

# TENNESSEE MUSIC TEACHER

Published by the Tennessee Music Teachers Association, an affiliate of the Music Teachers National Association  
[www.tnmta.org](http://www.tnmta.org)

September 2017

Vol. 43, No. 4

## 2017 TMTA CONFERENCE



This past June, TMTA members and their students attended the 2017 State Conference and Competitions at the University of Tennessee at Martin. They enjoyed a concert by guest artists Alan and Alvin Chow, duo pianists, presentations on teaching repertoire by conference clinician Dr. Jane Magrath, and masterclasses by all three. Additional sessions included techniques for teaching scales, physical problems for musicians, students with special needs, and piano maintenance presented by TMTA members and guests. Plan now to attend the 2018 State Conference at East Tennessee State University June 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>!

Thank you to the members of MAMTA for your work in making the conference so informative and enjoyable!



Masterclass with Dr. Jane Magrath



Conference Luncheon

# Congratulations!



Thank you for honoring me with the Distinguished Service Award. Everything I have done in service to TMTA has been accomplished because I was never alone - help, advice, a second pair of eyes was only an email (or, when desperate, a phone call) away. It has been a privilege to become friends with, to learn from and to work with the incredible members of TMTA. Life is short and time is precious. I

think back on those who served before me, Ruth Thomas, Dorothy Mahaffy and all the other competition chairs who did everything with pencil and paper, and there was no doubt in my mind that we should let computers do the work whenever possible.

Thank you!"-Deane Gray



Margaret Ann Randolph has been an MTNA member for 45 years, during which time she has given selflessly and tirelessly at both the local and state level. Margaret is a highly respected and sought-after solo performer, accompanist, duo-pianist, organist, choirmaster, and teacher. In all of the capacities in which she serves, she brings an enthusiasm, dedication, and innovative spirit that stems from her warm personality, her modest demeanor, and her

wide musical experience. Margaret teaches with empathy and complete professionalism, training students to play at the highest possible level with refinement and sensitivity. Her love and passion for music has touched and changed the lives of her colleagues and her students' families. TMTA is proud to honor Margaret Ann Randolph as the 2017 Teacher of the Year.



## 2017 TMTA competition winners

For competitions results and more photos, please visit our webpage: <http://www.tnmta.org/competitions-auditions.html>.



## Where are they now?

### Rachel Hahn

Rachel Hahn (Menschner), NCTM is a second-year doctoral student and Coordinator of Group Piano at the University of Missouri in Columbia, MO. She graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance and a Concentration in Pedagogy from Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN) in 2014 and received her Master of Music degree in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from Southern Methodist University (Dallas, TX) in 2016. At UM, she teaches and develops curriculum for collegiate group piano and keyboard skills courses, undergraduate and graduate pedagogy, applied collegiate lessons, and community music programs. She also supervises graduate teaching assistants.



In 2017, *Clavier Companion* and *American Music Teacher* published Rachel's writing and she presented research at the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy (NCKP) and Missouri Music Educators Association (MMEA). Her research interests include piano curriculum development, non-profit music, classroom technology, and higher education. She is a current student of Dr. Wendy Sims and Dr. Janice Wenger, and former student of Professors Alfred Mouledous (SMU) and Karen Ann Krieger (VU). In addition to her undergraduate and graduate teaching appointments, Rachel has taught at the Missouri Fine Arts Academy (Springfield, MO), Pianos for People (St. Louis, MO), and W.O. Smith Community Music School (Nashville, TN). She also founded a piano outreach program taught by SMU graduate students in Dallas public schools.

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

# Message from President Jeri Paolini



## *Why?..... Because We Love!*

**Why** did I choose a recent selfie of my former teacher, Ruth Slenczynska, and myself? **Because** of her boundless love for teaching that she imparted to me. And as may be the case for all of you, our former and current music teachers are some of the most influential and inspirational figures in our lives.

**Why** be a member of MTNA/TMTA, and encourage others to join? **Because** we love our colleagues, our students and their families, and our commitment to making and sharing music. How lucky are we to be a part of this loving community!

**Why** am I the new president of TMTA? **Because** of all of the above! And as your president, I had better get down to some business! We have some retiring board members to thank and new board members to welcome. Many thanks to Luann Forell, for her years of service as Directory Editor; and Karen Caldwell, for her dedicated service as Newsletter Editor, as well as Ryan Fogg, interim Newsletter Editor. In their place we welcome Leigh Stringfield (AMTA) and Artina McCain (GMMTA), respectively. Other new board members include David Kovac (AMTA) and Art Haecker (AMTA), Co-Chairs of Chamber/Vocal/Instrumental Competitions, and President-elect, Kevin Richmond (GMMTA). And a big welcome to all of the new local presidents: Esther Park (AMTA); Katheron Latham (CMTA); Laura Triplett (GMMTA); Eunsuk Jung (KMTA); Veronica Douglas (MTMTA); and Sallye Zeringue (NAMTA). As a former local president of AMTA, I know the impact each local president has on the lifeblood of our organization. My goal this year is to create new avenues of communication between local presidents, for sharing ideas and providing mutual support.

Our fellow MTNA teachers, whose livelihoods have been devastated by the floodwaters of Hurricane Harvey in Texas, Louisiana, and other parts of the Southeast, need our help. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the MTNA Benevolence Fund, to help these music teachers re-establish their studios. To make a contribution, visit <https://www.mtnafoundation.org/mtna-benevolence-fund>.

MTNA/TMTA Fall Competition registration deadline is 3:00 p.m. EASTERN TIME, Wednesday, September 13. The Executive Board looks forward to seeing our teachers and their students at Lipscomb University in Nashville, November 17-18.

*Please stay in touch with your thoughts, suggestions, concerns, and best wishes for a most wonderful fall season!*

## Upcoming Competition and Masterclass Opportunities

### TTU Young Artist Piano Competition

The twelfth annual Tennessee Tech University Young Artist Piano Competition will be held on Saturday, October 7, 2017 in Wattenbarger Auditorium located in the Bryan Fine Arts Bldg. of Tennessee Tech. The competition is open to students grades 9-12.

Deadline is September 15.

For more info:

[www.tntech.edu/music](http://www.tntech.edu/music)

### University of Memphis Piano Competition and Festival

The Memphis Piano Festival will be held October 20th-22nd at the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music at the University of Memphis. It will feature two student competitions one for young musicians 11-17 and another for college students age 18 and up. Guest artists and University of Memphis piano faculty will present free workshops and concerts throughout the weekend.

Competition Registration Deadline: Oct. 5th

For registration, schedule and rules:

[Memphis.edu/pianofest](http://Memphis.edu/pianofest)

### The Healthy Musician

WTMTA is hosting a workshop titled, The Healthy Musician, presented by Gail Berenson on Saturday, October 21, 2017. Healthy ways of teaching, practicing, and performing will be explored, and a masterclass featuring these principles will conclude the day. The event will start at 9:00 a.m. and end at 4:00 p.m. in Hartley Hall on the Union University campus in Jackson, TN. This is a free workshop partially funded by a grant from the MTNA Foundation. Certificates for continuing education hours will be available. Contact: Terry McRoberts: [microber@uu.edu](mailto:microber@uu.edu)

### Piano Day at the "U"

will be held at Union University on Saturday, November 11 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. It is an intimate gathering for students currently in grades 9-12 interested in majoring in music at the college level. Each participant will have a short lesson with a member of the piano faculty, and short lectures will be presented on Preparing for College Theory and Savor the Silence. Preference given to reservations made by October 9, 2017. For more information contact Terry McRoberts: [tmicrober@uu.edu](mailto:tmicrober@uu.edu) 731 661 5232.



# MTNA Foundation Fellow Nominees

Rachel Acuff serves as adjunct instructor of piano and oboe at Maryville College and is also a long-time faculty member of the Suzuki Piano School of Knoxville.

She holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Oboe Performance and a Master of Music degree in Collaborative Piano from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Ms. Acuff received the Knoxville Music Teachers Association's Teacher of the Year award in both 2001 and 2012 and was named the Tennessee Music Teachers Association's Teacher of the Year in 2001. She has served on the TMTA board as IMTF Chair for the last six years and has presented many sessions for TMTA conferences and local TMTA chapters. She is a six-time recipient of the Governor's School of the Arts Outstanding Teacher Certificate. Over twenty of her students have been named state TMTA winners in both woodwind and piano areas and four of her students have represented the state of Tennessee at MTNA Southern Division



Sandy Triplett has a private piano studio in Germantown and teaches RMM adult classes at a local music store. Sandy is a member of Greater Memphis Music Teachers and has served two terms as president as well as holding many other positions in the group. Sandy was IMT chair for many years where she presented and facilitated IMT programs at state conferences and was delighted in meeting members from different locals. Sandy served as the Tennessee state representative for the National Music Link Program. "One of the highlights of my TMTA membership was when I served as president," says Triplett. "TMTA members and programs have influenced and guided me to be a better teacher and person. I am humbled and very grateful to be nominated as an MTNA fellow."

David Brunell's involvement with MTNA began when he won the MTNA national high school piano competition and performed Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 2 with orchestra at the MTNA national conference in Chicago in 1971. A member of TMTA for 25 years, he founded the first TMTA student chapter at UTK and has served for many years as TMTA state chair for student chapters. A previous president of KMTA, he has taught piano at UTK for 25 years. Obtaining MTNA "Master Teacher" certification in 1991, he also earned his D.M. degree with high distinction from Indiana University in 1984, and served as a United States Artistic Ambassador under President Ronald Reagan. He won 1st prize in the Beethoven Sonata competition sponsored by the Beethoven Club of Memphis, and 2nd prizes in the New Orleans, Young Keyboard Artists, and Louise D. McMahon International piano competitions. His students have won many competitions including the MTNA Southern Division collegiate piano competition and selection to NPR's From the Top radio program. He and his wife Jeanne are the parents of three grown children, Melanie, Laurel and Eric.



# TMTA/MTNA Competition FAQs

- 1. When and where will the fall 2017 TMTA Adult/Collegiate competitions and the 2017-2018 MTNA competitions be held?** They will be held Friday and Saturday, November 17 and 18, 2017, on the campus of David Lipscomb University in Nashville.
- 2. When are applications due for the fall 2017 TMTA Adult/Collegiate competitions and the 2017-2018 MTNA competitions?** The deadline for all performance entries is 3:00 p.m. EASTERN TIME, Wednesday, September 13, 2017.
- 3. Where may I apply for and get complete information about the MTNA auditions?** Please visit the MTNA Website <https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Engage/Competitions/Competitions.aspx> and click on competitions to register and read the guidelines for the various categories.
- 4. Where may I apply for and get complete information about the TMTA Adult/Collegiate competitions?** Go to the TMTA website [www.tnmta.org](http://www.tnmta.org) and click on TMTA Competitions. Be sure you read and follow the guidelines in the TMTA Auditions and Competitions Syllabus.
- 5. What if I have problems with the electronic application?** The deadline is final for both competitions, so it's strongly advised that you complete your online applications several days in advance. Do NOT wait until the last minute so you have time to solve any application problems before the dead-line.
- 6. 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 ends promptly at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time on September 13. Please allow plenty of time to complete your entries.
- 7. May I wait and pay my MTNA dues after I enter my students?** No. Your 2017–2018 MTNA membership dues must be paid prior to completing the application. If you have not done so, you will have to pay the non-member fee.

For other questions contact: Competitions Coordinator, Elaine Harriss: [elaineh@utm.edu](mailto:elaineh@utm.edu).

## PLANNING AHEAD.....

### **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

### **January 13-15, 2018**

MTNA Southern Division Competitions  
Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA

### **June 2-5, 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