

GCMTA NEWS

Promoting Music Education

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Georgia Federation of Music Clubs (GFMC) INVITES YOU to come to its Annual Conference at PianoWorks on Saturday, September 28. Breakfast is at 9am, with the program by Eric Baumgartner beginning at 9:30. Please come and enjoy this FREE conference!



On Friday, November 22, 1963, Leonard Bernstein, Music Director of the New York Philharmonic, was at Philharmonic Hall in a script meeting for an episode of the New York Philharmonic Young People’s Concerts, scheduled to be broadcast the next day, when a news report came in: President Kennedy had been shot. Everyone huddled around the radio anxiously waiting to find out whether or not the shot had been fatal.

Later in the day, George Szell had already begun conducting an all-Beethoven program at an afternoon subscription concert when the call came through with news of president’s death. At the conclusion of the opening overture, the orchestra manager walked on stage to convey the tragic news to the audience. George Szell led the audience in a moment of silence; the rest of the program, as well as the Young People’s Concert, was canceled.

On the evening of Monday, November 25, the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York held its annual fundraising event, the twenty-fifth “Night of Stars” at Madison Square Garden. Vice-President Lyndon B. Johnson was originally scheduled to speak, but he canceled and the event became a memorial to the slain President. The audience numbered over 18,000 distinguished guests, Leonard Bernstein among them. These were some of the words he shared in his address:

“We musicians, like everyone else, are numb with sorrow at this murder, and with rage at the senselessness of the crime. But this sorrow and rage will not inflame us to seek retribution; rather they will inflame our art. Our music will never again be quite the same. This will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before.”

Over the course of the fifty-plus years since, the same senseless gun violence that took the life of President Jack Fitzgerald Kennedy has taken the lives of countless others. Our federal government defines a mass killing as “three or more deaths in a single incident occurring in a public place.” Between July 28th and August 4th alone, there were at least 34 deaths as a result of three separate mass killings in the United States.

continued



GCMTA Music Day

When: Saturday, November
16th, 2019

Where: First Baptist Church
Duluth
2902 Duluth Highway 120

Online registration deadline is
Friday, October 4.

Checks are to be postmarked no
later than October 11 to
Patti Bennett
4745 Bennett Road
Buford, GA. 30519-1805

See the website for the rules
and requirements.

Note: Please do not select two
pieces from the same piano
method, especially if there is no
composer listed.

LOCAL AUDITIONS

Local Auditions will be
Saturday, February 15, 2020,
at PianoWorks in Duluth.
The details for repertoire,
registration (deadline is
January 14,) and teacher
responsibilities are outlined
online at GCMTA.org
under Auditions.

If you have questions,
please email
Jiyeon Kwak at
jiyeonatwell@me.com.

The pianist Boris Giltburg said, “Music, and any art, by the very fact of creating, of bringing something new into the world, is in opposition to any force which comes to kill, destroy and terrorize.” As teachers of music, we must not underestimate the significance of the work we do every day. Studies have shown that sitting down to play a piano for even a few moments on a busy day can help the mind refocus: relieving stress, lowering blood pressure, reducing the symptoms of depression and other mental health issues, and battling social pain such as loneliness. This year – more important than the teaching of music theory and scales and chords and pieces – let us show our students that music is a means through which they can express themselves in positive, constructive ways throughout their entire lifetimes.

- *Pam Asberry*, GCMTA President



The Executive Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday,
August 28th at 9:45 am at 1400 Doogwood Rd. In Snellville.

Committee Chairs,
please bring a written report for the Secretary.

MEMBERSHIP in GCMTA is the backbone for a collaborative community of music-teaching professionals, connecting both the seasoned educator and those at the beginning of their career. It empowers music teachers nationwide to become better educators through networking, leadership, mentoring and educational opportunities.

MTNA Membership Delivers: "R-E-P"
(Try to remember these things when encouraging someone to consider the value of joining GCMTA)

1. **Resources**—access to countless benefits, from Certification, publications and consultation services to competitions, teacher enrichment grants and insurance.
2. **Education**—conferences, events, and advice on teaching tips and pedagogy, technology and web trends, master classes, and informational sessions.
3. **Peer Connections**—a network of outlets, forums, and channels for like-minded individuals in the music profession to collaborate and communicate, both locally and nationally.

NFMC Membership News

Important: New Closer Deadline!



Senior Club Dues firm deadline August 16, 2019

Senior dues are \$10. Each teacher must pay \$10 and an additional \$10 for each ADULT student that will participate in the festival in February. These dues must be mailed by check, **payable to GCMTA**, to your district chair (see below) **postmarked no later than Friday, August 16**, or hand delivered to your chair in an envelope with both your name and the chair's name on it, no later than 8:00 PM on Tuesday, August 20. No form is necessary, but provide name, address, city, zip, and email for yourself and each adult student.

North Gwinnett Sr Club

Chair: Beth Ann Wise
6980 River Island Circle
Buford, GA. 30518
770-904-3974
Email: bwise3957@yahoo.com
Date: **February 8, 2020**
Location: First Baptist Church, Duluth

Central Gwinnett Sr Club

Chair: Michelle Peck
2669 Snowshoe Bend
Bethlehem, GA 30620
404-735-0092
Email: michellenews85@gmail.com
Date: **February 29, 2020**
Location: Hebron Baptist Church, Dacula

West Gwinnett Sr Club

Chair: Susan Andrews
2212 Arden Crest Way
Bethlehem, GA 30620
770-617-2250
Email: pianosusan@comcast.net
Date: **February 22, 2020**
Location: Mountain Park United Methodist Church, Stone Mountain

Junior Club Dues and Roster firm deadline September 7, 2019

Junior Club Dues are \$2.00. The Junior Keynotes subscription (\$6.00) is mandatory for each teacher, and optional for each adult student. The Junior Club Membership Application may be found on the GCMTA website (<http://www.gcmta.org>) or the GFMC website (<http://www.georgianmfc.org>). The junior club application and check for the total junior dues and magazine subscription, **payable to GFMC**, must be mailed to your Senior Club/Festival Chair (see above) **postmarked no later than Saturday, September 7**, or hand delivered no later than Wednesday, Sept 11.

The Junior Club Roster is an alphabetical listing of all of your students who may potentially participate in Federation events. It must be submitted in an Excel document to your Senior Club/Festival Chair by September 7, 2019. Chairs will not accept hand written or hard copies of rosters. The roster should include the Junior Club name and the full names of all Junior Club members. Students not listed on the roster will NOT be permitted to register for Festival or other NFMC or GFMC events. A fillable and printable roster is on the GCMTA website under "Forms".

Online option for Junior dues and roster— go to the GFMC website <http://www.georgianmfc.org>, click on "Membership", then "Membership Forms". Click on "Junior Club Registration". Complete the information online. Where it asks for GFMC Senior Club and Festival, enter the name of your Senior Club (West, Central or North Gwinnett). You are the counselor of your Junior Club; please print your complete name. The name of your Junior Club should be the same as what was submitted last year.

At the bottom of the form, you must type in the ROSTER of your students. The site may not allow you to print your roster when you are finished, so make sure to "screen print" if needed. Follow the instructions for paying online by credit card. Remember that the deadline to complete this online form and pay junior dues online is **September 15**.

It is VERY important that you notify your Senior Club/Festival Chair that you enrolled and paid junior dues online and provide the number of Junior Club students on your roster.

GCMTA Programs 2019-2020



We have an exciting lineup of speakers for the 2019-20 GCMTA year!

Please plan now to join us to enjoy these wonderful programs.

September, October, February, and March meetings will be held at Grace Bible Church, 325 Simonton Road SW, Lawrenceville.

The November meeting will be held at PianoWorks, 2805 Buford Highway, Duluth.

January and May meetings will be held at the 1123 Grace House in Snellville.

Please note that the March meeting will be held on the 3rd Wednesday of that month due to the MTNA National Conference.

Cathy Thacker, NCTM

September 25, 2019

Dr. Chenny Gan, Wesleyan College

More Sound, Less Pain: Ergonomic Piano Technique

This workshop talks about technique from the perspective of physics and ergonomics---how to use our energy in the most efficient and effective way to produce the best desired sound and speed on the piano with the least effort and tension. Teachers are invited to bring examples of technical issues from certain pieces or daily practice, which will be “diagnosed” and “treated” using principles of science and movement.

October 23, 2019

Dr. Kevin Chance, University of Alabama, MTNA President-Elect

Guide to Successful Sight Reading

Lack of reading fluency is perhaps the most common issue teachers identify among their students, and it is one of the most common problems encountered among incoming piano majors. By examining reading statistics, approaches, and theories in this lecture, we can thoughtfully reconsider the approaches we are using in our studios. Additionally, a wealth of excellent materials for fostering more fluent reading will be presented.

November 20, 2019

Derek Vann, PianoWorks

Choosing a Digital Piano and Using the PianoWorks Website

Derek will give us valuable tips and insights about choosing and recommending digital pianos for our own studios and for our students. He will also give us an overview on using the new online ordering system available through their website.

January 22, 2020

Brunch and Fun!

February 26, 2020

Kathryn Dawal and Lois Finlay present a Piano Duet Program.

March 18, 2020

Master Class with Dr. Jerico Vasquez of Shorter University

Dr. Vasquez will share his expertise in critiquing the students of our own GCMTA teachers. The student performers are chosen from the winners or recommendations of judges from the 2019 Music Day event.

May 20, 2020

May Luncheon



GMTA Theory Exams

GMTA THEORY TEST

THE ONLY OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO TAKE THE GMTA THEORY TEST IS AT THE GCMTA MUSIC DAY EVENT.

Date: November 16, 2019
Exam Fee: \$10 per student
Location: Duluth First Baptist Church, Duluth, GA.
Application Deadline (Online Only): **TBD**
 Music Day Chairman: Patti Bennett, 404-490-5548, musicbypatti1@gmail.com
 Test Administrator: Debbie Murphy, 770-614-1258, murf2227@bellsouth.net

APPLICATION INFORMATION:

*Registration for the **GMTA Theory Test** is only available **online** at GMTA's website:

<http://georgiamta.org/>

*Students may take the same test or the next level. Sample tests can be found on the GMTA Website.

Georgia Auditions Theory Examination: GATE

THE ONLY OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO TAKE THE GATE IS AT LOCAL AUDITIONS.

Date: February 15, 2020
Exam Fee: \$10 per student
Location: PianoWorks, Duluth, GA.
Registration Deadline (Online Only): **TBD**
 Auditions Chairman: Jiyeon Kwak, 661) 305-9980, jiyeonatwell@me.com
 Exam Administrator: Robin Whitworth, 678-482-6357, robinluvsdogs@bellsouth.net

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Each pre-college piano or piano concerto participant in GMTA's local, regional, and state auditions is **required to take and pass** one of the three (3) theory exams ("GATES") in order to advance beyond local auditions. Students may become EXEMPT from taking some or all of the GATES. For exemption information, practice exams, and other important information regarding the GATE visit the GMTA website at: <http://georgiamta.org/>

APPLICATION INFORMATION:

Registration for the **GMTA Theory Test** is only available **ONLINE** at the GMTA website: <http://georgiamta.org/>



Dear GMTA Members,

The piano faculty of the Hugh Hodgson School of Music at the University of Georgia is thrilled to invite you to the 2020 UGA Piano Pedagogy Symposium with guest clinician, **Deborah Rambo Sinn**. The topic for this symposium is "Teaching Artistry and Interpretation."

Join us on **Saturday, January 25th, 2020** on the Athens, GA campus for a **FREE** day of engaging and thought-provoking sessions including:

- *General Interpretation: Or What Your Teacher Never Taught You!*
- *Bass Line: What Lies Beneath*
- *The Secret Lives of Phrases*

Mark the date on your calendar now, and we will send more information and details later this year. Encourage your colleagues to join us as well! And be sure to check out Deborah Rambo Sinn's website:

<https://deborahrambosinn.com>



[Home | Deborah Rambo Sinn - global piano teacher, author/editor, keynote speaker](#)
deborahrambosinn.com

Author and Editor. *Playing Beyond the Notes: A Pianist's Guide to Musical Interpretation* (Oxford University Press, 2013) has gained a place in independent music studios and university piano pedagogy programs across the US, Canada, and around the world.

If you have any questions about the symposium, please contact Martha Thomas at mlthomas@uga.edu.

We look forward to seeing you for a truly memorable day!

Musically yours,

The UGA Piano Faculty:

David Fung
Pete Jutras
Evgeny Rivkin
Liza Stepanova
Martha Thomas

* Funding for this event has been generously provided by the Despy Karlas Piano Professorship Fund and the Hugh Hodgson School of Music.