

MISSISSIPPI MUSIC TEACHER

The Official Publication of the Mississippi Music Teachers Association

Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association

Message from the President



Carol Mahler

Happy New Year! I hope that each and every one of you had a good start of the year.

I am honored and excited to represent our organization at the MTNA 2025 National Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on March 15-19. Barbara Tracy, our MTNA Foundation Fellow for this year, will be recognized at the Conference Gala. I truly appreciated all your contributions to the MTNA Foundation Fund in honor of our MTNA 2024 Foundation Fellow. All the MMTA members who will attend the MTNA Conference are cordially invited to a reception hosted by the MTNA Southern Division during the Conference. The Southern Division Travel Funds contributed by each state within its division will be awarded to all the MTNA Competitions Southern Division winners who will travel to Minneapolis in March for the national round of the competitions during the MTNA Conference.

Our Collegiate Competitions will be hosted by Jackson State University in Jackson on Saturday, March 1, 2025. I hope that many of our college students will participate in the competitions. I extend my thanks to Jenna Klein who will organize the competitions.

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Message from the President (continued)

The MMTA Pre-College Evaluations will be held on April 5 and 12. This year, Group B Evaluations will be held in Columbus/Starkville/Tupelo, Ellisville, Gulf Coast, and Vicksburg on Saturday, April 5. Group A Evaluations will be held in Cleveland, Goodman, Hattiesburg, Jackson, and Oxford on Saturday, April 12. This year will mark the beginning of a new era for our Pre-College Evaluations, as we launch our online registrations through <https://missmta.tenutoweb.com/>. Special thanks to Co-Vice Presidents for Pre-College Evaluations, Rosângela Sebba and Katie Johnson, Co-Vice Presidents for Pre-College Performances Rebekah Lipscombe and Rebekah Schultz, and all of our District Chairs for their tremendous time and work in updating all the Evaluations forms and for working to develop the online registration! The Pre-College Finals will be held at Mississippi State University in Starkville on Saturday, May 17. I appreciate Rosangela Sebba and her colleagues for hosting the event, as well as Rebekah Lipscombe and Rebekah Schultz, Co-VPs for Pre-College Performances, for organizing the event.

The MMTA 2025 State Conference will be held at Jones College in Ellisville on October 31st-November 1st. I greatly appreciate Michael Rushing, President-Elect and Conference Chair, for organizing the conference and preparing for the Mississippi Arts Commission Project Grant application on behalf of our organization. And many thanks to Susan Smith, Michael Rushing, Hannah Adhikari, and Jonathan Mitchell for securing the Guest Artists, the IMTF Luncheon Speaker, the Guest Artists, and the Commissioned Composer respectively for this fall's conference.

I will look forward to seeing many of our members and students at the above events.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Mahler

President-Elect's Report

Clinicians, guest artists and host institutions are being secured for the 2025 MMTA Conference. An application for a grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission is in process.



*Michael
Rushing*

Fall Conference October 31-November 1, 2025

- Location: Jones College, Ellisville, MS
MMTA has requested confirmation documentation from Jones College and is awaiting a response.
- Conference Clinician: **Beth Bauer** has agreed via email to be conference clinician. Dr. Bauer is on faculty at Wheaton College. She oversees and advises piano pedagogy students and coordinates Beethoven's Buddies, a music program for children with developmental delays in the Wheaton Community School of the Arts. MMTA has sent a contract and is awaiting a response.

- Guest Artist: **Johnnie Bankens** has agreed via email to be conference guest artist. Dr. Bankens is on faculty at Southeastern Louisiana University. He has performed a variety of opera and music theatre roles locally, nationally, and overseas. MMTA has sent a contract and is awaiting a response.
- Commissioned Composer: **Tae Young Hong** has accepted the commission to compose a piece to be premiered at the conference. Dr. Hong is on faculty at William Carey University, where he is coordinator of music theory. MMTA has received a contract from Dr. Hong.
- Independent Music Forum Presenter: **Cindy St. Clair** has agreed to be the IMTF presenter and concerto judge. Dr. St. Clair is on faculty at Samford University, where she is Coordinator of Keyboard Studies. MMTA has received a contract from Dr. St. Clair.

Thanks to Susan Smith, Jonathan Mitchell, and Hannah Adhikari for their assistance in securing these clinicians and artists.

Thanks to Victoria Johnson, Theresa Sanchez, and Susan Smith for assisting in hosting MMTA at Jones College.

Collegiate Competition March 2026

- MMTA is awaiting word from Ole Miss regarding hosting the Spring 2026 Collegiate Competitions.

Michael Rushing
MMTA President-elect

Treasurer's Report



Chris Ballard

As we arrive at the halfway point of our fiscal year, we are on a sound financial footing. As seen in my attached report, our income and expenses are practically evenly distributed. Thank you for your continued support in helping to keep the expenses we have in check.

I do have one request for the board and membership. The last year or so I have been reimbursing members for expenses they have incurred when they send me receipts for money they have spent on MMTA activities. I would like members to also fill out an expense report to go with the receipts. Please find a copy of this report attached to this email. You can also access this report on the MMTA website. After you bring up the website, login at the members login link. Then click "Resources" and finally click "MMTA Expense Report". You don't have to mail the report to me if you would like to scan it and send it by email along with your receipts. This report makes it easier for me to keep up with expenses.

Respectfully Submitted: Chris Ballard, MMTA State Treasurer



MMTA Balance as of 1/25/25

First Internet Bank CD	26,705.88
Regions Bank Account	43,240.83
PayPal	<u>8,221.58</u>
Total	\$78,168.29

MMTA Income and Expenses 7/1/24 – 1/25/25

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
Fall Conference	9,010.60	Fall Conference	10,020.07
Dues Rebate	1,776.25	MTNA Cincinnati Summit	147.29
Foundation Fellow	1,555.00	GoDaddy Web Service	23.17
Interest from CD	660.66	Office Expense	70.35
		Foundation Fellow	1,555.00
		MMTA Grant (Jackson)	150.00
		Leftover Pre-College Finals Exp.	600.00
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>13,002.51</u>	<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>12,565.88</u>

MMTA 2024 Fall Conference Income and Expense Report

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
MTNA Competition Rebate	565.00	MTNA Judges	646.66
Commissioned Composer Rebate	750.00	Commissioned Composer	1,500.00
Attendee Fees	2,726.00	IMTF Speaker	662.80
Pre-College Entrance Fees	1,435.00	MMTA Pre-College Judge	200.00
MAC Grant	3,375.00	Guest Artist Exp	1,745.18
Ad Sales	159.60	Guest Clinician Exp	2,057.72
		Conference Booklet	728.75
		MMI Food Service	1,392.00
		Past Presidents' Luncheon	124.44
		Pre-College Exp	80.43
		PayPal Fees	60.34
		Tenuto Web LLC	821.75
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>9,010.60</u>	<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>10,020.07</u>

Vice Presidents for Pre-College Evaluations



Rosângela Sebba



Katie Johnson

We hope everyone had a wonderful break! On January 9, the VP for Evaluations and District Chairs had a meeting with Alejandro Cresmaschi for a tutoring session on TenutoWeb. I am happy to report that the website is now up and running! While some districts have encountered minor glitches, Alejandro swiftly addressed and resolved these issues.

If you come across any errors, please contact me, and I will forward the information to Alejandro.

The portal will be open until March 1, the deadline for all application submissions. We aim to usher Mississippi into a “new phase” with our five-year plan, featuring online registration and evaluations. Many states have already adopted this system, significantly reducing manual labor and paperwork.

The website contains numerous helpful tutoring links. District Chairs now have the flexibility to conduct evaluations online or on paper, but all registrations must be completed online.

Thank you for your dedication, hard work and patience during this transition. Changing long-established procedures is never easy, but we believe this transformation will ultimately benefit our association, members and students. Together, we can enhance music education and performance in our state.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Johnson & Rosângela Sebba
Vice-Presidents for Pre-College Evaluations

Vice-President for Membership and Web Management



Janine Beasley

As of January 21, 2025, 135 members are listed for the 2024-2025 year (146 this time last year). Of these 1 is upgrading collegiate member, 1 is transferring collegiate member from GA, 5 are new members, 5 are new collegiate members.

Website changes:

Updated calendar as requested

Updated officers page

Updated student activities page to reflect changes for Tenuto (Common documents)

Uploaded all technical documents for all instruments for new requirements

Uploaded new Voice Requirements

Uploaded May and August 2024 meeting minutes, from Alice

Miscellaneous:

Sent membership email information for Tenuto

Participated in Tenuto meeting with Alejandro

5 Year Plan:

Year A has been added to the auditions website

Continuing to review for B, C, D, E

Ongoing: miscellaneous updates as needed.

Continue to send mass emails to members as requested.

Continuing to add new members as I get information. Unpaid members have been deleted.

Chair of Theory and Composition



Jonathan Mitchell

I am pleased to announce that the commissioned composer for the 2025 MMTA Fall Conference will be Professor Taye Young Hong, who is coordinator of music theory at William Carey University.

[Here](#) is the link to Professor Hong's YouTube Channel. Here you can experience some of his beautiful music. His compositions feature a lyrical, dynamic style that blends Eastern and Western idioms.

I eagerly await more information about Professor Hong's piece as it becomes available.

Respectfully submitted

Jonathan Mitchell

Chair of Theory and Composition

Vice President for Collegiate and National Competitions



Jenna Klein

Dear Board Members,

Planning for this year's MMTA Collegiate Competition is well under way. The deadline for competition entrants is February 21st, 2025. The competitions will be held at Jackson State University on March 1st, 2025. We are in the process of securing judges for this event. Once the deadline passes, I will know exactly how many judges we need. I will be in touch in the other Performance Area Chairs in the coming week.

Please encourage your students and your colleagues to enter their students in this competition. We hope to have a great turnout!

Respectfully,

Jenna Klein, VP for Collegiate and National Competitions

Chair of Independent Music Teachers Forum



Hannah E. Adhikari

I am delighted to announce that our International Music Teachers Forum speaker and judge is secured for the 2025 conference! Dr. Cindy St. Clair will be giving her luncheon presentation on, '**Brain Power: Effective Mental Preparation and Memorization**,' as well as being the pre-college judge for the piano concerto competition. Dr. St. Clair was very quick to respond to our invitation and expressed it as 'an honor' to be MMTA's IMTF speaker and judge this year! She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music degree both in Piano Performance from the University of Alabama, and her Bachelor of Music degree, also in Piano Performance, is from Samford University in Birmingham Alabama, the same university from which she is currently employed as Associate Professor of Piano and Area Coordinator of Keyboard Studies. Her research interests relate to the works of underserved composers and of women

pedagogues, as well as musician topics relating to mental practice, stamina, and memorization techniques.

I have sent the needed information and pdf contract to Dr. St. Clair December 31st, and received her reply just today! Below you will find the official letter I sent to Dr. St. Clair, as well as the signed and dated pdf contract agreement that she sent me this afternoon.

Hannah E. Adhikari, Chair of International Music Teachers Forum.

Affiliate News

Gulf Coast Music Teachers Association

Dear Members,

We are eagerly awaiting a stimulating (and hopefully warmer) term this Spring on the Gulf Coast. I would like to mention three exciting events that we have planned.

No. 1

Presentation: Employing Music Therapy Techniques in Music Lessons

February 1st at 11:30am

Coastal Harmony (4101 Gautier Vancleave Rd Ste 204, Gautier, MS)

Katlin Ross, MSW, MT-BC

No. 2

Masterclass

March 29th at 10:30am-12:00pm (*GCMTA Business Meeting @ 9:30am*)

MGCCC-JC Auditorium

Dr. Elizabeth Moak, University of Southern Mississippi

No. 3

Senior Awards Recital

April 27th

Location and time TBD

Here's hoping for a great fall for all our members.

Respectfully submitted

Jonathan Mitchell, Ph.D.

GCMTA President

President, GCMTA



JONES COUNTY MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Janine Beasley, President

January 25, 2025

The JCMTA annual Showcase Recital was held on Sunday, November 10, 2024, at Jones College. Student performers were highlighted at this event.

A business meeting was held prior to the above event.

The JCMTA annual Solo and Sonata Competition is being held on Saturday, January 25, 2025. The competition is for students sixth through twelfth grade. 21 students were entered for this event, but due to conflicts and other circumstances, only 14 actually are listed as performing, so our numbers are down again this year.

Several JCMTA teachers have students participating in the Mississippi Baptist Keyboard Festival which is being held on Thursday January 30, 2025.

JCMTA will hold its annual Ensemble Festival on Saturday, March 1, 2025.

Jones County Music Teachers Association will participate in the Ellisville area MMTA Evaluations April 5, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Janine Beasley

Music Forum of Jackson

November 1-2, 2024, Music Forum of Jackson enjoyed participating in MMTA's 70th State Convention held at Belhaven University in our district this year. At the conference banquet, our own Jacqueline Thornell was presented the MMTA Outstanding Teacher award. In addition, it was announced that MFJ had been nominated for the MTNA Association of the year. Seattle MTA later received this award, and we congratulate them. Also, that evening Barbara Tracy of Vicksburg MTA was honored as an MTNA Foundation Fellow. Following the banquet and guest artist recital – Patterson/Sutton Duo, cello and guitar, MFJ hosted the reception complete with 70th birthday cakes!

On November 23 at Millsaps College, MFJ held our Sonata-Sonatina Festival which showcases students of MFJ teachers. We had 75 students participating with students from the studios of Judy Bain, Donna Banks, Debby Case, Portia Davis, Carol Durham, Jane Fox, Rachel Heard, Paula Henderson, Donna Reed, Patsy Simpson and Brenda Sullivan. Students earned 60 Gold Medals, 13 Silver Medals, and 2 Honorable Mentions. Judges were Joy Graves, Dr. Brian Murphy, and Dr. Michael Rushing. Donna Reed Chairs this Festival.

We had a board meeting and our annual Christmas Luncheon on December 13.

We are presently preparing for our 56th annual Bach festival to be held on February 8, 2025, at Hinds Community College: Raymond Campus. Kathie Gunn Lott is our festival chairperson. Thirty-seven teachers from all over the state are participating with 272 students registered to play.

MFJ will participate in our district's MMTA Pre-College Evaluations on April 12 at Millsaps College. Donna Banks chairs this event.

We have scheduled our next board meeting and spring luncheon for May 2.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Duran Fox,

President, Music Forum of Jackson

Golden Triangle Music Forum

The MSU Community Music School is hosting a Piano Retreat for 7th-12th graders next Saturday morning February 1. Students will attend music classes and private lessons, and perform in a recital at the end of the morning. This is a FREE event, and we hope to have good participation and continue this event each year.

Piano Faculty Recital – Many of our members will be performing ensembles in our annual faculty recital on February 24 at 7:30 PM.

Several of our members will be presenting at the National Conference (March 15-19) this year so be on the lookout for them if you attend !

MSU Solo and Ensemble Festival on April 5 – Just a reminder that you are invited to send pre-college students to this event. *Students have the option to participate virtually*. We would like more participation ! Here is the link for information:

<https://www.music.msstate.edu/events/2025/01/2025-msu-solo-and-ensemble-festival>

Local “Honors Recital” on April 26 at 10:00 AM – We are excited to host Dr. Kowoon Lee as our performer and adjudicator for this annual GTMF event. **Thank you for the MMTA Grant which makes this event possible!**

We will host State Finals at our own MSU campus in May. We are thrilled to share our facility with the MMTA teachers and students again!

Some thoughts about last semester’s events:

- 2024 Fall Musicales: We had a good turnout in front of a bank downtown but it was very hot and we had technical difficulties with the keyboard and speaker. If we have it early in October next time we will have it indoors.
- Christmas season Nursing Home performance for 2024: It is such a busy time of year and I did not get around to planning it. I think a different time of year would be better for everyone, and will propose this to our group this spring.

Best wishes on the semester!

-Katie Johnson, GTMF President

Upcoming Events

March 1, 2025 – 2025 MMTA State Collegiate Competitions – Jackson State University, Jackson, MS

April 5, 2025 – 2025 MMTA Pre-College Evaluations, Group B – Columbus/Starkville, Ellisville, Gulf Coast, Vicksburg

April 12, 2025 – 2025 MMTA Pre-College Evaluations, Group A – Goodman, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Oxford, Tupelo

May 17, 2025 – MMTA Pre-College Finals – Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS

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

Mississippi Music Teachers Association invites musical groups, publishers, businesses, schools, and institutions to advertise in our three online editions of the Mississippi Music Teacher (MMT) and the November Conference issue each year. For more information, including prices and deadlines for various sized ads, you may contact Stephanie McGee by mail at 378 Harmony Rd., Duck Hill, MS 38925, phone at (662) 417-1390, or email at sholmes057@gmail.com.



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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.