

ACADEMY NOTES

FRIDAY, JULY 18, 2025



FINALE LUNCHEON

Friday, July 18
11:30 AM

Student Union Grand Ballroom

AWARD RECIPIENT

Ronald S. Meers

Joe W. Giles Lifetime
Achievement Award

TEACHER HEROES

Becky Bryant
Kelli Hytinen
Shauna Mason
Kathy McMillan
Kelly Orr
Rebecca Williams

PERFORMANCE

The TAA Chorale, under the
direction of Michele Henry

Additional entertainment by
Alex Shor, accordionist.

HERE'S TO A WONDERFUL YEAR!

We are thrilled that the 2025 Tennessee Arts Academy Summer Institute gave us some of the best and brightest talent we've ever had here in-person! Along with our incredible faculty, we welcomed amazing musers and performers, proving how truly inspirational the arts can be.

Below are some valuable words of wisdom shared by our musers. Take these with you throughout your 2025-2026 school year as you embrace your inner artist and the power of the arts.

"How to keep going when you get discouraged? Keep taking classes and develop your skills. Find out who you really are. Don't let your talent define who you are. As it is given, it can be taken away. Think of it as this: I'm borrowing this, and I'm still me if its gone."

-Norm Lewis

"I think about sharing our likenesses - rather than our differences."

-Chaz Guest

"The map of my life was always there, I just didn't know it at the time. Somehow I was constructing an aesthetic in my head. This is very important: what are you drawn to? If you are an artist, you are somehow collecting the seeds of your aesthetic that will explode in your body of work."

- Ricky Ian Gordon

"Arts Education has never been more important and critical than it is today."

- Victoria Clark



