



Dr. Donna Banks

Dr. Donna Whitten Banks received the Bachelor of Music degree *summa cum laude* from Lambuth University in Jackson, Tennessee in 1976 and the Master of Music degree from Georgia State University in Atlanta in 1980. At Georgia State she was the prize-winning student of Eastman School pianist Cary Lewis, winning two concerto competitions, and earning guest performances with the Atlanta Community and the Georgia State University orchestras in the spring of 1980. At the University of Oklahoma, Banks was granted the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in 1990 and was inducted into the Pi Kappa Lambda Music Honor Society. She also received the Elsie Bell Memorial Scholarship that recognizes women pursuing excellence in music while raising families. Other teachers include E.L. Lancaster, now editor-in-chief of Alfred Publishing Company, Jane Magrath of the University of Oklahoma and *Clavier* magazine, Ed Gates, Applied Coordinator of OU, Daniel Fletcher, an MTNA Master Teacher and Professor Emeritus of the University of Memphis, and Don Huneycutt of Lambuth.

Dr. Banks served as Professor of Music at Delta State University for many years and was honored there with a Foundation Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2006. The Prep Piano Program she began in 1990 served hundreds of local children with lessons taught both by her and by college piano majors, often in the keyboard group piano lab. Both her college students and her young students have won many medals and awards under her guidance.

An active member of Music Teachers National Association, Dr. Banks has

served as the State President of the Mississippi Music Teachers Association. Her past Executive Board positions have included Secretary, Parliamentarian, Vice-president for Competitions, President-elect, Immediate Past President, and Vice-President for Pre-College Auditions. In addition, she has hosted Local Auditions for Pre-College piano students since 1991.

At Holmes Community College, Dr. Banks teaches piano, music theory, class piano and serves as the accompanist. Her husband, John, is teaching physics and other sciences for the Madison County Schools.
