MISSISSIPPI MUSIC TEACHER

The Official Publication of the Mississippi Music Teachers Association Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association

Plan to attend our virtual 2020 Conference November 6-7

FALL 2020 VOL. 36, ISSUE 3

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Message from the President

Victoria Johnson

Dear MMTA Members,

What a strange start to the school year this is! I hope you and yours are healthy and that you have adjusted to teaching amidst a pandemic.

The summer has been even more quiet than usual for the MMTA Board. Our focus has been preparing for our virtual Fall Conference and Competitions. There are many details to be worked out, but we are fortunate to receive guidance from MTNA and other states who are planning or have already completed virtual events. Please give your support to Valentin Bogdan, Jackie McIlwain, and Donna Reed as they lead us on a new adventure. Stay tuned for more information.

MMTA has again received a very generous grant--$4300--from the Mississippi Arts Commission. We are most appreciative of their support which benefits so many teachers and students from all corners of the state. Please thank Valentin Bogdan, President-Elect and Conference Chair, who spent countless hours on the grant application.

Message from the President (continued)

As always, we strive to touch even more musicians in Mississippi. Please encourage non-members and former members to join our organization. I find that the camaraderie, continuing education, and student opportunities that MTNA, MMTA, and our local chapters provide are more important than ever.

Finally, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president. It has been a rewarding and challenging job and I am so very grateful to the board and members who have offered advice, help, and encouragement. I hope you will tune in for our November 7th virtual business meeting when Valentin Bogdan takes over the reins.

Best wishes for a successful, if unusual, semester of music-making and teaching!

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Johnson

President-Elect's Report

Valentin Bogdan

Hello everyone, I hope all of you are doing well and have adjusted to this "new normal". During our May meeting, we decided to have a virtual conference for 2020 rather than an in-person one (due to the obvious concerns triggered by the COVID 19 pandemic).

A few things will be different this year:

Since the conference is virtual, there will be no attendance fee

There will still be a fee for the MTNA competitions and the concerto competitions

- Due to the new format, we have decided to postpone appearances by the Guest Clinician (Ken Renfrow) and the guest artists (UAB TRIO) until the 2021 conference. They have been contacted and agreed to the change of plans
- We will have Kevin Chance and Olga Harris as part of the conference (we will pre-record the commissioned piece) and Kevin Chance will make a virtual appearance
- Our members and guests will be encouraged to submit pre-recorded conference sessions via YouTube, and these can be watched asynchronously by our members. I will send out a call for participation this week (using the same document as last year). The deadline I had in mind were September 30th as a deadline for submission, October 7th for notification of acceptance and October 28th for a video submission.
- I am hoping that we can use our MMTA website to host embed these videos, so we have a centralized hub where viewers can pick and choose what to watch

Additionally, the MMTA received a $4300 grant from Mississippi Arts Commission for the conference and the Collegiate Competitions in February.

Treasurer's Report

Chris Ballard

As we all know, the Covid-19 virus wreaked havoc with our MMTA planned activities this past fiscal year. However, after all was said and done, we actually ended the year in good financial shape. We currently have $55,718.63 in account.

In the document I have attached, there are two reports. The first report on page 1 shows the proposed budget that was in place last year along with the actual amounts that were spent. Because of Covid-19 many of the proposed budget numbers were vastly different at the end of the year than the proposed amounts. That was true for both income and expenses. However, the good news is that the final total amounts for income and expenses were not very far apart. We ended the year with a loss of only $642.32. I think that is somewhat remarkable in that we had to cancel the pre-college evaluations and finals. As most of you know, those events are where we make most of our income each year.

Page 2 of the attachment is my proposed budget for this new fiscal year. It is impossible to know what the future holds as far as Covid-19 is concerned so I have put together a budget that is conservative and will hopefully fit into whatever scenario comes to pass. This year when the Mississippi Arts Commission awarded us a grant of $4300, they did so with the stipulation that we match that amount with a $4300 contribution of our own. The MAC grant and matching contribution can only be used for the fall conference and collegiate competition expenses. Therefore, I have to include a total of $8600 for expenses in those two categories. I have divided up the $8600 into three different amounts and show them in red in the expenses.

I present this proposed budget to you for your consideration and sustaining vote.

As we begin this year please feel free to email or text me any time if you need help or have questions concerning MMTA financial issues. Regardless of any Covid-19 influence on our events during the year I am confident that as long as we can keep income and expenses in close proximity with each other as we did this past year we will be fine financially.

Respectfully submitted August 22, 2020 by Chris Ballard, MMTA State Treasurer

Mississippi Music Teachers Association

Proposed vs Actual Budget

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

Ordinary Income and Expense

Income:	**Proposed**	**Actual**
MMTA Member Dues rebates	4,100.00	3,780.00
Commissioned Composer rebate	750.00	750.00
Mississippi Arts Commission Grant	4,100.00	4,400.00
Fall Conference	6,000.00	5,912.20
Collegiate Competition	300.00	821.17
Pre-College Evaluations	14,700.00	0
Pre-College Finals	900.00	0
MMTA Foundation Fellow Contributions	1,500.00	1,500.00
Total Income:	**32,350.00**	**17,163.37**

Expense:	**Proposed**	**Actual**
Board Meetings Travel Expense	600.00	57.70
Office Supplies	200.00	0
MTNA Summit	150.00	84.93
Event Location Rental Fees	500.00	0
Fall Conference	10,500.00	13,753.45
Southern Division Expense	350.00	141.00
Affiliate Grant	300.00	600.00
Collegiate Competitions	850.00	1,110.70
MTNA Conference Expense	1,750.00	0
MTNA Foundation Fellow	1,500.00	1,500.00
Web Page Hosting Fee	150.00	144.00
Pre-College Evaluations	8,500.00	0
Pre-College Finals	6,000.00	274.61
Medals/Ribbons/Awards	700.00	139.30
Natural Disaster Donation, Funeral Flowers, etc.	300.00	0
Total Expenses:	**32,350.00**	**17,805.69**

MMTA Fiscal Year: July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020……..……..Loss of ($642.32)

Mississippi Music Teachers Association

Proposed Budget

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Ordinary Income and Expense

Income:	**Proposed**
MMTA Member Dues rebates	3,750.00
Commissioned Composer rebate	750.00
MAC Grant	4,300.00
Fall Conference	3,200.00
Collegiate Competition	700.00
Pre-College Evaluations	10,000.00
Pre-College Finals	500.00
MMTA Foundation Fellow Contributions	1,500.00
Total Income:	**24,700.00**

Expense:	**Proposed**
Board Meetings Travel Expense	100.00
Office Supplies	200.00
[MMTA MAC Grant Match for Fall Conference]	4,300.00
[MAC Grant portion for Fall Conference] (total Fall Conference expenses - $7500)	3,200.00
MTNA Summit	100.00
Southern Division Expense	200.00
Affiliate Grant	300.00
[MAC Grant portion for Collegiate Competitions]	1,100.00
MTNA Conference Expense	1,750.00
MTNA Foundation Fellow	1,500.00
Web Page Hosting Fee	650.00
Pre-College Evaluations	6,500.00
Pre-College Finals	4,000.00
Medals/Ribbons/Awards	600.00
Natural Disaster Donation, Funeral Flowers, etc.	200.00
Total Expenses:	**24,700.00**

Vice-President for Membership and Web Management

Janine Beasley

As of August 21, 2020, 104 members are listed for the 2020-2021 year. Of these 3 are new members, 1 is a reinstating member, 1 is a new collegiate member, and 1 is adding Mississippi MTA and Mus Forum of Tupelo.

Website changes:

Uploaded Summer MMT (from Stephanie Holmes)

Uploaded January 2020 meeting minutes (from Yvonne McGrath)

Updated Events Calendar with 2020 – 2021 information

Updated Evaluations Application Procedures, Pre-College Guidelines, Strings Requirements, and Guidelines for Judges – Piano documents (from Jung-Won/Yvonne)

Submitted request for update of website to HandMade Designs; they completed and I tested, with Vickie testing competition application entries. Made an additional request to HandMade Designs to update auditions programs (left out of original proposal). Tested.

Ongoing:

Miscellaneous updates as needed

Continue to send mass emails to members as requested

Updating website with member information; will send email to members who have not renewed to remind them to renew

Respectfully submitted,
Janine Beasley

Vice-President for Collegiate and National Competitions

Jackie McIlwain

The Fall MTNA Competitions will be held virtually by video submissions. The registration deadline to participate in the competition is Wednesday, September 16 at 3 p.m. EST. The deadline to submit the video recordings is Monday, November 2 by 3 p.m. EST. The winners will be announced by Tuesday, November 10. Please share this with fellow musicians and teachers! There is an attached flyer for distribution. I am in the planning stages of the logistics and will be able to share more at the next meeting.

Thanks,
Jackie McIlwain

Vice-President for Pre-College Performances

Donna Reed

Hello!

Registrations for concerto competition are due October 1, 2020. Vickie and I discussed via email earlier this summer the deadline for video submission of student concerto performances and selected the date, Saturday, November 7. In previous years, our guest clinician has served as the concerto judge. Dr. Kevin Chance was to be our IMTF/concerto judge for 2020. Vickie said she would check with him to be sure he would be willing to judge video submissions. In addition, she was going to secure a strings judge for the competition. On the MTNA website there are general guidelines for video competitions and information on uploading the videos. These are intended for state rounds of MTNA competitions, but there is a lot of information there that could prove helpful to us for the concerto competition.

Donna Reed

Vice Presidents for Pre-College Evaluations

Rosângela Sebba

Jung-Won Shin

The 2021 District Evaluations are scheduled as follows:
Group B Pre-College Evaluations (Columbus/Starkville, Ellisville, Gulf Coast, Vicksburg) on March 27
Group A Pre-College Evaluations (Goodman, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Oxford, Tupelo) on April 10

The following documents have been revised and the details of the revisions have been shared with our District Chairs. The revised documents are now available on our website:

1. General Guidelines for MMTA District Evaluations and Pre-College Finals
2. MMTA Pre-College Evaluations Application Procedures
3. Strings Requirements and String Technique Adjudication Forms
4. Guidelines for Judges – Piano District Evaluations (for District Chairs only)

And the approved revision list on the pre-college theory/aural skills exams have been sent to our District Chairs and will be applied to the 2021 evaluations. The updated Written Theory Requirements and Music History Terminology documents will be available on the website soon.

The following documents have been reformatted for consistent wording with no changes to the requirements:

1. Piano Requirements
2. Piano Adjudication Forms

Respectfully submitted,

Rosângela Sebba & Jung-Won Shin
Vice-Presidents for Pre-College Evaluations

Nominating Committee Report

Dear Members of MMTA,

The Mississippi Music Teachers Association Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the slate of Officers for 2020-2022.

First, I would like to thank the outstanding committee members who served this year – Adrienne Park, Carol Durham, and Brian Murphy. They have been a delight to work with.

And speaking for all of MMTA, we appreciate the diligent service of officers who are remaining on the Board, as well as those who are finishing their terms. Each deserves many accolades and enormous appreciation.

Officers who are completing their service are as follows:

Jackie McIlwain, VP for Collegiate & National Competitions

Donna Reed, VP for Pre-College Performances

Jacquelyn Thornell, Chair of Certification

Alice Ballard, Immediate Past President

MMTA officers serve 2-year terms which begin and end at the close of the annual session of Conference. New officers are noted with an asterisk.

Slate of MMTA Officers for 2020-2022

Executive Board

Position	**Officer**
President	Valentin Bogdan
President-Elect	*Jung-Won Shin
Immediate Past President	Victoria Johnson
VP for Membership & Web Management	Janine Beasley
VP for Collegiate & National Competitions	Position Not Yet Filled
VP for Pre-College Evaluations (co-chair)	Roseangela Sebba
VP for Pre-College Evaluations (co-chair)	*Karen Fosheim
VP for Pre-College Performances	*Michael Rushing
VP for Public Relations (Newsletter Editor)	Stephanie Holmes

Secretary	Yvonne Young-McGrath
Treasurer	Chris Ballard

Appointed Officers

Position	Officer
Chair of Certification	*Christina Mathis
Chair of Theory & Composition	Jonathan Mitchell
Chair of Independent Music Teachers Forum	Portia Davis
Chair of College Faculty Forum	Valentin Bogdan

Performance Area Chairs

Position	Officer
Brass	Douglas Mark
Chamber Music/Jazz	*Stephen Sachs
Guitar	John Jackson
Piano	Elizabeth Moak
Strings	Alexander Russakovsky
Voice	Susan Smith
Woodwinds	Danilo Mezzadri
Collaborative Arts	Brian Murphy

Please join me in congratulating the MMTA Officers for 2020-2022!

Alice Ballard

Chair, Nominating Committee 2020-2022

MMTA Immediate Past President

Affiliate News

Vicksburg Music Teachers

Greetings from Vicksburg,

Our membership is down two people this year. Hannah Christenson and her family moved to Colorado, and Julia Blake is sheltering with her young family during the pandemic. Our current members are Barbara Tracy, Jeanne Evans, Kim Steen, Denise Ragsdale, and Linda Carnes.

I spoke to each person individually to check in with them, instead of our usual planning meeting this summer. There's a mix of in-person and online lessons between our members in Vicksburg. Of course, we ALL prefer in-person lessons, but are grateful that students and parents have adapted so well to the virtual platform. Most of us did not hold Spring recitals, but Barbara Tracy in her usual technological magnificence, had a virtual Spring Recital using YouTube.

Our group may attempt a Fall or early Holiday recital, depending on the well being of our community. We all send our best wishes to the MMTA group.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Evans

Music Forum of Jackson

Hope all of you have had an enjoyable summer vacation. Well, maybe you've had quarantine vacation. Certainly navigating uncertain times.

Music Forum is moving forward with our Festivals for the 2020-2021 year. Sonatina Festival will be held on November 21, 2020. Modifications are being made as mandates for covid are changing each week. Bach Festival will be held on February 13, 2021. Modifications are also being made to help with covid restrictions. There will be no recitals.

We had a Zoom meeting on July 31, and will have another one on August 28, 2020. It is difficult not having in person meetings. Our Vice President for Programs, Dorothy Claire Glover has planned a program to be presented by Amy McCelland on January 9 at 10:30 a.m. (location to be determined). However, our Zoom meetings have provided ideas of our members in dealing with the new style of teaching.

We look forward to exciting adventures this year in our teaching, whether it be in person lessons or virtual lessons.

Just thankful for technology to continue lessons during this time.

Patsy Simpson
President, Music Forum of Jackson

Gulf Coast Music Teachers Association

We are surviving!!! At the end of May, several teachers were able to provide a performance opportunity for their students through the National Guild of Piano Teachers first virtual audition.

GCMTA actually was able to produce its annual Senior Award Recital – virtually! Dr. Stephen Redfield served as adjudicator of the five seniors who vied for $1,000 in scholarship awards. We were pleased to award $900! A great big thank you to Vice-President and Program Chairman Angela Hsu, assisted by Emily Mahler, for making this event possible this year!

Our Zoom Planning Meeting was fruitful - we were able to make modified plans for this year, including our October Recital via Zoom and Spring Festival. GCMTA's Web and Membership Manager, Bonnie Sheldon, offered us the use of her Zoom account for future events.

We have a mix of teachers who are teaching online or in-person lessons. We appreciate all that MTNA and MMTA are doing to boost our confidence as we navigate these uncharted waters.

Respectfully yours,

Carol Mahler, President
Gulf Coast Music Teachers Association

Hattiesburg Music Teachers League

HATTIESBURG MUSIC TEACHERS LEAGUE (HMTL) is preparing for a full calendar of events this academic year, despite the Covid-19 challenges that we are all facing. Our first general meeting of the year, scheduled for Saturday, September 5, 2020, will feature Dr. Jackie Edwards-Henry, Professor of Piano at Mississippi State University. This meeting will most likely take place via Zoom and will feature an interactive Dalcroze session.

We are also looking forward to our January 23rd general meeting and program, which will feature our very own Janice Mesrobian, who will present "Jan's January Jewels." We are all excited to hear Jan's nuggets of wisdom, which I know will be very inspiring! This meeting will also serve as our NFMC workday. Thank you to Elizabeth Moak, HMTL Vice President for Programs, for securing these two wonderful presenters.

Three HMTL student recitals are planned for this year: October 17 (USM Marsh Auditorium or pre-recorded Zoom recital), February 6, and April 17 (Mississippi Music Recital Hall or pre-recorded Zoom recital). Our annual Spring Concert will be held on April 25 at William Carey University. We appreciate the diligent work of Christina Mathis, Recitals Chair, and Brian Murphy, Spring Concert Chair.

Even during the summer months, our teachers are already making preparations to enter their students in local area festivals and competitions. We hope that Covid-19 will be past us at that point! The District III MFMC festival will take place on Saturday, February 20, 2021, at William Carey University, with Anne Kathryn DeViney serving as chair. The MMTA Pre-College District Evaluations for the Hattiesburg district will be held on April 10 at USM. Dixie Lawson will serve as chair of this event, with Joanna Burnside serving as Co-Chair. HMTL will also hold its annual scholarship auditions on that day.

Our May business meeting and luncheon is slated for May 20.

We are trying to press forward, and eagerly looking ahead to all of the wonderful opportunities that this year promises!

All the best to everyone, and stay safe,

Ellen Price Elder
HMTL President

Golden Triangle Music Forum

Just a little update from the Golden Triangle Music Forum. We will have an outdoor meeting today (Aug 22) in Starkville at 3:30 after Rose is finished with the MMTA meeting. I know Jackie Edwards, Rose Sebba, Rebekah Moore and Edna Mae McCoy plan to attend. Our other regular attendees are Julia Mortyakova and Valentin Bogdan. I love this group and the level of talent/professionalism they bring! We have not had an in-person or virtual meeting since the beginning of the Spring, so I am looking forward to being together again.

I have some ideas for the Fall, like an outdoor concert to replace our annual "Fall Musicale." It would be complicated....we would have to use a keyboard, clean the keys between each student, make sure people sit far apart. Of course, this would still be a risky plan. Hopefully our group will have some good ideas. *Reading your reports today has inspired me to continue to make plans, no matter how different they will be!*

My lessons consist of in person lessons (if they are homeschooled or have not yet started school) with masks and a plexiglass wall between us (and LOTS of cleaning!!), or online. I have only accepted students if they are open to going online at least part of the semester when necessary. I have lost some of my best "MMTA attending" students for the semester because they don't want online lessons at all, and I just had to let them go!
During this time, it has been very important to have a support group like friends in GTMF and MMTA. I am thankful for this group!

I have been planning to hop in on the ZOOM meeting today, but my husband and I are moving into a house next weekend and I need to start boxing up my studio. I may be able to join in for the beginning and just slip out halfway through!

Thank you for all of your hard work to keep things going this year.
Wishing you all a wonderful semester !!!

Katie Wallace Johnson

JONES COUNTY MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Janine Beasley, President

August 22, 2020

This summer we planned our year, and dates for Showcase Recital, Solo-Sonata Competition, and Ensemble Festival were determined. We also selected music for Solo-Sonata Competition and Ensemble Festival. Martha Tisdale has worked diligently getting our yearbook ready. The yearbook consists of our calendar, membership information, and all other information that our organization needs to conduct our business and our events. This year, we conducted business via email.

All officers and committees are the same as the previous year, with the addition of Derrick Meador to Solo and Sonata Committee, and Lee Waits to Evaluations Committee.

We are not having an in person meeting in August. Martha Tisdale is mailing information and yearbooks to the members of JCMTA.

Most of our JCMTA teachers are teaching this fall, with most of them teaching in the studio, following mandated guidelines for masks and studio/piano disinfecting. I am mostly teaching in the studio, with some of my students still electing online lessons.

The JCMTA annual Showcase Recital will be held on Sunday, November 8, 2020. Student performers and composers will be highlighted at this event. If COVID-19 prevents us from having an “in person” recital, we will evaluate other options.

The JCMTA annual Solo and Sonata Competition will be held on Saturday, January 23, 2021. The competition is for students sixth through twelfth grade.

JCMTA will hold its annual Ensemble Festival February 27, 2021.

Business meetings will be held prior to the above events.

Jones County Music Teachers Association will participate in the Ellisville area MMTA Evaluations March 27, 2021 at Jones College.

Respectfully submitted,

Janine Beasley

Mark Your Calendar

November 2, 2020 – Deadline for MTNA Competitions Video Submission

November 6-7, 2020 – MMTA State Conference –Virtual

November 7, 2020 - Deadline for MMTA Pre-College Concerto Competitions Video Submission

March 6, 2021 – MMTA Collegiate Competitions – Delta State University, Cleveland

March 13-17, 2021 – MTNA 2021 National Conference – Atlanta, Georgia

March 27. 2021 – MMTA Pre-College Evaluations (Group B) – Columbus/Starkville, Ellisville, Gulf Coast, Vicksburg

April 10, 2021 – MMTA Pre-College Evaluations (Group A) – Goodman, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Oxford, Tupelo

May 15, 2021 – MMTA Pre-College Finals – Millsaps College, Jackson

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

Mississippi Music Teacher is published online three times per year. Address all communications, articles, and pictures to the Editor. The MMT is available to the public on the MMTA website in PDF format.

ADVERTISING: Limited advertising space is available for firms or individuals who have a product or service of specific interest or benefit to MMTA members. All correspondence regarding advertising should be sent to the VP for Public Relations.

YEARLY ADVERSTISING RATES (size in inches)

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.

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From the MMT Editor

Stephanie Holmes

Editor

Our Fall Conference is quickly approaching! While our format will be different this year, I hope you make plans to log in and attend virtually.

Valentin Bogdan has been instrumental in planning this year's conference. Be sure to thank him for all of his hard work.

I'll miss seeing y'all in person this year, but I hope your teaching year is off to a great start. Stay well!

MISSISSIPPI MUSIC TEACHER

Stephanie Holmes, editor

226 Hillcrest Drive
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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.