

MISSISSIPPI MUSIC TEACHER

The Official Publication of the Mississippi Music Teachers Association

Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association

**Plan to attend our 2025 Conference
Oct. 31-Nov. 1 at Jones College in
Ellisville.**

Message from the President



This year's Pre-College Finals took place at Mississippi State University in Starkville on Saturday, May 17. Huge thanks go to Rebekah Schultz and Rebekah Lipscombe, Co-Vice-Presidents for Pre-College Performances, as well as to our teachers who entered students and worked tirelessly at the Pre-College Evaluations and the Finals! I appreciate that Rosângela Yazbec

Sebba and Katie Johnson, Co-Vice-Presidents for Pre-College Evaluations; Janine Beasley, Vice-President for Membership & Web Management; Chris Ballard, Treasurer; our District Chairs; and the Evaluations hosts made the Pre-College Evaluations both possible and successful last April. Special thanks are due to Mississippi State University, our host institution!

Our State Conference this year will be held at Jones College in Ellisville on October 31-November 1. I truly

appreciate all the tremendous work done by Michael Rushing, President-Elect and Conference Chair, as well as Victoria Johnson, our host for the conference, in preparing for the upcoming conference. Music teachers and undergraduate and graduate students are invited to submit proposals for the conference sessions. The deadline for conference proposal submissions is Friday, September 19, 2025, 11:59 p.m. More information about the conference is available on the conference website: <https://msmusicteachers.org/conference.php>

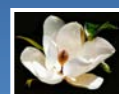
FALL 2025 VOL. 40, ISSUE 3

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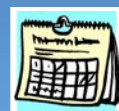
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Message from the President (continued)

I would like to invite you to enter your students in the MTNA national competitions, the state levels of which will be held during our State Conference at Jones College on Friday, October 31, 2025. There are three divisions for each performance category (piano / piano duet / strings / woodwinds): Junior (11-14), Senior (15-18), and Young Artist (19-26). The online registration deadline for the competitions is Wednesday, September 10, 2025, 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time. The brass and voice categories (Senior and Young Artist only) occur as a two-tiered competition, with the first round for these two categories being online.

On behalf of the MMTA, I submitted a state report to the MTNA Southern Division for the Summit for MTNA Leadership meeting which will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, on September 5-7, 2025. I am very honored and grateful to attend the MTNA Summit as a representative of our organization this year. The MTNA 2026 National Conference will be held in Chicago, Illinois, on March 21-25, 2026.

If you have not renewed or registered for your MTNA/MMTA membership yet, I would like to remind you that it is time to complete it! Please visit the MTNA website for membership renewal or registration.

I hope that each of you will have a good semester and am looking forward to seeing many of our members and students at the upcoming MMTA events.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Mahler



Treasurer's Report



Chris Ballard

Our current balance is \$82,468.30. That Balance includes:

Checking Account: 33,539.59

Pay Pal Account: 21,461.14

12 Month CD: 27,467.57

We are beginning the 2025-26 fiscal year with excellent financial standing. As shown above, our current total balance is \$82,468.30. As we start our annual planned MMTA activities we are exactly where we should be monetary wise. During the last fiscal year all of you consistently managed your MMTA spending in a frugal manner. Even though the Tenuto system added extra expenses to our activities, these expenses were absorbed well in our overall budget. This may not always be the case, but for this new fiscal year things look bright.

As always, it is difficult to prepare the new budget because of wide variances from year to year on various activity income/expenses. As I have stated in the past, when I make out a new budget, I consider the income/expenses from the previous fiscal year as well as my best educated guess for each category for the new fiscal year. Barring an unexpected financial emergency, I am confident the proposed budget should be easily obtainable. I have attached the proposed budget for your consideration and approval. Thank you for your help and support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Ballard, MMTA State Treasurer

Mississippi Music Teachers Association
Proposed Budget

July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

Ordinary Income and Expense

Income:	<u>Proposed</u>
MMTA Member Dues Rebates	3,500.00
Fall Conference	10,000.00
Collegiate Competition	400.00
Pre-College Evaluations	12,750.00
Pre-College Finals	600.00
CD Interest	1,000.00
MMTA Foundation Fellow Contributions	1,500.00

Total Income:	<u>29,750.00</u>
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Expense:	<u>Proposed</u>
Office Supplies	150.00
Fall Conference	11,500.00
MTNA Summit	300.00
Southern Division Expense	400.00
Affiliate Grant	300.00
Collegiate Competitions	900.00
MTNA National Conference Expense	2,500.00
Web Page Hosting Fee	250.00
Pre-College Evaluations	7,200.00
Pre-College Finals	4,000.00
Medals/Ribbons/Awards	750.00
MMTA Foundation Fellow	1,500.00

Total Expenses:	<u>29,750.00</u>
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MTNA National Conference Expense	2,250.00
Web Page Hosting Fee	300.00
Pre-College Evaluations	6,000.00
Pre-College Finals	4,000.00
Medals/Ribbons/Awards	750.00
MMTA Foundation Fellow	1,500.00

Total Expenses:	<u>28,970.00</u>
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Vice-President for Membership and Web Management



Janine Beasley

As of August 20, 2025, 91 members are listed for the 2025-2026 year (102 at this time last year. Of these 1 is a new member, 3 are reinstating members, and 1 is upgrading collegiate member.

Website changes:

Updated Events Calendar 2025 – 2026 with information that I have received to date.

Added January meeting minutes, per Alice.

Added November General meeting minutes per Alice, changed name of listed meeting minutes to Executive Committee minutes.

Added the Winter and Summer MMT to the website per Stephanie.

Made various changes to email address, phone, address, etc., at the request of some members, updated new/reinstated members as of August 20.

Ongoing:

Continuing to edit and upload 5 year plan documents

Miscellaneous updates as needed

Continue to send mass emails to members as requested

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

Respectfully submitted,

Janine Beasley

Vice Presidents for Pre-College Performances



Rebekah Lipscombe



Rebekah Shultz

Pre-College Finals, May 17, 2025

Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS

- THANK YOU to everyone who was there and helped!
- First time using tenuto for finals – it made scheduling and getting scores much easier, the judges also loved not having to handwrite all the comments!
- Issues
 - Confusing wording in our MMTA District Evaluations and State Finals Guidelines
 - **4 teachers still have not paid for missing finals**

Pre-College Concerto Competition, November 1, 2025

Jones College, Ellisville, MS

- Deadline to register: Friday, October 10, 2025
- Register through tenuto

College Faculty Forum



Ian Hominick

It was decided at our last Executive Board Meeting that the College Faculty Forum session during the MMTA Conference should be comprised solely of members from MS universities and colleges. In the essence of expediency, I would like to suggest that we choose panel members today during our Conference Committee Meeting (5-6) as well as discuss possible topics to present. It would be nice to have a panel with a diverse background that reflects our membership and to limit the topics to three (3) 15-minute sessions. As directed, I will emcee the session and make sure the discussion moves along in a timely manner.

Possible topics to consider could be discussion of some aspects of degree curriculum; auditions; recruiting strategy; peer mentoring or musical synthesis that affect all areas within a music department. Further possibilities could include a discussion of the articulation agreement with community colleges; the recent State legislation concerning equity and diversity; or general community outreach. These are only suggestions to get the discussion under way and I welcome your input.

Looking ahead to the 2026 Convention, I will solicit topics for discussion earlier in the year through email and the MMT.

Respectfully,
Ian Hominick

Independent Music Teachers Forum



Hannah Adhikari

Our IMTF speaker, Dr. Cindy St. Clair is excited to give her luncheon presentation on, "**Brain Power: Effective Mental Preparation and Memorization**," as well as being the pre-college judge for the piano concerto competition. However, I have not needed to contact her since February, as she has already sent in all of the forms and information we needed from her. I am waiting to receive the MMTA conference schedule and details, then I will be emailing those to Dr. St. Clair!

I have also presented to the MMTA presidential board in May that I am expecting a baby boy this November 1st. Unfortunately, I will not be physically present at the MMTA 2025 Conference because of this. Once I send Dr. St. Clair the MMTA conference schedule, I will make this known to her as well and let her know who will take my place on the actual days of the conference. However, I will continue to be sure that Dr. St. Clair has all she needs or any questions answered via email and/or text until then!

- Hannah E. Adhikari, Chair of Independent Music Teachers Forum

Affiliate News

Music Forum of Jackson

In July, Music Forum of Jackson had a summer tea and board meeting at the home of Jane Duran Fox to plan our upcoming year of activities. We have planned our annual events and festivals and will also host the popular First Friday luncheons as well as our holiday gatherings for our members to enjoy.

Alice Ballard, our program chair, has scheduled our first event of the year on Friday, September 5, at Landrum Studio in Ridgeland. The program will be presented by Melissa Champion, MFJ member and voice and piano teacher from Champion Music Studio in Byram. The topic of her lecture is “involving voice in piano lessons for development of musicality and playing a beautiful line.” After the program, all attending are invited to join us for lunch at Santa Fe, a restaurant a few doors down from Landrum Studio.

On October 31 and November 1, we encourage our members to attend the 71st MMTA State Conference at Jones College, Ellisville, MS.

Our annual Sonata-Sonatina Festival, chaired by Donna Reed, will be held on Saturday, November 22, at Millsaps College. This is open to students of MFOJ teachers and is a wonderful opportunity for our students of all ages to be presented in recital. The deadline to enter is October 10. For information about this festival, contact Donna Reed at Reed118@comcast.net.

In December we will have our annual Christmas luncheon and brief business meeting.

On most first Fridays of the month throughout the year, Patsy Simpson chooses the restaurant of the month and schedules the popular MFJ First Friday Luncheons.

Looking into 2026, MFOJ will host the 57th Annual Bach Festival, chaired by Kathie Gunn Lott, on Saturday, February 14, at Hinds Community College in Raymond. Registration deadline is December 1 and the event is open to all piano students, grades 1-12. For additional information, contact Kathie Gunn Lott at kclott@bellsouth.net.

Our district MMTA Pre-College Evaluations will be held on April 11 with the deadline for entry being March 1. Donna Banks is our chairperson for this event. For information about this event, contact Donna at drdonnabanks@icloud.com.

In early May, we will enjoy our annual spring luncheon and anticipate the MMTA Pre-College Finals on May 16.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Duran Fox, President Music Forum of Jackson

Golden Triangle Music Teachers Forum

Dear Board Members,

The GTMF group has 7 members who have paid dues so far this season.

We have a lunch meeting planned for Saturday, September 13, in which we will exchange ideas for our annual "Fall Musicales" in October.

Several of our teachers are working with students to prepare for the Concerto Competition and we may have a practice recital for those students a few weeks before the competition.

We look forward to the MMTA Conference and Concerto Competition at Jones College in Ellisville, MS on October 31 - November 1!

Katie Johnson

Hattiesburg Music Teachers League



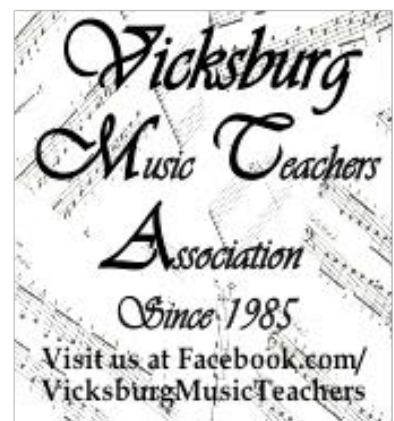
The Hattiesburg Music Teachers League (HMTL) is looking forward to the 25-26 academic year. Our upcoming fall meeting, on Sat. Sept. 6, 2027, will include a guest presentation by Tammy Mansfeld, who holds a degree in Music Theory and Composition as well as an M.M. in Conducting from The University of Southern Mississippi (USM). Her multifaceted career includes being the Music Director and a Founding Director of the Hub City Players, a professional theatre company in Hattiesburg, among other activities. We are grateful to our V.P. for Programs, Susan Smith, for all the arrangements with our guest presentations.

This fall we also look forward to our Saturday morning HMTL Student Recitals on Sat. Oct. 18, 2025, at USM, as well as HMTL's beloved Composer Festival on November 14-15, 2025, at Parkway Heights United Methodist Church in Hattiesburg. The featured composer will be Catherine Rollin. A teacher workshop by Rollin will take place on Friday morning, Nov. 14, 2025. More details will be announced later by the Composer Festival Chair Laura Broughton and Assistant Chair Joanna Burnside.

Our membership presently stands at 21 teachers and 3 collegiates. The work and contributions of our Vice President for Membership/Website Manager, Joanna Burnside, are highly valued.

We opened a CD account in summer 2024 which we have renewed twice since then (most recently early this summer 2025) to take advantage of the high interest rates. This summer our faithful Treasurer Dixie Lawson also renewed our 501(c)3 status (initially acquired in 1986).

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Moak
President





GULF COAST MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
Local Affiliate Report
August 23, 2025

Dear all,
Here on the Gulf Coast, we have had a great (and warm) summer. We currently have 17 members;
and our executive board is as follows:

Jonathan Mitchell
President

Dan McElrath
Vice President

Katlin Ross
Secretary

Chelsea Riches
Web and Membership Manager

Nelda Davis
Treasurer

We are pleased to announce a slate of events for Fall 2024-Spring 2025:

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Sep. 27 (All day)	Hummingbird Festival	Pascagoula Audubon Center
Oct. 25(10:30 am)	Presentation by Dan McElrath "Why do Pianos Have 88 Keys?"	Riches Music Studio; D'Iberville
Jan 24 (10:30 am)	GCMTA Presentation	(Zoom Online)
Jan 29	Hymn Festival	TBD
March 7	GCMTA Festival	TBD
April 18	Precollege Evaluations	TBD
April 26 (2:00 pm)	Senior Awards Recital	Bible Fellowship Church; Pass Christian
May 16	Pre-College Finals	TBD

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Mitchell, President.



JONES COUNTY MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Janine Beasley, President

August 23, 2025

This summer we planned our year. Dates for Showcase Recital, Solo-Sonata Competition, and Ensemble Festival were determined. We also selected music for Solo and Sonata Competition, and for Ensemble Festival. Michelle Howells has been working diligently again this year to get 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/text, and we will meet in September for the yearbooks to be distributed.

All officers and committees are the same as the previous year.

The JCMTA annual Showcase Recital will be held on Sunday, November 2, 2025. Student performers and composers will be highlighted at this event.

The JCMTA annual Solo and Sonata Competition will be held on Saturday, January 24, 2026. The competition is for students sixth through twelfth grade.

JCMTA will hold its annual Ensemble Festival March 7, 2026, provided that this date is confirmed, at Jones College.

Business meetings will be held prior to the above events.

Jones County Music Teachers Association will participate in the Ellisville area MMTA Evaluations April 18, 2026, provided that this date is confirmed, at Jones College.

Respectfully submitted,
Janine Beasley

2025 MMTA CONFERENCE

JONES COLLEGE
ELLISVILLE, MS

OCT. 31-NOV. 1



BETH BAUER

Conference Clinician



JOHNNIE BANKENS

Guest Artist



TAE YOUNG HONG

Commissioned Composer



CINDY ST. CLAIR

Independent Music
Teachers Forum Clinician

REGISTER NOW!



MISSISSIPPI
ARTS COMMISSION

CONTACT US

- mrushing@mc.edu
- msmusicteachers.org

Click here to register:
[71st MMTA Fall Conference](#)

Mark Your Calendar

Oct. 31, 2025 – 2025 MTNA State Competitions– Jones College, Ellisville, MS

Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 2025 – 71st MMTA State Conference– Jones College, Ellisville, MS

December 3, 2025, 3 pm EST – Video deadline for MTNA Brass, Voice, and Chamber Music Competition (Registration available Nov. 1, 2025)

Feb. 28, 2026 – 2026 MMTA Collegiate Competitions– University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS

April 11, 2026 – 2026 MMTA Pre-College Evaluations, Group A – Cleveland, Goodman, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Oxford, Tupelo

April 18, 2026 – 2026 MMTA Pre-College Evaluations, Group B – Columbus/Starkville, Ellisville, Gulf Coast, Vicksburg

May 16, 2026 – 2026 MMTA Pre-College Finals – Location TBA

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 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 ADVERTISING 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

Happy Fall!

Our Fall Conference is quickly approaching! We will be at Jones College this year. Michael Rushing has been instrumental in planning this year's conference. Be sure to thank him, as well as Victoria Johnson, for all their hard work.

On a personal note, my husband and I welcomed a baby girl in June. If I'm a little slower in responding to emails now, it's because I'm soaking in all the baby snuggles. ☺

I hope your teaching year is off to a great start. Have a fabulous rest of the semester!



Stephanie McGee
Editor



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.