

60 YEARS



FOUNDED 1960

SCMTA

SOUTH CAROLINA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

November 6–7, 2020

www.scmta.org



Welcome to the 60th SCMTA Annual Conference

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Dear Conference Attendees,



Sara Ernst

Welcome to the 60th SCMTA Conference, a virtual event that provides each of us with a combination of live experiences and on-demand content. Your access will continue for two weeks after the close of our conference, until November 22. Enjoy!

Our live events begin with a presentation by our conference speaker, Sam Holland. His presentation will provide us ideas on how to structure our lessons for greatest impact. Gary Ingle, CEO of MTNA, has joined us to help us celebrate our 60th year. Directly following, I encourage you to attend our Member's Meeting; your presence is requested as we finalize our new slate of Officers. We will honor Deborah Freeman, Teacher of the Year, and Kathleen Nungesser, MTNA Foundation Fellow. On Saturday, please participate in Share Your Favorite Repertoire Pieces—this informal event will help us stay connected through a dialogue about our favorite music for students.

We have two performances to enjoy. This year's call for the commissioned composition was for a joyful work in celebration of South Carolina and our 60th anniversary. We are excited to hear Seth Custer's piece inspired by our state bird, the Carolina Wren. Enjoy this premier performance by accessing it from our webpage. The second performance will conclude our conference on Saturday. Scott Price is sharing his students' piano recital from the UofSC Carolina LifeSong Initiative, which serves students with special needs. This live broadcast event is certain to inspire.

Take time and explore the additional on-demand content. To highlight the special importance of our local chapters for our 60th year, each has prepared a short presentation about their chapter and events. Learn about the latest trends in piano and piano pedagogy from our collegiate members in their posters and lightning talks. Finally, a panel of four SCMTA members share their ideas on recitals during the pandemic. Thank you to all the contributors to this excellent content.

I would like to thank the many SCMTA members who have made this virtual event possible. Eunjung Choi has skillfully managed the schedule, transitioning to a virtual event. Robin Zemp has created the SCMTA website, posting registration and all the recording materials. The Uof SC MTNA Collegiate Chapter has facilitated the live broadcast sessions. I also thank Soohyun Yun for organizing the commission, Scott Price for the student activities, Joyce Nickles for the IMT presentation, and Howard Kim for the competition. Katie Chandler and Stephen Taylor have compiled the booklet, with special elements to commemorate our 60th year. Kathy Nungesser, our treasurer, is consistently hard at work, to make all of this possible. Finally, a special thank you to those of you who donated to SCMTA during your conference registration.

As we enjoy our live events, please say "hello" in the chat, share your questions, and engage in the dialogue. I look forward to seeing you all online and wish you all the best of health.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sara Ernst".

Sara Ernst, PhD, NCTM | SCMTA President



On behalf of Southern Division, I am excited to you to welcome you to the 60th SCMTA Annual Conference!

We never dreamed that we would celebrate this landmark conference virtually, but I am extremely proud of SCMTA for having a conference during these challenging times. These conferences, in any format, are essential for keeping SCMTA the strong organization it is, and for forging continued connections with our friends and colleagues, which we especially need during these times.

I have greatly enjoyed working with your president, Sara Ernst, a wonderful person and leader! She has served as a highly effective state president who has keenly brought attention to and solved issues in both SCMTA and MTNA. I look forward to working with Lannia Branola-Dickert—we have already been in contact during her transition, and she is going to be a terrific president!

I have been amazed with the adaptability of musicians during the current situation. Just think if the pandemic happened 10 years ago—none of us would have been able to continue giving lessons and there would be no state conference. All of us and our students are extremely fortunate that we have been able to continue lessons and have music in our lives. A good thing that has come out of this pandemic—none of us will ever be intimidated by Zoom or virtual lessons and activities ever again!

All of you are essential to MTNA and SCMTA! By supporting MTNA, SCMTA, and your local associations you are keeping the tradition of sharing and teaching music to future generations and perpetuating the art of music. MTNA is extremely appreciative of all your work and everything you bring to the music teaching profession. MTNA, SCMTA, and our local associations help us collaborate and stay connected. I encourage to you continue to expand and develop your teaching, and to grow as a musician!

As an SCMTA member, I am especially privileged to serve you, as Southern Division Director and MTNA National Board of Directors member! Please do not hesitate to contact me or ask for help. See you at the MTNA Virtual Conference in March!

Sincerely,

Linda Li-Bleuel, NCTM
Southern Division Director



Linda Li_Buel

MTNA

MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Dear South Carolina MTA Members:

On behalf of your MTNA colleagues across the country, we want to add our welcome to the South Carolina MTA State Conference. This conference is an historic event—your first ever “Online Conference”!

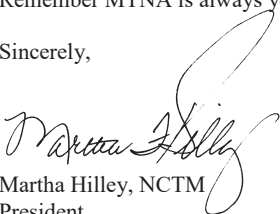
At conferences like this, you, the music teacher, become the music student. And as you participate in continuing education, new information and techniques are learned, which ultimately become the basis for new ways to teach your students. This enriching relationship, of constantly receiving and giving away, is vital to your success as a music teacher as well as to the success of your students.

Even though this teaching year looks and feels different from previous ones, MTNA remains committed to providing you with opportunities for professional development and networking with like-minded music teachers around the country. In fact the 2021 MTNA National Conference will now be a virtual event, featuring all that you’ve come to love at the in-person events, including educational sessions, showcases and performances, exhibits and much more! The 2021 Collegiate Pedagogy Symposium, also will be online this year.

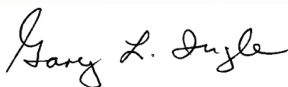
Check your email and visit the MTNA website often for updates about these events and all the other resources that MTNA provides its members.

Remember MTNA is always your partner in teaching at the local, state and national levels!

Sincerely,



Martha Hilley, NCTM
President



Gary L. Ingle
Executive Director & CEO





2020 SCMTA Virtual Conference Schedule

Friday, November 6, 2020

- 10:00 am Opening Remarks (Demio)
Sara Ernst, SCMTA President
- 10:05 am Presentation — “What Makes a Good Lesson?” (Demio)
Sam Holland
- Short Break
- 11:30 am Celebration Speech/Dialogue to SCMTA (Demio)
Gary Ingle, Executive Director & CEO, MTNA
- 12:00 pm SCMTA Members’ Meeting (Zoom)
Honoring 2020 SCMTA Teacher of the year (*Deborah Freeman*)
Honoring 2020 Foundation Fellow (*Kathleen Nungesser*)
Honoring 2020 Genesis Grant Recipient (*Dan McCurry*)

Saturday, November 7, 2020

- 10:00 am SCMTA General Board Meeting (Zoom)
- 11:00 am SCMTA Member Collective: Share Your Favorite Teaching Pieces
(Zoom)
- Short Break
- 12:00 pm Carolina LifeSong Initiative Recital (Demio)
Scott Price, Coordinator
- 12:50 pm Closing Remarks (Demio)
Lannia Nacino Bronola-Dickert, SCMTA President-elect



On Demand Sessions

These can be found on scmta.org.

Celebrating Local Associations of South Carolina

Student Lightning Talks

Scott Price, Coordinator

Student Research Posters

Scott Price, Coordinator

Independent Music Teachers Forum Presentation

Joyce Nickels, IMT Coordinator

SCMTA Commissioned Composition Premiere (Seth Custer)

Soohyun Yun, Chair



Student Research Posters

Domestic Ethnomusicology: Indigenous Pedagogical Repertoire

Megan Blood, DMA Piano Pedagogy

University of South Carolina

Ideas on Tone Production in the Twentieth Century Russian Piano School: A Survey of Pedagogical Literature

Polina Golubkova, DMA Piano Pedagogy

University of South Carolina

Wilhelm Stenhammar's Sensommarnätter, Op. 33: Rediscovered Swedish Character Pieces

Shelby Nord, DMA Piano Pedagogy

University of South Carolina

A Father's Love for His Daughter: Introducing Alicia's Piano Books by Ananda Sukarlan

Karen Yong, DMA Piano Pedagogy

University of South Carolina

Student Lightning Talks

Getting Rhythmic Movement "Dun" with Kid-Friendly Music Story Concerts

Ana Fraley, BM Music Education

Bob Jones University

Teaching 20th Century Intermediate Repertoire in Irregular Meter

Jinkyung Kim, DMA Piano Pedagogy

University of South Carolina

Erland Sjunnesson's Nordic Piano Ballads for Late-Beginning and Intermediate Students: Modern Enchantment

Shelby Nord, DMA Piano Pedagogy

University of South Carolina

Teaching Mixed Meter and Suggested Intermediate Level Repertoire

Mengyu Song, DMA Piano Pedagogy

University of South Carolina

5 Stages for Teaching Alberto Ginastera's Twelve American Preludes

Qiwen Wan, DMA Piano Pedagogy

University of South Carolin

60 YEARS



Conference Clinician Sam Holland

Webinar Presentation Topic:
"What Makes a Good Lesson?"



Sam Holland

Samuel S. Holland is the Algur H. Meadows Dean and an award-winning professor of music at the Meadows School of the Arts, Southern Methodist University. A champion of the transformational power of arts and communication, Dr. Holland leads a team that is responsible for raising over \$150M in new funding for the Meadows School. Under his leadership, the Division of Music at SMU was ranked #1 in the nation in 2015 by *College Factual* as reported in *USA Today*.

In addition to artistic and programmatic excellence, the Meadows School is nationally recognized for innovative curricula, sustainable community engagement, and its entrepreneurial approach to arts education. Dr. Holland's articles have appeared in every major English language professional keyboard journal and he is the author of over seventy critically acclaimed and innovative method books and recordings distributed internationally by Alfred Publishing Co. and the Frederick Harris Music Co. A performance student of John Perry and Abbey Simon, he earned a Ph.D. in music education with an emphasis in piano pedagogy from the University of Oklahoma. He has presented hundreds of lectures and recitals throughout North America, Europe, and Australia and has pioneered in the application of new technology to performance and pedagogy. Dr. Holland is a founding trustee of the Frances Clark Center for Keyboard Pedagogy, a not-for-profit educational institution in Princeton NJ that presents the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy and publishes *Clavier Companion* magazine. He is a co-founder of the Centre for Musical Minds (Frisco, TX).

Conference Special Guest

Gary Ingle

Executive Director & CEO of Music Teachers National Association (MTNA)

Gary Ingle will join us in celebration of SCMTA's rich heritage as an association during which he will bring greetings from the national association, talk about the importance of associating with colleagues at the local, state and national levels, discuss the intertwined missions of SCMTA and MTNA, and affirm our vital role in the future. Time will be provided for participants to share their questions and thoughts.

Gary Ingle is Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the 22,000-member Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), the oldest music teaching association in the United States. Dr. Ingle currently serves as Chair of the ISME Forum on Instrumental and Vocal Music Teaching, having been involved in its conception and establishment in 2008. From 2008–2012, he served as one of three International Advisors to the Forum. Dr. Ingle currently serves as the Chairman of the Board of the National Music Council of the United States and as Vice President of the Music Council of the Three Americas (COMTA). From 2011–2013, Dr. Ingle served as Executive Vice President of the International Music Council and was a member of its Executive Board from 2008–2013. As an academic, Dr. Ingle holds a DMA from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky and served as a full professor of music, choral conductor, music department chair, dean of a school of fine arts, and a university vice president for enrollment management at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri.



Gary Ingle



Seth Custer

SCMTA Commissioned Composer Seth Custer, PhD

Seth Custer is an active composer, performer, clinician, and adjudicator, and his music is heard across the United States. An Associate Professor, he is head of the Department of Music Theory, Composition, and Technology at Bob Jones University in Greenville, SC, where he has taught since 2009. Since 2014 Seth has served as the General Director for Junior Composers Summer Programs, a youth composition program that is based in Minneapolis, MN.

Ever Soaring, Ever Singing

for violin, alto saxophone, and piano

BY DR. SETH CUSTER

Brandon Ironside, *violin*

Seth Custer, *alto saxophone*

Moriah Custer, *piano*

Program Note:

The musical material in this piece is based on the calls of the Carolina Wren (South Carolina state bird). Amidst the turmoil we've all experienced in 2020, I've considered the freedom a bird must feel to be able to peacefully soar above it all. My goal for this piece is to depict that sense of optimistic freedom.

Independent Music Teachers Presentation

Description: In this panel presentation, four teachers share their personal solutions for student performances in the virtual world imposed by COVID-19. A variety of ideas will be discussed, so that teachers can consider the multiple ways to share music outside of the traditional recital, in ways that support our students and create opportunities for their growth. This will include:

- Social media for the sharing of live and pre-recorded performances
- Live web conferencing (such as Zoom) for recitals
- Pre-recorded recitals via web conferencing or webinar services
- Outdoor recitals

Inga Agrest has been teaching private piano lessons since 1995 and voice lessons since finishing college in 2002. Ms. Agrest holds a BA in Piano Performance and Composition from the College of Charleston and MM in Opera/Theatre Directing from the University of South Carolina. She is in the process of starting Multicultural Academy for the Creative Arts in Charleston.

Sara M. Ernst, PhD, is an active pedagogue and pianist, and Associate Professor of Piano and Piano Pedagogy at the University of South Carolina. She is the founder and director of the Center for Piano Studies, a community program for children and adults at the University.

Becky Hughes owns an independent piano studio in Simpsonville, SC, where she teaches 40 students of all ages. She holds a Master's Degree in Piano Pedagogy from Bob Jones University, where she studied with Thomas Grimble and Lorri Turcios.

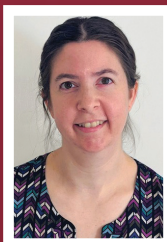
May Lauren Brinkman teaches piano in Simpsonville, SC and currently serves as President of the Greenville Music Teachers Association. When not creating music, she enjoys reading, baking, and hiking with her husband.



Inga Agrest



Sara M. Ernst



Becky Hughes



May Lauren Brinkman



South Carolina Music Teachers Association

affiliated with Music Teachers National Association

1960–2020

Officers

President:	Sara Renaud Ernst NCTM
President-Elect:	Lannia Nacino Bronola-Dickert
Vice-President for Conferences:	Eunjung Choi
Vice-President for Competitions:	Howard Kim
Vice-President for Membership:	Camille Miles Rosier NCTM
Secretary:	Peter Davis
Treasurer:	Kathleen L. Nungesser

Board

Immediate Past President:	Deanna Moore
Archivist:	Stephen Price Taylor
Arts Advocacy:	Stephanie Coleman Davis
Certification:	Sally S. Brown NCTM
Composer Commissioning:	Soohyun Yun NCTM
Conference Ads/Booklet Chair:	Katherine Ann Chandler, NCTM
Hospitality:	Nuria Mariela Rojas
Independent Music Teachers:	Joyce J. Nickles NCTM
Media and Communications:	Amanda E Montgomery
MTNA Foundation:	S. Renee Jackson NCTM
State Auditions:	Sarah Evans Moore
Student Chapters:	Scott Price
Webmaster:	Robin Zemp

MTNA Competition Chairs

Junior:	Lorri Kay Turcios
Senior:	Yewon Kerr
Young Artist:	Lorri Kay Turcios
Composition:	Robert T Kelley

District Chairs

District I (Greenville):	Becky Hughes
District II (Spartanburg):	Nanette A. Baltz
District III (Florence/Myrtle Beach):	Donna H. Sanders NCTM
District IV (Greenwood/Anderson):	Joyce J. Nickles NCTM
District V (Columbia):	Myungsook S. Stoudenmire
District VI (Aiken):	Mary Losey NCTM
District VII (Charleston):	Inga Agrest

Local Association Presidents

Charleston:

Columbia:

Greenville:

Long Bay:

Upper Palmetto:

Patrick Boyle

Anna Cheyenne Hamilton

May Lauren Brinkman

Jane Burlinson

Lewis Hay Dickert Jr.

MTNA Foundation Fellow FOR 2020



Kathleen Nungesser

Kathleen never intended to be a piano teacher. She did not feel cut out for the job so she majored in Computer Science in college, while continuing to study piano privately. It wasn't until she was in her thirties that she ventured into piano teaching at the request of two separate friends for their respective daughters. Twenty-six years later she is still at it and loving it. Since moving to South Carolina in 1998, Kathleen has served in numerous capacities for the state and local associations of MTNA. Positions she has held in the Charleston MTA are VP for Programs, Treasurer, President, and Achievement Day Chair. For South Carolina MTA: District VII Chair and Treasurer. In 2004, after moving to Myrtle Beach, she initiated the effort to start a new MTNA association and, together with fellow teacher Donna Sanders, established the Long Bay MTA. She served as founding President and continued to help guide the activities of the association until her return to Charleston in 2012. Every year Kathleen writes and directs a holiday show that she and her students present to local retirement communities. She receives much joy in helping students learn to share their music and learn how to interact with the residents. Kathleen is also the founder and director of Junior Organ Experience (JOE), a summer organ program for youth (and the occasional young at heart senior). Kathleen credits the quality of the SCMTA conference programs and the support and mentorship of her fellow SCMTA teachers for the success of her studio.

60 YEARS



2020 SCMTA Teacher of the Year Deborah T. Freeman



Deborah T. Freeman

Deborah Freeman has been an active member of SCMTA since 1979, and she has maintained a private piano studio in the Greenville area for over 50 years. Many of her students have pursued careers in various areas of music education and as church musicians.

She is a founder and past president of Greenville Woman's Music Club, past president of Crescent Music Club, and member of The Music Club of Greenville. Deborah served as GMTA President 1995–1999, SCMTA President in 2004–2006, and in October 2011 was chosen as one of *Greenville's 25 Most Beautiful Women* for her volunteer service with young musicians in the Greenville area.

Having served SCFMC in many positions, she is currently the Junior Clubs Coordinator for three junior music clubs with over 225 student members, Festival Director for NW District I, Festival Finance Chair, Media chair, American Music chair, and Parliamentarian. She has written numerous articles on American Music for *NFMC Music Clubs Magazine* and *Junior Keynotes* magazine.

Deborah is a Life Member of the National Federation of Music Clubs, American College of Musicians, a Rose Fay Thomas Fellow, a Carolina Jessamine Fellow, and is currently serving as the NFMC First Vice President.

Following collegiate studies as an organ performance major at Anderson University, she continued her studies of piano and pedagogy with private teachers. She is a member of the NGPT Board of Adjudicators and enjoys participating when time allows.

Deborah's greatest joy is spending time with her three children and six grandchildren, and she spends her leisure time growing roses.

2020 Genesis Grant Recipient Dan McCurry

Dan McCurry is a native of Charleston, South Carolina. He started his musical journey at age 10, first with piano and then joined the orchestra (violin) and band (trumpet) shortly after, participating in numerous honor groups including Charleston Youth Symphony Orchestra and Na Fidleiri. He was introduced to jazz in high school through the jazz big band and combo classes. He attended College of Charleston studying jazz piano under the late Tommy Gill as well as music theory and composition under Dr. David Maves, Dr. Trevor Weston, and Dr. Edward Hart. He has been an active performer in jazz and rock groups since college including his own project, *Run Dan Run*. He has been teaching piano lessons independently since 2007 as CharlestonPianoLessons.com and is an active member of MTNA, SCMTA, and CMTA.



Dan McCurry

SCMTA Genesis Grant

Are you an SCMTA member seeking continued professional development?

SCMTA has established the Genesis Endowment Grant Fund in order to provide one member teacher per year an award of up to \$500 for the purpose of professional or studio development. Primarily intended for use by independent teachers, the grant is available to independent and collegiate SCMTA members with a minimum of one year membership. Applicants must state how the grant will be used, and how it directly relates to his/her music teaching. Application materials are due by June 30 of each year. Visit scmta.org for complete information.



SCMTA Presidents

1960–1962	George Lucktenberg	1992–1994	James Clark
1962–1964	Tom Owen	1994–1996	Charles Gaines
1964–1966	Laurence Morton	1996–1998	Eugene Barban
1966–1968	David Gibson	1998–2000	Stephen Taylor
1968–1970	Virgil Smith	2000–2002	Matthew Manwarren
1970–1972	Virginia Gore	2002–2004	Robin Zemp
1972–1974	Max Camp	2004–2006	Deborah Freeman
1974–1976	Lance Flower	2006–2008	David Thompson
1976–1978	Robyn Gibson	2008–2009	Melanie Foster Taylor
1978–1980	G. B. Lane	2009–2010	Matthew Manwarren
1980–1982	Lillian Harder	2010–2012	Derek Parsons
1982–1984	Darr Wise	2012–2014	Linda Li-Bleuel
1984–1986	Marianne Lenti	2014–2016	Deborah A. Ruth
1986–1988	John Adams	2016–2018	Deanna C. Moore
1988–1990	Ann Guest	2018–2020	Sara Renaud Ernst
1990–1992	Peggy Kaufmann		

SCMTA TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

2015 Helena Meetze (Columbia MTA)

2016 Donna Sanders (Long Beach MTA)

2017 Ann Wilson (Columbia MTA)

2018 Dr. Matthew Manwarren (Upper Palmetto MTA)

2019 Robin Zemp (Charleston MTA)

2020 Deborah Freeman (Greenville MTA)



SCMTA Conference Sites

1963	Coker College	1994	Winthrop University
1965	Furman University	1995	Anderson College
1967	Bob Jones University	1996	University of South Carolina
1968	Baptist College	1997	College of Charleston
1969	Hotel Wade Hampton, Columbia	1998	Converse College
1970	Converse College	1999	Coker College
1971	Winthrop College	2000	Winthrop College
1972	Newberry College	2001	Furman University
1973	Bob Jones University	2002	Anderson College
1974	University of South Carolina	2003	University of South Carolina
1975	Converse College	2004	North Greenville College
1976	Furman University	2005	Converse College
1977	Columbia College	2006	Winthrop University
1978	Bob Jones University	2007	Coker College
1979	University of South Carolina	2008	Bob Jones University
1980	College of Charleston	2009	Converse College
1981	Converse College	2010	College of Charleston
1982	Columbia College	2011	SC Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities (Sessions) Bob Jones University (MTNA Performance Competitions)
1983	Newberry College	2012	University of South Carolina
1984	University of South Carolina	2013	Furman University
1985	Furman University	2014	Anderson University
1986	Anderson College	2015	Coker College
1987	Winthrop College	2016	Converse College
1988	Lander College	2017	Winthrop University
1989	Bob Jones University	2018	Bob Jones University
1990	Converse College	2019	Newberry College
1991	Columbia College	2020	Virtual
1992	Presbyterian College		
1993	Lander University		

60 YEARS



FOUNDED 1960

SCMTA

SOUTH CAROLINA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

South Carolina
Music Teachers Association

A brief account of the founding of the South Carolina Music Teachers Association

When renowned historical keyboard performer and scholar George Lucktenberg arrived in South Carolina in 1960 to assume a teaching position at Converse College in Spartanburg, one of his first inclinations was to transfer his membership to the state MTNA association. It was then that he learned that South Carolina was one of only two of the nation's fifty states that did not have such an affiliation, with Alaska being the other.

The Dean of Music at Converse, Gene Crabb, encouraged Lucktenberg to drum up support around the state for establishing an association. In early October of 1960, Lucktenberg chaired a meeting in Converse's Twitchell Auditorium to organize SCMTA, and having written both the constitution and by-laws, Lucktenberg arranged for the meeting to be attended by national representatives Polly Gibbs and Frank Crockett. The articles included in the constitution and by-laws were passed individually and SCMTA became the 49th state association within MTNA. When a slate of officers was proposed, Lucktenberg was elected its first President.

Lucktenberg reported that in those days the national association did not have the clout that it does today. The regional Divisions within the organization was where the power lay, and Lucktenberg quickly rose in the ranks of the Southern Division from Second Vice President to First, then to President. According to Lucktenberg, the Divisions held major conventions with abundant corporate sponsorship and exhibits. Eventually, Celia Mae Bryant (University of Oklahoma) and others led a revision of the structure within MTNA to place the focus of leadership in Cincinnati and with the establishment of national officers. This in turn diminished the role and power of the Divisions. Lucktenberg was encouraged to seek positions at the national level but declined in favor of pursuits related to his work with historical keyboard performance and scholarship.

The second SCMTA President was Tommy Owen from Erskine College, who was succeeded by Laurence Morton from Bob Jones University. The 1962 "Annual Convention" was billed as the organization's second and was held at Columbia College in January of that year. The program of this convention included proposals for SCMTA Student Auditions and a SCMTA Teacher Accreditation Plan, and a special workshop demonstration was provided by Dr. Robert Pace of Columbia University in New York.

The first edition of S.C.M.T.A. News Notes (January 1962) reported the membership of SCMTA at 125. In its third year however, SCMTA was in danger of losing its affiliation when the total membership threatened to dip below the mandatory 40 members. Thankfully this did not occur, and today SCMTA is celebrating its 60th Anniversary.

Compiled from an interview with George Lucktenberg by Stephen Taylor, August 8, 2010 in Waleska, Georgia.



2014 Ingrid Clarfield and Scott Price



2019 Jane Magrath



2016 Marvin Blickenstaff and Donna Sanders



MTNA President Ann Gipson.
SCMTA 50 Plaque— Matthew Manwarren



2016 Teacher of the Year:
Donna Sanders



Charles Fugo Fellow Award



SCMTA 60th Anniversary—2020

Reflections of Presidents from the Past Decade

Compiled by Stephen Taylor, SCMTA Archivist

Those who have served as SCMTA Presidents in the decade since the organization's 50th Anniversary in 2010 were asked to reflect on their time in office with two guiding questions: What has SCMTA and MTNA meant to you as a music professional, and what do you remember most about your time as SCMTA President?



Derek Parsons, 2010–12

When I entered graduate study at the University of Michigan, it became immediately apparent to me that MTNA would be a major influence on my life. My pedagogy professor, Joanne Smith, was a lifetime member, and made sure her students understood the importance of MTNA as a resource for professional performers, teachers, and clinicians. As a student presenter at the 1985 National Conference in Dearborn, I got to see first-hand the importance of this organization in my professional path. Coming to Furman in 1988, I was immediately contacted by Ann Guest, then the State President of SCMTA. She didn't have to coax me to become involved, and helped me

make connections with many local and state members. In the following years, I was able to work with teachers and students throughout the state, holding several offices within the organization, giving concerts and programs for local chapters, judging local and state competitions, and presenting programs at state conferences. During those first years, Furman University was privileged to host the MTNA Southern Division Competitions in 1991.

After completing a term as Vice President for Competitions, in 2010 I was honored with a nomination to serve as SCMTA State President. I was humbled and excited to accept the gavel from outgoing President Matthew Manwarren, after a wonderful 50th SCMTA conference celebration in Charleston. This was an incredible opportunity to share ideas with my state colleagues and to reach out to our talented teachers from every corner of the state for their musical ideas and collaborations.

I had the privilege of presiding over two state conferences, organized by my Furman colleague and friend Dr. David Gross. He developed two terrific programs for our teachers, and was able to bring wonderful artists Volodymyr Vynnytsky and Eduardus Halim to the SCMTA stage. As I turned the gavel over to Linda Li-Bleuel in 2012 at USC, I was thrilled that my last action as president was to announce that we would welcome SCMTA back to Furman for the 2013 conference.

As SCMTA President, I had the opportunity twice to attend the Southern Division meetings, and serve as a monitor for the Southern Division MTNA competitions. There I was able to hear the outstanding talent from our southeast region, and share ideas with other state presidents including Marc Hebda (FL), Diane Blanchard (NC), and Martha Thomas (GA). As a monitor for the 2012 Southern Division competitions, I heard a most incredible young tenor, Richard Smagur, who went on to become the National MTNA winner of the Young Artist Voice competition.

The two MTNA National conferences I attended as SCMTA President were 2011 (Milwaukee) and 2012 (New York City). In Milwaukee, I was proud to attend a performance of *Touch & Go*, by South Carolina's own Seth Custer, the 2010 MTNA Distinguished Composer of the Year. We also were invited to tour the massive Hal Leonard Publishing Company as part of the conference. The next year, in New York City, attendees were treated to a live taping of the talent show "From the Top", as well as a fascinating masterclass given by the timeless icon, Menahem Pressler. The Pressler class was particularly memorable for me, since one of the performers played the same piece that I had played for him in a masterclass some 25 years prior. Also at these national conferences I was able to celebrate two incredible South Carolina teachers, Robin Zemp and Julia Helen Garris, honored as MTNA Foundation Fellows.

I would think the most significant event that occurred during my tenure as SCMTA President involved the MTNA Competitions. In June 2011, the MTNA voted to discontinue the non-keyboard competitions, beginning in 2013–14. When the state presidents got this information, we were shocked and very disappointed. Polling our various states' members, the state presidents determined that this was not the desire of the organization. The non-keyboard members were a vital part of our membership, and we needed to fight to reinstate the other competitions by rescinding the decision. With the members of the MTNA State Presidents' Advisory Council, we were able to make our case. The most satisfying day of my entire time as SCMTA President was the day I addressed the membership to let them know that our appeal was heard and the decision to discontinue all non-keyboard competitions was revoked.

It was indeed a whirlwind two years, filled with challenges, yet satisfying results. The friends I have made through MTNA and SCMTA are some of my most reliable sources for ideas pertaining to technique, thoughts on solving that "stubborn" piano problem, and even providing an ear for trying on a new piece. I will cherish the memories of my SCMTA experiences, and will continue to look forward to what the next decade will offer at SCMTA. Thank you for the honor to serve this great body of talented teachers!



Linda Li-Bleuel, 2012–2014

For me, the most meaningful aspect of SCMTA and MTNA is being able to connect with other musicians and learn from them. Being a piano teacher can be isolating, especially during these times, and I don't know what I would have done had it not been for communicating with my colleagues through SCMTA and MTNA. I have recently participated in some conferences through MTNA and I gathered many wonderful ideas on how to deal with teaching during the pandemic and I made some new friends with whom I am currently corresponding! I greatly appreciate the support from my SCMTA and MTNA colleagues and these organizations have helped me survive this profession ever since I joined SCMTA in 1998!

What I remember most about my time as SCMTA President is collaborating with others and getting to know the people I collaborated with at a deeper and meaningful level, especially while planning the state conferences. I greatly enjoyed meeting the other State presidents at the national conferences and when we had the division competitions in person, we had great times together and shared many laughs! I am not the most comfortable leader, and as President, I gained much more confidence in that type of position, and learned more about my leadership style. My state presidency led to other opportunities, including serving as the current Southern Division Director—this has given me the privilege of meeting even more great MTNA members across the country. Definitely, building bridges with professional colleagues has been most memorable for me!



Debbie Ruth, 2014–2016

As a music professional, membership in SCMTA and MTNA means many things to me. It means excellence in teaching and a high standard of professionalism, especially as a MTNA Permanently Certified teacher. It means leadership and working side-by-side with fellow SCMTA Board members and members-at-large who volunteer their time to work diligently on events and programs that benefit all members and their students such as annual SCMTA conferences, competitions, grants, and more. I will always be thankful for the opportunity to work on establishing the Genesis Endowment Fund Grant for my project as President-Elect.

Membership means camaraderie with colleagues as we gather annually for our SCMTA State conferences where we share good times and ideas. Lectures and presentations by sought-after clinicians and memorable recitals by renowned artists are highlights that always make SCMTA Conferences extraordinary. Vivid memories are the 2015 Conference at Coker College with Boris Berman, Guest Artist, and Jennifer Snow, Guest Clinician; and the 2016 Conference at Converse College with Fred Karpoff, Guest Artist, and Marvin Blickenstaff, Guest Clinician. Membership also means generosity as, year-after-year, members of SCMTA happily donate to the MTNA Foundation Fund, and cheer as winning raffle ticket numbers are called out and prizes awarded! Other stand-out memories of 2015 include establishment of the SCMTA Teacher of the Year Award with Dr. Scott Price, U of SC Carolina Distinguished Professor of Music, as the first Chairperson; and the Anti-Trust Compliance settlement reached between MTNA and the Federal Trade Commission.

Attending the MTNA Summits, National Conferences, and Southern Division Competitions, while representing the members of South Carolina will always be memorable. It was inspiring to meet many of the MTNA leaders whose names we often read about in our AMT magazine, and to see where and how our National Association operates; but it was in the smaller group sessions with other State Presidents and Division leaders that I was able to form important personal connections that were helpful in carrying out my duties as SCMTA President. Amusingly, it was during my first MTNA Summit at the National Headquarters in Cincinnati, while enjoying lunch with some new MTNA friends, that I tasted the famous “Cincinnati Chili” for the first time. Sounds silly, but it made for a lasting memory!

The 2016 MTNA Conference in San Antonio, TX was special to me because of highlights involving South Carolinians. These include the recognition of 50-year member John Kenneth Adams, UofSC Professor Emeritus, as a MTNA Foundation Fellow at the annual Gala, and the laudable Poster Presentations of the UofSC Collegiate Chapter under the leadership of Dr. Scott Price, also a MTNA Foundation Fellow (2009.) Likewise, the Southern Division Competitions in Knoxville, TN and Tampa, FL stand out in my memory because of the many excellent student performances I was privileged to enjoy. They are examples of the outstanding instruction being provided by professional SCMTA / MTNA teachers. After all, excellence in music instruction is what we are about!



Deanna Moore, 2016–2018

Serving as SCMTA President and other positions was a wonderful opportunity for service and engagement. It truly was an honor to serve the membership as well as the officers and chairpersons. Enabling each of the members to serve their own students well is a responsibility that the board continues to consider of utmost importance! At both the national and state levels, the outlets for engagement in our profession through conferences and events was a wonderful and treasured experience!

During my time as president, my strongest memories are the yearly trips to MTNA Headquarters in Cincinnati for the Leadership Summits, partnering with District chairpersons for revisions of auditions, attending the MTNA Gala to receive the Foundation Fund Fellow Award for Charles Fugo, and helping with the State Conferences at Winthrop University and Bob Jones University! Our association is small but strong and, beyond doubt, comprised of dedicated professionals!



Sara Ernst, 2018–2020

When I moved to South Carolina in 2013, I had been a long-time member of MTNA and three other state affiliates. Being totally new to the South, my hope was that SCMTA would help me connect with other musicians and educators across the state. Indeed, SCMTA enthusiastically welcomed me at both the state and local level. I quickly became connected through the membership of the Columbia MTA and was delighted to find a desire to collaborate between the local chapter and the collegiate chapter at the University of South Carolina. Furthermore, the SCMTA board welcomed my

participation as VP of Conferences. Our conference continues to bring high caliber guests, topics and performances, and I value this as an active forum to share ideas and connect. An unique element of the SCMTA conference is the support of and engagement with our collegiate members; I value the opportunities this provides our college students to share in their academic endeavors. Lastly, my pre-college students have benefitted from the joyful events like CMTA Celebration of Musical Achievements and have been challenged to excel with the SCMTA District and State Auditions and the MTNA competitions.

While my presidency is soon to come to a close, I have not yet had the time to fully reflect on this time. It may go without saying that my memories of it will be closely tied to the difficult national and international events that have occurred in 2020. While this has comprised only a portion of my time as president, it has been remarkable how the membership has sought to support one another and how the board has worked tirelessly to ensure the continuation of our organization and its mission. I look forward to the initiatives we are beginning: expanding our District and State Auditions to include access for more instruments, and creating state-level programming on Creative Music Making for our students and teachers. Our organization can consider how embracing virtual formats for SCMTA programming will transform our goals and events beyond 2020, and how we can broaden our membership and mission to reflect the diversity of the state, country, and world in which we live.

SCMTA District and State Auditions 2009–19

Total students playing in:		
YEAR	DISTRICTS	STATE
2009	410	239
2010	408	211
2011	394	236
2012	435	241
2013	426	241
2014	401	189
2015	362	187
2016	360	179
2017	371	188
2018	342	208
2019	326	176
Grand Total 2009–19	4235	2295

A complete listing of Recitalists and Alternates can be found at <https://scmta.org/scmta-archive/scmta-pre-college-auditions/>.

Join us for
the 2021 SCMTA State Audition Celebration!

A repertoire performance event
for piano, woodwinds, brass, strings, and vocalists.

