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MISSISSIPPI MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION RECEIVES MISSISSIPPI ARTS COMMISSION GRANT

(Jackson, Miss) The Mississippi Music Teachers Association (MMTA) has been awarded a \$4,500 grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC). This grant is a portion of the \$1.61 million in grants the Commission will award in 2015-2016 and will be used to support the 61st annual MMTA state conference to be held November 6-7, 2015, and Collegiate Competitions to be held on March 5, 2016. MMTA's state conference will be held at Mississippi College in Clinton, MS, while the Collegiate Competitions will take place at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. The grants are made possible by continued funding from the Mississippi State Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.

"The creative economy has never been more vibrant than it is today in the communities across Mississippi," stated Dr. Tom Pearson, Executive Director at MAC. "This agency is honored to play a small role in assisting these organizations to continue their work of reinforcing the value of the arts and the role they play in creative place-making and economic development."

Mississippi Music Teachers Association is a non-profit, statewide organization whose purpose is to promote music education and professional development of music teachers, music students, and all people of Mississippi. MMTA's annual conference provides Mississippians a venue to come together to experience performances, workshops, and newly composed music, in addition to competitions to develop both student and teacher skills. All performances and competitions held at the annual conference and March competitions are free and open to the public.

The Mississippi Arts Commission, a state agency, serves the residents of the state by providing grants that support programs to enhance communities; assist artists and arts organizations; promote the arts in education and celebrate Mississippi's cultural heritage. Established in 1968, the Mississippi Arts Commission is funded by the Mississippi Legislature, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Mississippi Endowment for the Arts at the Community Foundation of Greater Jackson and other private sources. The agency serves as an active supporter and promoter of arts in community life and in arts education.

For information from the Mississippi Arts Commission, contact Susan Liles – 601/359-6031 or sliles@arts.ms.gov