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# GCMTA News

*Promoting Music Education*



**Notes  
from  
the  
President**

I'm doing my part to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. I wear a mask and maintain social distancing whenever I leave the house, which is rarely. Sadly, this is going to have a dramatic impact on the way my family and I celebrate our favorite holidays, Thanksgiving and Christmas. But there's one tradition that I'm going to maintain despite the global pandemic, and that's holiday baking. Some of our long-time favorites are snickerdoodles, peanut butter cookies, and ginger snaps – and the recipe below, which makes for a festive addition to a Thanksgiving dinner breadbasket or a lovely light breakfast on Christmas morning. Happy Holidays to you and yours!

**THANKSGIVING MUFFINS** *Reprinted with permission from The King Arthur Baking Company.*

- 1 cup pumpkin purée, about half of a 15-ounce can
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 cup brown sugar, packed
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 tablespoon molasses
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice (1/4 teaspoon cloves + 1/4 teaspoon ginger + 1 teaspoon cinnamon)
- 1/2 cup milk
- 2/3 cup cinnamon chips
- 2/3 cup dried cranberries
- 3/4 cup unbleached flour (King Arthur brand preferred)
- 3/4 cup white wheat flour (King Arthur brand preferred; 3/4 cup additional unbleached flour may be substituted)
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 tablespoons + 1 teaspoon sparkling white sugar or Swedish pearl sugar for topping (optional)

Pam Asberry  
pam.asberry@gmail.com

**Instructions:**

1. Grease 12 wells of a standard muffin pan; or line with papers and grease the papers.
2. In a large bowl whisk together the pumpkin, eggs, brown sugar, oil, molasses, salt, spices, milk, and cinnamon chips or bits. Scrape down the sides and bottom of the bowl.
3. Whisk the flour, baking powder, and baking soda together. Stir in the dried cranberries. Add all at once to the wet ingredients and mix until all ingredients are well combined.
4. Cover the bowl, and let the batter rest for 30 minutes, while you preheat your oven to 400°F.
5. Deposit the batter by the generous 1/4-cupful (a slightly heaped muffin scoop works well here) into the prepared pan. Sprinkle the top of each muffin with about 1/2 teaspoon coarse sparkling sugar or Swedish pearl sugar, if desired.
6. Bake the muffins for about 20 minutes, until a toothpick or cake tester inserted into the middle of a center muffin comes out clean.
7. Remove the muffins from the oven and tilt them in their individual wells to cool; this prevents their bottoms from steaming and becoming tough. Serve warm, or at room temperature.

**THE GMTA THEORY TEST  
AND GATE HAVE BOTH  
BEEN CANCELLED THIS  
ASSOCIATION YEAR.**



## NOVEMBER PROGRAM

November 18, 2020

Remember that our November meeting is one week earlier than usual due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Dr. Martha Thomas and Dr. Pete Jutras from the University of Georgia will join us via Zoom to 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.

Cathy Thacker, NCTM

## MEMBERSHIP

WELCOME to Dr. Sunha Kim, from Duluth, who teaches piano, composition, theory, and church music. Also, Heather Henry, from Lilburn, who teaches piano, voice, clarinet, brass, and woodwinds. GCMTA currently has 109 members with these two new members!

This past month, I had asked that everyone send me a sentence or two about what they see as personal benefits of being part of GCMTA. Every entry was so good. Here are short snippets that were included:

1. Getting new strategies to encourage/educate students.
2. Provides a sense of community and belonging.
3. Learn personal as well as professional teacher friends: from leadership, inspiration to being fun.
4. To be understood and comforted by being with "my people."
5. Performance opportunities for students.
6. Personal growth as a musician.
7. Confirms that I am professional to my students/families.
8. Privilege to add GCMTA after my name.

Any one of these can be used to tell someone how valuable GCMTA is when inviting someone to join. Do you know why GCMTA is valuable to you? Be ready to share yours with your music teacher friends. And don't forget to invite your fellow music teachers to join in our GCMTA meetings via zoom. You may pass along the link but we ask that it is not shared with anyone else.

Music and Arts contributed a \$20 gift card for the October meeting's raffle event. It was mailed to Kimber Kwiatkowski after the random drawing of the names of those who participated last month. Congrats to all who took the time to think through and share their thoughts about membership in GCMTA. I would still like to hear from you about yours. Please send them to Debra Hughes: bndhughes@comcast.net.

# FEDERATED FESTIVAL

Festival Online registration for Federated Festivals will open on December 1, and will close on January 16, which is a firm deadline.

Applications will not be accepted after that date. Checks for fees must be

postmarked by January 19. The fee for one event is \$28; the fee for a second event is \$15.



Please refer to the website for the mailing addresses of the Federation Festival Chairs.

Registration is done on the GCMTA Website. On the Federated Festival page, there are several links.

1. Festival Applicant List—This form is used to help the teacher compile the information required to register each student. It is for the teachers' use only and is not submitted to the Festival Chairs.
2. Student Online Registration—To register, the teacher must click "Submit" after filling in the required fields. Soon after that, a confirmation email will be sent. If the teacher does not get an emailed receipt, then the student is NOT registered. Check that you used a correct email address.
3. Participant Rating Sheet—must be filled out for each student entered in festival, one for each event if the student is participating in multiple events. Students must have their rating sheet and their music when they arrive at the festival. Teachers may not ask that their students' sheets be distributed at the check in desk on festival day.
4. Transfer Form JR3-1—Fill out and mail to your Festival Chair by Jan. 16. This form is for students who have transferred from another festival district and have previously participated in Federation Festivals.
5. SCJM Form—This form is for a student who has a disability. Contact your Festival Chair if you need more information. Forms must be submitted to your Festival Chair by Jan. 16.

Please check the Festival Bulletin and the rules and procedures on the GCMTA website regarding teacher work requirements and the correct choice of repertoire.

## TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The deadline of December 31 to submit someone as the 2021 Teacher of the Year is quickly approaching! Please go to the website, [gcmata.org](http://gcmata.org), to find the nomination form. Send it by email to Eva Bone, the TOTY Chair, at [evajbone@gmail.com](mailto:evajbone@gmail.com).



# CERTIFICATION

A few years back, while preparing to speak at a couple of GMTA chapter meetings about certification (Certification – Why Bother?), I contacted many of our Georgia certified teachers and asked why they had “bothered” to become certified. You will find Aurelia Campbell’s response below.

*In my early years of teaching, even though I had a college degree, I did not feel that my chosen profession as an independent piano teacher was as “professional” as that of my friends’ who were public school teachers. I was very happy when state certification was offered me through the Joint Committee of GMTA and GMEA. I immediately applied and received state certification in June 1963 and then state permanent certification in September 1994. When MTNA offered national certification, I immediately applied and received national certification in July 1968 and national permanent certification in December 1993. I was the first teacher in the state of Georgia to receive national certification. I never questioned certification; I just felt it was the thing to do.*

*As a young independent piano teacher, certification helped me feel more identified on the level of school teachers. I have always felt, and still do, that all independent teachers should become certified. In addition to college degrees, being certified is a statement to one’s students and the general public that you have proved that you are a qualified teacher and that you continue to keep updated in your profession.*

*I feel that certification has helped raise my profession as an independent teacher to a high level, and that I can expect better students and can ask a raise in my pay along with other professionals. I always include that I am a certified teacher in various resumes, newspaper articles and other publications. I know that this has helped me build credibility in my community. I have been able to maintain a very successful private studio in my community for over 50 years and have always taken pride in “proclaiming” that I am a national certified teacher of piano.*

Aurelia Campbell, NCTM  
2008 GMTA Teacher of the Year  
A GMTA 50-Year Member  
An Honorary Lifetime Member of GMTA  
An MTNA Foundation Fellow since 2004

[www.mtnacertification.org/process/](http://www.mtnacertification.org/process/)

Robin Engleman, NCTM  
[engelmanr@bellsouth.net](mailto:engelmanr@bellsouth.net)



## JR./SR. SCHOLARSHIP

Junior Senior scholarship is scheduled on April 17 at PianoWorks.  
Contact Yumi Patterson at [yumisan2K@bellsouth.net](mailto:yumisan2K@bellsouth.net) with any questions.

## LOCAL AUDITIONS

Local Auditions Registration Deadline:  
January 15th.

We will be holding Auditions through video submission: Date to upload video:  
February 8th - 13th  
Results will be posted on February 16th.

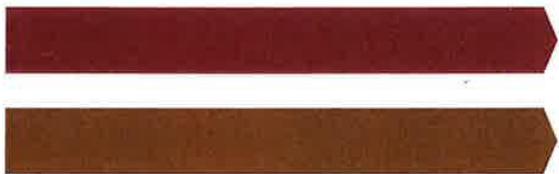
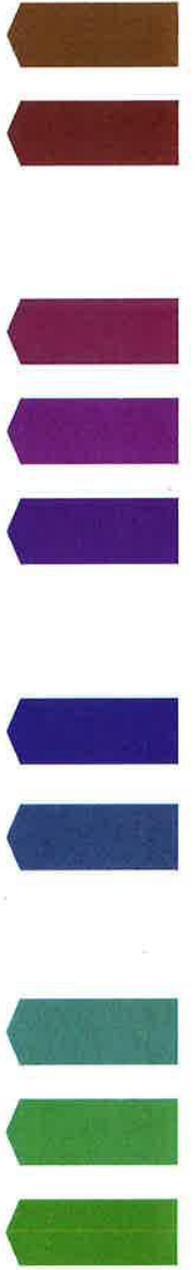
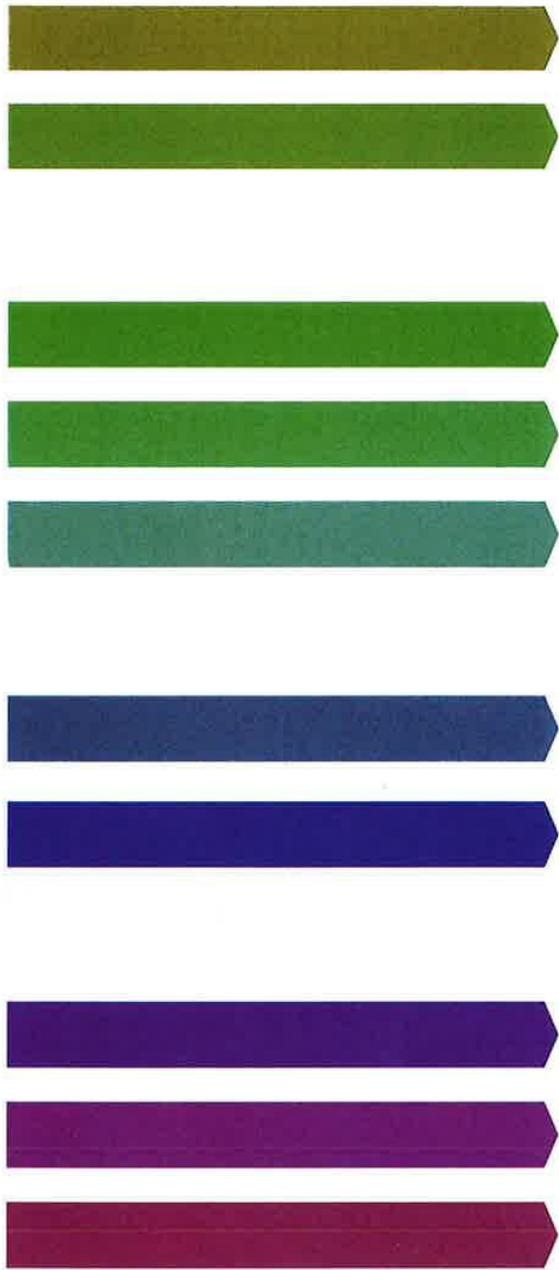
PianoWorks will be renting out the performance hall for \$50.00/HR for recording. Please contact Derek for details.

Jiyeon Kwak  
[jiyeonatwell@me.com](mailto:jiyeonatwell@me.com)

2021

Competitive  
Piano

Technithon  
and  
Hymnfest



## Technithon

- Offers competitive opportunities at various levels of advancement
- Creates incentive to master scales, cadences, and arpeggios
- Ensures that technical forms are not neglected during piano study
- Promotes excellence through competition

The Technithon offers twelve distinct levels of competition, grouped into three sections. Each level is designed to require higher technical skill.

## Hymnfest

- Increases confidence in solo playing for church services
- Encourages high levels of style and musicianship in offertories and other sacred solos
- Promotes excellence through competition

Students compete in one of three divisions according to their grade levels in school. First place winners in each division will be invited to play their winning selections in a special service at Berean Baptist Church on April 25th.

All participants will receive commemorative certificates along with judges' comments.

### More information & registration online at [bbclilburn.org/technithon](http://bbclilburn.org/technithon)

Deadline for entry is March 26, 2021.

Registration Fees:

- One event: \$30
- Both events: \$40

Teachers will receive students' individual performance times via email.

Registration and requirements for the Technithon and Hymnfest are available at [www.bbclilburn.org/technithon](http://www.bbclilburn.org/technithon).

**Download your requirements  
and register online today!**

