



the Score

A PUBLICATION OF LMTA

Keyboard Olympics

Congratulations to the recent
KO medalists

MTNA Fellow

Congratulations to our friend
and colleague, David Easley

New Piano Competition

Richard Goula International
Piano Competition to be held
in Lafayette

Torgrimson/Swanzy Photo Album

SUMMER 2026

Happy summer!

Enjoy 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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Your Executive Board



Robin Williams

P R E S I D E N T



Mary Steele Moegle

P R E S I D E N T - E L E C T



David Easley

I M M E D I A T E
P A S T P R E S I D E N T



Rebecca Bellelo

V P M E M B E R S H I P



Melva Villard

V P C E R T I F I C A T I O N



Hannah Mayo

V P P U B L I C I T Y



Yannah Gustafson

V P R A L L I E S



Carla Breaux

S E C R E T A R Y



Mila Olivier

T R E A S U R E R



Clara Guilbeau

H I S T O R I A N / W E B M A S T E R



Michelle Strain

M E M B E R A T L A R G E



Tamera Gunter

M E M B E R A T L A R G E

Announcements



lmta.org/conference

mtna.org

**READY,
SET,
RENEW!**

MTNA
MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

RICHARD GOULA

INTERNATIONAL SOLO PIANO COMPETITION AND FESTIVAL (HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION)

FRIDAY, 31 JULY 2026

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

ELIGIBILITY

Open to pianists currently enrolled
in high school (rising 9th grade
through rising 12th grade)

Open to both U.S. and international
applicants

AWARDS

First Prize: \$500
Second Prize: \$300
Third Prize: \$100
Special Scholarship Award

MASTERCLASS

As part of the festival, Participants will have
the opportunity to engage in a masterclass
with a guest artist.

DEADLINE

Monday, 30 June 2026



Scan for more information
and application



UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
College of the Arts

Another successful Torgrimson-Swanzy Competition

We had a successful Torgrimson-Swanzy Piano Competition at First Baptist Church Baton Rouge on June 6, 2026. A total of 132 participants representing nine different districts took part in the event.

I am pleased to see a good balance of winners represented across all districts, reflecting the high level of preparation and talent throughout the state. The day was filled with excitement, and one memorable highlight occurred when a member of First Baptist Church generously offered the first-place winners a ride in his Lamborghini. The students were thrilled, and it added a fun and unexpected touch to an already special day.

We had an outpouring of support from the Baton Rouge piano teachers, several teachers from other districts, and the members of First Baptist Church. Their willingness to volunteer their time contributed greatly to the success of the competition.

I would also like to extend special thanks to Michelle Strain, who was amazing in assisting me throughout the process. Her guidance and support made the transition of responsibilities smooth and seamless.

Congratulations to all the teachers, students, parents, and volunteers who helped make this year's Torgrimson-Swanzy Piano Competition such a rewarding and memorable experience. I look forward to building on this success in the years to come.

Warmly,

Yannah Gustafson, NCTM

LMTA

VP Rallies





Congratulations to David Easley, MTNA Foundation Fellow

Since joining BRMTA in 2004, David Easley has been an active member, serving both the organization and his students through music. David is a state certified member of LMTA and has held offices in BRMTA or LMTA continually for more than fifteen years. After pursuing music and graduating with a Bachelor's degree from Louisiana State University, David worked in the human resources department of local bank, but his passion for music remained and he used his talent to serve others through his church. During this time he worked as a professional pianist, playing for weddings and other events. He could often be found playing at the LSU Faculty Club in the evenings. As an ordained Baptist minister, he decided to leave the bank and serve as an associate pastor at a local church. After a brief time he opened a piano studio in Walker and joined BRMTA.



He also joined Live Oak United Methodist Church in Denham Springs as an associate music minister. The hallmark of David's teaching is his spontaneity and creativity. He meets students where they are musically, spurs their interest in the piano, and works with them so they experience success at the piano. At every lesson he displays a positive attitude, a sense of playfulness and a willingness to change course if a student is struggling. David is the rare teacher who makes lessons engaging and truly fun for every student while helping them progress through a curriculum of study. His students participate and place in local and state competitions. David has served BRMTA as President, Vice President, Tournament Chair, and Summer Music Scholarship Chair. He is currently LMTA President-elect and has also served LMTA as Vice President for Publicity and Piano Chair. A key member of the committee who developed LMTA Keyboard Olympics syllabus, David used his creative skills to compose many of the lead sheets found in the curriculum. David has presented many workshops on improvisation and functional piano for state and local teachers and has presented several sessions at MTNA national conferences. He is also very active as an adjudicator.



LMTA members gather at the 2026 MTNA gala to celebrate David Easley.

Thirty-four medalists in Keyboard Olympics during 2025-26

As the spring semester draws to a close, we celebrate the students who participated in the LMTA Keyboard Olympics during the past year. Some students participated in several events only, while others completed all events in a level and earned medals. Below we have listed the thirty-four students who earned medals since our listing last spring. Our adult Olympians have continued to participate—this year, three of our medalists are adult piano students who have enjoyed the challenges and learning opportunities that came with working through the various musical events. Twenty-six more students are continuing to make steady progress toward their medals with several events completed already.

If you are intrigued by the LMTA Keyboard Olympics but worried about diving into the program, summer is an ideal time to begin preparing students for Keyboard Olympics events. As we provide testing upon request between June 1–August 31, summer is a good time to have them test in their first events. Some activities like improvising, harmonizing, composing, and ear training are good activities to work on in groups (i.e., think about working on these during summer camps and group lessons), where students learn with and from one another. The Keyboard Olympics syllabus is on the LMTA website in the Keyboard Olympics section [<https://lmta.org/keyboard-olympics/>].

Teachers who are interested in learning more about preparing students for the different events are encouraged to reach out to the Olympics chair or any of the teachers who have had students work through the program (LMTA member-teachers are listed alongside their medalist-students below). As a reminder, most students do not test all events at once and certain events lend themselves to simultaneous preparation throughout the year (i.e., keyboard musicianship and lead lines, or harmonization / transposition and improvisation, or ear training and question and answer). We encourage students to test throughout the year, testing in events only as they are prepared to showcase their performances in each prepared, creative, and spontaneous category. With careful planning most students complete one level each year and develop useful piano skills through participation in the program.

We congratulate the LMTA Keyboard Olympians who worked hard during the past year and earned their medals this past summer, fall, and spring!

Pictured top to bottom

Top: Adelaide and Colin O'Neal

*Middle: students of Carla Breau (right) and Jessica Dupuis (left)
(1st row) Noah Higgins, Vinh Lazard, Lillian Landry, Charlotte Fontenot, Sabine Stoupy, (2nd row) Carlyn Fullington (Carla Breau's mother), Samson Walkin, Gavin Barrientos, Lucas Park, Eli Vargas, Josephine Stoupy.*

Bottom: Leah Yelverton



Pamela D. Pike, NCTM

CHAIR

Keyboard Olympics

2024-2025 LMTA Keyboard Olympics Medalists

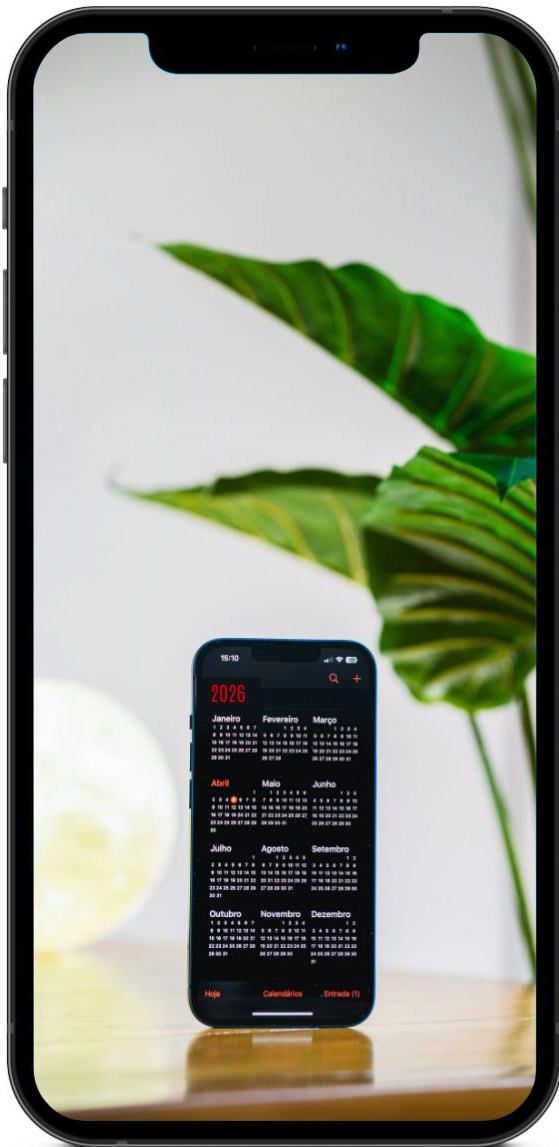
Summer & Autumn 2025:

Student Medalist:	Teacher:	Level:
Aiga Hachmann	Ching Song Juneau	Preparatory Level
Hayehilly Jarquin	Ching Song Juneau	Preparatory Level
Randy Jiang	Ching Song Juneau	Preparatory Level
Qi Lei	Ching Song Juneau	Preparatory Level
Kamron Lin	Ching Song Juneau	Preparatory Level
Brayden Tra	Ching Song Juneau	Preparatory Level
Gabriel Wang	Ching Song Juneau	Preparatory Level
Gavin Wang	Ching Song Juneau	Preparatory Level
Laton Weng	Ching Song Juneau	Preparatory Level
Colin O'Neal	Pamela Pike	Level 1

Spring 2026:

William Dyess	Angie Bergeron	Preparatory Level
Amy Feng	Ching Song Juneau	Preparatory Level
Charlotte Fontenot	Carla Breaux	Preparatory Level
Hallie Ginsburgh	Carla Breaux	Preparatory Level
Noah Higgins	Carla Breaux	Preparatory Level
Lillian Landry	Carla Breaux	Preparatory Level
Lucas Park	Carla Breaux	Preparatory Level
Jillian Pray	Patti Misita	Preparatory Level
Sabine Stoupy	Carla Breaux	Preparatory Level
Emerson Thom	Sue Steck-Turner	Preparatory Level
Eli Vargas	Carla Breaux	Preparatory Level
Sydney Williams	Ellene Owens	Preparatory Level
Randy Jiang	Ching Song Juneau	Level 1
Vinh Lazard	Carla Breaux	Level 1
Qi Lei	Ching Song Juneau	Level 1
Josephine Stoupy	Carla Breaux	Level 1
Daisy Wester	Ellene Owens	Level 1
Carlyn Fullington	Carla Breaux	Level 2
Kylie Nash	Carla Breaux	Level 2
Adelaide O'Neal	Pamela Pike	Level 2
Leah Yelverston	Carla Breaux	Level 2
Gavin Barrientos	Carla Breaux	Level 3
Hunter Ye-Theriot	Carla Breaux	Level 4
Samson Walkin	Carla Breaux	Level 5

Dates & Deadlines



Session proposals due (LMTA Conference)

June 22 - Scan the QR code
for submission form



Richard Goula International Piano Competition (Lafayette)

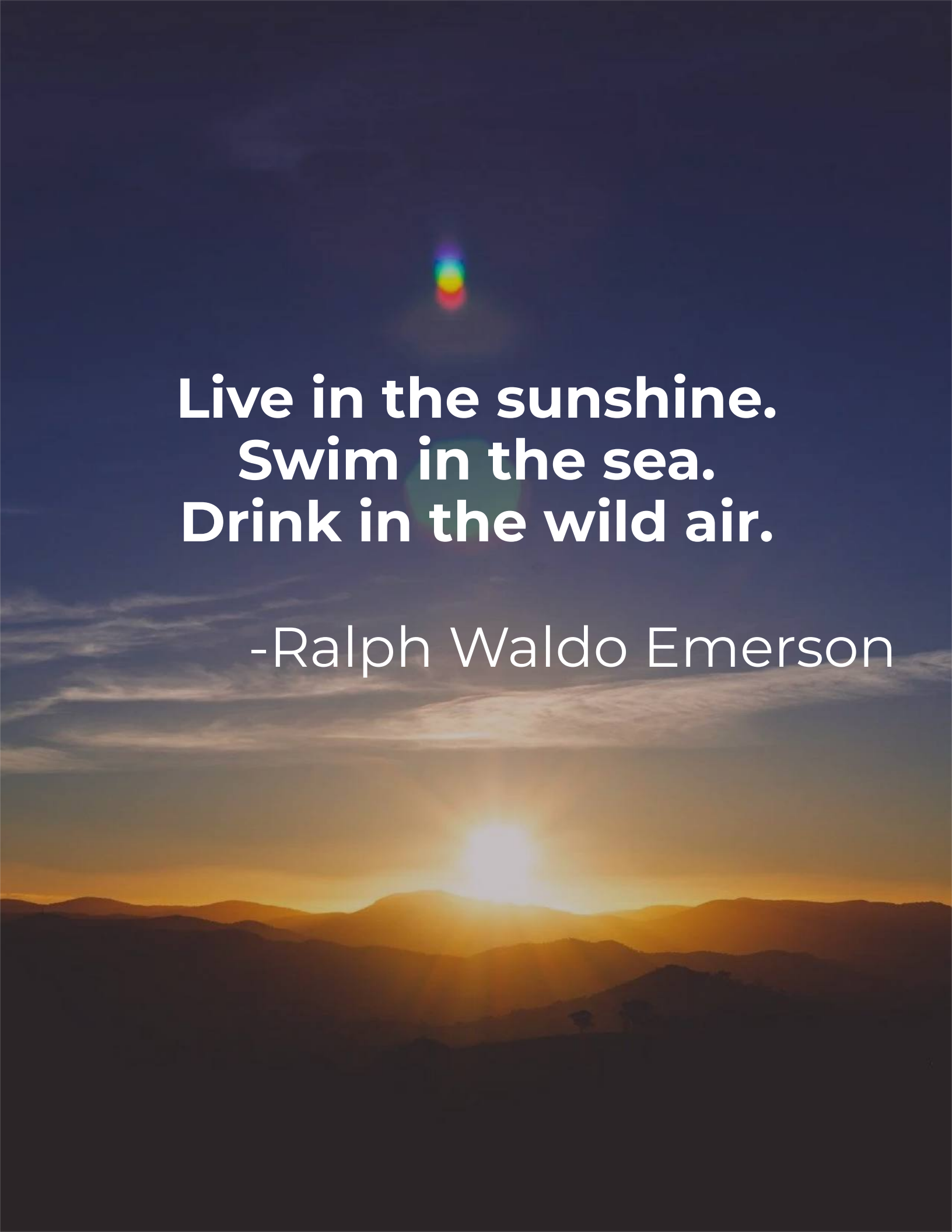
June 30 - Entry Deadline
July 31, 2026. UL Lafayette - Angelle Hall

LMTA Conference (Natchitoches)

October 8-10, 2026. Northwestern State University

MTNA National Conference (St. Louis, Missouri)

April 2-6, 2027

The background of the image is a scenic landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sky is a deep blue at the top, transitioning through orange and yellow to a bright, glowing sun on the horizon. The sun is partially obscured by a thin layer of clouds. Below the horizon, there are silhouettes of rolling hills and mountains. A small, colorful lens flare, resembling a rainbow, is positioned above the text.

**Live in the sunshine.
Swim in the sea.
Drink in the wild air.**

-Ralph Waldo Emerson