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February 2016



MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS

The MTACA Letter

Special Meeting this Friday, Feb. 5!

Join us for a very special treat this Friday (9:30 to 11:30 a.m.) at Capitol Keyboard (10301 North Rodney Parham Rd., Little Rock). Our featured guests, Ali Welky and Mike Keckhaver, will introduce us to the “Encyclopedia of Arkansas Music,” of which they are editors. We’ll have a brief business meeting before their presentation. I strongly encourage you to bring along at least one of your music-loving friends (admission is free, of course). Arkansas has a great musical history and this is a rare opportunity to learn more about it. Many thanks to Program Chair Kay Lindley for making it happen!

Ali Welky and Michael Keckhauer

From the University of Arkansas Press’ website:

“**Ali Welky** and **Mike Keckhaver** are both on the staff of the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture (EOA). Welky, who lives in Conway with her husband and two children, is the assistant editor of the EOA and is a lifelong lover of words and music. Keckhaver, whose talents as media editor for the EOA are outstripped only by his musical talent and knowledge, lives in Little Rock.” (<http://www.uapress.com/dd-product/encyclopedia-of-arkansas-music/>)



Photo from: <http://www.arkansasonline.com/photos/2014/jan/12/232470/>

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Spotlight on Dr. Gail Robertson



Dr. Gail Robertson currently serves as Assistant Professor of Tuba-Euphonium/Jazz at the University of Central Arkansas where she is tubist in the **Pinnacle Brass**. Robertson earned her B.A. from the University of Central Florida and a M.M. from Indiana University. She recently completed her D.M.A. as a University Distinguished Fellow at Michigan State University. Gail performed for 10 years with the “Tubafours” at Walt Disney World. Gail was awarded the 2014 **Clifford Bevan Award for Excellence in Research** for her document, “Restoring the Euphonium’s Legacy as Cello of the Wind Band.” Gail’s duo with Dr. Stacy Baker, **SYMBIOSISDUO**, has recorded two CD’s.

Dr. Gail Robertson served together with Dr. Stacy Baker as Co-Instrumental Advisor and Co-Curriculum Designer for the **Pro-Series Elite Practice Systems for Tuba and Euphonium** providing all exercises, instruction, and arrangements as well as performing as on-screen talent for the revolutionary pedagogical series of 10 DVDs for tuba and 10 DVD’s for euphonium. Robertson has toured the U.S., China, and Japan with Keith Brion’s “New Sousa Band,” and is member of the Brass Band of Battle Creek. She has recently performed with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. As a Willson Euphonium Artist, Robertson’s euphonium of choice is a **Willson 2950TA** with a bronze **Warburton/Gail Robertson** mouthpiece.

(Picture and text received by email from Dr. Robertson.—S. Robbins)

Meetings and Events in February and Early March, 2016

Date	Location	Title	Program Chair/More Info
Feb. 5 9:30-11:30 am (Friday)	Capitol Keyboard, Breckenridge Village, 10301 N. Rodney Par- ham, Suite C, Little Rock (501) 228-9999	MTACA Meeting: Ali Welky & Michael Keck- hauer present... “Encyclopedia of Arkansas Music.” Bring a friend!	Kay Lindley 501-831-3314 kaymlindley@me.com
Feb. 10 (Wednes- day)	DEADLINE	Application for Stella Boyle Smith Young Artist Competition	http://www.arkansassymphony.org/education/youngartist/
Feb. 12 11:00 a.m. (Friday)	Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church	Little Rock Musical Coterie Kay Lindley presents... “Music of Our Hearts”	Nancy Griffin, (501) 985-1658 nancywgriffin@gmail.com
Feb. 29 (Monday)	DEADLINE (postmark)	Application for UALR Piano and Strings Festival	Dr. Naoki Hakutani (501) 683-7230 nxhakutani@ualr.edu
Mar. 1 (Tuesday)	DEADLINE	Application for Christine Piano Scholarship Award (see page 23 of Yearbook)	Christine Wang, NCTM (501) 580-4678 cpfwong@yahoo.com
Mar. 4 9:30-11:30 am (Friday)	Piano Kraft 1222 So. Main St. Little Rock	MTACA Meeting: Kay Lindley presents... “Every 5th Deserves a 4th”	Kay Lindley 501-831-3314 kaymlindley@me.com

Noteworthy Recitals and Concerts

University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR): Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall. Free admission. Call (501) 569-3294. Friday, Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m. **Linda Holzer, pianist**, presents: **“Ear-Opener! A Celebration of the Known and the New.”**
<http://ualr.edu/cals/2016/01/11/ear-opener-a-concert-by-pianist-linda-holzer/>

St. Olaf Choir: Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church. 4823 Woodlawn Drive, Little Rock. Wednesday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m. \$35 regular admission, \$10 for students, group (10+) discount \$29.75. <https://events.stolaf.edu/musictours/Online/seatSelect.asp>

Little Rock Musical Coterie: Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church. Contact Nancy Griffin for more information (501) 985-1658, nancywgriffin@gmail.com. Coterie members may bring guests.

Friday, Feb. 12, 11:00 a.m.: **Kay Lindley** presents **“Music of Our Hearts.”**



Pictures from Our Sonatina Festival on January 30



Above: Awards Ceremony following recital: From left to right: Tatiana Kotcherguina (MTACA 1st Vice-President) and Sonatina Chairman Kay Lindley (2nd Vice-President), with Division 4 students.



Tatiana Kotcherguina (left), trophy winners (center) and Kay Lindley (right).



MTACA is a professional organization of musicians dedicated to promoting and advancing excellence in music education. The purpose of MTACA is to support and actively encourage the study of music in Central Arkansas. We continually increase our knowledge in music, upgrade our professional standards, and promote excellence in music through the latest teaching techniques. We are affiliated with the **Arkansas State Music Teachers Association (ASMTA)** and the **Music Teachers National Association (MTNA)**.

For more information, contact Susan Robbins, mtacapresident@gmail.com, (501) 240-6741. (All articles in this newsletter are written by her unless otherwise noted.)