

GCMTA NEWS

Promoting Music Education

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I gave up making New Year's resolutions long ago. Instead, I choose "one word" to focus on every day, all year long, one simple word that summarizes who I want to be and how I want to live my life. Those of you who read this newsletter regularly might recall the word I chose for 2020, "nurture." Thanks to the coronavirus, nothing about 2020 turned out the way I expected it would; but having that one word in the forefront of my thoughts empowered me to make choices that, although difficult at times, served to keep me physically healthy and mentally strong. Now I have made what might at first glance seem like an odd choice for the year ahead. My "one word" for 2021 is "surrender."

The word "surrender" is most often associated with weakness and failure. And while there are times when it is appropriate – even necessary – to fight the status quo, often we have more to gain by simply accepting what is. That was certainly the case for me in 2020, when so much was beyond my control. By making the mental shift from resistance and struggle to gratitude in the moment, I was able find peace and serenity in the midst of turmoil and uncertainty.

Back in 2018, I wrote and recorded a solo piano piece called "Surrender." First appearing on my 2019 album "The Presence of Wonder," it will be released again on January 29th as a single, with orchestration added by my colleague and friend Deborah Offenhauser from Phoenix, Arizona. Composed when a global pandemic was something I didn't imagine in my wildest dreams, "Surrender" is now my soundtrack for 2021: a musical representation of the process of surrender: the transmutation of ego and self-will, the purposeful and loving release of that which no longer serves, and the tranquility and transcendence which follow. I invite you to check out both versions – on Spotify, Pandora, Amazon Music, Apple Music, or wherever you listen – and that they will bring you some measure of solace and serenity during these challenging times.

Here's wishing each of you a healthy, fulfilling and prosperous New Year.

Pam Asberry

Meeting News

Happy New Year! Our January meeting will begin promptly at 9:45 am on Wednesday, January 27, via Zoom. After the business meeting, we will have a round table discussion of hosting online recitals and performances. I'm looking forward to your wonderful ideas to share with our group! If you are interested in participating, please email me at csbt88@gmail.com.

Cathy Thacker, NCTM

Membership

Hello GCMTA members!

Have you considered the benefits of GCMTA? For instance...

- What does GCMTA do that is a blessing to your studio?
- Why does being a part of GCMTA help you?
- Who in GCMTA is an encouragement to you?
- How does GCMTA offer opportunities for you or your students?
- Where in your teaching have you been positively impacted by GCMTA?

I have not received any new submissions since November for the "How does membership in GCMTA benefit me?" so there will be no January drawing unless I receive some new entries. I know that it doesn't mean that GCMTA has stopped working or fulfilling its mission to its members. Consider your answers to the questions above and email me your thoughts. Blessings and love to each of you.

Deb Hughes, GCMTA Membership

Newsletter

If you have information that needs to go in the newsletter, please email it to gcmtamail@gmail.com. You can also call or text me at 404-819-0644. Please send me your information as you want it worded and have it to me by the 1st of the month. Please try not to do too much formatting on your information (spacing, tabs, etc.) Leave that up to me. Thank you!

Natalie Hardy



Junior/Senior Scholarship

Junior/Senior Scholarship will be a video event this year. Please check the website for more information. It will be posted soon.

Georgia Music Teachers Association
www.georgiamta.org

Music Teachers National Association
www.mtna.org

Gwinnett County Music Teachers Association
www.gcmta.org

GCMTA Auditions

Auditions date: February 13th, 2021

It will be held through **Video Submissions** (YouTube) only.

Dates to upload video: **February 1st - 11th**

Results will be posted on February 16th.

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

Registration: Closes January 15th, 2021

Go to georgiamta.org and click on auditions registration under Login.

- Please refrain from using special cases and symbols for the composers' names and titles of the pieces when registering (e.g., umlaut and quotation mark). Please double check the spelling.

For questions and assistance, contact Jiyeon Kwak.

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

Jiyeon Kwak - Local Auditions Chair
661-305-9980, jiyeonatwell@me.com



Federated Festival

The deadline for registering your students for Federated Festival is FEBRUARY 6th.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there are several changes to the Festival Season for 2021, so be sure to watch for information from your chairman.

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

“The high standard of teaching, performance and knowledge required to attain certification through MTNA allows young professionals to demonstrate to themselves, their colleagues and to prospective students their readiness to enter the ranks of professional music teachers.”

Clara Boyett Hassen, NCTM

[https://
certification.mtna.org](https://certification.mtna.org)

Robin Engleman, NCTM
englemanr@bellsouth.net

UGA Pedagogy Symposium

Saturday, January 23, 2021
1:00-5:00 PM (via Zoom)

Admission is FREE.

Email Martha Thomas at MLThomas@uga.edu for the Zoom link.

For details about our presenter and sessions:
<https://www.music.uga.edu/uga-piano-symposium>

GCMTA Music Education/Pedagogy (MED/PED) Major Scholarship

This exciting scholarship opportunity of \$500 is available to eligible applicants who are high school seniors and who plan to 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

