

## MTACC HISTORY

The Music Teachers Association of Charles County, Inc., held its first informal meeting in September 1986 as a group of five piano teachers who wanted to discuss their studio practices and choice of lesson materials. By June 1987, the number of teachers attending had increased to fourteen, and on July 1, 1987, the Music Teachers Association of Charles County was formed as an affiliate of Maryland State Music Teachers Association and Music Teachers National Association.

MTACC conducted its first official meeting on September 17, 1987. In this initial year, the Association held teacher workshops, hosted MSMTA speakers, sponsored two student recitals, and held MSMTA Theory and Keyboard Musicianship testing for the members' students.

When founding member and original secretary-treasurer Norma Killen Scott died tragically in 1988, MTACC established a memorial scholarship in her name. The scholarship was renamed in 2019 to honor retiring member and MTACC founder, Judith M. Dalton. Mrs. Dalton gave over 30 years of love, enthusiasm, commitment, and wonderful programs to MTACC. The original scholarship format evolved into two separate categories: one for music majors or minors, and one for students who deserve recognition for their musical achievements but will not be studying music in college. MTACC also offers scholarships for students in grades five through twelve, including one provided by MSMTA.

In 1993, an Annual Festival was added to the MTACC Student Activities list. Each year approximately 140 students participated in the adjudicated solo and ensemble recitals. In 1995, a piano ensemble Monster Concert was added to the festival weekend for an exciting finale to the day. When the springtime Sonatina and Sonata Festival was started in 1996, the Monster Concert became the only fall performing event, and the adjudicated festival was set aside. In 2004, the Tenth and final Annual Monster Concert was held. In 1996, MTACC added the Sonatina and Sonata Festival, a competitive, adjudicated event in a recital setting. The two most accomplished performers in each class are recognized the next day at the Concert of Winners, where they receive a trophy indicating level and class. The honorable mention winners are recognized in the Recital Program presented at the Concert of Winners.

In October of 2008, MTACC held *Celebrate 350! A Musical Happy Birthday to Charles County*, which consisted of students and teachers presenting themed performances on harpsichord, piano, organ, flute and voice based on celebrating the 350<sup>th</sup> birthday of Charles County, Maryland.

In 2011-2012, MTACC celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a local professional organization. Various events and activities were held to highlight the benefits of growth and opportunity which MTACC has provided to teachers and students throughout the past 25 years.

In addition to competitive and non-competitive events for students, MTACC offers many interesting workshops, master classes, performance opportunities and forums to help member teachers continue their own education and growth as music teachers. As MTACC evolves and its students' needs are assessed, our members are always flexible in deciding what events best serve the mutual good of teachers and students. MTACC teachers are proud to be leaders in our community!