

TENNESSEE MUSIC TEACHER

Published by the Tennessee Music Teachers Association, an affiliate of the Music Teachers National Association
www.tnmta.org

March, 2017

Vol. 43, No. 1

2017 TMTA CONFERENCE



TMTA's 2017 conference will be held Monday and Tuesday, June 5 and 6 at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Conference artists are Alan Chow of Northwestern University and Alvin Chow of the Oberlin Conservatory. 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 is available at the Hampton Inn, 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 TMTA 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.

Complete conference information will be available in the next newsletter.



Letter from President Dr. Melissa K. Rose

The blooming daffodils in my yard remind me that we are heading quickly into spring, a season full of long but rewarding days devoted to preparing students for auditions and recitals. If you are ready for some fresh ideas and professional development, I hope you will join your colleagues at the upcoming MTNA and TMTA conferences in Baltimore and Martin!

At its January meeting, the TMTA board approved two new initiatives to encourage and support our newer members. The first is a rebate of state dues for one year for first-time members—be sure to spread the word in your area. Under the second initiative two \$150 grants are available for members who have been in TMTA for fewer than five years to attend the June conference in Martin. If you are interested in applying, please see the details in this newsletter, or contact your local association president for more information.

Thanks to the wonderful efforts of our local associations across the state, the 'Thirty for Thirty' campaign raised \$9,330 for the TMTA Scholarship Awards Endowment Fund. This allows an additional \$450 to be awarded to our students each year. In order to preserve the general fund (we may only withdraw 5% annually) and avoid the shortfalls we have experienced for several years, the board voted to return to the original purpose of the awards, which is to reimburse the winners of the Tennessee competitions who incur travel expenses while advancing in the MTNA competitions process. The TMTA Carrie E. Warrick Memorial Fund will continue to provide the award for the 9th-grade TMTA winner. In MTNA foundation fund news, a gift of \$226,185 was recently received from the estate of Dr. Thomas Ediger, the largest single gift in the 140-year history of MTNA.

Congratulations to our students who will represent TN at the national competitions in Baltimore:

Elementary Composition Winner – Dannie Dong (Judith Fairchild, teacher)
Junior String Winner – David Lugo (Miroslav Hristov, teacher)
Junior Woodwind Winner – Jaime Kim (Myung Kim, teacher)
Senior Piano Duet Winner – Mary Nerren and Jimmy Liu (Esther Park, teacher)
Young Artist String Winner – Mary Grace Johnson (Cornelia Heard, teacher)
Chamber Music String Winner – Claudius Quartet (Cornelia Heard, teacher)

I hope to see you at the conferences in March and June. Best wishes for a wonderful spring!

Melissa

June 2017 TMTA State Competition Information

The 2017 TMTA State Competitions will be at the University of Tennessee at Martin Fine Arts Building, Saturday, June 3, and Sunday, June 4. Elementary Piano (grades K-5) and Junior Piano (Grades 6-8) competitions will be on Saturday. Senior Piano (grades 9-12) and all vocal and instrumental competitions will be on Sunday.

State Competition Fees:

| | | | | | |
|------------------|------|------------|------|-----------|-------------------|
| Elementary Solo: | \$30 | *Concerto: | \$30 | Ensemble: | \$30 per ensemble |
| Junior Solo: | \$35 | *Concerto: | \$35 | Ensemble: | \$35 per ensemble |
| Senior Solo: | \$40 | *Concerto: | \$40 | Ensemble: | \$40 per ensemble |

To enter the state concerto competition, student must also enter the state solo competition.

Please note that there will be an administrative fee of \$3.00 for each application. There will also be a non-member teacher fee charged as applicable.

Requirements and regulations for the competitions are in the most recent revision of the TMTA Auditions Syllabus which is on the TMTA website. Teachers may find the Syllabus on the TMTA Competitions page under the heading, "TMTA Auditions and Competitions Syllabus @ August 1, 2014." Hard copies may be purchased from Competition Syllabus Chair, Barbara Hildebrand. Teachers are responsible for following the information in the Auditions and Competitions Syllabus, including approved composers and the quality of literature expected for these competitions.

Applications may be submitted beginning April 1 and will only be accepted electronically through the TMTA website. Completed applications and fees for the spring state competitions must be submitted by 11:59 p.m., May 1, 2017. Teachers are encouraged to complete their students' entries or to supervise them very closely to insure accuracy. No entries or changes in repertoire are accepted after that time.

The TMTA Executive Board is pleased to announce the organization will be awarding **two \$150 grants** to help defray expenses to the state conference in June. Those applying for a grant must be in their first five years of regular TMTA membership. The full amount of the grant must be used towards expenses for the June 3-6 conference at UT-Martin. The deadline for submission is Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at noon CST. The recipients will be announced by April 1st.

Please submit the following information by email to the committee (reply all):

- * Have you ever attended a state or national conference?
- * Do you attend local TMTA meetings?
- * Do you enter students in local TMTA competitions?
- * Do you enter students in state TMTA competitions?
- * What instrument(s) do you teach?
- * How many students do you currently teach?
- * What level students do you teach?
- * List memberships in other professional music organizations.
- * Have you held any positions in your local MTA or other professional music organizations?
- * Have you given any presentations to music organizations or in the schools?

The committee thanks you in advance. Best wishes to all.

Rachel Acuff - racuffribble@hotmail.com

Jerilyn Paolini - PAOLINI@mail.etsu.edu

Karen Ann Krieger - karen.a.krieger@vanderbilt.edu

PLANNING AHEAD.....

March 18-22, 2017

MTNA National Conference
Baltimore, Maryland

November 17-18, 2017

TMTA/MTNA Competitions & Board Meeting
Lipscomb University, Nashville

March 17-21, 2018

MTNA National Conference
Orlando, Florida

August 3-4, 2018

MTNA National Group Piano & Piano Pedagogy Forum
Oberlin, Ohio

June 2019

TMTA State Competitions and Conference
MTSU, Murfreesboro

June 3-6, 2017

TMTA State Competition and Conference
UT- Martin

January 13-15, 2018

MTNA Southern Division Competitions
Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA

June 2018

TMTA State Competitions and Conference
ETSU, Johnson City

March 16-20, 2019

MTNA National Conference
Spokane, Washington

March 21-25, 2020

MTNA National Conference
Chicago, Illinois

Where Are They Now? - Ellen Sizemore



A native of Greeneville, Tennessee, Ellen Sizemore graduated from Greeneville High School in 2004. She studied voice with David Hendricksen, piano with Ruth Thomas, and theater with Marilyn DuBrisk. Ellen graduated from Furman University in 2008 with a double major in Music and Religion. She studied voice with Gail Schoonmaker and piano (briefly) with Derek Parsons. Ellen was fortunate to study opera abroad in Arezzo, Italy, in the fall of 2006. She soloed in several concerts and recitals at Furman, including singing "Rejoice Greatly" in the 2007 performance of Handel's *Messiah*.

In 2012, Ellen completed both a Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts in Counseling degrees at Wake Forest University. During her counseling internship, she served at the North Carolina School of the Arts working with students who were studying drama, visual art, music, film, and more.

Since graduating Wake Forest, Ellen has worked at Meridian Behavioral Health Services, which is based in rural western North Carolina. Within Meridian, Ellen serves as the Team Leader at the Recovery Education Center in Brevard, NC. Ellen supervises a team of clinicians and peer support specialists to help clients gain skills important to their recovery. Ellen has traveled to local county jails to facilitate a women's recovery group focused on criminal and addictive behaviors.

Ellen lives in Asheville with her husband, Joe. She loves running and eating at all the eclectic restaurants in Asheville. She occasionally does vocal solo work for local churches and has been involved with musical productions since studying at Furman at Wake Forest University, Winston Salem Symphony Chorale, Piedmont Opera productions, and the Asheville Symphony Chorus.

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



Teacher of the Year Submissions

Local teacher of the year honorees who would like to be considered for the state honor need to submit their bios and/or CVs and 2-3 letters of recommendation via email to Alayne Griffin (alaynes88keys@gmail.com) no later than **May 1**.

The areas of evaluation, according to MTNA guidelines are:

Educational preparation (25)

- Basic training
- Continuing education

Reputation as an effective teacher (25)

- Students participation and ratings in auditions (TMTA and others)
- Achievements of students and former students in performance and teaching

General professional activity (30)

- TMTA participation
- Certification
- Other professional activity

Service to community and state as musician and teacher (20)

Upcoming 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)

### Belmont Piano Invitational

June 11 – 16, 2017

A summer camp for high school students studying classical or jazz piano, featuring daily private lessons, classes, group clinics, concerts and more. For more information, visit

[http://www.belmont.edu/music/summer\\_programs/piano\\_camp.html](http://www.belmont.edu/music/summer_programs/piano_camp.html)

or contact Kristian Klefstad at [Kristian.klefstad@belmont.edu](mailto:Kristian.klefstad@belmont.edu).

### Carson-Newman's 20th Annual Summer Piano Camp

June 19-24, 2017

- Open to students in grades 8-12 playing intermediate or advanced literature.
- In addition to private lessons and daily master classes, students receive instruction in theory, technique, ensemble playing, and piano literature.

For more information, please visit [www.cn.edu/smc](http://www.cn.edu/smc) or contact Ryan Fogg at [rfogg@cn.edu](mailto:rfogg@cn.edu).

