



GCMTA NEWS

Promoting Music Education

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT



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Greetings, GCMTA members!

The whole world has turned upside down since our March newsletter was published. I can't say I have enjoyed everything about this time. I have missed rehearsing and performing with the various musical groups I am privileged to be a part of; I have missed attending choir practice, church services, and gatherings of many kinds, including the MTNA conference in Chicago. All my piano lessons are now online, which in my opinion is approximately 1,574 times harder than teaching face to face, and of course my annual spring recitals are cancelled. I'm appalled to see how much gray hair I really have, and ashamed that I have not been able to use busyness as an excuse not to clean my house; apparently, I just don't like cleaning! And I am beyond disappointed that I will not be able to see my youngest son, Nathan, graduate from GSU next week, as commencement has been cancelled.

But as they say, "Every cloud has a silver lining." And I don't have to look very hard to find plenty to be grateful for. In the absence of travel and face to face meetings, I have been able to gather with colleagues via Zoom to conduct business and share music. My church is posting weekly services on YouTube, and it has been fun to create some new arrangements and record hymns and accompaniments for use in the videos. I haven't lost a single student as a result of the pandemic, and they look forward to "seeing" me each week now more than ever - and they have more time to practice! And I have enjoyed meal planning, cooking and baking, and spending quality time with Nathan and our rescue terrier, Bingo.

You are ALL to be commended for your resiliency, your resourcefulness, and your courage during these challenging times. Our May luncheon is postponed, but I look forward to gathering with all of you again just as soon as it is safe to do so.

Stay healthy. Stay positive.

Love and (Virtual) Hugs,

Pam

pam.asberry@gmail.com

Websites

Please visit our GCMTA website at gcmta.org

GMTA: georgiamta.org

MTNA: mtna.org

Gcmta Programs 2020-2021

MAY 2020

We have an exciting lineup of speakers for the 2020-21 GCMTA year! Put these dates on your calendar now so that you can enjoy these wonderful programs. September, October, November, February, and March meetings will be held at Lawrenceville First Baptist Church, 165 South Clayton Street, Lawrenceville. January and May meetings will be held at the 1123 Grace House in Snellville.

Cathy Thacker, NCTM

September 23, 2020

Dr. Grace Huang, NCTM, will speak to us about Teaching the 21st-Century Student: Useful Tools & Resources for a New Year.

As the school year begins, we take a moment to assess our own needs and the needs of today's student. From developing a healthy mindset, to mental skills and mindfulness for the well-rounded young musician, to exploring more ways of bridging the gap between technology and student practice, this presentation offers practical tools for the 21st-century studio.

October 28, 2020

Come celebrate the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth year! David Watkins, NCTM, a certified master teacher from Atlanta, will present a program about Beethoven's Transition from the Classical Period to the Romantic Period. Some door prizes will help us celebrate!

November 18, 2020

Dr. Martha Thomas and Dr. Pete Jutras from the University of Georgia will discuss How to Prepare Your Students for Debussy.

This engaging session introduces elementary and intermediate repertoire that establishes a solid foundation for the techniques, touches, and sounds found in Debussy's works. Through live demonstration and score analysis, teachers will see how they can help students effectively learn the skills and techniques needed to play in this style.

January 27, 2021

The annual brunch meeting is a favorite for many of us! Come ready to play a game or share some teaching tips, and bring a dish to share for a potluck style meal.

February 24, 2021

In conjunction with Black History month, Portia Hawkins, NCTM, will present a program on African-American Composers.

March 24, 2021

The annual Master Class features students from the previous Music Day event. These students are recommended by the judges of Music Day. Dr. Jerico Vasquez from Shorter University is the clinician.

May 19, 2021

Please attend the May meeting to discover who the 2021 GCMTA Teacher of the Year is. This meeting will feature a catered lunch and the installation of the 2021-23 officers.

Jr./Sr. Scholarship

Results from GCMTA Junior-Senior Scholarship video audition.
Congratulations, winners, and their teachers!!

First place \$800	Taylor Wilmot, piano, (Student of Gloria Park)
Second place \$600	Vicky Yu, piano, (Student of Gloria Park)
Third place \$400	Noelle Wiley, voice, (Student of Debbie Murphy)
Fourth place \$200	Chaeree Lee, piano, (Student of Gloria Park)
Fifth place \$100	Jonathan Hill, piano, (Student of Gloria Park)

Thank you, BJ Sutherland, for judging the event by video audition.
Thank you, students and teachers, for participating by sending videos and music.

And, big thanks to Pam Asberry for making video links for the judge.
This event was possible for everyone's co-operation and extra work.
I appreciate it!

Yumi Patterson, DMA, NCTM

**Graded GMTA Theory Exams
and GATE will be returned to
teachers by May 1, 2020. If
you do not receive your exams
by May 15th, please contact
Debbie Murphy at
murf2227@bellsouth.net to let
her know.**

GCMTA Student News

Congratulations to Gloria Park's student, Jonathan Hill who earned the 75-point gold cup from NFMC in 2020!

Jonathan has been participating in NFMC since 2nd grade, and is a homeschooled 11th grader.

Congrats to Remahlia Kormalos, senior vocal student of Debra Hughes, who won the Bailey Cobb award (non-piano \$350) from GFMC. GFMC scholarships are for students who enter with their most recent Federation repertoire via a recorded performance. Details for this and other GFMC scholarships are available online at GeorgiaNFMC.org. There was only one applicant for the 2 piano scholarships (\$600 each) this year. (☹️) The 9-10 grade award did not have an applicant. Perhaps GMCTA might have a teacher who wishes to enter students next year?

North Gwinnett Federated Festival will be tentatively on February 6, 2021, at First Baptist Church, Duluth. Chair: Beth Ann Wise

Central Federated Festival will be held on February 27, 2021, at Hebron Baptist Church, Dacula. Chair: Michelle Peck

West Gwinnett Federated Festival is March 6 2021, at Berean Baptist Church, Lilburn. Chair: Becky Bonam

Hebron Christian Academy in Dacula is looking for a private piano teacher to teach lessons at school during school hours and possibly after school as well next school year.

Interested candidates can submit resumes to the head of the HCA Conservatory, Ruth Mullen at ruth.mullen@hebronlions.org

NFMC Updates

Gold cup update for Central Gwinnett: don't forget to contact Lois Simon to arrange to get your gold cups if you haven't already. We have plenty of 30 point cups in our supply. The rest of the cups are coming from the NFMC headquarters in New York and there is some delay. Hopefully by June they will be shipping gold cup order to all the states. If you are unsure if your cups are special order or not, please email Michelle Peck.

New Festival Bulletin: the NFMC headquarters is currently taking preorders by phone for the 2021-2023 bulletin. Call 317-882-4002 and they will take a credit card payment over the phone.

Senior
Certificates can
be downloaded
on the GMTA
website!

Membership

Are you plugged in to the many programs that GCMTA offers? Here are some highlights of membership:

1. Our monthly meetings are educational through the year; provide social encouragement to teachers.
2. Music Day gives small cash awards to over a third of the entrants.
3. Performance Day enables students to perform publicly without adjudication.
4. Federated Festival gives opportunities for all level students to earn certificates of achievement & trophies.
5. GMTA Auditions reinforces students who pursue higher level competition.
6. JR/Sr gives financial awards to older students.

These are not all that we provide, but if you have any questions or feel you need assistance to participate, let us help you. GCMTA has a mentor program that can apply to any member. Contact Debra Hughes with requests: bndhughes@comcast.net or 770-401-1978.

If you are already an involved member, then perhaps you might bring along someone who isn't in one of our many events/programs! Though we desire new teachers to join us, we also want to support & encourage our current music associates. We are in this together.

NOTE: MTNA has extended the deadline for membership this year from July 1 to September 1 to still stay in good standing as a member!

Deb Hughes, membership chair