

GCMTA NEWS

Promoting Music Education

From the President

Have you ever had a student simply not show up for a lesson? That happened to me recently. The next day, I received the following email from the girl’s father.

"We would like to apologize about forgetting about the lesson and not letting you know in advance. Per your official policy there is no way to make up for missed lessons, but is there a possibility we can make it up?"

My answer? In a word, “no.” Because my studio is running at full capacity, there is no flexibility for me to offer make-up lessons. This is clearly stated in my studio policies. (Besides, I was present and prepared to teach at the student’s scheduled lesson time!) But I went on to offer detailed assurance that this family’s monthly tuition check pays for far more than the hands-on time spent with their child at individual lessons, as follows.

Piano teaching is my passion and my full-time career. I earned my Master of Music degree in Piano Performance and Piano Pedagogy from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and have been teaching piano privately since 1979. I keep up my own practice, perform regularly, and am a frequent adjudicator, writer and speaker. In part, monthly tuition pays for my knowledge, experience and expertise.

But there’s so much more. **Statistics show that for every hour enrolled in piano lessons, parents are actually investing at least two hours of the teacher’s time.** I spend countless hours on behalf of my students outside of lessons, including but not limited to such things as:

- Planning curriculum and acquiring music for each student.
- Scheduling lessons, planning students’ repertoire, communicating with parents (emails, phone calls, text messages, studio newsletter, studio website, Facebook page), planning and physically preparing for recitals and festivals, adjudicating area festivals, attending local and state music meetings and seminars.
- Attending meetings, workshops and conventions to continually improve my teaching skills.
- Performing organizational tasks involved with planning festivals, recitals, competitions, auditions, and other performance events.
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- Belonging to and volunteering many hours to music organizations such as Gwinnett County Music Teachers Association, Georgia Music Teachers Association, Music Teachers National Association, and the National Federation of Music Clubs, in order that my students might be allowed to participate in the festivals, competitions, and auditions sponsored by these groups.

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So what exactly does my students' monthly tuition pay for?

- My time spent with them in lessons, performance classes and rehearsals, as well as time spent at recitals, festivals, and competitions.
- Business expenses such as recital expenses, gifts and awards, certificates, repairs and maintenance of the piano(s) and studio, software, incentive programs and prizes, professional membership dues and journals, teacher expenses incurred in festivals and competitions, materials, postage, and normal operating expenses any small business incurs (i.e. telephone, internet, electricity, copies, etc.)
- Property taxes, self-employment taxes, health insurance, business insurance, retirement; since I am self-employed, I have no company to assist with these and do not have the benefit of sick days, paid vacations, disability insurance, etc.
- Continuing education such as conferences, conventions and workshops to help keep me current on methods and techniques of teaching and playing, attendance at concerts and other musical events that cost money to attend.
- Going to the music store or purchasing music online, incurring travel expenses or shipping charges that are not passed onto my students when billing for books.

Study upon study has demonstrated the impact musical training has on brain development and academic success as well as emotional and behavioral growth, not to mention the sheer joy music making itself brings. The investment parents are making in music lessons today will provide lasting benefits throughout their children's lifetimes and is one of the best investments they can make in their futures. It is my sincere hope that by showing them the "big picture," they will consider their tuition dollars money well spent!

Pam Asberry
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GATE testing at Local Auditions
was a great success!

Thank you to Robin Whitworth
for all the test preparation and to
those who helped grade the tests.

You are appreciated!

Special thanks to Jiyeon Kwak
for organizing a great event!

**GMTA Theory tests and
GATE tests
will be returned to teachers
by May 1, 2020.**

Competitive Piano Technithon and Hymnfest

Berean Baptist Music Academy is sponsoring a Technithon and Hymnfest, which will take place on Saturday, April 18, 2020, at their location, 1405 Hewatt Road SW, Lilburn, GA 30047. Deadline for entry is March 20. Registration fees are \$30 for one event and \$40 for both events. Registration and requirements are available at <http://www.berean-baptist.org/technithon>.

March Master Class



The March meeting is one week earlier than usual due to the MTNA Conference. Our meeting will take place on March 18 at Grace Bible Church, 325 Simonton Road, SW, Lawrenceville, GA 30046. Please arrive by 9:30 to enjoy refreshments; begin promptly at 9:45 with clinician, Dr. Jerico Vasquez of Shorter University. The student performers are chosen from the winners or recommendations of judges from the 2019 Music Day event. This year's student performers and repertoire are:

- Sophie Gheorghies, 10th grade student of Patti Bennett, playing Beethoven's Sonata No. 8 in C minor, Op. 13, 3rd movement.
- Alex Wilmot, 11th grade student of Gloria Park, performing Chopin's *Fantaisie-Impromptu*, Op. 66.
- Harrison Boone, 12th grade student of Susan Andrews, NCTM, playing Debussy's *Clair de Lune*, No. 3 from the Suite Bergamesque.

– Cathy Thacker

May Luncheon

Make your plans now to attend our May Luncheon, where we will recognize and award our 2020 Teacher of the Year! The event will be held on Wednesday, May 20, at the 1123 House, 1123 Dogwood Drive, Snellville. The meeting will begin promptly at 10:00 with presentation of the Teacher of the Year Award, a brief business meeting, and luncheon to follow. Babinelli's will cater; the menu includes Chicken Parmesan, Chicken Alfredo, Tossed Salad and Garlic Rolls. Please RSVP by Friday, May 8, to csbt88@gmail.com if you plan to attend. The cost is \$12 per person; bring a check payable to GCMTA to the March meeting or mail it to Cathy Thacker, 2603 Twilight View, Snellville, GA 30078. Please let me know if you are willing to bring a dessert item to share with the group. I look forward to celebrating the conclusion of another successful year with you!

Cathy Thacker, NCTM





North Federated Festival

The North Gwinnett Federated Festival was held February 8, at First Baptist Church, Duluth. Although the weather didn't make it easy for everyone to attend, we carried on the best we could. Many thanks to the 20 teachers that braved the snow and participated. They all helped to make everything run smoothly and successfully. There were 259 participants who received 255 Superiors, and 4 Excellents. We will award 39 -15-point cups, 21 - 30-point cups, 3 - 45-point cups, 3 - 60-point cups and 1 - 75-point cup. Many thanks to Judy Harper for compiling all this data.

The High School scholarship winners and teachers are as follows:

- 1st Place - Margaret Wei - Teacher - Ping Xu
- 2nd Place - Michael Salamat - Teacher - Gloria Park
- 3rd Place - Avyesh Kapadia - Teacher - Lisa Bong

Honorable Mentions:

- Tanvisri Alluri - Teacher - Lisa Gaal
- Abhi Atluri - Teacher - Rwei Hao
- Jelovy Djaja -Teacher - Lisa Gaal
- Neil Nariani - Teacher - Rwei Hao
- Daniel Pan - Teacher - Ping Xu
- Sarah Park - Teacher - Gloria Park
- Claire Wu - Teacher - Ping Xu

Good Job, Teachers and Students!

Central Federated Festival

Many thanks to the fantastic teachers and judges at the Central Federated Festival. Our event was held on February 29th at Hebron Baptist Church in Dacula. We had approximately 250 students, 16 teachers, and 7 student volunteers. We hosted 8 events – Piano Solo, Theory, Piano Concerto, Piano Duet, Piano Hymn Playing, Guitar Classical Solo, Clarinet Solo, and Voice Solo. Many of these students participated in multiple events.

Of those participating, we had 265 Superiors (includes all events), 19 Excellent, 1 Satisfactory, 1 Needs Improvement, and 1 student played for Comments Only. 51 students took the Theory Test.

Joe Chapman was the high school adjudicator, and these are the winners from that competition.

High School Scholarship:

- 1st place - Koty Hall - Mann
- 2nd place - Anna Hester - Compton
- 3rd place - Michael Modrich - McTier

Honorable Mentions:

- Teja Hall - Mann
- Cheyenne James - Darden
- Vanessa Veverka - Asberry
- Natalie Helton - Simon
- Dessi Pinson - Dawal

Ashley Drake was the Guitar/String Judge, and the winner in that division is Alejandra Ceballos – student of Deborah Brady.

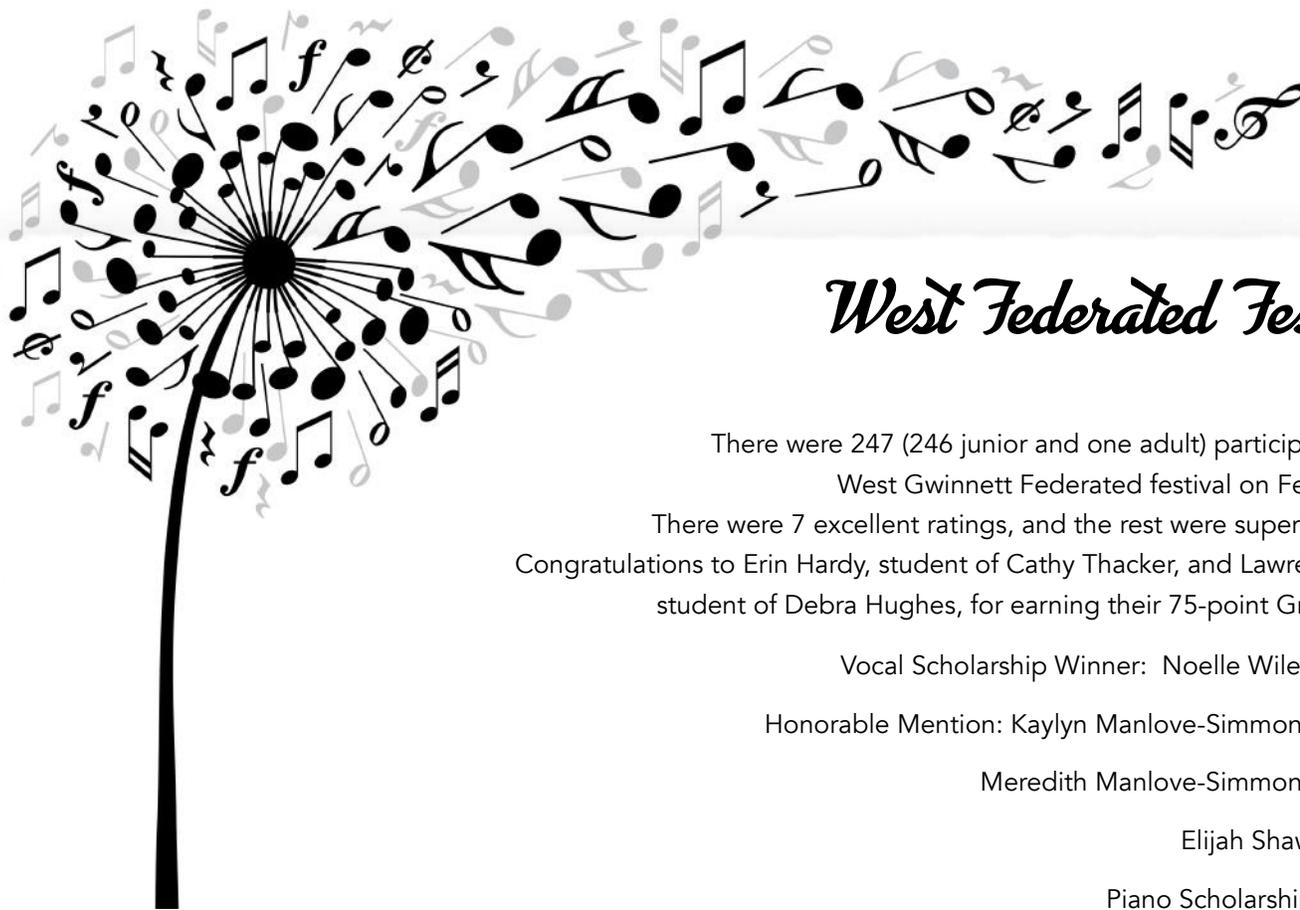
Lastly, I want to thank the Central teachers who did a great job before and during the event! We have a great team, and I'm proud of the hard work and dedication you put into your students.

- Michelle Peck

Music Day Correction

Malia Maxey, the fifth grade student of Mary Dekkers, was inadvertently omitted from the list of cash prize winners for Music Day 2019. Congratulations to Malia and her fine teacher for this accomplishment!





West Federated Festival

There were 247 (246 junior and one adult) participants in the West Gwinnett Federated festival on February 22. There were 7 excellent ratings, and the rest were superior ratings. Congratulations to Erin Hardy, student of Cathy Thacker, and Lawrence Zhou, student of Debra Hughes, for earning their 75-point Grand Cups.

Vocal Scholarship Winner: Noelle Wiley (Murphy)

Honorable Mention: Kaylyn Manlove-Simmons (Hughes)

Meredith Manlove-Simmons (Hughes)

Elijah Shaw (Murphy)

Piano Scholarship Winners:

1st Place: Daniel Mode (Bonam)

2nd Place: Jaidyn Robinson (Bonam)

3rd Place: Jack Wong (Patterson)

Honorable Mention:

Andrew Barge (Andrews)

Harrison Boone (Andrews)

Aziza Russell (Sivert)

Raissa Wong (Patterson)

Paul Yan (Andrews)

There was no award in the Woodwind Event.

Jr/Sr Scholarship

Junior/Senior Scholarship is scheduled on April 25, 2020, at PianoWorks.

The deadline for the application is on Friday, March 13, 2020.

yumisan2k@bellsouth.net

for any questions.

Auditions

We had a successful 2020 GCMTA Auditions day held at Piano Works on the 15th of February.

53 students registered (from 19 teachers) and with 3 drops, we had 50 students participate.

Results are:

39 Outstanding Performances (will be moving on to regional)

1 Outstanding Performance

6 Awards of Excellence

4 Honorable Mentions

Teachers who didn't get their trophies from the February meeting can pick them up from Jean Mann.
(mann428@charter.net)

I have already scheduled our 2021 auditions. GCMTA 2021 Auditions will be held at Piano Works on Saturday, 13th of February.

Jiyeon Kwak

jiyeonatwell@me.com

Please Note:

There is no regular meeting in April, only the Executive Board Meeting, and there is no April Newsletter.



GCMTA Music Education/Pedagogy (Med/Ped) Major Scholarship

We are excited to announce a new scholarship opportunity for our students! The scholarship amount is \$500, and eligible applicants will be high school seniors who will pursue a Bachelor of Music Education or Pedagogy.

APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Applicant must be a senior in high school who has been accepted as a music major in education or pedagogy and is entering that particular program in the upcoming year. The higher education institution must have the ability to graduate students with a Bachelor's degree in music education or pedagogy. Verification of acceptance to the accredited music education school must be submitted with the application.
2. Applicant must be the student and/or child of a GCMTA teacher in good standing for the current year.
3. Applicant must have participated in at least one GCMTA adjudicated performance event in the previous twelve months (i.e. Auditions, Music Day, Federated Festival), and must submit a copy of the adjudicator's comment sheet to the MED/PED Scholarship Committee.
4. Applicant must submit the URL of an online video with applicant performing any repertoire on his/her chosen instrument not to exceed 10 minutes. Memorization is not required.
5. Applicant must complete and submit the MED/PED Scholarship application to the Chair by the deadline of May 1.
6. Applicant must submit a 350 word or less essay describing why music education or pedagogy is an important career path to pursue.
7. Applicant must provide the name and email address of his/her music teacher willing to write a recommendation for the applicant. He/she will be contacted to submit a recommendation for the applicant.

Cathy Thacker, NCTM, Chair

<mailto:csbt88@gmail.com>

Please visit us at:

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