
MISSISSIPPI MUSIC TEACHER

MMTA Pre-College Finals

Hinds Community College • May 19, 2018

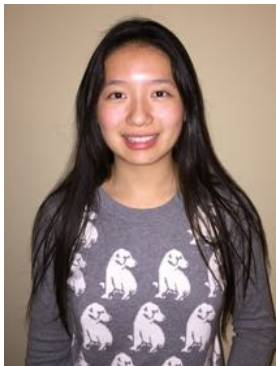
Outstanding Pre-College Student Achievement Award Winners

These outstanding students have achieved eight years of eligibility for the Pre-College Finals, five of which must be in Solo Performance.



Gracie Bassett is a ninth grader, homeschooled since kindergarten. She has taken private piano lessons since the age of six, studying with Ms. Ruth Keyes. Her accomplishments thus far in music include consecutive wins at MFMC State Conventions, being elected President of the MFMC Honor Society, receiving her five-year medal at Bach Festival, along with winning numerous gold medals at MMTA State Finals. Gracie has also won full MC@MC scholarships in 2017 and 2018. She is presenting her first solo recital this May as a freshman.

In addition to competitive piano, Gracie is active in her church's praise band. She is a Maxima Cum Laude recipient on the National Latin Exam, an actress in her homeschool program's drama productions, a competitive cheerleader, and a tap dancer. She has qualified for MMTA State Finals for the past eight years and is grateful to be awarded this honor.



Born in charming Montreal, Canada, **Victoria Gong** moved to Vicksburg, Mississippi, when she was three years old and has lived there ever since. She started piano when she was four, and she gradually fell in love with music. Victoria has also played flute (casually) since fifth grade and likes to pretend that she is getting enough exercise by saying she is on her school's swim team.

Since 2017, Victoria has attended The Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science, where her favorite class is, ironically, creative writing. Subconsciously, she still does not know what she wants to be when she inevitably "grows up" (the inevitability of which is becoming more and more severe). So, she usually tells people that she wants to study the brain and be a neurosurgeon/scientist.



Edward Hu is a sophomore at Oxford High School in Oxford, Mississippi. He began studying piano at the age of six and has studied with Dr. Ian Hominick at the University of Mississippi since age seven. He has participated in the MMTA and MTNA piano competitions and has won numerous awards.

In addition, Edward is a three-time national MATHCOUNTS Qualifier and has participated in the AIME in the past three years. Edward is a varsity tennis player and an avid participant of his school's Science Bowl and Science Olympiad teams.



Sidharth Nagarajan started his music lesson at four in Kindermusik, and has been playing the piano since kindergarten. He has participated in the MMTA district evaluations and state finals throughout his life. He enjoys improvising on the piano and keyboard. He picked up the clarinet in middle school so that he can play both Eastern and Western music. He is currently a band member at Starkville High School Marching Band during football season, and plays in the Wind Ensemble during spring semester. Sidharth's academic interest includes science, math, and history. He was a member of the Science Club in elementary school, after which he was invited

and served as a Science Club Leader for three years in middle school. He is a straight "A" student, and has been active in the school Competition Robotics team, and Science Olympiad teams. Sidharth enjoys the outdoors and loves camping trips. He is currently a Boy Scout, and is working towards earning his Eagle rank. He has been active in scouting for more than eight years and has been on many adventurous trips including the Grand Canyon, Sipsey Wilderness, Sea Horse Key Islands in Florida, Spelunking, Scout Jamboree to name a few. He volunteers through his Boy Scout troop in many local community events every year and is always ready to lend a helping hand.

Sidharth loves swimming, skateboarding, climbing, and skiing. When he is not outdoors, he enjoys cooking new recipes and exercising to stay fit. There is hardly a moment that he is not active or cheerful. He is well liked by his teachers and peers alike.



Indu Nandula is a junior at the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science, or MSMS. She is originally from Cleveland, Mississippi, where she lives with her parents, Vijay and Aparna Nandula, and her little brother, Ajay Nandula. She attended Cleveland High School for her freshman and sophomore years.

Indu has been playing piano ever since she was young. She started playing when she was five years old, taking lessons from Ms. Beth McCoy (Abingdon, Virginia), her first piano teacher. Thereafter, Dr. Karen Fosheim at Delta State University in Cleveland was her teacher since she turned seven. Since then, she has participated in numerous competitions and

events, including MMTA. She has participated in MMTA for approximately eight years now, and she has received superior ratings and placed at the state level. Furthermore, she recently won her seventh superior at Bach Festival this past year. Her current piano teacher is Ms. Edna Mae McCoy.

Indu hopes to be able to continue participating in music programs throughout the course of her education. During the later part of middle school and early high school, she played piano at Sacred Heart and Our Lady of Victories churches in Rosedale and Cleveland, respectively, under the direction of Dr. Fosheim. She hopes to be able to continue playing piano in the future, and is even



Caleb Owens, son of Eric and Laura Owens, is a junior at Lewisburg High School. A native of Cleveland, MS, Caleb studied piano under Dr. Jung-Won Shin of Delta State University and currently studies under Dr. Ian Hominick of the University of Mississippi. Caleb has competed in Solo Piano for the past seven years and has won gold in six of those seven years. Additionally, Caleb has received gold in the MMTA Pre-College Concerto Competition, the MMTA Pre-College Finals Sonata/Sonatina division, and the Music Teachers National Association Senior Piano competition for Mississippi. Earning gold in the MTNA competition sent Caleb to the Southern Division competition in Lynchburg, VA.

In addition to studying piano, Caleb is heavily involved in his high school's band, the Lewisburg Marching Patriots. Caleb has served as section leader of the baritone section for the past marching season and was a member of the band when they won the MHSAA 5A Marching State Championship in 2016. In concert band, Caleb has been first chair trombone in the Symphonic Band at Lewisburg for the past two years. Also, this year marks Caleb's second year as a member of the Mississippi Lions All-State Band, an organization that has been International Champions of the Lions International Parade for the past five years.

This year, Caleb was selected as one of only twenty-two students in DeSoto County to join the DeSoto County Schools' Superintendent's Youth Leadership Council, an organization that shapes DeSoto County's best students into efficient leaders. Caleb also enjoys swimming on his school's swim team, serving others through Boy Scouts, and expanding his knowledge of math as governor of District 1 of Mississippi's state Mu Alpha Theta chapter.



Amy Sijia Pang, 16, has been studying piano for ten years under Mrs. Isabella Ivshin. She is the daughter of Dr. Yi Pang and Mrs. Felixue Yang and the sister of Bruce Pang.

Amy has received recognition at Bach Festival, MMTA Pre-College Finals, and Sonata/Sonatina Festival. At school, she played the clarinet, participating in various honor bands for 5 years.

Outside of music, Amy is an active member and student at Madison Central. She is a representative of the Engineering Academy, recently receiving PLTW + AP recognition and first place at Regional Science Fair. She is a state finalist of National Center for Women and Information Technology. Amy

has also placed at various math competitions through Mu Alpha Theta conventions, MSMS, and Mississippi College. Other clubs she is a participant of are Beta Club, Science Olympiad, and Government Club. When she is not at school, Amy enjoys spending time with her friends, writing, and drawing with her mom.



Matthew Yin, 14, is the youngest child of Dr. Jianjun Yin and Mrs. Li Zhou. Matthew has been taking piano lessons from Dr. Karen Laubengayer since 2009.

Matthew has qualified for the MMTA Pre-College Finals every year since 2009. He has earned multiple highest composite score awards and received one gold medal in Sonata/Sonatina divisions. Matthew has also received recognition at Bach Festival, Sonata/Sonatina Festival, and JSU Norris Festival every year. This year Matthew received his ninth superior at Bach Festival. Matthew is also a member of Jr. MacDowell Club sponsored by Ms.

Carolina Whitfield-Smith. He is also the state winner of 2018 state music essay contest – The Universal Language.

At Rosa Scott School in Madison, Mississippi, Matthew also plays trumpet for the band. He is also a member of Beta Club, Student Government Association, and Academic Team. Matthew enjoys playing Tetris, solving competition math problems, and exercising in his free time.

Congratulations to these students!

PRE-COLLEGE FINALS WINNERS - 2018

Level 3 Piano Solo

Gold Medal:	Elie Cupp	Carol Mahler
Gold Medal:	Bruce Pang	Isabella Ivshin
Gold Medal:	Linda Zhang	Adrienne Park
2nd Place:	Arjun Gupta	Sandy Coutoumanos
2nd Place:	Anya Rai	Joshua Trent Smith
2nd Place:	Sadie Sheldon	Carol Mahler
3rd Place:	Audrey Chapman	Brenda Sullivan
3rd Place:	Katie Chung	Katie Wallace
3rd Place:	Kiana Li	Janice Mesrobian
3rd Place:	Patrick Liu	Karen Laubengayer
3rd Place:	Angelina Tan	Edna Mae McCoy
3rd Place:	Victor Tan	Johnathan D. Williams
4th Place:	Carson Caraway	Sarah Little
4th Place:	Ely Hatchett	Donna Reed
4th Place:	Ajay Nandula	Jung-Won Shin
4th Place:	Allison Vincent	Paula Henderson
4th Place:	Kevin Zhang	Sarah Jenkins

Level 4 Piano Solo

Gold Medal:	Matthew Hatchett	Donna Reed
2nd Place:	Lilly Faith Bassett	Ruth Keyes
2nd Place:	Riley McCardle	Laura Broughton
2nd Place:	Kelly Zhou	Janice Mesrobian
3rd Place:	Bonnie Durham	Carol Durham
3rd Place:	Sofia Escobedo	Carol Mahler
3rd Place:	Virginia Mills	Annette G Joe
3rd Place:	Michael Walker	Debbie Barnes
4th Place:	Noah Adcock	Debbie Barnes
4th Place:	Visun Chen	Angela Hsu
4th Place:	Andrew Meng	Katie Wallace
4th Place:	Emalee Moss	Janine Beasley
Honorable Mention:	Olivia Caviness	Dot Bittick
Honorable Mention:	Emma Harrell	Sarah Little
Honorable Mention:	Payne Stroud	Annette G Joe

Level 5 Piano Solo

Gold Medal:	Breih Magbanua	Katie Wallace
2nd Place:	Gabriel Hernandez	Jacquelyn S Thornell
3rd Place:	Jade Agler	Carol Mahler
4th Place:	Kaela Carino	Katie Wallace

4th Place:	Martin Jelinek	Joshua Trent Smith
4th Place:	Caroline Luccasen	Edna Mae McCoy
4th Place:	Jesse Zheng	Edna Mae McCoy
Honorable Mention:	Maggie Martin	Joshua Trent Smith
Honorable Mention:	Karen Chen	Edna Mae McCoy
Honorable Mention:	Aaron Lu	Rachel Heard
Honorable Mention:	Anne Lu	Debbie Barnes

Level 6 Piano Solo

Gold Medal:	Andy Lu	Debbie Barnes
Gold Medal:	Emily Lu	Isabella Ivshin
2nd Place:	Kabir Gupta	Sandy Coutoumanos
2nd Place:	Genevieve Kuehn	Dixie Lawson
2nd Place:	Sarah Major	Michael Rushing
3rd Place:	Fancier Shi	Karen Laubengayer

Level 7 Piano Solo

Gold Medal:	Yolanda Ni	Janice Mesrobian
2nd Place:	Andrew Liu	Rachel Heard
2nd Place:	Leo Mei	Jacquelyn S. Thornell
3rd Place:	Joseph Agler	Carol Mahler
3rd Place:	Richard Zheng	Carol Durham
4th Place:	Katy Freeman	Janine Beasley
4th Place:	Anna Grace Jolly	Janine Beasley
4th Place:	John Wallace Valentine	Donna Reed

Level 8 Piano Solo

Gold Medal:	Sam Powell	Laura Broughton
2nd Place:	Ian Zhang	Katie Wallace
3rd Place:	Tom Henry Brister	Sandy Coutoumanos
3rd Place:	Caleb Kellum	Sandy Coutoumanos
3rd Place:	Bonnie Littlejohn	Sandy Coutoumanos
3rd Place:	Laura Simpson	Adrienne Park
3rd Place:	Lauren Walker	Debbie Barnes
3rd Place:	Amy Zhang	Sarah Jenkins
3rd Place:	Luke Zhang	Adrienne Park

Level 9 Piano Solo

Gold Medal:	Jiyoung Seo	Jung-Won Shin
2nd Place:	Edmund Doerksen	Ian Hominick
2nd Place:	Max Zhang	Ellen P. Elder
3rd Place:	Matthew Li	Rachel Heard
3rd Place:	Matthew Yin	Karen Laubengayer
4th Place:	Gracie Bassett	Ruth Keyes
4th Place:	David Jelinek	Joshua Trent Smith

Level 10 Piano Solo

Gold Medal:	Vinson Lu	Rachel Heard
2nd Place:	John Kees	Rachel Heard
2nd Place:	Bach Nguyen	Ian Hominick
3rd Place:	Sam Gaines	Donna Reed
3rd Place:	Kevin Miao	Ellen P Elder
3rd Place:	Harrison Speed	Donna Reed

Piano Solo Level 11

Gold Medal:	Caleb Owens	Ian Hominick
2nd Place:	Victoria Gong	Edna Mae McCoy/Allen
3rd Place:	Lindsay Simpson	Adrienne Park

Level 12 Piano Solo

Gold Medal:	Calendula Y Cheng	Ian Hominick
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Piano Ensemble Division A

Gold Medal:	Katie Chung and Mirae Nishikawa	Katie Wallace
2nd Place:	Audrey Blankenship and Hallye Blankenship	Marilyn Huff
3rd Place:	Isaac Capers and Lucas Fernandez	Janine Beasley

Piano Ensemble Division B

Gold Medal:	Gonzalo Escobedo and Sofia Escobedo	Carol Mahler
2nd Place:	Kaela Carino, Breih Magbanua, and Mirae Nishikawa	Katie Wallace
3rd Place:	Kallen Zhou and Kelli Zhou	Janice Mesrobian
4th Place:	Aiyana Li and Kiana Li	Janice Mesrobian
Honorable Mention:	Max Feng and Andrew Meng	Katie Wallace

Piano Ensemble Division C

Gold Medal:	Jade Agler and Joseph Agler	Carol Mahler
Gold Medal:	Sam Powell and Virginia Powell	Laura Broughton
2nd Place:	Isaac Crouch and Titus Crouch	Marilyn Huff
2nd Place:	Katye Freeman and Lauren Moss	Janine Beasley
3rd Place:	Katie Randall and Agatha Taquino	Rosângela Sebba
4th Place:	Lydia Grace Crouch and Titus Crouch	Marilyn Huff
Honorable Mention:	Anna Grace Jolly and Emily Jo Kinsey	Janine Beasley

Piano Ensemble Division D

Gold Medal:	Matthew Li and Vinson Lu	Rachel Heard
2nd Place:	Brody Creel and Jackson Creel	Laura Broughton
2nd Place:	Sam Gaines and John Kees	Donna Reed/Rachel Heard
3rd Place:	David Brett and Will Brett	Janice Mesrobian
3rd Place:	Alan Meng and Spencer Oswalt	Katie Wallace

3rd Place: Anna Myers and Emily Valentine

Marilyn Huff

Piano Ensemble Division E

Gold Medal: Daniel Dimitrov and Hamilton Wan

Edna Mae McCoy

Piano Sonata Division A

Gold Medal: Anya Rai

Joshua Trent Smith

2nd Place: Kiana Li

Janice Mesrobian

2nd Place: Bruce Pang

Isabella Ivshin

3rd Place: Arjun Gupta

Sandy Coutoumanos

3rd Place: Victor Tan

Johnathan Williams

Piano Sonata Division B

Gold Medal: Kate Lansford

Carol Mahler

2nd Place: Jade Agler

Carol Mahler

3rd Place: Gabriella Bass

Elsie A. Barnes

3rd Place: Karen Chen

Edna Mae McCoy

4th Place: David Brett

Janice Mesrobian

Honorable Mention: Darbie Brewer

Brenda Sullivan

Piano Sonata Division C

Gold Medal: Yolanda Ni

Janice Mesrobian

2nd Place: Andrew Liu

Rachel Heard

Piano Sonata Division D

Gold Medal: Bach Nguyen

Ian Hominick

2nd Place: Edmund Doerksen

Ian Hominick

Piano Sonata Division E

Gold Medal: Caleb Owens

Ian Hominick

Piano Theme and Variations Division A

Gold Medal: Lilly Faith Bassett

Ruth Keyes

2nd Place: Victor Tan

Johnathan Williams

3rd Place: Emalee Moss

Janine Beasley

Piano Theme and Variations Division C

Gold Medal: Bonnie Littlejohn

Sandy Coutoumanos

2nd Place: Beau Hinton

Janice Mesrobian

3rd Place: Alan Meng

Katie Wallace

Strings Solo Division A

Gold Medal: Abigail Bautista
2nd Place: Clementine Hale

Christopher Thompson
Carol Mahler

String Solo Division B

Gold Medal: Owen Lin
Gold Medal: Hailey Yang
2nd Place: Ellen Tull

Gail Fox
Christopher Thompson
Carol Mahler

String Solo Division C

Gold Medal: Emmaline Murphy
2nd Place: Kate Lansford
3rd Place: Jade Agler
4th Place: Connor Carlisle
4th Place: Natalia Escobedo

Emily McClung
Carol Mahler
Emily McClung
Susan Gaston
Carol Mahler

String Solo Division D

Gold Medal: Yolanda Tian
2nd Place: Joseph Agler
2nd Place: Ella Lansford

Stephen Redfield
Emily McClung
Carol Mahler

String Solo Division E

Gold Medal: Cecilia Escobedo
2nd Place: Rebekah Corbin
3rd Place: Allen Chatelain

Emily McClung
Christopher Thompson
Emily McClung

Strings Solo Division F

Gold Medal: Aiden Dunkelburg

Christopher Thompson

String Ensemble Division C

Gold Medal: Jade Agler and Joseph Agler
2nd Place: Ella Lansford and Kate Lansford

Emily McClung
Carol Mahler

String Ensemble Division D

Gold Medal: Allen Chatelain and Cecilia Escobedo

Emily McClung

String Sonata Division D

Gold Medal: Cecilia Escobedo

Emily McClung

String Theme and Variations Division B

Gold Medal: Kate Lansford

Carol Mahler

2nd Place: Jade Agler

Emily McClung

Vocal Solo Level 9

Gold Medal: Taylor Moore

Shawn Morgan

Vocal Solo Level 10

Gold Medal: Ashley Allee

Barbara Stephenson

Vocal Solo Level 11

Gold Medal: Chloe Bell

Barbara Stephensen

MMTA HIGHEST COMPOSITE SCORE 2018

Level	Student	Score
Piano: Level 3 & Below	Elie Cupp	300
Piano: Level 3 & Below	Linda Zhang	300
Piano: Level 4	Matthew Hatchett	399
Piano: Level 5	Jade Agler	398
Piano: Level 5	Ryan Wu	398
Piano: Level 6	David Brett	394
Piano: Level 6	Sarah Major	394
Piano: Level 7	Yolanda Ni	395
Piano: Level 8	Sam Powell	397
Piano: Level 9	Jiyoung Seo	397
Piano: Level 10	Vinson Lu	398
Piano: Level 11	Caleb Owens	394
Piano: Level 12	Calendula Y. Cheng	379
Strings: Division B	Owen Lin	375
Strings: Division C	Connor Carlisle	400

Congratulations to these students!



Piano Level 11



Piano Level 7



Piano Ensemble D



Piano Ensemble A



Theme and Variations C



Piano Sonata A and C



Strings Ensemble D



Outstanding Achievement
Award Winners



Vocal 9, 10, and 11



Piano Sonata B



Piano Level 10



Piano Level 8



Piano Ensemble C



Strings Theme & Variation E,
Strings Solo D, Strings Ensemble C



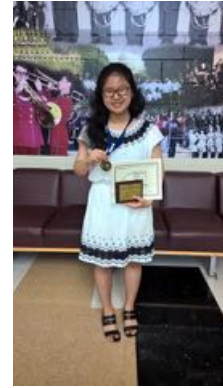
Outstanding Achievement Award
Winner



Piano Level 3 and Below



Strings E and F



Piano Level 12, Outstanding Achievement Award Winner



Piano Sonata D, Strings Theme & Variation B, Strings Ensemble C



Piano Level 9



Piano Level 6



Piano Level 5



Piano Level 4



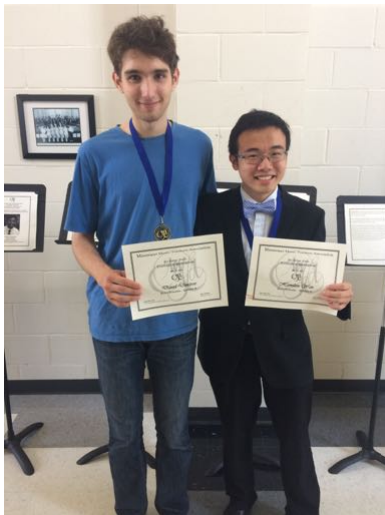
Piano Ensemble B



Piano Ensemble B



Strings B and C



Piano Ensemble A



Piano Theme and Variations A



The officers and membership of Mississippi Music Teachers Association extend our congratulations to all those who participated in the 2018 Pre-College Evaluations at the local levels and to those who are honored in this Special Edition of the MMT as participants in the 2018 Pre-College Finals at Hinds Community College in Raymond on May 19, 2018.

A special thank you to Jung-Won Shin, Vice President for Pre-College Performances, Alice Ballard, President, and Carolina Whitfield-Smith for their help in putting together this edition of the MMT.

If anyone has been omitted or if any names have been misspelled, please let me know so it can be corrected. Congratulations to all of these wonderful music students!

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