originally from Alabama. Aside from the occasional use of the word *y'all*, which I quickly eradicated from my vocabulary upon arrival in New York, I never had any semblance of an accent, so it's difficult to convince people of my origin. Alabama is really a beautiful state filled with great and creative people, but for some reason, most New Yorkers don't seem to believe me on that point.

If your students could only remember one thing from your teaching, what would it be?

The one thing I want my students to take away from my teaching is that one's musical education never ends. As musicians, we are presented with the opportunity—and obligation!—to explore, deepen, and enrich the artistic world that surrounds us.

What social media do you follow?

I have a Facebook account, but avoid it like the plague. Jessica and I have a Twitter account for pianoSonoma, but I admit that I abandon it during the school year. Social media is not something I love. I much prefer spending time with people face to face!

If you weren't in the career you are in, what would you be doing?

Well, my aunt has always joked that I should have been a used-car salesman, but I prefer to think that if my musical talents were replaced by a propensity toward speed, I might have become a professional triathlete. Sadly, I am not that fast, but fortunately, I absolutely love my life in music.

Reprint from <http://www.juilliard.edu/journal/portraits/faculty/archive/2012-13/1302.php>



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UPCOMING PIANO EVENTS

Dr. Lynn Rice-See Guest Artist Recital

January 15, 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Noel Engebretson Faculty Recital

February 14, 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Kevin Chance Faculty Recital

February 26, 7:30 p.m.

John Bloomfield Residency

February 28-March 2



AUDITION DATES

Spring 2013 Piano Audition Dates

Saturday, January 12 (Graduate Students Only)

Monday, February 18

Saturday, March 2

Numerous scholarship and assistantship awards available for the 2013-2014 school year. Interested students should audition by March 2 for priority consideration. Contact Kevin Chance at ktchance@music.ua.edu for more information.

COMPETITION

Announcing the First Annual UA Piano Competition — January 24, 2013! No age restrictions with scholarship awards up to \$8,000 with the possibility of a full out-of-state scholarship for qualified winners! Deadline to apply is November 12, 2012. Details can be found at music.ua.edu/piano.

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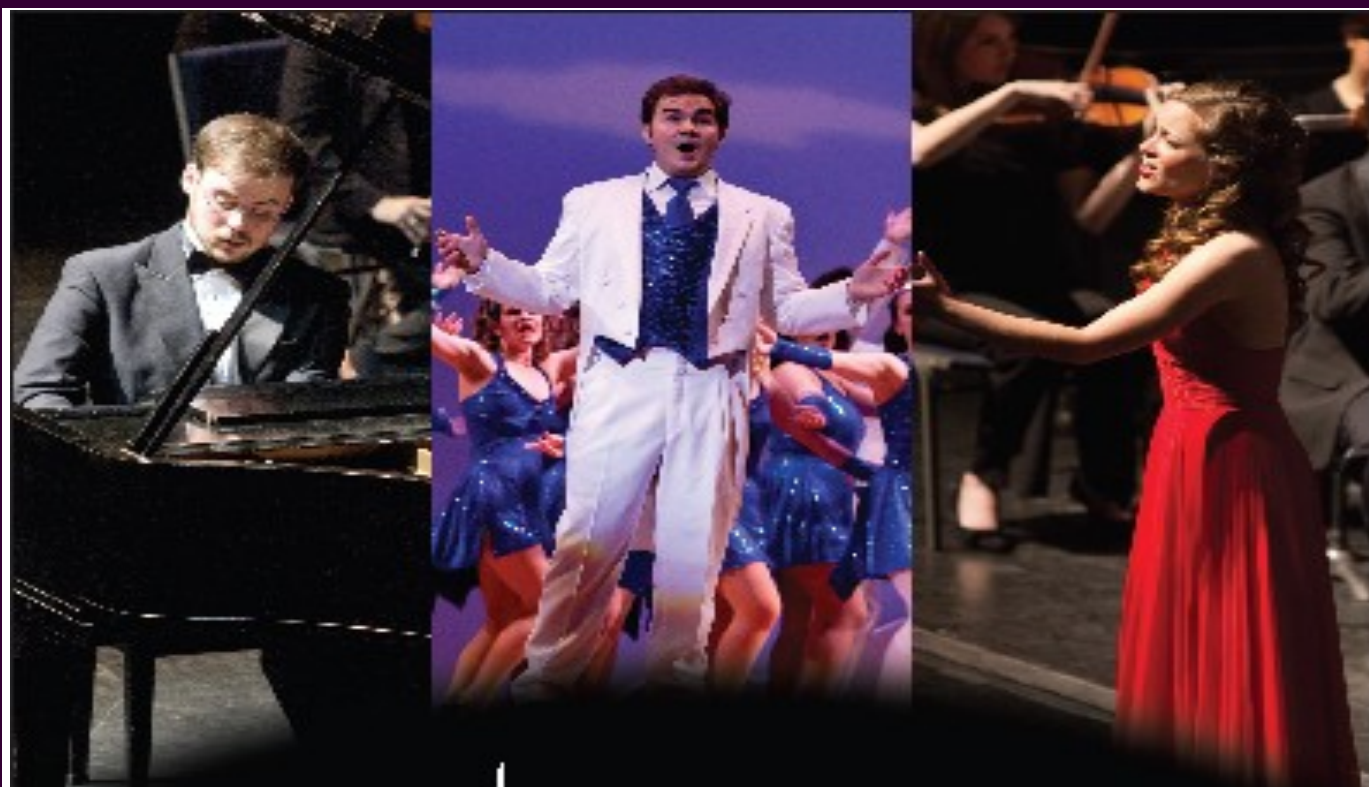
- Laurelie Gheesling, M.M.
- Josh Pifer, D.M.A.
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- Nov. 9–10, 2012
- Feb. 1–2, 2013
- Feb. 22–23, 2013

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Conference Info

AMTA Conference 2013

The 2013 Conference will be June 6 – 8, 2013 at University of Montevallo. Ramsey Hall will be available for lodging. Guest artist is Jennifer Hayghe, Ithaca College. Clinician is Beth Gigante Klingenstein, Valley City State University, North Dakota. Kevin Chance is also doing a presentation on technique, and there will be a panel discussion on good teaching pieces (with performance). I need volunteers to help with many parts of the conference to make it successful. Please say yes when asked (or volunteer now!).

For submissions to
Soundboard

Moya Nordlund, Editor
Samford University
Division of Music
800 Lakeshore Drive
Birmingham, AL 35229
mlnordlu@samford.edu
205-726-2651

www.almta.org

2012-2013 Calendar for District and State Auditions

District Piano Auditions (forms at www.almta.org)

- o April 6, 2013
 - ✦ District IV: Tuscaloosa
 - ✦ District VIII: Huntsville
- ✦ April 13, 2013
 - ✦ District I: Mobile
 - ✦ District II: Enterprise
 - ✦ District III: Auburn (?)
 - ✦ District III Montgomery
 - ✦ District V: Boaz
 - ✦ District VI: Florence
 - ✦ District VII: Birmingham
- ✦ **AMTA State Piano**
- o May 10-11, 2013
- o **AMTA State Strings & Chamber Music**
- o April 27, 2013
- o **AMTA State Non-Strings, Non-Piano**
- o March 29-30, 2013
- o **AMTA State Collegiate Piano**
- March 29-30, 2013

