

TENNESSEE MUSIC TEACHER

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2017 TMTA CONFERENCE PREVIEW



Alan Chow



Alvin Chow



Dr. Jane Magrath

TMTA's 2017 conference and competitions will be held June 3-6 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Elementary and junior piano competitions will be held Saturday, June 3. Senior piano and all chamber, vocal, and instrumental competitions will be held Sunday, June 4. Conference events will be held Monday and Tuesday, June 5 and 6. Conference artists are Alan Chow of Northwestern University and Alvin Chow of Oberlin. Our clinician will be Dr. Jane Magrath from the University of Oklahoma.

Alan Chow, a Steinway artist, has performed in recital and in concert with orchestras from coast to coast in 45 states. He won First Prize in the Concert Artists Guild International Competition, was a prizewinner in the William Kapell International Piano Competition, and received the Silver medal and Audience Favorite Prize at the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition.

Alvin Chow is currently Chair of the Piano Department and the Ruth Strickland Gardner Professor of Music at Oberlin Conservatory. He has appeared throughout North America and in Asia as an orchestral soloist and recitalist. In addition, he has performed extensively in duo-piano recitals with his wife, Angela Cheng, and his twin brother, Alan.

Dr. Jane Magrath is an author, clinician, and pianist. Her book *The Pianist's Guide to Standard Teaching and Performance Literature* is a classic reference work for pianists, and she currently has more than thirty-five volumes published with Alfred Publishing. She holds the Grant Endowed Chair in Piano Pedagogy at the University of Oklahoma where she serves as Director of Piano Pedagogy.

Conference Lodging Information

We have contracted with the Hampton Inn at 5575 Skyhawk Parkway for a special rate of \$114 plus tax per night for June 2-5. This includes parking and breakfast. A small block of rooms is being held for us through May 2. You may make your reservation anytime by calling the hotel directly (731-587-5800) or the toll free number 1-(800)-HILTONS. Please ask for the TMTA group block rate.

Call for Conference Participation

Deadline: February 1, 2017

New Faculty Recital

One of the conference events will be a recital by new faculty members. TMTA members who became new college faculty members during the 2015-2016 or 2016-2017 academic years are invited to perform on this recital. Please contact co-chairs Elaine Harriss (elaineh@utm.edu) and Linda Farmer (linspell@hotmail.com) with your name, school, piece, and timing by February 1.

Proposals for Presentation

TMTA members are invited to submit proposals for a presentation at the conference. The submission deadline is February 1.

- Sessions are limited to 45 minutes.
- Proposers must communicate with all co-presenters/panelists regarding their interest and availability prior to submitting a proposal. Proposals which do not list all participants will not be considered
- Proposers must submit their own work and may not submit proposals on behalf of their students or others.
- All persons whose work is selected for inclusion on the program are expected to register for and attend the full conference.
- Proposers agree to present on either day of the conference should their proposal be accepted. TMTA does not fund any expenses of accepted presenters.
- Electronic submissions are required. Email proposals to conference co-chairs Elaine Harriss (elaineh@utm.edu) and Linda Farmer (linspell@hotmail.com)
- Complete proposals are to include the following:
 - proposal title, format, and area of specialty
 - an abstract not exceeding 250 words
 - a list of all personnel involved in the presentation with a biography of each person involved (250-word maximum per person)
 - a list of required equipment

Proposers will be notified by February 15, 2016.

****Submissions that do not conform to the above guidelines will not be considered.****

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

March 18-22, 2017

MTNA National Conference
Baltimore, Maryland

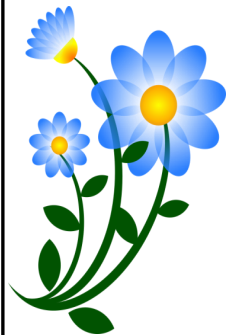
June 3-6, 2017

TMTA State Competition and
Conference UT- Martin



In Memory...

We are saddened to learn that Sin-Hsing Tsai has passed away after an extended illness. She will be greatly missed by her many friends in TMTA, CMTA, and her students and colleagues at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, where she was the UC Foundation Professor of Music. The annual Piano Arts Festival at UTC, March 3-5, 2017, will be in her honor. Chih-Long Hu will perform a benefit concert for the UTC piano program, and ChoEun Lee of Lee University will teach a collaborative master class. There will also be a faculty recital and a student piano ensemble recital.





Letter from President Dr. Melissa K. Rose

We had a wonderful competition weekend at TN Tech in Cookeville, with more than 90 entrants. Congratulations to the students and their teachers! Many thanks to Catherine Godes for making the arrangements and hosting us, and to Adam Clark, Elaine Harriss, ChiHee Hwang, Arunesh Nadgir, Esther Park, and Jerome Reed, who coordinated the competitions and made everything run so smoothly. Check out tnmta.org for the list of winners—let's wish them the best at Southern Division in January.

At the November board meeting we discussed ways to welcome new members and engage our current members. Do you have new members this year? Perhaps they need a mentor! As we enter the busy season of local competitions, reach out and help them with navigating the process. Upcoming board meetings will include conversations about supporting professional development for our younger members. Feel free to send me any ideas you might have.

Around the state, our student chapters and local associations have had a busy fall. A few highlights:

The Carson-Newman University chapter had 8 new members join this year. They are raising funds with a bake sale and recital so that they can attend the MTNA Collegiate Pedagogy Symposium in Jacksonville, Florida.

Bryan collegiate members went to the St. Peter Basilica for a tour and an instructional class on pipe organs given by Andrea Tierney, CMTA member. Some collegiate members are planning to begin the process of applying for national certification.

The University of Memphis chapter welcomed several new members this year. Eight graduate and undergraduate students participated in Piano Weekend in mid-October.

The UTK Student Chapter is fund raising to send several students to the 2017 MTNA National Conference. A Chapter Recital in Powell Recital Hall was an outreach event for the Joy of Music School.

The Vanderbilt collegiate chapter kicked off the year's events with a faculty panel discussion on how to begin teaching and take on students; they are currently planning a resume workshop and a job fair.

CMTA enjoyed a focus on collaborative music this fall with a chamber music master class in October and a duo concert in November.

GMMTA: President-Elect, Laura Triplett, presented "What Do You Do with an Idea?" Recitals this fall included Monster Mash, Honorary Members, and Christmas.

KMTA's October meeting featured Stepp and Stepp Certified Public Accountants. Members were encouraged to send in their tax questions before the meeting.

MAMTA held the fall festival with approximately 60 piano, vocal, and violin students, as well as a workshop for area piano teachers and advanced students: "Scales Are NOT Fun!" presented by Elaine Harriss.

MTMTA's fall events included a presentation on "Teaching Musicianship throughout Technique" given by Dr. Adam Clark, a student recital, and their first PianoFest, which focused on sonata and sonatina repertoire.

NAMTA hosted a workshop and masterclass by Marvin Blickenstaff in September, and in November, the annual FallFest, an opportunity for students to play one piece for a judge.

SMMTA's upcoming events include Kim McGee, SMMTA member, in a presentation on use of arm weight and another program presented by a massage therapist.

I encourage you to share your events on TMTA Facebook. Find us through the link at tnmta.org. Let others throughout the state know what you are doing! And if you have news for the website, send it to Cahill Smith (csmith@leeuniversity.edu).

I wish all of you a joyous and peaceful holiday season.

Membership Matters

Let me congratulate you on the fact that our membership is higher than it was at this time last year. We have a real opportunity to end the year with more members than last year. Let's be a welcoming organization, and reach out to prospective members. In order to be of value to our current and prospective members, we need to give them something of value and communicate with them in a way that meets their needs and expectations. The following ideas were presented in a mailing from Karen Thickett to State Membership Chairs, and I would be happy to forward her message with you if you desire.

We serve four different generations of members. As we examine ways to recruit and retain members, it is important to note what the different generations expect and want from our organization. Members of all ages are interested in our Code of Ethics, and three of the four generations we service are interested in credentials and gaining knowledge about the industry. Be ready to speak about all three of these areas when sharing with potential members the value of our association.

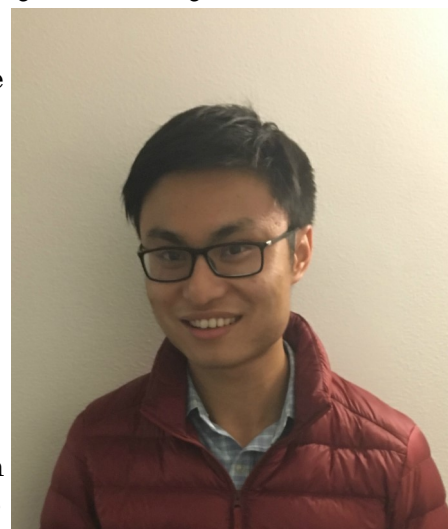
Members of different generations have different communication preferences. All generations now find e-mail to be important. Members born from 1946 through the present desire to gain information from the webpage, and want to receive regular updates, while those born in 1945 and before want to know the big news. Direct mail is less important to those born after 1981.

Let's be aware of the needs and preferences about our different generations of members, and find ways to reach them all.

Terry McRoberts, Membership Chair

Where Are They Now? - Ryan Liu

Ryan Liu lives in San Francisco and is a software engineer at Google working in Search Infrastructure. Prior to joining Google, Ryan attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he earned his Bachelor's degree with a double major in Mathematics and Computer Science. While at MIT, he studied piano with David Deveau under MIT's Emerson Music Fellow-



ship. In 2013, Ryan was awarded the Ragnar and Margaret Naess Certificate of Distinction for exceptional talent and commitment to piano performance. In 2012, Ryan was featured as a soloist with the Brookline Symphony, performing Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2. Ryan is still practicing piano quite seriously and is heavily involved with the Chamber Music and Orchestral community at Google. While growing up in Tennessee, Ryan studied with Rachel Acuff (KMTA).

Contact Deane Gray (deanegray@gmail.com) with names of students you would like to see featured in this section



would reach our goal.

Is your chapter participating in the corporate challenge? It is amazing to see how businesses respond if you ask. The NAMTA chapter has received pledges for contributions from UBS Financial Services and the Steinway Gallery for \$3,500.

As members of TMTA, we can feel good about helping students. Do you know that since 1991, we have awarded 602 students \$63,281? We awarded \$480 in June. However, we are allowed to withdraw only 5% of the total in our Endowment funds each year. Some years we have needed more than 5% to grant awards to the winners of our spring and fall competitions. All investments tend to fluctuate, and even though our funds are invested in conservative funds, a cushion in the endowment would ensure that we will continue to be able to award students at the current rate, which hasn't changed since 2007. We had originally hoped to provide larger awards to the students, particularly in November, to cover the cost of travel to the regional and national competitions for winning students.

Valerie Middleton, TMTA Endowment Fund, Chair

TAMMY BENSON MOVES TO BIRMINGHAM

CMTA is losing a beloved teacher and friend. On December 16, Tammy Benson will move to Birmingham with her husband Paul to be closer to their children and grandchildren. She began her long teaching career at age 16. "I plan to continue teaching in Birmingham—might quit at 86—that would be 70 years!!" Tammy has also taught in Texas, Florida, Guantanamo Bay Cuba, and Maryville.

While in Chattanooga, she has served as pianist in four local churches, and helped start the School of Fine Arts at Ridgedale Baptist Church. She has been a private studio teacher at Ridgedale since 1998. Her students have regularly earned superior ratings in CMTA and TMTA Auditions, as well as superior ratings in Guild Auditions, with 12 High School Diploma winners. She has also had numerous winners in the UTC Piano Arts Competition, the CMTA Summer Camp and College Scholarship Competitions, the Chattanooga Music Club Scholarship Competition, and the TFMC State Competition.

Tammy earned a B.S. degree in piano performance at the University of Florida and holds national certification in MTNA. She has held many leadership positions in CMTA including President, Vice-President, Historian, State Conference Chair, and Pianorama Chair 1994-2016 (she was involved in Pianorama for 30 years!). She was named CMTA Teacher of the Year in 1998 and is a member of the National Guild of Piano Teachers Hall of Fame. She chaired the Festival 2005-2014 and was President of the Scenic City Senior Music Club 2005-2014.

Tammy has had a diverse musical career as judge, master teacher, school and theater accompanist, choral and octet singer, musical production accompanist/director, minister of music, composer, and children's musical production director.

Tammy, thank you for your outstanding teaching, mentoring of young teachers, and dynamic leadership. We will miss you!!

Sigrid Luther, NCTM
CMTA Immediate Past President



Eleventh Annual TTU Young Artist Piano Competition

The eleventh annual TTU Young Artist Piano Competition was held on Saturday, September 24 in Wattenbarger Auditorium. Fifteen high school pianists competed for 4 cash awards given by local donors. The event was sponsored by Cookeville Pediatric and Adolescent Center. Judging the competition was Arunesh Nadgir, Professor of Piano at MTSU, Agnes Wan, Steinway Artist and Professor of Piano at William and Mary College in Virginia, and Paul Thurmond, Professor of Collaborative Piano at TTU. The Competition was started eleven years ago by Dr.

Catherine Godes, Professor of Piano at TTU, and Dr. SK Ballal, Biology Professor at TTU. Designed to encourage young pianists in the region, the event fosters artistic excellence and gives the students the opportunity to mature as performing artists. The winner of the competition was Jimmy Liu, a student of Dr. Esther Park; the runner up was Daniel Hosny, a student of Dr. Jerome Reed. The third place winner was Mary Nerren, a student of Esther Park; the fourth place winner was Danielle McInturff, a student of Jama Reagan. Donors contributing cash awards were: Dr. S.K. Ballal, Dr. Rodney Carlson; Mr. Chris McCall, and Mrs. Hope High. For more information about this competition, please contact Dr. Catherine Godes: cgodes@tntech.edu



Upcoming Competition Opportunities

For a comprehensive listing of competition, masterclass, and camp opportunities, visit our website at www.tnmta.org/links.html

Competition Opportunities at Tennessee State University

James A Hefner HBCU Piano Competition

Saturday, April 8, 2017
TSU Performing Arts Center

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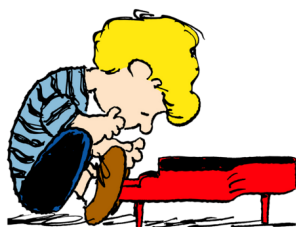
#### 3rd Annual John Wesley Work, III High School Piano Competition

Saturday, April 8, 2017  
Applications Due: March 17, 2017

Requirements:

- 1) At A Certain Church by John Wesley Work, III (memorization not required)
  - 2) Any composition of choice lasting no longer than 5 minutes. (memorization required)
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For more information: visit  
[www.tnstate.edu.music](http://www.tnstate.edu.music)



### Nashville Symphony Curb Concerto Competition

Hosted by the Nashville Symphony, this instrumental competition is held to promote, encourage, and support young musicians in the state of Tennessee. It is open to classically trained, instrumental music students ages 14 -18. Students who play woodwind, brass, string, piano, and percussion instruments are eligible to apply. In addition to the cash prize, the grand prize winner will be considered for a performance as soloist at the Nashville Symphony's free Side-by-Side Concert.

Round 1: Saturday, February 25, 2017, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Round 2: Sunday, February 26, 2017, from 1-5 p.m.

For guidelines, repertoire requirements, and registration information, please visit: <https://www.nashvillesymphony.org/education/curb-concerto-competition>

### Violettes Youth Songwriter Contest and Composition Competition

This competition offers a great opportunity for young composers and songwriters to receive feedback and encouragements from music professionals.

- Submit written composition and recording online by February 14, 2017
- Students ages 10 thru 18 (Grade 12) are eligible for entry
- The competition has 2 separate divisions Songwriter and Composition. Each is divided into 2 age groups - 10 thru 14 and 15 thru 18.
- \$15 Entry Fee

For full list of details, visit: <http://www.violettesbybecky.com/blog/composition-competition-songwriter>

### FALL COMPETITIONS REPORT



The 2016 Fall Performance Competitions for Tennessee were held November 11-12 in the Bryan Fine Arts Center at Tennessee Tech in Cookeville. There were 91 entrants in the MTNA competitions and 11 entrants in TMTA's collegiate competitions. Chairs for the various categories were Dr. Ester Park for Chamber, Vocal, and Instrumental, Dr. Arunesh Nadgir for Young Artist Piano and TMTA Collegiate Piano, Dr. Chihee Hwang for Senior Piano, and Dr. Adam Clark for Junior Piano. Local chair for arrangements was Dr. Catherine Godes, professor of piano at TTU. The composition competition was held earlier in the fall and was chaired by Dr. Jerome Reed.

Full competition results and photos will be available on the TMTA website soon!

