VOLUME 2014, ISSUE 2 FEBRUARY 2014

GCMTA NEWS

Gwinnett County Music Teachers Association

Notes From the President

Dear GCMTA,

What is your music studio's mission statement? Have you thought of making one? I know of families that have created one, framed it and prominently hung it in their front doorway. Of course, businesses have done this for years and some even put it on their letterhead. MTNA's says: *The mission of Music Teachers National Association is to advance the value of music study and music making to society and to support the professionalism of music teachers*.

And what is your philosophy of music teaching? Why do you do what you do in the way you do it? What is the bottom line for your drive to continue teaching? These are like the questions that one must answer when getting certified. I believe they were some of the most meaningful questions I had to answer when pursuing MTNA's certification because they had me look carefully at my personal belief system of music teaching and why I teach the way I do.

February is Federated Festival month for GCMTA. The National Federation of Music Clubs (NFMC) is the organization that permits us to have three Junior Clubs so that our students may participate in their Festival program although we are firstly an affiliate of Music Teachers National Association. I am grateful for the Federated program as it permits every one of my students an opportunity to work towards a goal. It is has helped me maintain the numbers of students I teach since the students must work for three years to receive their first trophy. And since it is graded to suit students at gradual playing levels and not by age, it gives opportunity to the late beginners, as well as, the slower learner. I personally make this the only event that I demand of my music students since it encourages them and is a positive performing experience. These are key components of my personal philosophy of music teaching. (By the way, thank you all who have worked to make Federated possible this year! I think you are all awesome!)

Do you keep students who are gifted even though they have no more money to pay?
Do you stop teaching the very slow learner and only keep students who excel?
Do you fire students who refuse to practice? Or those who have difficult personalities?
Do you dismiss students who are constantly late or absent?

These all can be answered easily if you have your own philosophy or mission statement ready to review when challenges with students occur.

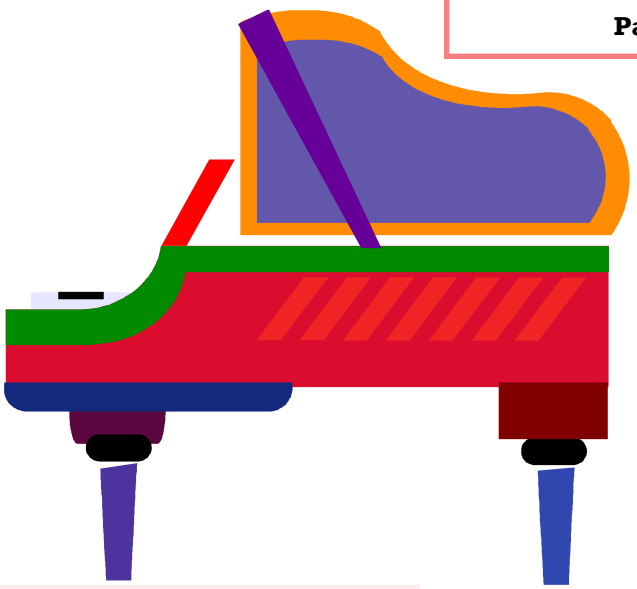
So what is your philosophy and/or mission statement for your music studio? It will provide clarity, give you a sense of purpose and will define how you will teach music. Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting!

Inside this issue:

GCMTA Auditions	2
Calendar of Events	2
Jr/Sr Auditions	2
Programs	3
Certification	4
Ensemble	4
Conference Presenters	5
Byron Janis	5
Teaching Tips	6
Odds & Ends	8

GCMTA Auditions

Local Auditions will be held on March 1 at Berean Baptist Church. We have 52 students representing 12 teachers in the event. You will receive the schedule and all information by email. Please remember we must have the checks for the outstanding performers on March 1.



Calendar of Events

February 8

UGA Piano Pedagogy Symposium, with Randall Faber

February 15

West Federated Festival, Berean Baptist Church, Lilburn, GA

February 26

GCMTA Meeting at Lawrenceville Church of God

March 1

GCMTA Local Auditions, Berean Baptist Church, Lilburn, GA

March 15

Jr./Sr. Scholarship Audition, Piano Works, Duluth, GA

March 26

GCMTA Meeting at Lawrenceville Church of God

March 22-26

MTNA Conference, Marriott Hotel, Chicago, IL

March 29

Regional Auditions, Brenau University, Gainesville, GA

April 12

GMTA State Auditions for College Instrument, & Voice

April 23

Executive Board Meeting

April 26

GMTA State Auditions for Pre-College & Concerto

May 14

GCMTA Luncheon Meeting

Junior/Senior Scholarship Audition

The deadline for Jr/Sr Scholarship Auditions Applications is February 15, not March 1, as it was incorrectly stated elsewhere.

February Program

"Practicing –In Plain Black and White"

by Rebecca Bonam

Frustrated by the quantity, quality and efficiency of your students' practice sessions? All of us face this problem, perhaps on a weekly basis, with at least some of our students. Join us this month when Rebecca will share with us some tools that may just revolutionize your student's practice. Rebecca, one of our own members and an instructor at Berean Baptist Music Academy, has had rave reviews each time she's done this seminar, and we look forward to learning from her. Becky is also a published arranger of over two dozen books of hymn for intermediate-advanced levels.

Be with us February 26 for a presentation that is sure to enhance your teaching as we focus on this fundamental element of learning any instrument. You don't want to miss this!

ATLANTA MUSIC CLUB will have a Young Performers Concert on Sunday, February 23 at 3, at Piano Distributors in Marietta. Each teacher may send 3 entries (only 1 beginner). This is a very nice opportunity for students to be able to gain valuable experience performing for an appreciative audience! Contact Deb Hughes if you are interested in sending some applicants. bndhughes@comcast.net or 770-978-9680

Wonderful January Brunch

Thanks to all who joined us for our January Brunch at the Bright Water Clubhouse. We fellowshipped, ate great food and shared some helpful tips. An email was sent last week that included a compilation of everyone's tips. You can find it on page 6-7 of this newsletter as well. Also, a big "Thanks!" to hospitality members who came early and stayed late to clean up and to Cathy Thacker for reserving the facility for us.

A huge "Thank you" to **Piano Works** for donating two $25 gift certificates, and to **Music and Arts** for donating two music books for our door prizes. Congratulations to the lucky winners of our drawing!

March Master Class with Dr. Patti Dinkins-Matthews

Remember, March is Master Class month! We welcome Dr. Dinkins-Matthews, a member of GCMTA and piano professor at Emory University, as our clinician. Our three student performers and the pieces being played are listed below. This will be a great time for us to learn from Patti, a Master Teacher and delightful individual.

Alexander Ly (Kathy Dawal)
Knight Rupert by Schumann

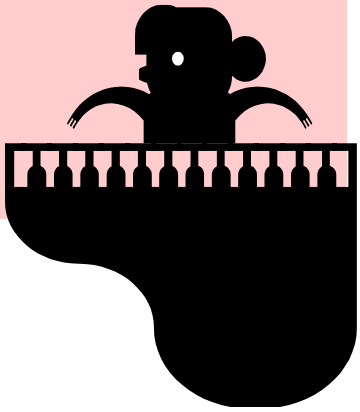
Emily Nguyen Phan (Patti Bennett)
Invention No.8 in F Major by J.S. Bach

Catherine Baron (Susan Andrews)
Sonata Hob 16:10 by Haydn

May 14th Meeting and Luncheon - Come celebrate another great year with your fellow teachers on **Wednesday, May 14** (***note the corrected date***!) 10:00 a.m. at Bright Water

Ensemble Extravaganza

What fun!! Duets, Trios, Quartets, Duos all are eligible! April 4 is the deadline for submitting students' application for our Piano Ensemble Extravaganza Concert on Saturday, May 3, 2014. Contact Ruth Mantooth, 640 Ashtree Path, Alpharetta, 30005 RuthMantooth@gmail.com or check online at GCMTA for details. We are looking forward to a fantastic event!



MTNA Certification Program

"[MTNA's Certification Program] serves to elevate the entire music teaching profession; it identifies for the public the essentials that define a competent music teacher and offers incentive and opportunities for professional growth." - *Joan M. Reist, NCTM*

www.mtnacertification.org/process/

Robin Engleman, NCTM

englemanr@bellsouth.net

University of Georgia Piano Pedagogy Symposium 2014

The ABCs of artistry

featuring

Randall Faber

co-author of the best-selling *Piano Adventures* series

Sessions to energize, invigorate, stimulate, and inspire your teaching

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2014

RAMSEY CONCERT HALL
UGA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
ATHENS, GA

Sessions to include:

The ABCs of Artistry
Stages of Talent Development
Tapping the Creative Core

Presented **free of charge** by the Hugh Hodgson School of Music and the Willson Center for Humanities and Arts

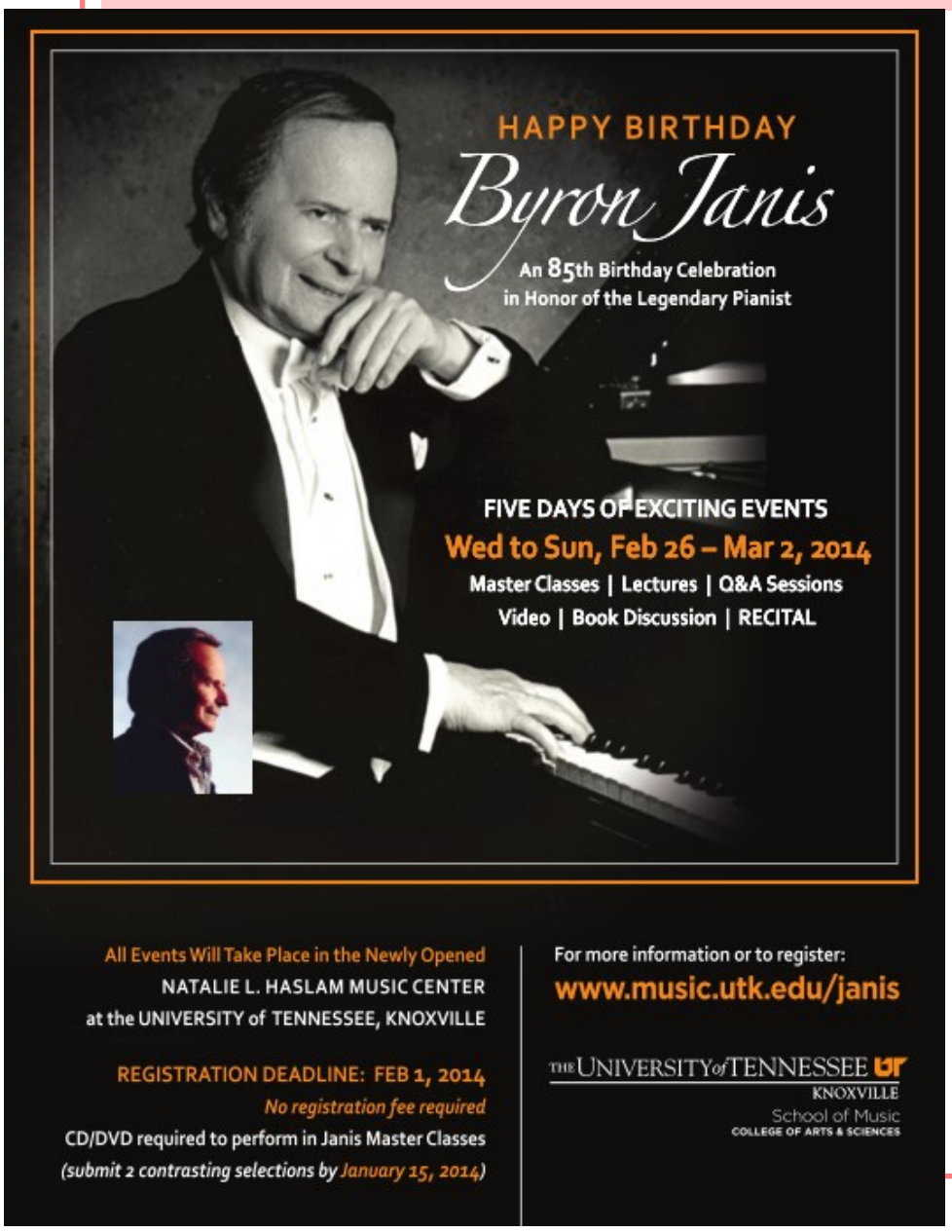
For more information, visit **music.uga.edu** or contact Pete Jutras at **pjutras@uga.edu** or **706-542-2715**

To learn about teaching assistantships for UGA's graduate degrees in the fields of performance, piano pedagogy, and collaborative piano, contact Ms. Susan LeCroy at **shlecroy@uga.edu**

The piano faculty at the University of Tennessee School of Music would like to invite you to attend a very special event in our ongoing celebration of the new Natalie L. Haslam Music Center. On February 26, 27, 28, March 1, and 2 we will be hosting the legendary pianist Byron Janis in a celebration of his 85th Birthday year. This event will include daily master classes, lectures, video presentations, question and answer sessions, book discussions, and possibly even a small recital by this great American pianist. If you or your students would like to be considered to perform in the master classes, it is necessary to register and send a preliminary screening CD prior to the deadline. The complete schedule, registration and details of this celebration are listed on the website: www.music.utk.edu/janis

We are proud to invite you as our guests for these sessions at no cost to you. All events will be held in the Natalie L. Haslam Music Center, which houses almost 120 pianos, 68 of which are new Steinways. As an all-Steinway School, our undergraduate and graduate piano students have fourteen new Steinway A[1]s and B[1]s on which to practice, as well as numerous rehearsal rooms and venues with Steinway grands. Every piano studio has both Hamburg and American Steinway B[1]s, and all recital venues have Hamburg and American Steinways from which to select.

We hope to see you next month at this extraordinary celebration for Byron Janis!



GMTA Conference 2014 presenters

are being sought. Types of presentations enjoyed and requested include pedagogy, studio management, performance practice, technology, comparison of methods, digital and acoustic considerations, teaching online, social media applications, panel discussions, Georgia's own recitals, musicality and creative engagement, teaching the special needs child, performance health maintenance, historical issues, performance anxiety, and repertoire selections. This list summarizes more specific requests and should pique your areas of interest and should inspire you to share your interests and experience. The deadline to submit your proposal is March 1, 2014. Go now to GMTA's website to start preparing your session proposal. When selecting topics, every effort is made to have variety in the schedule. If you have submitted in the past and the topic has not been accepted, please submit again!

2014 GCMTA Brunch Program

"Rhapsodic Roundtables"

Here is a compilation of the tips, questions and other ideas that were discussed at our brunch on January 22.

Tips

- If a child can't learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn.
- Use yarn to construct a staff and poker chips with letter names written on them to teach notes.
- I love highlighters!
- Use construction stickers to help students remember to correct mistakes.
- For Festival/audition preparation: 4-6 wks before, record student's memorized piece (on Ipad, etc.), listen and critique, looking at music. One piece is recorded one week with the next the following week. Helps fine tuning details as well as helping with performance anxiety and observing recital deportment-hands in lap before playing, bench position, etc.
- Have students perform pieces in recital the weekend before.
- Piano Explorer magazine – They have the 100 days of practice challenge and if you succeed your name is printed in the magazine!
- Technic Olympics – especially in an Olympic year….Skiing=Scales, 4 Man Bobsled=Cadences, etc. You can get medals from Oriental Trading.
- Patience!
- Perform at school, church, etc.
- For beginners: I have written 9-10 short exercises (3-4 ms) with each one highlighting note learning, steps, skips and ending with the last two measures a "surprise" (ex. Both hand move an octave apart and play a chord) to make it more interesting.
- Special pieces for a child's particular problem or what he/she is learning (ex RH/LH coordination, 2s against 3s, etc.)
- Mickey Mouse ears with "I'm listening" for students to wear to increase aural awareness; funky glasses (from $ store) to wear when needing to increase visual awareness of the music; sombrero to wear when celebrating a victorious performance at the lesson!
- Play one RH while student plays LH, then switch parts.
- When starting a new piece, start at the end of a piece and target trouble spots.
- Memorization techniques?
- 5 minutes: Play games ex. Find note in 3 seconds, Name note, form of piece?, name chord, interval, find interval, musical term?, etc. Must get 4 out of 6 to win.
- As students are learning minor key scales, ask them to name key signature of relative major.
- Teaching dynamics: 1.Write the dynamic marking on cards and put them on floor facing student (pp, p, mp, mf, f, ff). Say each card in the speaking voice volume of the sign and ask the student to repeat (being this in a kneeling position with pp, then gradually rise in body position as you say each level) 2. Turn cards over and mix up. Have student get them back in order. 3.Take card and ask student to speak in that dynamic level. 5.Hold up card and have student play at that level.
- Ask beginners to sing note names with you at the lesson and at home as they play.
- To encourage practice, have student put a sticker on their music each time they practice that piece. Motivational for them and lets you know how much they practice.

Continued on page 7...

2014 GCMTA Brunch Program

Continued from page 6...

- Practice hands separately, hands together, etc.
- Perform as often as possible. Play for parents, grandparents, friends, teachers, classmates, cousins, girlfriends, boyfriends and random passers-by.
- Learn and understand key signatures. Practice scales early, often and forever.
- Use the metronome!
- Count!
- Another way to memorize- from the end to the beginning!...last 2 measures first, etc. Works very well on Bach, Mozart, Clementi, etc.

Questions:

- Does anyone have any new tips on memorizing pieces in levels medium-advanced?
- How do you get your students to practice scales and technique?
- What is the best way to deal with parents who are consistently late with payment? Ideas: payment for entire semester in advance, automatic bank check
- Do you teach students who only have a keyboard (non digital or full length)?
- How do you deal with your own young child during lessons? Idea: have a student's parent care for them during lesson for slightly reduced lesson fee; have younger teen or preteen care for them since you'll be in the house to help if need be.
- How important is it to continue to stress persistent technique issues?
- Are there any really great theory websites?

Websites

Susanparadis.com

benjamin_zander_on_music_and passion.html

thumbtack.org

threecrankywomen.com

Apps: (I'm not positive if all these are apps…)

ted.com/talks

symphonica.com

mylittlenote.com

notesquish.com

themostaddictingsheepgame.com

Must join:

Professional Piano Teachers

Professional Voice Teachers

Good hymn arranger:

Martha Sherrill Kelsey , **Impressions for Worship Volumes 1,2,3** and **Christmas** I use these arrangements for weddings, funerals, preludes, postludes, etc.

GCMTA NEWS

February 2014

Debra Hughes, President
bndhughes@comcast.net

Georgia Music Teachers Association
www.georgiamta.org
Name: Georgia Password: music

Music Teachers National Association
www.mtna.org

Gwinnett County Music Teachers Association
www.gcmta.org

Have you been to our website lately?
Take a look!

If you have information that needs to go in the newsletter, please email it to **gcmtamail@gmail.com**. Label your email with "newsletter" in the subject line. You can also call me at 678-985-9302. Please send me your information as you want it worded in the newsletter, and have it to me by the 1st of the month. Please try not to do too much formatting on your information (spacing, tabs, etc.) Leave that up to me. Thank you!

Natalie Hardy

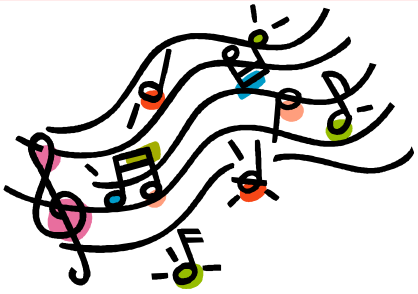
Odds & Ends

Elena Cholokova has had her baby! Congratulations!!

1960s Kimball console piano with mezzo thermoneal stabilizer for sale. Needs some repairs. Asking $200.00 or best offer. Call Stephanie Freeman at 404-935-3012.

Deborah Brady has been inducted into the Piano Guild's Hall of Fame. Congratulations!

The Gwinnett School of Music is seeking qualified experienced piano, vocal and strings teachers for one or more of our three locations, Lilburn, Grayson and Suwanee. If you are interested please send resumes to gwinnettmusic@gmail.com.



Door greeters: (Oops…this is embarrassing!) I've misplaced/perhaps accidentally thrown out the list of gracious members who volunteered at our October meeting to be door greeters for the remaining months of the year. If you remember who you are, please email me mam0609@comcast.net . We need two people per meeting, one from 9:20-9:40 and another from 9:40-10:00 on February 26 and March 26th. Thanks so much!

- Mary Ann McTier