

MISSISSIPPI MUSIC TEACHER

The Official Publication of the Mississippi Music Teachers Association

Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association

Featuring pictures from the 2014 Fall Conference at the Mississippi University for Women in Columbus.



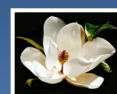
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Message from the President

Southern Division competitions in Louisville went very smoothly. Our MS contestants played very well and received wonderful reviews. We congratulate violinist Shellie Brown from Belhaven (Song Xie, teacher) who made honorable mention in young artist strings. Remember that Southern Division is one of MTNA's largest and strongest competitions. Next year's competitions will be in UT's new music building in Knoxville. Rachel Heard serves as senior competitions chair, and Theresa Sanchez was one of the official accompanists. Martha Thomas from Georgia is our Southern Division director and Marc Hebda from Florida is our director-elect. Be sure to vote in the current MTNA national elections to choose our new Southern Division director-elect: Kevin Chance and Gabriella Ryan are on the ballot.

Message from the President (continued)

I want to again give thanks to conference chair Ellen Elder and everyone who helped make our 2013 fall conference such a success. We congratulate Julia Mortyakova and the MUW music faculty on their wonderful facilities. Attendance was great and all the sessions and events were top-notch.

Our membership in Meridian has dropped to the point that the local affiliate and evaluation center in Meridian are no longer able to continue. We encourage the two remaining members to consider joining either Golden Triangle or Jones County. It is important to keep our local affiliates healthy and keep the lines of communication open. Remember that local affiliate grants are available from MMTA each year to help finance local affiliate programs.



Barbara Tracey

We look forward to spring pre-college evaluations. We thank Dixie Lawson and everyone who helped update the syllabus for instruments other than piano. Our website has the current information for preparation for evaluations. We look forward to all the music performances at evaluations in April and at the finals in May. Remember that evaluations provide a growth opportunity for both the student and teacher.

The MMTA Board discussed ways of stimulating membership in areas of Mississippi where MMTA has no members or very few members. We want to encourage our college professors to be part of MMTA since this gives guidance to our pre-college teachers in the area near the college. Please encourage a colleague who is teaching in a rural area or in Meridian, Greenville or Natchez to be part of MMTA. Conferences, competitions, local affiliate programs and networking opportunities enhance your teaching.

Encourage your collegiate colleagues to enter students in our MMTA Collegiate Competitions on March 1. It is a wonderful learning experience for the students and serves as preparation for MTNA competitions.

Our 2014 Fall Conference will be our 60th conference, and we will be planning some special events in honor of 60 years. USM in Hattiesburg will be hosting this event, and President-elect Ellen Elder will be chairing the conference.

Remember that the National MTNA Conference (March 22-26) is in Chicago this year. It is always a wonderful opportunity for workshops, recitals, and meeting teachers from all over the country.

Thanks to all our officers for all their work in their separate areas. MMTA is fortunate to have a wonderful group of officers.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Tracy



Ellen Price Elder

President-Elect's Message

We had a wonderful line-up of guest artists, clinicians, judges, and workshop presenters for our 2014 MMTA Conference at Mississippi University for Women in Columbus. Scheduling, room assignments, and food service went very smoothly with special thanks to the gracious hospitality of our host team: Julia Mortyakova, Valentin Bogdan, and Zane Lynn. We had 41 registrations which included 19 collegiate teachers and 19 pre-college teachers. We had good attendance for the gold medal student winners recital, as well as the John Ellis and Angelin Chang masterclasses. John Ellis' pedagogy sessions were excellent, as well as our lineup of member presentations. Special thanks to our members and special guests who presented: Julia Mortyakova, Ian Hominick, Valentin Bogdan, Karen Murphy, Carmen Osburn, Ben McIlwain, Richard Montalto,

Lisa Fairchild, and Jennifer Lee. Our guest artist, Angelin Chang, provided an inspiring performance to a packed house (the largest audience I can remember at a conference recital). Thank you to Julia Mortyakova for her help with publicity for this event and to Elizabeth Moak, piano area chair, who served as gracious host to Angelin during her visit. Special thanks to Ken Davies, commissioned composer, and the Me-We Trio for their performance of the commissioned composition, "Collage 2013". IMTF speaker Judith Fairchild gave us excellent thoughts on teaching beginners. Everyone enjoyed hearing our new faculty members perform in recital, and the two-piano recital featuring Lisa Fairchild and Jennifer Lee was a special treat. MTNA student competitions took place in parallel with the workshop sessions and were coordinated by Rosangela Sebba with assistance from the performance area chairs. And Stephanie Holmes once again outdid herself with the elegant conference booklets.

We plan to have the 2014 MMTA conference at USM in Hattiesburg. The 2014 guest artists will be a chamber group. Preliminary plans are being made now for an exciting weekend. Make plans to attend the **2014 MMTA Conference on October 31-Nov. 1, 2014**. We are grateful for the support of the Mississippi Arts Commission for our 2013 Conference and March 2014 MMTA Collegiate Competitions, and we plan to submit our 2014-2015 Conference and Competition plans in a grant request.

Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions or proposals relevant to the 2014 MMTA Conference. The conference committee will meet in May prior to the regular MMTA board meeting. A representative from each local affiliate is welcome to attend the conference planning meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Elder

Vice President for Membership and Web Management



Janine Beasley

As of January 30, 2014, 173 members are listed for the 2013-2014 year. Among these are 4 new collegiate memberships, 6 new memberships, and 8 reinstating memberships. The total membership is up by 11 since our last meeting on November 1.

Website changes:

Changed calendar for MMTA Local Area Evaluations, per Alice

Uploaded new MMTA Evaluations guidelines, brass/woodwind requirements, guitar requirements, string requirements

Changed Dixie Lawson officer photo, email

Updated with new members since November 1; 2 who had promised to renew but had not, emailed with deadline of January 15; they did not renew, so they have been deleted

Ongoing:

Miscellaneous updates as needed

Continue to send mass emails to members as requested

Added new members for November, December, January

Respectfully submitted,

Janine Beasley

Vice President for Pre-College Performances



Alice Ballard

The MMTA Pre-College Concerto Competitions were held Saturday, November 2, 2013 during the MMTA Conference at Mississippi University for Women in Columbus. Thank you, MUW! The university provided a grand location for our competitions, and I appreciate it. Thank you, Julia, Valentin and the other faculty, staff and students at MUW for your earnest work on our organization's behalf.

These are the facts and figures on this year's Pre-College Concerto Competition: In the strings concerto group, there were 4 entrants in all the categories. In the piano competition there were 8 elementary entrants, 6 junior entrants, and 1 senior entrant, for a total of 15 in piano. In 2012, there were 2 strings entrants and 12 piano entrants. As you see, we have a notable increase this year, which is cause for celebration! Please take a look at the listing of Concerto winners and teachers in this edition of the MMT.

The 2014 Pre-College Evaluations are still in the distance, but start planning, nonetheless. Group A includes Goodman, Hattiesburg, Jackson and Tupelo, and they will audition on Saturday, April 5. Group B follows the next week with auditions on Saturday, April 12 in Columbus/Starkville, Ellisville, Gulf Coast and Vicksburg. The Oxford center is still working on their date, so it is yet to be announced. As President Tracy stated in her report, the Meridian center has closed, so those students will audition at other nearby locations. I am delighted that MMTA will visit the campus of the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg for the Pre-College Finals on May 17, 2014.

I would like to thank Dixie Lawson for her excellent work in revising the brass, woodwinds, guitar, and piano syllabi. This has been a large undertaking and has personally helped me immensely.

Finally, I would like to say that the passing of Ricki Prewitt has been a great loss to me. I feel her absence and always will. I have admired her since I first met and heard her play in the 1980s. She was behind the scenes in the last two Pre-College Finals, as she engaged the judges. She was even family, as she and my husband were distant cousins. She left a grand legacy for us all and inspiration forever.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Ballard

Vice-President for Pre-College Performances

Vice-President for Pre-College Evaluations



Dixie Lawson

The pre-college evaluations are fast approaching with Group A evaluations scheduled on April 5 and Group B evaluations scheduled on April 12. Your local chairperson will be providing you information about your local evaluations soon if they haven't already. There are a few items that I would like you to be aware of.

The pre-college chairs for brass/woodwinds, strings, guitar and I have been working very hard and have updated and revised the requirements for the pre-college students playing these instruments. Thank you so much Alexander, Doug, Shelley, and Michael! Teachers, please be sure that you

check the website and download the "Fall 2013" revisions for your judges' paperwork. The Technical Requirements have been updated to reflect numeric scores instead of pass/fail enabling the instrumental students to compete for the total composite score in their level.

Also, please note that the entry fee for students entering the Four Basics and Prep Level Basics has been increased to \$25. Once the \$5 registration fee has been added, then their total fee will be \$30. The new Application Form states "Winter 2014" revisions at the bottom of the page.

I am working on the tests and will let the chairs know as soon as they are ready for distribution. I am also revising the syllabus pages so that all the pages will eventually show revisions as of Winter 2014. There won't be changes to the content for this; it is being done for clarity.

Thank you for all your hard work! I hope everyone has a smooth evaluation day!

In Memoriam

MMTA extends our sympathy to Jackie Edwards-Henry in the loss of her husband, Dr. William Patrick Henry:

<http://www.cdispatch.com/obituaries/obit.asp?id=11987#.Uv8OrnKA1D8>

Affiliate News

Hattiesburg Music Teachers League

Spring 2014 promises to be another very busy semester for the HMTL! We began the semester with a general business meeting and NFMC Work Day held on January 18, 2014 at USM. Following the business meeting, Jan Mesrobian, HMTL Vice President for Programs, presented an informative computer session giving a general overview of *Music Ace Deluxe*, the theory software that has received over 30 national awards and is used in over 5,000 school districts in North America.

On February 8 and again on April 26, we will hold student recitals in the recital hall at Mississippi Music. These student recitals afford excellent opportunities for our students to gain invaluable performing experience in front of an audience.

Our District III NFMC Junior Festival will be held on February 15 at William Carey University. Jan Mesrobian will serve as our District III Festival Chair, with Diane Caison serving as her assistant chair.

MMTA Pre-College Evaluations for the Hattiesburg District will be held on April 5 at USM. Dixie Lawson will serve as chair of our local evaluations.

The highlight of the fall semester was our biennial Composer Festival, held on November 22 & 23, which featured the music of guest composer, Mary Leaf. Our Composer Festival Chair, Dr. Victoria Johnson, did a splendid job organizing the two-day festival. A 2-hour workshop for teachers with Mary Leaf was held on Friday, November 22 at Wolfe Gang Music. Student recitals of Mary Leaf's music were held on Friday evening and Saturday morning. Autograph parties with the composer followed each student recital for the participating students and their families and teachers. The 2013 Composer Festival was a memorable event for our students and teachers.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Broughton, D.M.A., NCTM
HMTL President

Music Forum of Jackson

Jane Duran Fox, President

On September 28, 2013, Music Forum of Jackson had its first meeting of the academic year. Dr. Jackie Edwards-Henry, Professor of Piano and Piano Pedagogy at Mississippi Southern University, presented a workshop entitled "Improvise to Learn" which focused on using improvisation as a tool to strengthen concepts of learning. This informative program was motivating, and, too, it was a great way to prepare for our teaching year.

Music Forum of Jackson held our Sonata-Sonatina Festival on November 23, 2013, at Millsaps College. We had 65 students participating with students from the studios of Dot Bittick, Debby Case, Carol Durham, Barry Ellis, Jane Duran Fox, Rachel Heard, Isabella Ivshin, Annette Joe, Kay Johnson, Karen Laubengayer, Donna Reed, Carolyn Sachs, Patsy Simpson, Anna Smira, Brenda Sullivan, Misako Tachikawa, Jacquelyn Thornell, Christy Turner, Carolina Whitfield-Smith, and Chen Yi Li.

On December 7, 2014, we had our annual Christmas luncheon. Once again, we enjoyed the fellowship of our meeting at Anjou in Ridgeland.

Our Holiday Pianothon was a delightful and successful event, held on December 14, with 116 students performing.

Our winter program was presented by Dr. Ellen Price Elder, assistant Professor of Piano at the University of Southern Mississippi. Dr. Elder played a beautiful program of Franz Schubert, Aaron Copland, and Franz Liszt.

Music Forum of Jackson held our 45th annual Bach Festival on February 1, 2014, at Hinds Community College. There were 407 students registered from studios all over the state. One hundred and sixty-five students qualified to perform in Honors Recitals. The Honors Recitals for students in grades 1-7 are non-competitive. In Honors Recitals, twenty-seven awards were presented for eleven competitive events. Thirty-seven Bach Festival medals were presented to students for having earned Superior for five years; and twenty-one students were recognized for Superiors earned beyond five years. Beginning with the ninth superior a trophy is awarded: this year Callie Tullos, student of Carolina Whitfield-Smith, received a trophy.

The upcoming MMTA pre-college evaluations will be held on April 5, 2014, at Hinds Community College.

We will schedule our business meeting and luncheon for early May.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Duran Fox, MM
President, MFOJ



JONES COUNTY MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Janine Beasley, President

February 1, 2014

The JCMTA annual Showcase Recital was held on Sunday, November 10, 2013. Student performers and composers were highlighted at this event.

The JCMTA annual Solo and Sonata Competition was held on Saturday, January 25, 2014. The competition is for students sixth through twelfth grade. This year, 21 students competed, with 4 teachers represented.

JCMTA will hold its annual Ensemble Festival on February 22, 2014.

Business meetings are held prior to the events.

Jones County Music Teachers Association will participate in the Ellisville area MMTA Evaluations on April 12, 2014, at Jones County Junior College.

Respectfully submitted,
Janine Beasley



Jane Duran Fox, President

Music Forum of Jackson was founded April 1968 and is affiliated with MMTA and MTNA.

The **Vicksburg Music Teachers** had a successful Fall 2013 season. We held our annual Boys Recital, which promotes solidarity among the guys studying piano and voice in our Association. Since the recital is near Halloween, it offers a chance to dress in costume for a casual and fun experience.

In November, thanks to an affiliate grant from MMTA, we hosted an American Music workshop and master class, with guest professor Dr. Valentin Bogdan from MS University for Women. MUW Music Department Chair, Dr. Julia Mortyakova was also there, and played an inspiring and vigorous piece called "Troubled Water," by an American woman composer, Margaret Bonds. The Southern Cultural Center gave us access to the historic auditorium. We had a stage full of students and interested people from the community. Dr. Bogdan is a fabulous presenter, teacher and historian--he kept everyone interested and engaged.

Spring events will include a Sacred Music Recital in February 2, an Ensemble Recital March 2, Evaluations and local Honors recital in April. We are already making plans for Fall 2014, including new member orientation and a special-themed recital featuring Science Fiction and Fantasy music.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Evans

***Jones County Junior College
Music Department***

900 S. Court St.
Ellisville, Mississippi 39437
(601) 477-4094

Susan A. Smith, Chair

Sammy Barr, Band
Mike Boyd, Guitar
Jeff Brown, Percussion
Kay Guiles, Piano/Organ
Jonathan Helmick, Low Brass/Band
Nikki Johnson, Theater/Voice

Victoria Johnson, Piano
Meri Newell, Woodwinds
Patrick Richards, High Brass
Theresa Sanchez, Piano
Susan A. Smith, Voice/Theory/Choir
Gregory Wascoe, Voice

www.jcjc.edu/programs/finearts

**Gulf Coast
Music
Teachers
Association**



Founded 1972

2014 Fall Conference Snapshots

Mississippi University for Women, Columbus





Competition Winners



Young Artist Strings

Brandon Randle (alternate), Jenny Gregoire (judge), & Shellie Brown (winner)



Young Artist Brass

Amanda Ray (alternate), Noel Wallace (judge), & Michael Sparks (winner)



Elementary Piano Concerto Participants



Junior and Senior Piano Concerto Participants



Senior Strings Concerto
Winner Lan Chen



Junior Strings Concerto
Winner Caroline Ellis



Senior Piano Participants with
Angelin Chang, judge



Mississippi's
First
Local
Affiliate
Founded 1964

JONES COUNTY
MUSIC TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION



Vicksburg
Music Teachers
Association
Since 1985
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MISSISSIPPI MTNA COMPETITIONS

SENIOR PERFORMANCE – PIANO

Winner: Gabriella Loiacano

Teacher: Carol Mahler

Alternate: Julie Laurenzo

Teacher: Adrienne Park

Hon. Mention: Joelle Young

Teacher: Adrienne Park

YOUNG ARTIST PERFORMANCE – PIANO

Winner: Minji Kim

Teacher: Jung-Won Shin

Alternate: Mary McKibben

Teacher: Angela Willoughby

Hon. Mention: Fred Baine IV

Teacher: Angela Willoughby

Hon. Mention: Patience Coats Teacher: Elizabeth Moak

YOUNG ARTIST PERFORMANCE – BRASS

Winner: Michael Sparks

Teacher: Douglas Mark

Alternate: Amanda Ray

Teacher: Heidi Lucas

YOUNG ARTIST PERFORMANCE – STRING

Winner: Shellie Brown

Teacher: Song Xie

Alternate: Brandon Randle

Teacher: Carol Mahler

Pre-College Concerto Competition Winners

November 2, 2014

Elementary Piano Concerto

Gold Medalist: Edward Hu, student of Ian Hominick

1st Alternate: Max Zhang, student of Ellen Elder

2nd Alternate (Tie): Hannah JeeSoo Kim, student of Ricki Prewitt

Ben Yang, student of Adrienne Park

Junior Piano Concerto

Gold Medalists (Tie): Calendula Y. Cheng, student of Ian Hominick

Caleb Owens, student of Jung-Won Shin

1st Alternate: Jane Fan, student of Edna Mae McCoy

2nd Alternate: Nancy 'CiCi' Zhang, student of Harold Thompson

Senior Piano Concerto

Gold Medalist: Joy Carino, student of Dixie M. Clark

Elementary Strings Concerto

Gold Medalist: Edmund Doerksen, cello, student of Sue Gaston

1st Alternate: Yolanda Tian, violin, student of Gail Fox

Junior Strings Concerto

Gold Medalist: Caroline M. Ellis, violin, student of Song Xie

Senior Strings Concerto

Gold Medalist: Lan Chen, violin, student of Song Xie

Mark Your Calendar

March 1, 2014 - MMTA Collegiate Competitions, Mississippi University for Women, Columbus, MS

March 22-26, 2014 - 2014 MTNA Conference, Chicago, IL

April 5, 2014 - Pre-College District Evaluations, Group A (Goodman, Gulf Coast, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Meridian, and Tupelo)

April 12, 2014 - Pre-College District Evaluations, Group B (Columbus/Starkville, Ellisville, Oxford, and Vicksburg)

April 26, 2014 -- MVSU Piano Festival, Itta Bena, MS

May 17, 2014- MMTA Pre-College Finals, The University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg

October 31-November 1, 2014 – MMTA Fall Conference, The University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg

Do you have an event you would like to be placed in the Mississippi Music Teacher? Contact Stephanie Holmes at sholmes057@gmail.com.

Membership in Mississippi Music Teachers Association is open to individuals professionally engaged in any field of musical activity. Since MMTA is a state affiliate of Music Teachers National Association, all membership is handled through national headquarters. Please check the MTNA website <http://www.mtna.org/home.htm> or the MMTA VP for Membership for membership information or application forms.



Find us on the web!

<http://msmusicteachers.org>

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2 ¼ x 1	\$70	2 ¼ x 2 ¼	\$120
2 ¼ x 4 5/8	\$170	2 ¼ x 7	\$240
4 5/8 x 4 5/8	\$275	4 5/8 x 7 (half page)	\$500
	7 x 9 ¼ (full page)		\$900

Conference printed edition ads can be purchased for that one edition for 1/3 of the above prices.

MMTA Officers

President

Barbara Tracy
617 Holly Ridge Drive
Vicksburg, MS 39180
Phone: 601-638-3453
barbara9872@att.net

President Elect

Ellen Price Elder
116 Poplar Road
Hattiesburg, MS 39401
Phone: 601-467-9745
Work: 601-318-6179
ellen@ellenelder.com

Immediate Past President

Ian Hominick
432 Cherokee Drive
Oxford, MS 38655
Phone: 662-513-4994
Work: 662-915-1282
ihominic@olemiss.edu

VP for Membership & Web Management

Janine Beasley
3122 N 5th Ave.
Laurel, MS 39440
Phone: 601-649-9240
music@beasinc.com

VP for Collegiate & National Competitions

Rosangela Yazbec Sebba
P.O. Box 6240
Mississippi State, MS 39762
Phone: 662-325-2854
rys3@colled.msstate.edu

VP for Pre-College Performances

Alice Ballard
Hinds Community College
P.O. Box 1100
Raymond, MS 39154
Phone: 769-226-7038
Work: 601-857-3528
Alice.Ballard@hindsc.edu

VP for Pre-College Evaluations

Dixie Lawson
29 Scarlett Street
Purvis, MS 39475
Phone: 601-268-6216
musicmom1986@comcast.net

VP for Public Relations (Newsletter Editor)

Stephanie Holmes
226 Hillcrest Drive
Kosciusko, MS 39090
Phone: 662-417-1390
seholmes2@hotmail.com

Secretary

Yvonne Young-McGrath
753 Canterbury Dr
Biloxi, MS 39532-4303
Phone: 228-617-9127
[mcmomx4@hotmail.com](mailto:mcgmomx4@hotmail.com)

Treasurer

Michael Rushing
1034 RN Whitfield St.
Florence, MS 39073
Phone: 601-573-1068
mrushing@mc.edu

Appointed Officers**Chair of Theory & Composition**

Benjamin Williams
1221 Cliffdale Dr
Clinton, MS 39056
Phone: 601-925-7739
benwilliams@mc.edu

Chair of Independent Music Teachers Forum

Victoria Johnson
900 South Court Street
Ellisville, MS 39437
Phone: 601-477-2674
victoria.johnson@jcc.edu

Chair of College Faculty Forum

Angela Willoughby
100 Murial St
Clinton, MS 39056
Phone: 601-906-8040
willough@mc.edu

Chair of Certification

Jacqueline Thornell
5929 Lake Terrace Circle
Jackson, MS 39211
Phone: 601-952-0060
jsthornell@bellsouth.net

Assistant to the VP for Public Relations

Position not filled

Webmaster

Handmade Designs
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www.handmadedesigns.com

Performance Area Chairs**Brass**

Douglas Mark
Delta State University
Department of Music
PO Box 3256
Cleveland, MS 38733
Phone: 662-846-4607
dmark@deltastate.edu

Chamber Music/Jazz

Jung-Won Shin
Delta State University
Department of Music
PO Box 3256
Cleveland, MS 38733
Phone: 662-846-4123
jshin@deltastate.edu

Guitar

Michael Patilla
Mississippi State University
Music Building A
Mississippi State, MS 39762
Office: 662-325-2866
guitar@colled.msstate.edu

Piano

Elizabeth Moak
609 Woodbine Lane
Hattiesburg, MS 39402-2050
Phone: 601-268-5524
elizabeth.moak@usm.edu

Strings

Alexander Russakovsky
University of Southern Mississippi
School of Music
118 College Drive, # 5081
Hattiesburg, MS 39406
Phone: 601-266 6851
arussakovsky@hotmail.com

Voice

Phyllis Lewis-Hale
Jackson State University
Department of Music
P.O. Box 17055
Jackson, MS 39217
Phone: 601-979-2984
phyllis.lewis-hale@jsums.edu

Woodwinds

Shelley Collins
Delta State University
Department of Music
PO Box 3256
Cleveland, MS 38733
Phone: 662-846-4617
scollins@deltastate.edu

Collaborative Arts

Theresa Sanchez, NCTM
907 N 34th Ave
Hattiesburg, MS 39401
Phone: 601-271-8700
theresa.sanchez@jcmc.edu

Local Affiliates**Golden Triangle Music Forum**

Katie Wallace
1223 Meadowlark Dr.
Starkville, MS 39759
Phone: 662-341-5117
wallacepiano5@gmail.com

Gulf Coast MTA

Carol Mahler
9428 Hidden Acres Road
Pass Christian, MS 39571
Phone: 228-586-1879
jmdoc@bellsouth.net

Hattiesburg Music Teachers League

Laura Broughton
29 Park Place, Apt. 1101
Hattiesburg, MS 39402
Phone: 601-441-1248
drlaurab@comcast.net

Jones County MTA

Janine Beasley
3122 N 5th Ave.
Laurel, MS 39440
Phone: 601-649-9240
music@beasinc.com

League of Meridian Music Teachers

June Williams
100 38th St.
Meridian, MS 39301
Phone: 601-482-4107

Music Forum of Jackson

Jane Duran Fox
2209 Heritage Hill Drive
Jackson, MS 39211
Phone: 601-981-6607
janeduranfox@gmail.com

Music Forum of Tupelo

Peggy Oakes
2012 Strain St.
Tupelo, MS 38804
oakesp@bellsouth.net

Vicksburg MTA

Jeanne Evans
3140 Drummond St
Vicksburg, MS 39180-4912
Phone: 601-634-0826
ajevans88@bellsouth.net

From the MMT Editor

During our IMTF luncheon at the Fall Conference, Judith Fairchild mentioned her faithful four-legged teaching assistants. I also have a teaching assistant...Tucker, one of my two cats. Tucker always sits on the table behind my students as they play and beside them as we work on theory exercises. The kids love Tucker, and he loves the attention they give him. If they are having a bad day, I tell them to stop and pet the cat. It usually calms them down. It wouldn't be a piano lesson without "Sensei" Tucker sitting on the table. Do you have a furry teaching assistant? If you do, please send pictures to sholmes057@gmail.com. You may see your pal in the summer MMT!



Tucker, my faithful teaching assistant

MISSISSIPPI MUSIC TEACHER

Stephanie Holmes, editor

226 Hillcrest Drive
Kosciusko, Mississippi 39090



Mississippi Music Teachers Association

Est. 1954

The purpose and goals of the Mississippi Music Teachers Association are to further the art of music, and promote the growth and professional development of its members by providing programs that encourage and support teaching, performance, composition and research. MMTA is a not-for-profit organization whose funds are used solely to accomplish these objectives.