

SOUNDBOARD

Newsletter for the Alabama Music Teachers Association

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I am honored and excited to be your AMTA president for this next two year term! I recently submitted a report to the Alabama State Council of the Arts on our organization's state conference. This was to fulfill the grant requirements for the ASCA grant that we received. In my closing statement, I stated that I am extremely proud of being in an organization that has a high level of active members and a solid conference attendance. I credited this to our members being highly dedicated, driven, compassionate people for a profession they love.

I feel that our state conference was a success due to all of you and your abundant willingness to volunteer and help! I greatly appreciate members from the Auburn chapter for their availability. Nancy Vinson and Karen Hickok did a wonderful job running our hospitality in the exhibit hall. NoteWorthy was also in the exhibit hall and I want

to thank this business for their continuing support of our organization. Josh Pifer was extremely helpful not only in answering questions about the campus facilities, filling any ongoing conference requests, but also organizing the Auburn collegiate chapter for extra volunteers. This was a great way to get younger people involved, but also allowing more members to attend everything at the conference!

The talent in our organization is wonderful and evident throughout the conference. Our own Margery Whatley gave a very intriguing presentation on the life of Liszt. We had a great judges workshop from our state clinician Kevin Chance and a new stretch session from member Nicole Agostino that was very well attended and enjoyed! The members recital was a great end to the first night with a strong program of woodwinds and piano. After seeing our own members perform, it becomes clear why our student recitals are so good! The talent of the students on the six recitals was tremendous. We also heard very insightful information from Mike Reese with the Piano Technician's Guild.

Our guest clinician, Ingrid Clarfield, did a wonderful job! Her pedagogy session that she presented, with the help of our own Kevin Chance, was both hilarious and helpful. Her Alfred showcase was also a great time introducing many people to a new series of books. For her third session, a masterclass, I first asked how many students she would like to hear. When she told me six (!) I was surprised, but during the masterclass, she did a wonderful job responding to each student and was able to put the students at ease for their performance.

Read Gainsford was our guest artist, who graciously stepped in for his friend and colleague, the late Joel Hastings. Read first judged our division III recital picking a piano ASRA winner, then performed an amazing recital in the evening which he ended with three pieces dedicated to Joel. The following morning, Read gave a very insightful collegiate masterclass. I want to thank him again for coming and being a wonderful guest artist.

Although running the state conference involves a lot of work, I've enjoyed serving. It has been a great learning process and I really appreciate all of the support. Please offer your services and suggestions to our new First Vice-President Josh Pifer. The conference will be at Auburn again next year, but that will not make the process and planning any easier!



Highlights from the 2016 AMTA Conference



Read Gainsford, Jodean Tingle, Sarah Tanner, and Josh Pifer at the reception honoring Read Gainsford



Division 1 Winners



Division 2 Winners



Division 3 Winners

District VIII News

AMTA VIII District Audition for the Huntsville area is April 22, 2017 at the First Baptist Church, 600 Governors Drive, Hsv. 35801. The deadline for sending the forms to me is 3 weeks earlier. There will be special requirements to follow for the teachers submitting forms this year because this date is so close to our AMTA State Audition. I had no choice with the date because of the facility. I will post the procedures by 1 September on the HMTA web site (hsvmta.org). Please read carefully.

Thank you,
 Frances Schwemmer
eddosch@aol.com

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.

News From The Wiregrass

The Wiregrass Music Teachers Forum held our annual Hymn Festival on November 1, 2015 with 19 students participating in recital format. It was held in Dothan at Covenant United Methodist Church with Lea Hornsby as Chairperson.

Our 22nd annual Sonata Festival was February 20-21, 2016 with Becky McManus serving as Chairperson. On Saturday, 92 students of 11 teachers played one movement of a Sonatina or Sonata. Ron and Barbara Shinn served as judges and selected 46 students as winners. On Sunday, the winners performed in the Winners Recital.

On April 16, 2016 our AMTA District Auditions were held at First Baptist Church in Enterprise with Carol Windham as District Chair. Judges were Misti Short from Tuscaloosa and Bob Holm from Mobile.

The WMTF Honors Recital was May 1, 2016. Among the 20 participants were students who received Outstanding in Performance and Theory at AMTA District Auditions. A summer music camp scholarship of \$100 was presented to Malia Silva, a student of Hilda Hagins, who will be attending camp at the University of Montevallo.

—submitted by Janet Blair, WMTF president

Wiregrass Music Teachers Forum

Established 1995

Annual Events

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



Annual Scholarships

- College Music Major Scholarships
- Summer Music Camp Scholarships

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

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



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Longtime University of Alabama Music Teacher Dies

—published with permission from Mark Hughes Cobb, Staff Writer, *Tuscaloosa News*
originally published on June 20, 2016

Amanda Ward Penick taught for 61 years. If the matriarch of the Penicks on Windsor Drive wasn't putting the living-room piano through its paces, chances are one of the daughters, Mollie or Drew, was at work on the keyboard.

"I would be practicing my pieces, and Mama would be vacuuming, and she would yell from the other side of the house: 'E flat! E flat!,' " said Drew Baker. "She knew exactly what note was wrong; she could hear it from there."

Amanda Ward Penick possessed not just the ears, but the talent, drive and charm to lead generations of pianists and piano teachers to their greatest heights. From shortly after earning her master's at the University of Alabama in 1952, she taught in UA's School of Music for 61 years, the longest tenured faculty member not just at UA, but in the state of Alabama.

Yet she also fit in solo performances with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra and Tuscaloosa Symphony Orchestra, played numerous recitals from Birmingham's City Stages to Atlanta's Spivey Hall to the Czech Republic, and toured as part of the "Some Enchanted Evening" Sister Cities delegation to Schorndorf, Germany.

In her voluminous spare time, Penick hosted and performed on the Alabama Public Television educational series "The Pianist at Work," for a mere 28 years.

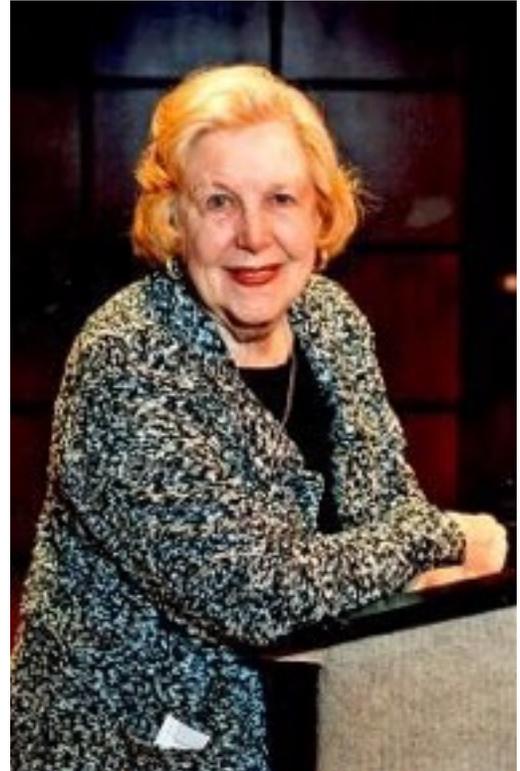
"She had a work ethic like nobody else," said Pam Gordon, a student of Penick's from 1973 to '79, and for 15 years, her fellow piano faculty member at UA. "She never missed a lesson, she was always on time, and she expected that of her students. You did not come unprepared...."

"She could terrify you, of course, but she was charming, such a charming person. As a storyteller, she could steal the whole room. She could make you feel like you could do anything."

Penick, 84, died Sunday at her home. A celebration of her life was held at Christ Episcopal Church, 600 Lurleen Wallace Blvd. at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, June 22.

When Gordon came to UA in '73, Penick was "...just hitting her stride." While studying piano at Birmingham-Southern College, Gordon had been torn between performance and pedagogy. Her UA mentor cleared that up, after hearing the student play one time, during orientation.

"She looked at me and said 'You're not going to be a music education major; you're going to be a piano performance major.' She changed my life, right then and there. She changed everything about it," Gordon said.



"I became hers, because you had to do that, to be her student."

The phrase "I was hers" for four years, or six years, cropped up frequently as former students reminisced on social media. Many of Penick's students became family, figuratively or literally, such as her daughter-in-law Pam Penick, married to Amanda's son Clif Penick. The Pams, Penick and Gordon, have performed often in duo piano, styling themselves after the long-time duo of Amanda Penick and Nancy Wright.

"One of the things I would like to say about her teaching was that she could take a moderately talented student, and make he or she sound like a million bucks," said Pam Penick, former executive director of the Arts and Humanities Council of Tuscaloosa. "She also had an innate ability to choose repertoire for each student that brought out the best. ... It was amazing."

In 2008, a series of 11 piano recitals in Tuscaloosa and Birmingham were held in Penick's honor, titled "A Heritage of Excellence." Performers included some of her outstanding students: the Pams, Melinda Brooks, Syble Coats, Lynn Fetzer Faulkner, Melinda Parrish, Anthony Pattin, Cynthia Perry, Frances Schwemmer, Ron Shinn and Drew Mays. Pattin performed with numerous symphonies, played solo around the world, and taught for years at the University of Montevallo. Mays won the Van Cliburn Foundation's Fifth International Piano Competition for Outstanding Amateurs in June 2007.

But to try and list all her students' accomplishments and accolades would take almost as long as listing her own, among them an honorary doctorate from UA, the inaugural Music Teacher of the Year Award by the Alabama Music Teachers Association in 1996, the National Teacher of the Year Award in 2008 from the Music Teachers National Association, the 1988 UA Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award, the 1998 Druid Arts Award for Performer of the Year and the Alabama State Council on the Arts Governor's Award. The MTNA Foundation established the Amanda Penick Foundation in recognition of her legacy.

Colleagues and former students couldn't recall Penick taking a day off, or ever running late. She was a stickler for time. Students would stand with an ear to the thick wooden door of her studio, waiting to hear numbers on her old flip clock click over to the exact minute.

"If you came in too early, you got the glare out of those blues eyes. And if somebody was not having a good lesson, you did not want to be there," Gordon said, laughing. "She was a spitfire; a force. She taught me everything I know about piano, and about teaching."

Despite the demands on her time, Penick missed just one of Baker's performances over the years, and there have been many: Her daughter became to theater what the mother was to piano.

"Even towards the end of her teaching career, I marveled at her energy," Baker said. "Mama was a rarity of her time, when a lot of mothers were stay-at-home ... but my mother worked, and she worked hard."

They wouldn't see each other much during days, so Baker would sit with her mom at recitals on campus, staying up past her bed time.



With former student Pam Gordon after a concert in Spivey Hall

"I would go, not knowing a thing about music, because I just loved being with her," she said. Though she focused on theater, and later law, Baker did study under Penick, having taken earlier lessons with Gloria Moody.

"I came to love it ... but it was also daunting, knowing who your mother was," she said. But in rehearsal, they shifted into professional training mode. Baker took time off from performing to attend law school, practice law, and have a family of her own. But she returned to theater as her children grew, and in recent years, Baker and Penick found chances to play and travel together, including that "Some Enchanted Evening" trip to Germany.

"She took both Mollie and myself on lovely trips; she loved to travel," Baker said. "We rode camels in Egypt ... when she was traveling, you were not gonna sit in your room, you were gonna walk, you were gonna make the most of it.

"She had so much zest with everything she did. I think that's why it was harder when she didn't have work."

Amanda Penick retired two years ago, about the same time her husband of 61 years, Clifton Shipman Penick, Sr., died. Baker recalled that both her parents passed away on a Father's Day morning, two years apart.

"She was a working mother, and she was a great mother too," she said. "She was one of a kind. And she was one tough lady."



Amanda Penick during a filming of *The Pianist At Work* for Alabama Public Television



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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



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Newly Certified AMTA Members



Congratulations to our two newly certified AMTA members, Stephanie Archer and Kristie Smith. They were introduced and given certification pins at the AMTA Conference banquet. —submitted by Barbara Shinn

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 10, 2017, at Samford University's Brock Hall. For further audition information and forms please visit <http://almta.org/audition-forms.php>. The deadline for receiving forms is Friday, February 17, 2017.

—submitted by Dr. Brent Reeves, Audition Chair

brentreevespiano@bellsouth.net

Note from the Soundboard Editor

Dear AMTA Colleagues,

I have enjoyed being your *Soundboard* Editor for the past three years. I want to extend a warm welcome to our incoming editor, Stephanie Archer. She will begin her position with the November 2016 issue.

Sincerely,
Wendy McGee, NCTM

Soundboard Deadlines

The upcoming deadlines for issues of the *Soundboard* are as follows:

Fall issue

Submission Deadline: October 6, 2016

Published in November 2016

Spring Issue

Submission Deadline: February 6, 2017

Published in March 2017

Submissions can be made to Stephanie Archer at sarcher@samford.edu

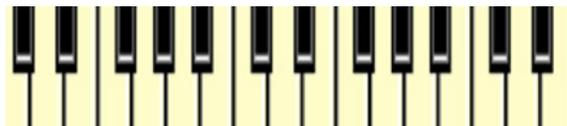
B i r m i n g h a m

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>
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<i>Theory Exams Chair</i>	<i>Becky Schultz</i>
<i>Webmaster</i>	<i>Ronald Shinn</i>

<http://www.metromusicforum.com>



SCHOLARSHIPS AUDITION DATES

November 14, 2015 & March 12, 2016

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MTNA MusicLink Foundation

Do you have a student on a full or partial scholarship? Want to help that student with deeply discounted music, reimbursement of event fees, summer scholarships and practice instruments?

This is what MusicLink Foundation offers to teachers who register themselves and a student with MusicLink Foundation. MusicLink acts as a facilitator between the teacher, student and vendors to assist needy students in their musical development. MusicLink offers a Discount List to member teachers (which lists vendors by state) providing music, games, equipment and other support. If you are a member teacher, please take advantage of these offers for your student.

TEACHER REIMBURSEMENT: Remember to keep receipts for purchases and student fee payments that you make for your students. The Teacher Reimbursement Grant (up to \$100) deadline is Jan. 15 and July 15. The form is on the website www.musiclinkfoundation.org.

If you are interested in taking on a student in need, MusicLink offers LOTS of help for finding new, qualifying students - everything from How-To instructions to letters and ideas.

And if you aren't in a position to take on a needy student, but believe in what MusicLink Foundation is doing, please consider supporting MusicLink with a tax deductible gift today. The direct link to the MusicLink Paypal page is below if you want to support our kids this year!

<https://www.paypal.com/us/webapps/mpp/search-cause?charityId=117202&s=3>

MusicLink – Creating musicians – one student at a time!

—submitted by Nora Martin, SE Regional Coordinator, MusicLink Foundation

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/>.



Enrichment Grants

MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Applications for the Affiliate, Teacher and Program Enrichment Grants are now available. Applications must be received by **3 P.M. Eastern Time January 3, 2017**, to be considered by the selection committees. **All applications and supporting materials must be submitted online through the MTNA FOUNDATION website.**

[Program Enrichment Grants](#) are provided to organizations seeking "seed funds" to assist with the creation of grant application materials that can lead to more funding from other organizations.

[Teacher Enrichment Grants](#) are provided to music teachers for private study, specific college-level course work or other projects that will enhance the performing and teaching skills of the applicant.

[Affiliate Matching Grants](#) are available to MTNA-affiliated Local Associations and State Affiliates. These matching grants provide assistance for projects and programs that provide professional and educational development, as well as promotion of music in the state and community.

[Local Association Start-Up Grants](#) are awarded to newly forming MTNA-affiliated local associations for projects that provide educational opportunities for students and teachers. Grants are also given for projects that support the promotion of music in the immediate community.

OF SPECIAL NOTE: The Loran Olsen Endowment provides grant funds for projects that pertain to the traditional music and/or dance of American subcultures including those of Canada and Mexico, and for projects that pertain to the expansion of knowledge of the traditional music and/or dance of other cultures worldwide.

To apply or to find out more about these grants, visit the [Grants Page](#) on the MTNA FOUNDATION website

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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/

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