



## *Music Teachers Association of Central Arkansas*

### *The President's Note - March 2018*

*Carol Ann Bone*

A LITTLE MORE HISTORY DURING THIS 50TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR:

- A) MEETINGS IN THE LATE 60'S WERE HELD THE LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH AT VARIOUS MUSIC COMPANIES AND PRIVATE STUDIOS.
- B) THE NOVEMBER MEETING WAS CANCELLED DUE TO THE ASMTA NOVEMBER CONVENTION.
- C) DURING THE FIRST YEAR OF EXISTENCE, 1968-69, THE SEASON CLOSED IN MAY WITH A TOTAL OF 24 MEMBERS AND A FISCAL BALANCE OF \$29.29.

IN THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY BOOKLET, CHARTER MEMBERS WERE LISTED:  
MARTHA ANN EDWARDS    MILDRED HOGG    PATTI JONES (JACKSON)  
   ALETA JESSUP    ANITA REASONER

OTHER LONG-TIME (THEN-20+/NOW-45+ YEARS) MEMBERS LISTED:  
EDITH FLAKES                      BARBARA FOGLE                      MARCIA LONG  
   WILLIAM PERRYMAN                      BENJAMIN SELMAN

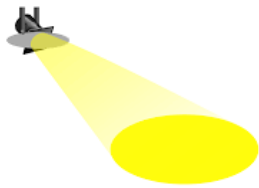
\*PLAYATHON ~ Our January 2018 Playathon was a success! St. Vincent's Medical Center of LR was the venue for 32 students from the studios of 7 teachers who performed on piano and voice. We collected \*\$1,030!\* for our Scholarship Fund. A special thanks goes to Liz (May) & Susan (Robbins) for organizing the event!

\*Wasn't it nice to see Pam Pike again as guest-speaker at the Feb. meeting? She hasn't changed a bit! She gave us new ideas about working with adults, especially "3rd Age" music students. How nice it was to see Stephen Wirges' Steinway Piano Gallery, temporarily in the very rural countryside near Sherwood + Jacksonville. (I got lost on the way there!)

\*At the March meeting, member Dianne Cox presented the 'Treble in the Village' Sweet Adeline 'a cappella' barbershop quartet. What a fun atmosphere!

\*Don't forget the April meeting - you will have a chance to test your coordination by playing the Rhythm Cups.

\*May Composer Workshop with Tom Gerou - see last page of newsletter for information. ["Each One Bring One" - let's aim for a crowd!]



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### **SPOTLIGHT ON CAROL ANN BONE**

**Member: MTACA ~ 2000 / ASMTA ~ 1986**

#### **"Becoming My Musical Self"**

One might assume that a medium size town (not city) upbringing could be somewhat lacking as far as the music world is concerned. But influences were all around me growing up in the largest community of northeast Arkansas (Jonesboro, pop. 15-20 thousand), as I heard and experienced music of various genres. At home, we listened to gospel quartets on the radio as we got ready for church on Sunday. The rest of the week we listened to a classical station broadcast from our town's college, Arkansas State (pretty lucky for us). During elementary school days, my Aunt Shirley came to live with us for a year while her husband was stationed in Korea. There was an old upright piano at the house that she would play, her favorite being "12th St. Rag." Then she would put a record on the turntable and show us how to dance the polka. I began absorbing all the ways to make music.

About that same time, I was introduced to singing. One place was at school, where we had music once a week - but only in 5th grade! The other was at church, where a young man who sang tenor in our church choir decided that children and teens needed to be singing, too - not just the adults. This was years before children's music at church became the norm. Also, our church music director organized a men's quartet, of which my dad was a member. How nice to hear men singing! Then there was "car singing." My two sisters and I sang kids songs from the back seat of the car when traveling to our grandparents' houses every month or so. "Found a Peanut" was a favorite.



Meanwhile, "The Hit Parade" and other musical variety shows were aired weekly on TV, and my parents always tuned in to hear them. Plus, we were able to buy a few 45's of pop music for our little record player. But we were not allowed to have anything sung by Elvis! Mom and Dad later bought a few of the newer type of records - LP's - which included quality recordings of classical, religious, and popular styles. All of these musical experiences led me to the conclusion that I needed to be taking piano lessons, so my parents traded in the old piano for a new spinet and I began studying the instrument at age 12. While I was at it, I joined the school band. It was during these junior high school days that I felt a "calling" to always have music in my life, and to have it as my major in college.

I used the band organization to play piano, as well as alto saxophone, at solo-ensemble events. Sometimes I would accompany my flutist friend, and other times she would accompany me. My band buddies and I would do anything to earn medals

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to attach to our uniforms! During my last year of high school I finally signed up for a year of choir, and it was wonderful!

This led me right into college, which by then had evolved into Arkansas State University. Knowledge of the keyboard was immensely helpful, beginning with freshman theory (a class that caused several students to change their majors). My education included four years of piano, voice, and some composition. There were the usual every-other-day classes concerning public/private school teaching, but Concert Choir met five days a week at 7 am! I was initiated into Sigma Alpha Iota, international music fraternity for women, and became a part of the "SAI Sextet" - an SSA ladies' pop singing group. We sang at several public and private events during those college years. I also had a few piano students, teaching at the home of my high school piano teacher. She owned three pianos and let her best former students become "student-teachers" during our college years.

Jonesboro was growing (pop. 25-30 thousand). Groups of performers began coming to our now-larger town, including the "Vienna Choirboys," "Peter, Paul, & Mary," and even Bob Hope.



Meanwhile, back to church. Our new choir director was a joy to be around. Youth musicals were being composed, so we learned "Good News," which may have been the very first one written, and sang it at the fairgrounds. Who knew we could memorize all those words? I also sang in a church ladies' trio (we all attended JHS and ASU) which lasted 30 years. Whenever we could not find the right key for a song, or it wasn't written in SSA form, I would get out the staff paper and write three parts in a key that we liked (long-hand, in pencil!). I also did that for my solos, since the pieces were all too high. While I was at it, I dabbled in a few compositions - vocal songs and piano solos. Classes at ASU had prepared me for this.

On the lighter side, I bought a standard ukulele and taught myself to play it, then graduated to the mellow-sounding baritone uke. I played them a few times with groups at luaus, informal folk song gatherings, and church girls' camps as a counselor. I eventually bought a mountain dulcimer and learned to play it, also.

After graduation from ASU in 1971, with a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education, I taught elementary music for four years and then began my piano teaching career. A dozen years after graduation, I realized "something was amiss," so I went back to ASU for private piano lessons and pedagogy with Dr. J.D. Kelly, ASMTA member. Who knew I had so much more to learn?! Knowledge gleaned by taking

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piano lessons has helped me in every musical endeavor - the keyboard being the basis of it all.

Through the years (as Jonesboro grew to over 50 thousand people) I have sung in church and community choirs, played and directed handbells, directed children's choirs, and performed in several "Living Christmas Trees." I've judged at piano festivals and vocal tryouts, and accompanied an elementary school talent show, where my daughters attended, for 9 years straight. Traveling to the closest large city, Memphis, allowed the addition of the occasional symphony, ballet, opera, or Broadway musical. I also traveled to Little Rock and Fort Smith to attend workshops with current composers.

So you see, I've been exposed to many styles of music, performed with various types of musical groups, and enjoyed several forms of public musical entertainment. And, even though I have concentrated in teaching private piano lessons for over 40 years (gasp!), you might say I've been a "jack of all trades" in this musical life. I'm very thankful to Mom and Dad for their influence and support. I can't imagine my life without music!

cab '18

### **Free COMPOSER WORKSHOP featuring TOM GEROU!**

<b>Friday, May 4, 2018 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Registration - 9 a.m. St. Andrew's Anglican Church 8300 Kanis Rd. Little Rock, AR 72204</b>	<b>Topics:</b> <b>1) Understanding and Teaching Pivotal Moments in the Development of Western Music within the Structure of Private Lessons</b>
<b>Printed music available for purchase. Display provided by Saied Music Co. 2921 Lakewood Village Dr. North Little Rock, AR 72116</b>	<b>2) Helping Students compose for the Piano... including melody, harmony, rhythm, meter, gesture, density, and form.</b>  <b>*Refreshments served*</b>
<b>Directions: From I-630 exit South at John Barrow Rd. Turn Left (East) onto Kanis. Pass Michael Drive and Briarwood Animal Hospital. Church is on Left at Labelle Dr. behind a grove of trees.</b>	<b>"Each One Bring One"</b>  <b>MTACA Members: Invite music teachers you know and bring them with you!</b>

Fine (It.)

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