

TENNESSEE MUSIC TEACHER

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A Look Back at the 2015 State Conference University of Tennessee, Chattanooga



Members from across the state gathered in beautiful Chattanooga June 6-9 for the annual State Competitions and Conference which truly offered something for everyone! Attendees were presented with a myriad of sessions with topics ranging from preparing students for auditions and developing confident sight-readers, to community outreach in your studio, and even music technology. There were also masterclasses presented by guest clinician Ingrid Clarfield and guest artists Gloria Chien and Soovin Kim. Members left the conference feeling refreshed and motivated for the upcoming teaching year. Watch for news regarding the 2016 Conference in the upcoming newsletters. Hope to see you there!

A special thank you to members of CMTA for planning a wonderful and diverse conference. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!



Ingrid Clarfield works with a student during her multi-level master class



*Congratulations!
Distinguished Service Award recipient, Sandy Triplett
and TMTA Teacher of the Year, Fay Adams*

Letter from New President, Dr. Melissa K. Rose



I hope you enjoyed the 62nd annual conference in Chattanooga! Many, many thanks to CMTA for hosting us for four wonderful days of competitions, meetings, sessions, and performances. We look forward to the next state conference at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, June 4-7, 2016. After the June conference the Executive Board voted to have a celebratory brunch instead of an evening banquet at next year's conference. It will be followed by a master class and/or session. We hope that finishing in the late afternoon on Tuesday will encourage more people to stay for the entire conference.

TMTA has grown since last year, according to the latest report from MTNA. As of May 31 we have 420 members, a 4.48% increase (18 members) since the same time last year. We are one of 17 states with an increase in membership. Let's continue to grow by inviting more teachers to join us.

Have you looked at our website (www.tnmta.org) lately? It is your resource for everything related to TMTA. It features information about TMTA/MTNA competitions; updated copies of the auditions syllabus, handbook, and membership directory; a list of executive board members; archived newsletters; links to other pertinent sites; photos galore; and much more. The next time you have a question, check the website!

You may have noticed some changes in the Executive Board. I thank Kate Stimson for all she did as president, including her skillful leadership as we navigated the FTC requirements. Many thanks to Helen Gleason for her excellent work as recording secretary, and we wish her well in Colorado. Our appreciation goes to Stan Link for serving as composition chair this past year. Finally, Deane Gray is retiring as the Web Contact; she provided the technical wizardry that brought us into the 21st century. Cahill Smith will ease into the web contact position, Jerilyn Paolini is now president-elect, Janice Lumpkin is our new recording secretary, Olivia Ellis heads publicity while Karen Caldwell continues as Newsletter Editor, and Jerry Reed returns as composition chair. Welcome to all new Local Association Presidents! Many thanks to all who work to make the local associations and TMTA strong.



Members reconnect at the Banquet during the State Conference in Chattanooga.



Bryony Stroud-Watson presents her session, Yoga for Musicians, "Practice Balance"

2016 MTNA Foundation Fellows

The MTNA Foundation Fellow program offers a meaningful method for honoring deserving individuals while supporting the efforts of the MTNA Foundation Fund through a donation to the Foundation Fund in an individual's name. This year, Tennessee has 4 nominees for this recognition; Connie Swett (GMMTA), Kate Stimson (GMMTA), Patricia Carter (KMTA), and Pat Ward (NAMTA). All nominees will be featured in Newsletters throughout the year.

Connie Swett and Kate Stimson are both fully funded, but donations are still needed for Patricia Carter and Pat Ward's nominations. Please consider a donation in honor of your colleagues. Contributions may be made through the MTNA website, and there is no contribution too small. Thank you in advance for your support!

Please use this link to donate: <https://www.mtnafoundation.org/contribute/donation-form>

Spotlight on 2016 MTNA Foundation Fellow Nominee, Patricia Ward



Patricia Ward of Murfreesboro, Tennessee received her B.S. degree from Middle Tennessee State University with a double major in piano and voice and did graduate work also at MTSU where she was a member of Tau Omicron, scholastic sorority and received honors as Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges. Professional honors received are Outstanding Young Women of America, MTSU Band of Blue Hall of Fame, *Teacher of the Year* from Middle Tennessee Music Teachers Association, *Outstanding Teacher Award* from the Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts, selected as the Tennessee Music Teachers Association *State Teacher of the Year* in 2003 and TMTA *Distinguished Service Award* in 2012.

She is a past member of the Ohio Federation of Music Clubs and currently holds membership in MTNA, TMTA and Middle Tennessee MTA.

Service to the Middle Tennessee Music Teachers Association include Secretary, Treasurer, First Vice-President, President, Handbook/Directory Editor and various committee chairs.

In the Tennessee Music Teachers Association, she has held positions as Middle Tennessee Representative, Auditions Coordinator, President-Elect/Conference Coordinator, President, Past President and is currently serving

as Executive Secretary/Treasurer since 2005. She compiled the original list of composers for the Auditions Syllabus, wrote the Sight Reading Test for the Musicianship Manual and edited the original Executive Board Handbook.

Professional experience include numerous appearances as vocal and piano soloist, church choir director, public school music teacher, extensive travel throughout the eastern and mid-western United States as an accompanist with two appearances in Carnegie Hall and performances on NPR's "A Prairie Home Companion", and "WPLN"-In-Concert". She has adjudicated piano competitions sponsored by the Tennessee Music Teachers Association and the National Federation of Music Clubs. She retired as staff accompanist at MTSU and the Middle Tennessee Choral Society after 28 years of service.

She is a private piano teacher since 1969 with state and national certification and attaining a permanent Certificate of Achievement, is church pianist since 1979, and is a board member of the Murfreesboro Symphony Orchestra.

She and husband, Matt Ward, have been married 53 years and have two sons, Jeff of Murfreesboro and Tony (deceased), along with seven grandchildren.

In Memory—Ruth Gibson Thomas

Ruth Gibson Thomas, a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music, was a founding members of TMTA and AMTA. As State Auditions Coordinator for 25 years, she helped establish audition criteria and write the Musicianship Tests. She served as president of TMTA and of her local associations, AMTA and SMMTA. She was a TMTA Teacher of the Year and a Distinguished Service Award recipient. Thomas was an Assistant Professor of Music at Tusculum College for 25 years. A lover of madrigal singing groups, she founded the Greater Greeneville Chorale which she directed for 26 years. She was honored as an MTNA Fellow in 2010, and received the Tusculum College President's Award in 2012. She was an accomplished pianist and accompanist, and taught piano, organ, voice and violin. She was also a wife and mom, a surrogate mother, a mentor, a good sport and a wonderful cook. Ruth passed away July 23, 2015, after several years of declining health. She will be truly missed. Her beautiful smile, kind words, and cheerful greetings will linger in the hearts of all who knew her. Memorials may be made to the TMTA Endowment Scholarship Fund in memory of Ruth G. Thomas, c/o Beth Cormier, 500 Elmgton Ave., #321, Nashville, TN 37205.



🎵 TAKE NOTE! 🎵

Opportunities for Scholarships and Grants from MTNA

Apply for **Local Association of the Year** by simply submitting an application on the MTNA website. The winning local association will receive a check in the amount of \$1,000 to help further the current budget of the local. Local associations must fill out the online application by **November 2, 2015**.

Collegiate chapter advisors: please note that your chapter can apply on the MTNA website for the **MTNA Collegiate Chapter of the Year Award**. The winning chapter will receive \$500. Materials must be submitted by **November 2, 2015**.

MTNA members age 26 or younger by March 1, 2016, are eligible to apply for the **Mary Sue Harris Studio Teacher Fellowship Award**. Make sure to pass this on to those eligible for this \$3,000 grant, presented annually to a recently graduated independent teacher who demonstrates commitment to the music teaching profession and outstanding studio development. Applications are due **November 2, 2015**.

PTG Scholarships are financial-assistance grants, provided by the Piano Technicians Guild and the Piano Technicians Guild Foundation, presented to a nationally certified MTNA member for furthering one's teaching skills through continued education and/or performance study. Applications are due **November 2, 2015**.

COMING MARCH 2016!

We want to support summer camps around the state by offering a complete listing of camp opportunities in the March Newsletter each year. Simply send your camp info to the Newsletter Editor by the February 15 deadline to be included in the listing. It will be a wonderful and easy way to advertise your camps to other teachers around the state!



Be sure to "like" the Tennessee Music Teachers Association Facebook page and visit often! Here you can stay up-to-date with state association announcements and catch great teaching articles from around the internet. Local association members are also encouraged to post updates, events and chapter news!

Jane Magrath Workshop in Jackson

West Tennessee Music Teachers Association invites you to a Jane Magrath workshop on Saturday, October 17 in Hartley Recital in Jennings Hall on the Union University campus in Jackson. Registration starts at 8:45 a.m., and the workshop concludes at 3:45 p.m. Magrath will present four sessions.

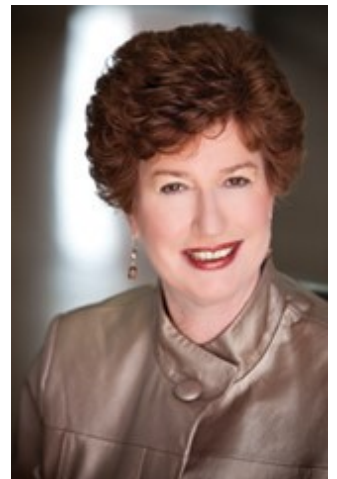
Presenting Elementary Classics: Quick and concise ways to prepare selected late elementary and early intermediate classics for student success in the coming lessons.

Fresh Classics: Motivating Students while Finding Meaning. Invigorating classics to motivate students will be presented along with teaching suggestions that can be applied to much of the classical teaching literature. A focus is on teaching to find the meaning in the music for both student and audience.

Video Performances: The Intermediate Student as Transfer. This session is presented with the aid of a video presentation of piano students performing. Student performances discussed exhibit typical (but not-so-easy to fix) technical problems and musical problems. Potential solutions and ramifications of the problems will also be discussed.

Master class: Dr. Magrath will work with students on standard teaching repertoire.

There is no fee for the workshop. For further information contact Terry McRoberts at tmcrober@uu.edu or 731 661-5232.



TAKE NOTE!

Violettes Youth Songwriter Contest and Composition Competition

Now in its third year, the Violettes Youth Songwriter Contest and Composition Competition offers a great opportunity for young composers and songwriters to receive feedback and encouragements from music professionals.

- Submit on-line. Score and recording required (MP-3 or You Tube).
- Students ages 10 thru 18 (Grade 12) are eligible for entry
- Two separate divisions: Songwriter and Composition. Each is divided into 2 age groups - 10-13 and 14-18.
- Register first by Dec. 15, then submit by Feb. 14, 2016.

For guidelines, registration and prizes, see www.ViolettesbyBecky.com.
Violettes by Becky is a Musical Instrument Shaped Purse and Gig Bag Gifts Company

TMTA Directory Handbook

Please use the link below to access our online directory:



<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1yj9t6bEsrVWJGZjJ3Z1ZyVGs/view?usp=sharing>



TTU Young Artist Piano Competition

Saturday, October 24, 2015

Applications may be found on the
 TTU Music Department website:
<https://www.tntech.edu/education/music/>

Application deadline is September 30, 2015

Online Musicianship Manual

Access the Musicianship Manual and (later) the Directory on our website by entering your MTNA Member Number when prompted for a password.



Ruth Thomas Memorial and Endowment Fund Update

The memorial fund for Ruth Thomas has grown to \$975 from gifts from only eight people.. We feel confident that many more will contribute after the fall teaching season begins and fall meetings begin. These gifts will increase the Endowment Fund, while adding honor to Ruth for her many contributions to the auditions process and the development of Tennessee music teaching through the growth of TMTA and local organizations.

The TMTA Scholarship Awards Endowment Fund is growing slowly, but the awards are also growing in number and the cost for students to enter the competition is still high. The fall entrance fee is \$80 for juniors, \$110 for high school and \$120 for college. The commitment of time for teachers is really large, and both teachers and families think carefully before choosing to enter. Their commitment includes the requirement to travel to divisional competition if they win at state. This raises the cost for students. The TMTA awards are \$150 for juniors, \$200 for high school and \$300 for college.

As students and teachers make that decision by Wednesday, September 16th, I hope that you will also decide to underwrite the awards as well as you can. The success of Tennessee students will inspire more Tennessee students to work for growth. The investment of the Endowment Fund income is well-supported by the Community Foundation but it will not keep up with the cost of increasing the awards beyond the amount that has been in place since 2007. - Beth Cormier, Endowment Fund Chair

TMTA/MTNA Competition FAQs

- 1.) When are applications due for the fall TMTA Adult/Collegiate competitions and the MTNA competitions?
The deadline for entries is 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Wednesday, September 16, 2015.
- 2.) May we enter our students by mail?
No. All TMTA competition applications must be made online at the TMTA website and all MTNA applications must be made on the MTNA website. All must be made on time as the process for each shuts down promptly at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time on September 16. Please allow plenty of time to complete your entries. Do not wait until the last day.
Online applications are now open!
- 3.) What changes have taken place this year with MTNA Auditions?
Young Artist Piano award is now a cash prize
Third place awards have been reinstated with a cash prize of \$300
Elementary Composition second prize has been raised to \$400
Teacher Awards have been eliminated
- 4.) May I wait and pay my MTNA dues after I enter my students?
No. Your 2015–2016 MTNA membership dues must be paid prior to completing the application to avoid being assessed the non-member fee.
- 5.) Where may I get complete information about the MTNA auditions?
For information about the MTNA Competitions, [click here](#).
- 6.) Where may I get complete information about the TMTA Adult/Collegiate competitions?
For information about the TMTA Competitions, go to [click here](#).



Moments from the State Conference:

Top left: Soovin Kim and Gloria Chien perform

Top Right: Soovin Kim poses with student participants following the String Masterclass

Left: Chattanooga Area Collegiate Chapter Members pose with advisor Olivia Ellis.

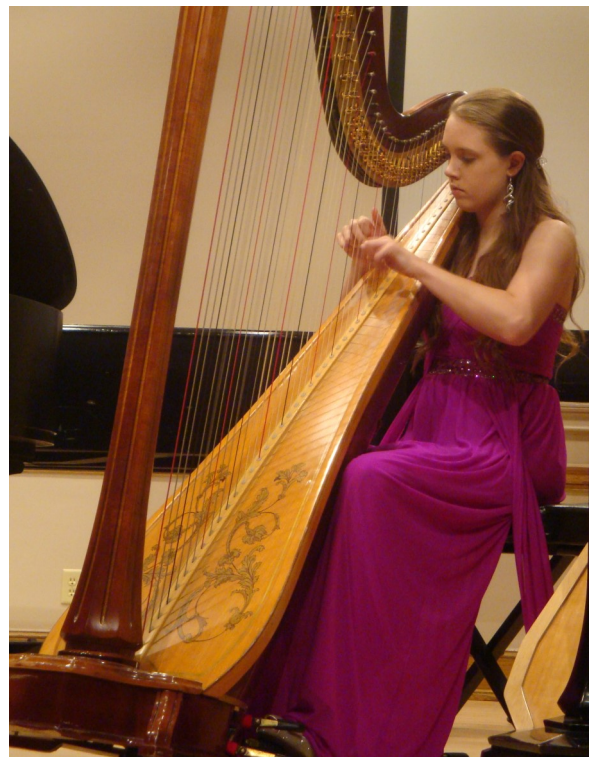
2015 TMTA STATE COMPETITIONS

Full competition results, photos and Honors Recital programs from the June 2015 Competitions may be found on our website.

<http://www.tnmta.org/competitions-auditions.html>



Winners (L to R): Jie Wang—Grade 7 Solo Piano, Ethan Li—Grade 6 Solo Piano, Marissa Liu—Elementary Piano Concerto, HongKam Chan and JengYee Chan—Elementary Piano Ensemble, JengYee Chan—Grade 5 Solo Piano, Dannie Dong—Grade 3 Solo Piano



*Samantha Schrecker
Senior Harp Winner*



*Sean Yang
Grade 8 Piano Solo Winner*



Winners (L to R): Caitlin Brown—Senior Voice, Samantha Schrecker—Senior Harp, Daniel Choo—Senior String Solo, Jacob Martin—Grade 12 Piano, Mayuki Miyashita—Senior Piano Concerto



Performers pose following Honors Recital at the State Competitions in June



*Dannie Dong
Grade 3 Solo Piano Winner*

Tennessee Music Teachers Association
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DATES & DEADLINES

November 13 –14, 2015

TMTA/MTNA Competitions
MTSU—Murfreesboro, TN

April 2-6, 2016

MTNA National Conference
San Antonio, TX

June 4-7, 2016

TMTA State Competitions and Conference, Vanderbilt University
Nashville, TN

August 5-6, 2016

National Group Piano and Piano Pedagogy Forum
Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio

Complete listing of Executive Board
Officers and Committee Chairs
available on our website.

www.tnmta.org

MTNA Website and Contact

www.mtna.org
Toll free: 1-888-512-5278

March 18-22, 2017

MTNA National Conference
Baltimore, Maryland

June 3-6, 2017

TMTA State Competition and
Conference UT– Martin

**Future State Conference
Dates and Locations**

2018 Johnson City
2019 Murfreesboro
2020 Memphis
2021 Knoxville
2022 Jackson