

GCMTA News

Promoting Music Education

From the President

“If music be the food of love, play on.” William Shakespeare

For your listening pleasure, [Click Here](#) and hear a glorious choral performance of “If Music Be the Food of Love” by David Dickau while you read this month’s newsletter.

“On your mark- Get set- Go!” February ushers in several very busy months for GCMTA. With enthusiasm and energy, we gear up for all the events of the remainder of the school year- Festivals, Auditions, Jr./Sr. Scholarship & Ensemble Extravaganza. The newsletter as well as our website offer further details about these opportunities. GCMTA.org My sincere appreciation to all committee chairs for your diligent work so far, and a “Thank you!” to members for assisting so that each event runs smoothly. “Many hands make light work.”

Our January Brunch provided a chance for members to show off their culinary abilities with some tasty dishes! The food was yummy, the fellowship joyous and the program very educational! Eva and several other teachers presented some great game ideas which we can use to teach and motivate our students. If you were unable to attend, ask her about her NoteMaster student competition!

At this time of year, I think most of us experience the frustration of trying to balance performance preparation with continuing to teach material/concepts. Remembering the value of repetition will help us and our students. Even when we're feeling pressed for time, a five minute "game" using flash cards to review notes, terms or rhythms will help ingrain those important concepts in young minds. Learning through play/fun is a tried and true philosophy. And making it competitive, even against themselves, adds to the motivation.

(continued)



LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

Forwarding Gmail

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GMTA Auditions

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NFMC Festivals

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The event formerly known as Fry's Performance Day will now take place at **GWINNETT EXTENDED CARE FACILITY**
Watch for details coming soon!



For more information about **MUSICLINK** contact Nora Martin at wolf193@charter.net

MUSIC DAY 2016 is tentatively scheduled for November 12. Stay tuned for updates in next month's newsletter!

(From the President continued) Simply ask, "How many notes can you name & play correctly in 1 minute? Go!" Then compare their scores from week to week.

Speaking of frustration, one area that is simply not as strong in my students as I'd like is note reading. In talking with other teachers, I realize that I'm not alone. Though there are a variety of potential causes for this deficiency, I want to see this skill improve in my studio. In my quest to grow stronger readers, I stumbled on a new piano method called Piano Safari. [Click Here to see Piano Safari](#) Perhaps you've heard of it, but I had not. The pedagogy is solid, technique is taught creatively & effectively and the online reviews are positive. It is strongly influenced by Francis Clark and Shinichi Suzuki. Personally, I never remember any of my teachers using flash cards, or sight reading books, nor do I ever recall struggling to read music. So, being a strong reader myself, this statement by the authors really resonated with me, "Excellent sight readers do not read note by note, but instead, they are adept at seeing the contours of melodies as well as interval and chord shapes." Yes! You do have to be able to name and play the notes, but it takes much more than that to be an excellent sight reader. Reviewing this book online has intrigued me. If you've used it, I'd love to know. If you haven't, it's worth your time to check out their resources. Either way, let me know what you think.

Also, in celebration of Valentine's Day, try one of Susan Paradis' fun activities. She has composition for little ones, themed pieces and a fun lines & spaces game called, "Are you a line or space?" [Click Here](#)

I love the fact that we can learn from each other. We and our students have much to gain, so let's continue the conversation!

Musically,

Mary Ann

HOW TO FORWARD YOUR GMAIL EMAIL TO YOUR REGULAR EMAIL ADDRESS

A number of teachers (like me) have a non-gmail preferred email address. We will be using gmail primarily for Federated registration. Confirmation and other correspondence that we will need will go to that email address. Gmail offers a forwarding option that allows you to send gmail email to your preferred address. Here is how to do it:

- Log into your gmail account
- Drop down sprocket on right side of toolbar
- Select "Settings"
- From Settings, on top of page, select "Forwarding and POP/IMAP"
- Under the heading "Forwarding" click the button that says "Forward a copy of incoming mail to"
- Add your preferred email address.
- You can choose one of several options for what to do with the email in your gmail Inbox. I have chosen to mark the gmail email as read. I will periodically go in and delete those. But this way I have a backup copy should something go wrong in the forwarding.
- Scroll down and select "Save"



GCMTA AUDITIONS

Auditions will be February 20 at Piano Works. Teachers of OP students must give a check to Registration on the day of the Audition. The students will be disqualified if we do not have the fee of \$36.00 per student plus a one time \$20.00 Teacher fee.

I know these are your good students and you have worked just as hard as your student. Let them know they are winners because you have chosen them over the many other students that you teach.



Trophies for OP students will be ready by March 4 for pick up from Both Awards in Lilburn. If it is easier for you to pick up your trophies at my home in Sugar Hill just let me know and I will get them when I pick up mine

Call or email Jean Mann if you have any questions.



FEDERATED NOTES

Here are a few tips for upcoming festivals:

1. If you have students who need to perform at another Gwinnett festival or another local festival, please contact the Chairman of the other festival and your OWN Chairman providing the name, level and performance time.
2. Now any repertoire or schedule change has to be approved by your Chairman. West – Susan Andrews; North – Judy Harper/Nancy Morris; Central – Nora Martin
3. Don't forget to provide EVERY student with a completed rating sheet to take with them to festival. These can be typed and printed (preferred) from the Federated section of the GCMTA website. GCMTA.org
4. For student enrolled in Theory, there are practice tests on the NFMC website. NFMC



Happy Festivals!

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PIANO FOR SALE



Yamaha studio piano for sale: used, looks good, with bench, walnut finish, technician tuned and regulated, moving not included.

Located in Norcross. Price: \$1485.00.

Please call Bob at 678-372-0726 for appointment to see and play it.

Thank you to all who attended the January Brunch meeting. The food was yummy and I loved hearing from the teachers who shared their games!

This month we will hear from our own Natalie Hardy on the ends and outs of using your iPad in your studio. We are blessed to have technically savvy individuals in our organization! I am sure it would be helpful to bring your iPad with you to the meeting.

Come and learn what a great tool technology can be for you and your students!

Eva Bone

