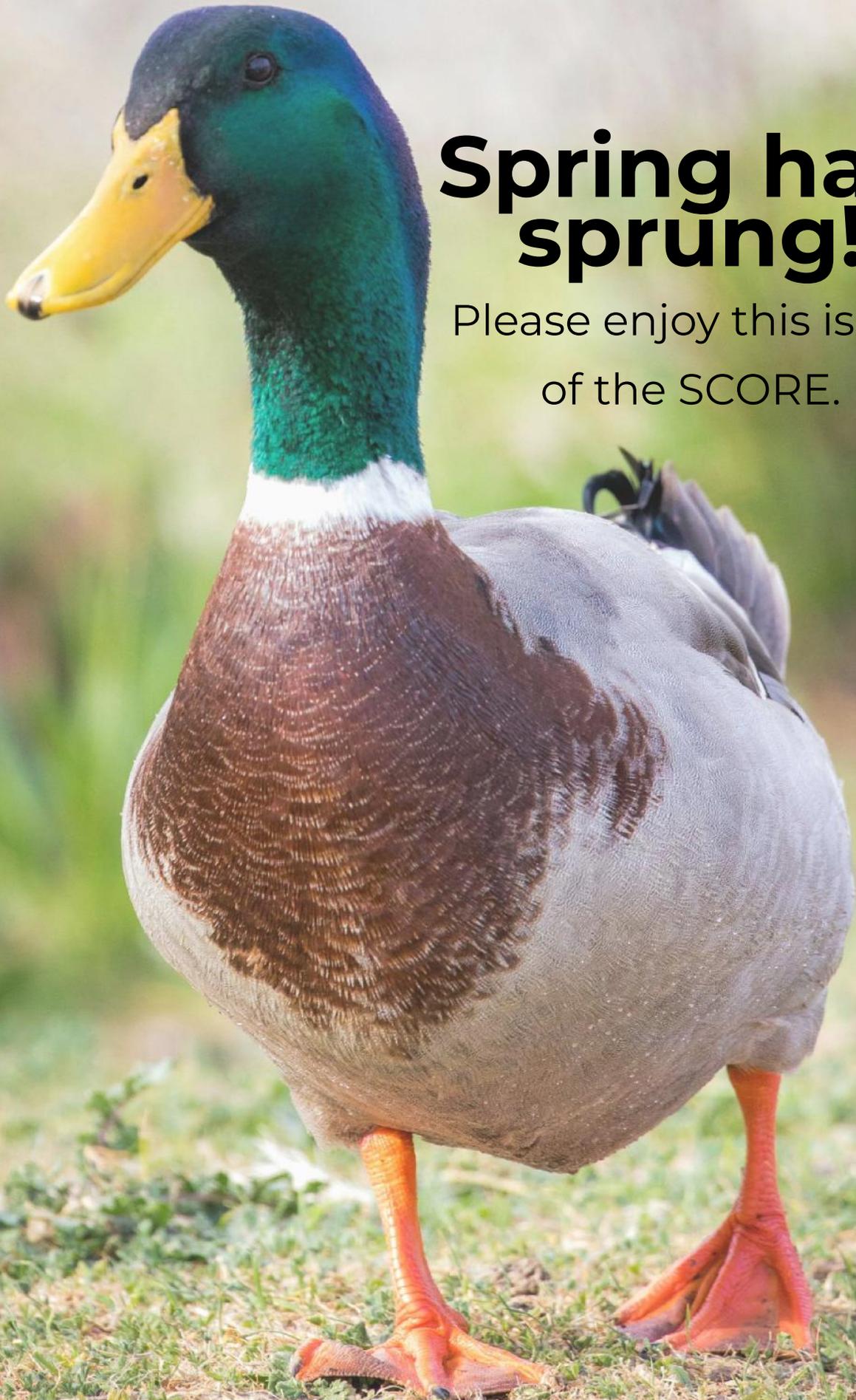




the Score

A PUBLICATION OF LMTA

SPRING 2024



Spring has sprung!

Please enjoy this issue of the SCORE.

the Score

A PUBLICATION OF LMTA



The SCORE is a publication of the Louisiana Music Teachers Association, an affiliate of Music Teachers National Association. We aim to inform and educate our members about state and national association news, events, and the latest in education and pedagogy, while building a sense of community and camaraderie.

All members are invited to submit local association news, articles, resources, new research, announcements, kudos, events, dates, photos, etc. for consideration. Visit LMTA.org/the-score and use the "Score Submissions Form" button to upload your submission materials.

Email questions, suggestions, and comments regarding the Score to LouisianaMusicTA@gmail.com.

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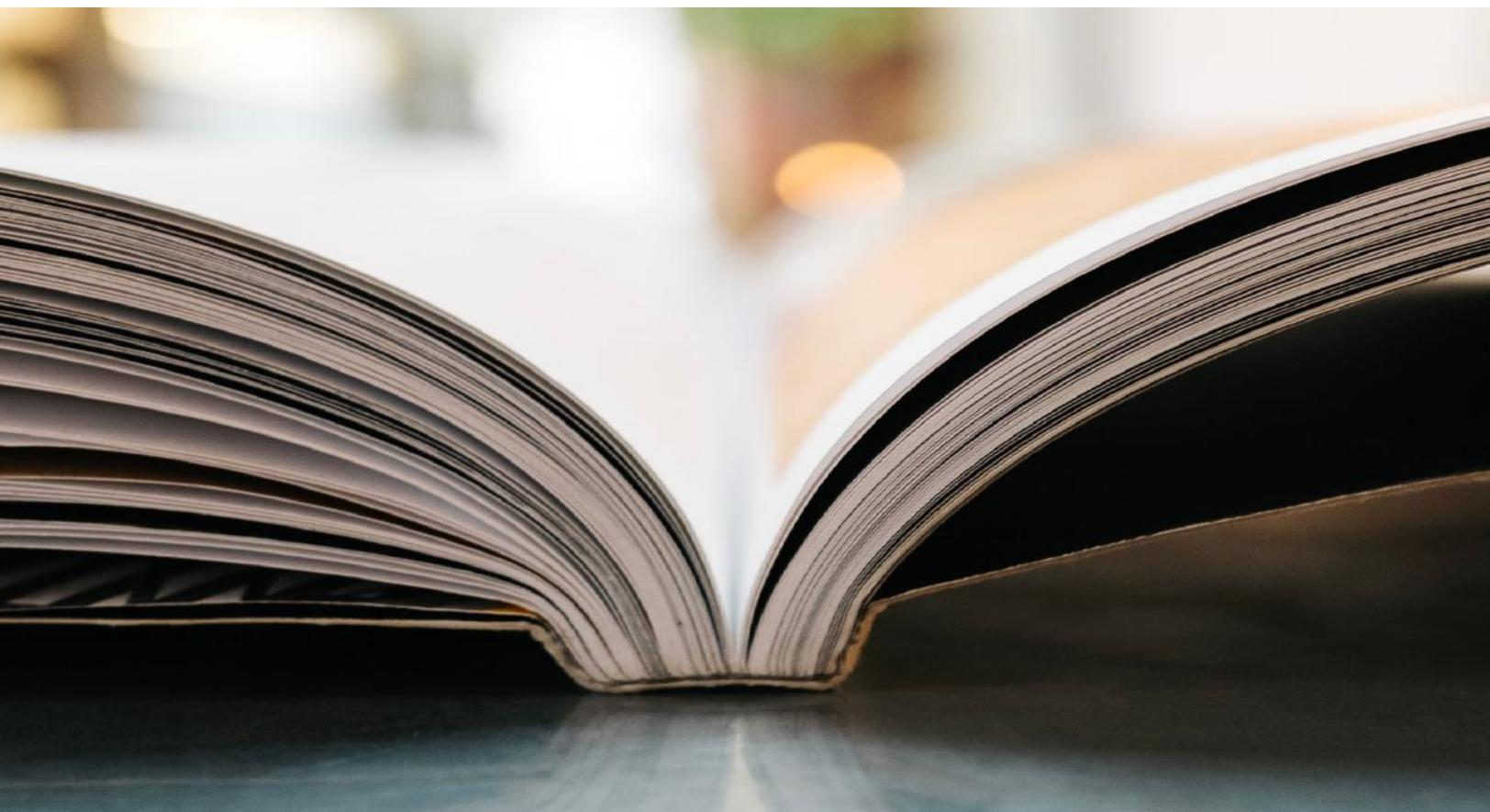
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MEMBER AT LARGE

Greetings from LMTA!



2023-2024 Louisiana Music Teachers Association executive board at the 2023 state conference in Lafayette, LA.



LMTA members enjoy a dinner together at the 2024 Music Teachers National Association conference in Atlanta, GA.



From the President

Dear LMTA members,

Spring means many things to different people. As new growth appears around us, anyone who gardens will tell you that preparing the soil and making sure the plants receive the correct nutrients is vital to its success. I can't help but think that as teachers, our students will show new growth when participating in different events held in the Spring. Throughout the year, we have planned for Spring with our students; it's time now for them to shine knowing they have received the best guidance and instruction from us. Spring brings new growth and let's enjoy the fruits of our labor.

It's not too early to save the date!

**LMTA STATE CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 10-11, 2024
CENTENARY COLLEGE
SHREVEPORT, LA**

Robin Williams, President-elect, is putting together a conference with great sessions, speakers, guest artists, and clinicians. Gulya Chandler, President of the Greater Shreveport Music Teachers Association, along with GSMTA members, are working hard as the host chapter to make our visit to Shreveport, an enjoyable one.

Good luck with your upcoming events and projects!

David Easley, LCTM

PRESIDENT

Louisiana Music Teachers Association

Conference News from the President-elect

Dear Friends,

Our 2024 state conference is going to be wonderful for everyone - with your help! Like previous conferences, we need members to present sessions. We have some great presenters within our membership. I also know there are members who have never presented a session, and it would be fantastic if you would present a session and share your expertise with the state too! We will be scheduling 25 and 50 minute sessions. Please consider clicking on the link at LMTA.org/conference and filling out the **LMTA 2024 CONFERENCE PROPOSAL FORM**. The deadline for conference proposals is **June 6, 2024**.

Please email me (rhwillia@uno.edu) if you have any questions. I'm looking forward to receiving a lot of proposals!



Visit **LMTA.org/conference**
and click the proposal
submission button.

Robin Williams, NCTM, LCTM
PRESIDENT-ELECT
Louisiana Music Teachers Association

Conference Artists

The Fisher Piano Duo



The FISHER PIANO DUO has been delighting audiences throughout the United States and the United Kingdom with innovative and engaging programming of piano duet and duo literature since 2004. They are co authors of the revised and expanded edition of Piano Duet Repertoire (Indiana University Press, 2016). As dedicated educators and proponents of collaborative music making, the duo frequently serves as featured artists and clinicians at university, community music school, and civic events.

Dr. Christopher Fisher is Professor of Piano at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio where he co-chairs the Keyboard Division and directs the nationally recognized undergraduate and graduate piano performance and pedagogy programs. He is the Artistic Director of the Ohio University Piano Pedagogy Seminar and is a Faculty Fellow for the 1804 Scholars Program. Dr. Fisher served as Director of the Ohio University School of Music from 2020-2022 and Assistant Director from 2019-2020. Recognized for his teaching, Dr. Fisher was the 2010 recipient of the Ohio Music Teachers Association Collegiate Teacher of the Year Award and the Ohio University School of Music Distinguished Teaching Award.

Katherine Fisher is on the faculty of the Athens Community Music School at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. Her responsibilities include teaching private piano lessons as well as coordinating the Piano Safari Program (group lessons) for children who are beginners at the instrument. A native of Ohio, Katherine received her degrees from the University of Oklahoma (MM in Piano Performance and Pedagogy) and the Wheaton College Conservatory of Music (BM in Piano Performance). Her former teachers include Jeongwon Ham, Jane Magrath, Barbara Fast, Karin R. Edwards, and Nancy Bachus.



Conference Clinician Lisa Bastien

On any given day, twenty floors above the bustling streets of New York City, Lisa Bastien’s piano studio is abuzz with the joyous sounds of students making and learning about music. For over a quarter century, her home has served as a place where students of diverse ages, abilities, and interests have come to experience joy, discovery, growth, and a passion for music. Lisa began piano lessons at the age of four in New Orleans, Louisiana, with her mother, Jane Smisor Bastien. While Jane instilled in Lisa a passion for teaching and her keen sense of pedagogy, it was her father, James Bastien that introduced Lisa to the repertoire of the masters and fueled her love of great piano literature. They also shared a love of tennis, which they played together whenever time allowed. Lisa moved to San Diego, California in 1975, and it was there that she graduated from high school.

Lisa went on to receive a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance from Drake University where she studied with George Katz and her Master’s degree in piano pedagogy from Arizona State University where she studied with Dr. Robert Roux. After completing her master’s, Lisa and her husband Basil Hanss moved to New Orleans where she taught in the Preparatory Piano Department at Loyola University. They eventually settled in New York City and Lisa established her studio, teaching both private and group lessons in piano and theory.

It was also in New York that Lisa began a prolific career as a writer and composer. Lisa has co authored over 100 piano books with her mother Jane and her sister Lori. Collectively, the Bastien family has authored over 500 hundred books that are translated into 14 languages and have taught millions of students how to play the piano. Lisa has clocked countless days, weeks, and months in planes, trains, and automobiles traveling around the globe to share the Bastien publications with other teachers at workshops and conventions worldwide.

Through it all, however, it was—and continues to be—Lisa’s passion for excellence as a teacher, and her dedication to her students, that define her. Lisa cares deeply about the musical progress and personal growth of each individual student and finds great joy in the lifelong connections she has with her students and their families.

**LMTA STATE CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 10-11, 2024
CENTENARY COLLEGE
SHREVEPORT, LA**

Throwback Photos

MTNA Conference 2023



(Left to right) La Wanda Blakeney, Pamela Pike, David Easley, Teresa Thomason, Chan Kiat Lim, Hannah Mayo, and Ellene Owens enjoying the MTNA gala.



The LMTA members celebrate MTNA fellow Teresa Thomason at the Louisiana table.



2023 MTNA fellow, Teresa Thomason, and honorary LMTA member, Tim Thomason pose at the MTNA gala.



LMTA members goofing off at the 2023 MTNA gala.

Call for Nominations: 2024 LMTA Outstanding Teacher

GUIDELINES FOR THE OUTSTANDING TEACHER AWARD

1. Any LMTA member or affiliate may make one nomination for the OUTSTANDING TEACHER AWARD. The nomination may be for an individual or a couple. The nominee(s) may teach any instrument.
2. Each nominee must be a member in good standing of LMTA, must have resided in the state of Louisiana for the past five years and must be currently teaching or recently retired. The nominee(s) need not be member(s) of an affiliate organization of LMTA.
3. The nominee(s) need not hold a university degree or be certified by LMTA. (However, see item 4C below.)
4. The nominating person or group must supply a maximum of four letters of recommendation. One must be from a student of the nominee(s) and one must be from a colleague. If more than four letters are submitted, only the first four received will be considered. Submissions may be made either by USPS or e-mail.

Suggested areas for comment in the recommendations include:

- a. Achievement of the students of the nominee(s) as shown by Rally, entrance in competitions, performance in studio and/or public recitals, Guild Auditions, LFMC events, etc.
- b. Service to LMTA, the local affiliate, and the musical community.
- c. Continuing education, such as working toward a degree or toward certification, attending or presenting workshops, etc.
- d. Evidence of innovative teaching techniques.

Writers of recommendations should be encouraged to be most thorough in their comments.

5. The person(s) nominated shall not be told of the nomination. If selected, the recipient(s) may be told of the award to ensure attendance at the October LMTA Convention banquet where the award will be announced.
6. The selection committee will consist of three former Outstanding Teacher Award recipients.

MATERIALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 2024

Send nominations to:

Charles Jones, Outstanding Teacher Chair
338 Bird Ave.
Natchitoches, LA 71457
cjones@lsmsa.edu

The 2024 New Orleans Piano Institute

We are happy to share that applications are now open for the 2024 New Orleans Piano Institute!

Application Deadline is May 1.

NOPI is an intensive solo performance program for advanced and intermediate college, high school, and junior high school pianists. The 2024 NOPI participants will receive lessons, master classes, attend lectures, discussions, guest artists recitals, and perform in the Showcase Recital.

This year, NOPI will run concurrently with the 29th New Orleans International Piano Competition to which the students will have the opportunity to attend. Additionally, students may enter the Concerto Competition for a cash/performance prize, and the winner will be invited to perform with New Orleans Civic Symphony during 2024-2025 season. Details about the Institute are available at masno.org/new-orleans-piano-institute/

New Orleans Piano Institute

July 12-20, 2024

Dr. Kevin T. Chance

Alan Chow

Igor Resnianski (NOPI Co-Director)

Dustin Gledhill

Shearon Horton

Dr. Hristo Birbochukov (NOPI Co-Director)

MUSICAL ARTS SOCIETY OF NEW ORLEANS

Respectfully,

Dr. Hristo Birbochukov
Director, New Orleans Piano Institute
Board Member, MASNO

Louisiana Chamber Music Competition Winners

The 2024 Chamber Music Competition was held on February 17th, at O'Neill's Music in Baton Rouge. The winners are listed below.

Thank you to the participants and teachers for making this year's Chamber Music Competition a success! We couldn't do it without you.

If you have any questions about next years competitions, please contact: Megan Reilly Shannon at megan@pianobymegan.com.

Lower Division:

First Place: Xichen Wu and Zian Zhuang
Teacher: Christine Lien

Second Place: Wang and Gabriel Wang
Teacher: Ching Song Juneau

Upper Division:

First Place: Gabi Cuadra and William Wei
Teacher: Ching Song Juneau

Second Place: Van Nguyen and Breanna Zhu
Teacher: Christine Lien

*Congratulations to all performers and their teachers!
We look forward to welcoming you back here next year!*

Announcements

Torgrimson/ Swanzy Competition

June 8, 2024
First Methodist Church
Baton Rouge, LA

Visit LMTA.org/torgrimson-swanzy-competition
for more information



CONGRATULATIONS!

To LMTA Certification chair, Melva Villard, for
receiving an Angel Award



Melva Villard was selected to receive an Angel Award from the Louisiana Blue Cross/Blue Shield Foundation last fall, for her work in starting a post secondary inclusive education program at LSUA, known as SPERO: Special Program for the Enhancement of Resources and Opportunities, for students with disabilities that would prevent them from admission to a regular college program. Go Melva!

It's MTNA membership renewal time

Renewing your membership is easier than ever before. Simply login to your MTNA account and click the RENEW button, then complete the renewal form. Please **do not** create a new account.

The active membership year runs July 1 through June 30. The collegiate membership year runs October 1 through September 30.



Announcements



BRAVA Music Camp: June 24-29, 2024 at LSU School of Music
<https://kristynvanleave.wixsite.com/brava-music-camp>

About: BRAVA Music Camp (Baton Rouge Area Vocal Arts) was created for high school-aged singers to explore and deepen their craft in a warm, welcoming, fun environment. The goal of the program is to encourage a passion for storytelling through song, provide guidance from experienced and knowledgeable faculty, and help students prepare for a potential academic career in music and theater.

Teachers: *Chesley Geeting*, Voice Area Coordinator and Lead Voice Teacher
Erik Gudiel, Voice Teacher
Nyla Watson, Guest Voice teacher, Broadway credited actor and Industry Professional

Age range: 14-18 - outgoing freshman to recently graduated seniors

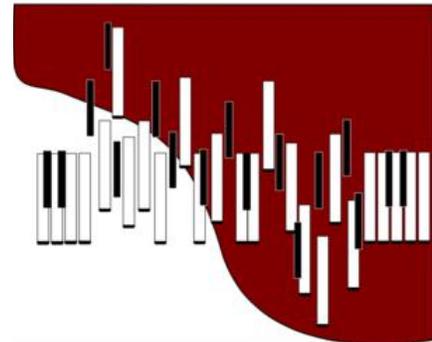
Application Deadline: May 1st, 2024

Application form: <https://forms.gle/qiHAyVXsvZAYRZXE7>
(Scholarships available)

We will accept varying levels of experience - students do not need to be proficient in reading music or music theory, or have sung leading roles in their school theater productions. We are looking for students who love to sing, have an interest in learning more about the world of musical theatre and classical singing and would like to grow their skills as a solo singer!

Collaborative Piano Institute at LSU

For the last time, the Collaborative Piano Institute will once again take place at LSU from June 2nd - June 22nd. We are welcoming you and your students as online or in-person auditors. You will have the opportunity to watch the best teachers in the world in action right here in Baton Rouge. Sadly, this will be our last year here since Elena and I have accepted positions at the University of Michigan. Please come say hi and give us a goodbye hug if you are in town! Visit www.collaborativepianoinstitute.org/auditors for more information.



Local Happenings

BRMTA hosts a workshop with clinician Leila Viss

The Baton Rouge Music Teachers Association hosted clinician, Leila Viss for ***Sculpting Sound: a workshop in creative music making***. Leila shared her personal story of keeping it together when life falls apart and the journey of healing with music and creativity as a catalyst. Topics included: Painting the Blues, Lead Sheets, Innovative Tools, and Navigating Chord Charts.

As LMTA provides its teachers with opportunities to provide guided instruction and testing with functional keyboard skills through Keyboard Olympics, Leila Viss gave teachers tools and modeling for how to work with our students on these skills.

Examples include color coded card visuals for chord playing and melody building, tennis ball rhythm, simple blues, and improv guides.



Local Happenings

LAMTA hosts a piano masterclass with clinician Dr. Robin Williams

The Lafayette Area Music Teachers Association hosted University of New Orleans professor of piano and LAMTA president-elect, Dr. Robin Williams, as clinician in their annual masterclass. The piano masterclass was held the morning of March 2, 2024 at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension in Lafayette, LA and featured high school students from around the area.



Lola Munoz
Student of Chee Hyeon Choi



Cameron Thomas
Student of Jennifer Horrigan



Armanee Angelle
Student of Jennifer Horrigan



Sam Higginbotham
Student of Hannah Mayo

Dates & Deadlines



Keyboard Olympics

May 18, 2024

Deadline to register for LMTA Piano Ensemble Festival

May 25, 2024

Deadline to submit conference session proposals

June 6, 2024

Torgrimson/Swanzy Competition in Baton Rouge

June 8, 2024

LMTA Piano Ensemble Festival in Baton Rouge

June 15-16, 2024

Deadline for MTNA Membership Renewal

June 30, 2024

LMTA State Conference in Shreveport, LA

October 10-11, 2024



It is never too
late to be
**who you might
have been.**

-George Eliot