

ACADEMY NOTES

FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2026

Today's Newsletter is sponsored by **Steinway Piano Gallery!**



FINALE LUNCHEON

**Friday, July 17
11:30 AM
Student Union Grand Ballroom**

AWARD RECIPIENT

Susan Ramsay

**Joe W. Giles Lifetime
Achievement Award**

TEACHER HEROES

**Melanie Anderson
Lauren Baker
Russell Bennett
Carrie Brooks
Nathan Dumser
Johnathan Elliott
Tomica Lake
Betsy McClain
Allen Moody
Rosa Palacios
Naomi Pugh
Curtis Southerland**

PERFORMANCE

The TAA Chorale, under
the direction of
Thomas J. Standish-Rinn

*Additional entertainment by
Alex Shor, accordionist.*

HERE'S TO A WONDERFUL YEAR!

We are thrilled that the 2026 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 2026-2027 school year as you embrace your inner artist and the power of the arts.

"Barry Harris took me right up to the point where I was still comfortable and then gave me a push. Accept not being perfect, so that you can learn. Try stepping over, and see what magic you can discover." - Eli Yamin

"Mistakes are opportunities. Sometimes that's what life's about. Dig a hole, and while you're digging yourself out, you can find a better way."
- Joyce J. Scott

"When people ask me where I got my talent, I used to just shrug my shoulders, but now I say, 'my father.' During the last part of his life, he began to carve wood. He was an artist. He would take a block of wood and free the character within."
- Marc Shaiman

"I try to teach students about themselves, and help them develop grit and resilience. They need to learn how to healthily measure themselves, and create multiple highways for their life." - Betsy Wolfe

The TAA Summer Institute Finale Luncheon is generously sponsored by a gift from the Jackie Jensen Hart Foundation.

The Arts Academy Chorale performance is generously sponsored by Ludus.

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