

Dr. Benjamin Caton is Music Teachers National Association president-elect

Dr. Benjamin D. Caton III, a professor in the Department of Music, is the president-elect of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA). He will serve from 2009-2011, at which time he will begin a two-year term as president of the organization.

MTNA, founded in 1876, has a membership of 24,000 independent and collegiate music teachers, and is dedicated to advancing "the value of music study and music making and to support the professionalism of music teachers."

A nationally certified teacher of music, Caton received his bachelor's degree in music education from ETSU and master's and Ph.D. degrees from The Ohio State University. He joined the faculty at ETSU in 1972, and he has taught many classes, from first grade in public schools to the graduate school level, including elementary music at University School located on the ETSU campus. At present, he teaches aural skills, piano and piano pedagogy. The former chair of the ETSU music department maintains a studio of pre-college piano students.

Caton's belief in the importance of MTNA's mission led him to serve as president of his local association, the Appalachian Music Teachers Association (AMTA), for three two-year terms. Within the Tennessee Music Teachers Association (TMTA), he served as president and secretary, as well as editor and co-author of the TMTA Musicianship Manual.

Within MTNA's Southern Division, he has been president, president-elect, secretary and collegiate competitions chair. At the national level, Caton served as a member of the MTNA Board of Directors from 2000-2002 and the MTNA Foundation Board of Trustees during the same period, and as the MTNA secretary/treasurer during 2003-2005.

Caton was named the first recipient of the TMTA Distinguished Service Award in 2004 and the 1999 AMTA Teacher of the Year. Other honors include the Ohio Federation of Music Clubs Foundation for the Advancement of Music Award for Excellence, and the John Philip Sousa Award. For two terms, he was a member of the Music Advisory Panel for the Tennessee Arts Commission.

"I am so grateful to the many MTNA members who give so much of themselves to their profession, to their students, and to MTNA," says Caton. "Our society is indebted to them more than we can ever imagine. It is an honor to serve MTNA in this capacity, and I

promise my very best as MTNA continues to advance the cause of music and music education for the profession, for our students, and for the general public. MTNA plays a crucial role in preserving our cultural heritage and leading the profession as we face the demands and challenges of an ever-changing society."

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