

# gcmta news

## From the President

### TAKING CARE OF THE TEACHER, PART 2

As I mentioned last month, although anyone in a nurturing profession is at risk for burnout, piano teachers face special challenges. I also outlined a few strategies for minimizing burnout. But what are some steps we can take to avoid burnout altogether?

#### 1. Have high standards for ourselves and for our teaching.

Attend workshops and conferences. Prepare for each lesson. Treat each student with respect. Dress and act professionally at all times.

#### 2. Demand the best of our students as well as ourselves.

Children are much happier when there are clearly established boundaries and goals. If we set our expectations high, our students will rise to them.

#### 3. Make our standards absolutely clear to everyone involved.

Most parents do not really understand what good piano teaching is so it is up to us to let them know. Before accepting a new student, insist on a personal interview/audition. Be sure that parents understand they will need to be involved in the learning process on some level; at the very least, they must be willing to insist on regular, disciplined practice in an environment conducive to uninterrupted concentration. In addition, having a clearly written, printed studio policy brochure which clearly communicates your policies regarding fees, payment schedules, missed lessons, etc. is a must.

I will conclude this three-part series next month, with a few tried and true remedies for burnout. In the meantime, take good care of yourselves!

Pam Asberry  
pam.asberry@gmail.com

*"Music teacher certification through MTNA strengthens the music teaching profession by asserting the validity of teaching credentials in the public eye. What could be more important to preserve and announce...?"* - Jane Magrath, NCTM

Robin Engleman, NCTM  
englemanr@bellsouth.net



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## October Meeting

Join us on October 23 to hear Dr. Kevin Chance from the University of Alabama, MTNA President-Elect, speak to us about his "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.

Please note that we will begin with Dr. Chance's program at 9:45; the business meeting will follow his presentation.

Cathy Thacker, NCTM

## GCMTA's Music Day 2019

Music Day is November 16 at Duluth First Baptist Church. Registration is now closed. Entry fees are to be postmarked no later than October 11. Make checks payable to GCMTA and mail to Patti Bennett  
4745 Bennett Road  
Buford, GA.30519-1805.

Scheduled performance times, teacher work schedules and parent letters will be emailed to you. If there are corrections that need to be made in repertoire, you will receive an email. Thanks to all the teachers who are entering students. A special thanks to Kathy Dawal for her work with registration. I am looking forward to a great event!

Patti Bennett, Music Day Chair  
[musicbypatti1@gmail.com](mailto:musicbypatti1@gmail.com)

## MTNA Foundation Fellow

The Music Teachers National Association Foundation Fellow program offers a meaningful method for honoring deserving individuals while supporting the efforts of the MTNA Foundation Fund through a donation to the Foundation Fund in an individual's name.

The GMTA Executive Board recently nominated **John Robert Poe** (posthumously) as a 2020 MTNA Fellow. For a Fellow to be named, GMTA must raise \$1500. Donations may be made by check or credit card. Information may be found at: <https://www.mtnafoundation.org/contribute/>

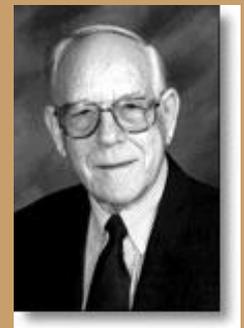
Please consider making a donation so we can reach the required amount in support of John Robert Poe. Donations should be made by **November 1, 2019**.

A distinguished composer and arranger of educational keyboard music, Mr. Poe graduated from Auburn University, where he studied with Hubert Liverman and Blanca Renard. In addition to private teaching, Mr. Poe taught piano and theory at Muscogee Music Conservatory, and held positions as choir director and organist for several churches in Georgia.

Mr. Poe was an active member of local, state, and national music teachers association groups and served as an adjudicator for student festivals and competitions throughout the United States.

**John Robert Poe** concentrated on exploring superior music teaching methods for over four decades. These explorations had been part of a successful career that found him in public school work, conservatory teaching, and his favorite for many years, an independent music studio. Poe's teaching encompassed many different avenues of music exploration such as the use of rhythm instruments of every description from special scores that he created and older students' work in groups on advanced repertoire. Poe's compositions are as well known for achieving good results with students as they are for imaginative content.

Thank you in advance for your support of **John Robert Poe** as an MTNA Fellow.



## GCMTA Performance Day

PERFORMANCE DAY(S) will take place at Von Maur Department Store on the Saturdays, December 7th and 14th, from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. We have more time this year and can offer more time to each teacher. This truly is a photo-op for students and families. Sign up sheets will be available at the October GCMTA Meeting, or contact Lois Simon if you would like to register students for this event.

Lois Simon  
LoisSimon@aol.com  
770.277.6659

## State Conference

**Make plans now to attend the 2019 GMTA State Conference,** to be held November 7-9 on the beautiful campus of Columbus State University!

### Conference Highlights:

- One pedagogy headliner session each day
- Masterclasses for both strings and piano
- Featured performers' recital will be half chamber music, half solo piano
- GMTA Concerto competition winners' performances with the CSU orchestra
- Live performance of commissioned composer, Terry Lowry
- Free parking across from the Schwob School of Music

### Pedagogy Headliners:

Our pedagogy headliners will be Katherine Fisher and Dr. Julie Knerr Hague, authors of *Piano Safari*.

### Performance Headliners:

Our performance headliners will be Wendy Warner, cello and Henry Kramer, piano.

### Commissioned Composer:

The 2019 GMTA Commissioned Composer will be Terry Lowry.

### AND:

GCMTA's own Yumi Patterson, Pam Asberry, Cathy Thacker and Lois Simon will present the workshop *William Gillock: A Fresh Look* on Friday at 3:00PM!

For more information or to register, visit <https://georgiamta.org/conference.php>.



Dynamic Lutheran congregation in Lilburn/Lawrenceville is seeking a pianist/accompanist to play worship services and accompany the choir. Musical styles include contemporary (both piano only and praise ensemble led) and traditional. Two Sunday morning services with a Wednesday evening choir rehearsal.

Salary \$13,000 – 15,000

Please contact: Lois Simon

loissimon@aol.com

# Georgia Music Teachers Association

## THEORY EXAMS

### GMTA THEORY TEST at GCMTA's Music Day

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

**Date:** November 16, 2019  
**Exam Fee:** \$10 per student  
**Location:** Duluth First Baptist Church, Duluth, GA.  
**Application Deadline (Online Only):** October 4, 2019  
**Music Day Chairman:** Patti Bennett, 404-490-5548, [musicbypatti1@gmail.com](mailto:musicbypatti1@gmail.com)  
**Test Administrator:** Debbie Murphy, 770-614-1258, [murf2227@bellsouth.net](mailto:murf2227@bellsouth.net)

#### APPLICATION INFORMATION:

\*Registration for the **GMTA Theory Test** is only available **online** at GMTA's website: <https://georgiamta.org/student-theory.php>

\*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):** January 14, 2020  
**Auditions Chairman:** Jiyeon Kwak, 661) 305-9980, [jiyeonatwell@me.com](mailto:jiyeonatwell@me.com)  
**Exam Administrator:** Robin Whitworth, 678-482-6357, [robinluvsdogs@bellsouth.net](mailto: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 the GATEs. For exemption information, practice exams, and other important information regarding the GATE visit the GMTA website at: <https://georgiamta.org/student-theory.php>

#### **APPLICATION INFORMATION:**

Registration for the **GMTA Theory Test** is only available **ONLINE** at the GMTA website:  
<https://georgiamta.org/student-theory.php>

**CD Players are needed for Theory Testing at Music Day.**

**Please email Debbie Murphy at [murf2227@bellsouth.net](mailto:murf2227@bellsouth.net) if you can provide one.**

**CD players must be able to play a "COPIED" CD and have earphone capability.**



# GMTA THEORY EXAMS & GATE

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The **GMTA Theory Test** includes ear training as well as a written exam.
- Teachers will be given a specific time for each student's testing typically after the performance.
- **To register students for theory testing, teachers must have an account on the GMTA website. If you do not have an account, you will see instructions on the website regarding how to set up an account.**
- **Payment** for theory testing can be paid online or teacher may choose to mail in payment to the state office (Mandy Reynolds).
- You can find complete information, and practice tests on the **GMTA website** at: <https://georgiamta.org/student-theory.php>
- The **GATE (theory test)** is a required component for entering Auditions, and the test must be passed. You can find passing scores listed at the GMTA website.
- Ear Training is not part of the GATE testing.
- An exemption for GATE may be possible by taking the GMTA Theory Test.
- You can find complete information about **exemptions** for GATE as well as **practice tests**, and registration requirements at the GMTA website: <https://georgiamta.org/student-theory.php>

The Snellville Recreational Center is in need of a piano teacher for Seniors on a fixed income. The former teacher charged \$5 per 30-minute lesson, and students pay each week. 16 students are already signed up. Days are negotiable, but Monday and/or Thursday are preferred. A keyboard is provided. For information or to apply, contact Tracey Glass at 770-985-7219 or [tglass@snellville.org](mailto:tglass@snellville.org).

WELCOME to our newest member, Dr. Emily Choi, from Duluth. She is a piano instructor who returns after a seven year absence. She attended our first meeting in September and remembered many of you from her previous involvement. We were all super glad to meet and get acquainted with her!



**MEMBERSHIP DRIVE:** We are looking to invite teachers to join GCMTA through a written invitation. Thanks to Gloria Park, Susan Andrews, Ginger Tankersley, Rebecca Bonam and Arianna (Music and Arts) who graciously took invitations to stores and schools at which they work. Do you live close to a music store that provides lessons? Ken Stanton and Gwinnett School of Music near me were very willing to pass on the invitations to their teachers. When asked, they were encouraged to share it so their teachers could engage in Festivals and scholarship opportunities, as well as, the monthly educational seminars we offer. Please contact me if you can assist in this membership initiative. -Deb Hughes 770-401-1978

Of course, if you know individual teachers that you can invite, use your calling cards. If you've run out, I have plenty to share. It is so good to make personal contact. Remember to speak of "R-E-P" (R=Resources, E=Educational, P=Peer involvement).

# Local Auditions

Date: February 15th, 2020  
 Location: PianoWorks  
 2805 Buford Hwy, Duluth 30096

Registration (“Online only” at the Georgia MTA website):  
 Opens December 1st, 2019  
 Closes January 14th, 2020

Eligibility: School Grade 4-11  
 Students of the members who paid dues by  
 January 2020

Fees: Member Teachers - \$25 per student  
 Non-member Teachers - \$75 per student in addition to an one time non-member  
 teacher fee of \$35

Pay online when you register.  
 If paying by check, it must be delivered by January 14, 2020 to:

Mandy Reynold, Executive Director,  
 1794 Lake Heights Circle,  
 Dacula, GA 30019  
 Phone: 770-945-7504,  
 Email: georgiamta@gmail.com

Schedule: Both performance schedule and teachers’ work schedule will be emailed  
 2 weeks prior to the event (Feb. 15th)

Teachers: You must work either a full or a half day according to the number of students you’ve **entered**.

GATE: Theory Exams will be held at the same place on the same day as the Local Auditions.  
 Please register online at Georgia MTA website - **THIS IS A SEPARATE REGISTRATION!**

Also, if you have seniors entering this event, please remember to have them register by the same  
 date as local and  
 take GATE before the State Auditions

For the Repertoire requirements, rules and procedures, please check :  
<http://gcmta.org/home/index/student-activities/auditions>

Many thanks to Jean Mann for all of her help and for taking care of the trophies this year as well.

It was great to see many of you at our first meeting. If you have further questions, please contact me.

Best regards,  
 Jiyeon Kwak - Local Auditions Chair  
 661-305-9980



For Sale: Yamaha GC1 with piano bench, 9 years old, in great condition – \$8,000



Pearl Sound Check drum set with four Zildjian cymbals, 13 years old in good condition – \$450



Melissa Chan is the contact, and her number is 678-641-6431. Interested buyers can call or text her.

## Gwinnett Symphony Wind Orchestra Fall Concert

**Sunday, October 20, 2019**

**Discovery High School  
1335 Old Norcross Rd.  
Lawrenceville, GA 30046**

**Cost: \$10**

**[gwinnettsymphony.tix.com](http://gwinnettsymphony.tix.com)**





**LIVE IN CONCERT  
GEORGE SKAROULIS & PAM ASBERRY**

Saturday, November 23, 2019

6:00PM

PianoWorks

2805 Buford Highway, Duluth, Georgia

Admission: \$20

Tickets & More Information: <https://skaroulisasberry.eventbrite.com>

