

GCOMTA News

Promoting Music Education

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I have high hopes for 2021 but I have to admit that, so far, my feelings of frustration and helplessness over COVID-19 have only increased. And while chocolate and red wine are occasionally good spirit boosters, I decided that some calorie-free solutions might be in order. "This is an unusual time for all of us, but it's a time when we can channel our worry and uncertainty into real actions that can help our friends, our neighbors, our community and ourselves," said Alfreda Rooks, director of Community Health Services for Michigan Medicine. Those words inspired me to do a bit of brainstorming. Here I present nine ways to shake off the COVID-19 blues.

1. *Get ready.* While you're stuck at home, clear your space. Go through your closets and bag clothes you are no longer wearing; gather household items you no longer need; clean your kitchen cupboards and box up unused pantry items.
2. *Make a donation.* Food banks, homeless shelters, and animal rescue groups can put your unwanted items (and spare cash) to good use. Do your homework and make sure you are working with reputable organizations! Then drive through and drop off or arrange for home pick-up.
3. *Check on other people.* Call family and neighbors you haven't heard from in a while; set up a Zoom coffee hour or happy hour with friends; send a handwritten note to a loved one who lives far away.
4. *Make a special delivery.* Perhaps an elderly acquaintance could use some groceries or a home cooked meal.
5. *Use your skills.* Sew masks; knit or crochet baby hats, chemo hats, and soap sacks for the homeless (soapsacks.com). All these items can be contributed through the mail.
6. *Be a virtual volunteer.* There is an immediate need for crisis counselors, online mentors, and readers for the blind – all done through the miracle of technology. A quick Google search will reveal numerous opportunities.
7. *Buy local.* Small businesses have suffered greatly over the past several months. Help them survive this pandemic by ordering delivery from a locally owned restaurant, buying a gift card for future use from your favorite hair or nail salon, or purchasing handmade items from local artisans – all accomplished from the safety and comfort of your living room.
8. *Give blood.* Enough said.
9. *Spread good news and kindness.* Be careful what you post on social media, my friends. Why contribute to the negativity and toxicity that is already prevalent at every turn? I challenge you to find ways to be a force of positivity and encouragement instead.

Musically yours,

Pam Asberry

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LOOKING FOR
SOMETHING?

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COMPOSITION OPPORTUNITY

The New Music Engine has extended a call for scores for any composer under 20 years of age. The submission is a performance of their piece (no scores). A jury of professional composers will select the best piece; winners receive a cash prize and have the opportunity to present their work at a concert in Georgia. Composers may submit up to one composition. The deadline is March 15, 2021. For more information, visit

<https://www.newmusicengine.org/categories/SOUNDS-NEW-YOUNG-COMPOSER-AWARD/>

PROGRAMS

Thank you to everyone who participated in our round-table discussion at the January meeting! A special thanks to Melissa Slocum, who shared some wonderful tips for keeping our students connected with each other through online performances!

Looking forward to our next meeting on February 24, Portia Hawkins, NCTM, will present a program on African-America composers. It was my privilege to hear her program at a GMTA state conference a few years ago. You will discover some deserving but under-represented composers through her presentation.

Our Master Class on March 24 will be a bit different this year due to the Zoom format, but we will still have a great lineup. Dr. Jerico Vasquez from Shorter University will be our clinician, and the following students and repertoire will be represented:

- Jonah Badlu, 11th grade student of Mary Marshall Dekkers, will perform *Flamenco* by Catherine Rollin (on the current NFMC list).
- Raissa Wong, 11th grade student of Dr. Yumi Patterson, NCTM, will perform the Chopin Etude in A-flat Major, Op. 25, No. 1.
- Fiona Burnett, 12th grade student of Susan Andrews, NCTM, will perform the Intermezzo in A, Op. 118, No. 2, by Brahms.

The May 19 meeting will reveal who the **2021 GCMTA Teacher of the Year** is. This meeting will also feature the installation of the 2021-23 officers.

Cathy Thacker, NCTM



LOCAL AUDITIONS

Auditions Date: February 13th Video submission deadline: February 11th
Results will be posted (emailed): February 16th

Number of participants: Teachers: 13 Students: 40

Judges: Ms. Lois Finlay, Mr. David Watkins

Judges have all the information including the evaluation sheets and are waiting for the video links. Both judges prefer all the files to be virtual, so teachers will be receiving the completed evaluations in PDF forms through their emails.

It is very important to follow the video submission instructions step by step, so if you have any trouble, please contact Jiyeon Kwak at 661-305-9980 or jiyeonkwak@icloud.com.

If you have other inquiries, please contact the local chair instead of contacting the state!

After the results are posted, trophies will be ordered and when they are ready, teachers can pick them up along with the certificates from the Audition chair's place. For the safety of both parties, the certificates (in a folder with the teacher's name) and the trophies will be outside the front door inside a box. So please make sure to contact the chair right before you arrive.

JR-SR



Junior-Senior Scholarship will be a video audition this year.

The application deadline is on March 12.

The details of how to submit the video will be sent via email to the teachers of the applicants after the deadline.

Contact Yumi Patterson at yumisan2k@bellsouth.net with any questions.

MEMBERSHIP

In a recent polling, members have declared that one of the most important assets of being a GCMTA member is its **meetings**. We gather together regularly regardless of weather, location orahem... world-wide pandemic! Here is what was written and sent to me :

1. "GCMTA has wonderful, enthusiastic members, who are consistently striving to share the the fine art of teaching music with fellow teachers." - P. B.
2. "I greatly benefit from the presenters and presentations in the meetings." - B. W.
3. "The monthly programs are reason enough to be a member of our organization... keeps me relevant in my field." - T. D.
4. "The benefits I've received include deep personal growth as a musician and educator obtained from the broad range of programs and Master teachers..." - D. M.

So when you mention to someone about membership in GCMTA, don't forget that our regularly scheduled meetings include continuing education and is a very important benefit.

WEBSITES

GCMTA: GCMTA.ORG

GMTRA: GEORGIAMTRA.ORG

MTNA: MTNA.ORG

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

Attention! The Teacher of the Year nominations' deadline has been extended to 2/28/2021. We have so many deserving teachers, I look forward to receiving your nominations! Please see the website for all the required information.

MUSIC DAY WINNERS 2020



GRADE 4 PIANO – Rebekah Healan-Boles, Judge

Winners

Abigail Brownlee (Harper) Jack Chen (Park)
Eva Huynh (Compton) Peyton Burnett (Dawal)

Honorable Mentions

Isaac Hong (Thacker) Raylan Ferguson (Dawal)
Suran Singh (Darden) Michael Zheng (McTier)

Master Class Recommendations

Abigail Brownlee (Harper) Peyton Burnet (Dawal)
Jack Chen (Park) Raylan Ferguson (Dawal)

GRADE 5 -Jana Ritchie, Judge

Winners

David Lomashvili (Andrews) Naomi Woodley (Park) See Young Lee (Park)

Honorable Mentions

Alicia Kizza (McTier) Elisabeth Laroque (Dawal) Emery Daniel (Simon)

Master Class Recommendation

David Lomashvili (Andrews)

GRADE 6 PIANO – Diana Peoples, Judge

Winners

Aislin Burke (Dawal) Natalie Irizarry (Asberry)
Brandon Kim (Park) Skylar Reeve (Asberry)

Honorable Mentions

Charlotte Capel (Asberry) Issac Gheorghies (Andrews)
Joanne Kim (Andrews) Lydia O'Dell (Morrow)





6th Grade *Master Class Recommendations*

Seth Feci (Compton)
 Victoria Mahecha (Thacker)
 Charlotte Capel (Asberry) Lydia O'Dell (Morrow)

GRADE 7 PIANO – Leslie Kennedy, Judge

Winners

Olivia Grant (Asberry)	Lily Holloway (Patterson)	Michah Kim (Park)
Avanesh Singh (Darden)	Kayden Kasler (Dawal)	Shiloh Neal (Asberry)

Honorable Mentions

Neo Donahue (McTier)	Taylor Ferguson (Dawal)	Aveshi Pandey (Andrews)
Thomas Hughes (Darden)	Michael Hughes (Darden)	Joanne Go (Park)

Master Class Recommendations

Micah Kim (Park)	Shiloh Neal (Asberry)	Avanesh Singh (Darden)
Miranda Schoon (Asberry)	Arushi Pandey (Andrews)	Lily Holloway (Patterson)
Olivia Grant (Asberry)		
Joanne Go (Park)		

GRADE 8 PIANO – Jana Ritchie, Judge

Winners

Emma Gavriiliuc (Asberry)	Christina Zhang (J. Kim)	Christa Hillstrand (Andrews)
Bryce Woolery (Patterson)		

Honorable Mention (Grade 8 continued)

Daniel Hill (Park)

Master Class Recommendations (Grade 8 continued)

Abigail Marley (Mann)	Daniel Hill (Park)
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GRADE 9 PIANO – Julie Soh-Harbin, Judge

Winners

George Frilot (Mann)	Eric Evans (Patterson)	Khoi Hoang (J. Kim)
Steven Zhou (Hughes)		

Honorable Mentions

Nayan Annadurai (Peck)	Sanjeev Ramachandran (Andrews)	
Diya Mopur (Slocum)	John Langley (Andrews)	Gavin Iafelice (Park)

Master Class Recommendations

Sanjeev Ramachandran (Andrews)	Gavin Iafelice (Park)	
Iian Chen (Park)	Aidan Furman (McTier)	Tiya Ranchod (Slocum)



GRADE 10 PIANO – Donna Kirkindoll, Judge

Winners

Sophie Neim (Patterson)	Jack Wong (Patterson)
Darian Vazquez (Andrews)	Jolyne Lam (Gaal)

Honorable Mentions

Bella Handerson (Gaal)	Paola Irizarry (Asberry)	Erin Smith (Andrews)
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Master Class Recommendations

Sophie Heim (Patterson)	Jack Wong (Patterson)
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GRADE 11 PIANO – Diana Peoples, Judge

Winners

Jonah Badlu (Dekkers)	Christopher Li (Della Tonia)
Paulank Yan (Andrews)	Tanvisri Alluri (Gaal)

Honorable Mentions

Tyler Whitmire (Slocum)	Raissa Hong (Patterson)
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Master Class Recommendations

Katie Bonilla (Peck)	Lydia Clack (Andrews)
Tyler Whitmire (Slocum)	Raissa Wong (Patterson)

GRADE 12 PIANO – Rebekah Healan-Boles, Judge

Winners

Daniel Mode (Bonam)	Fiona Burnett (Andrews)	Andrew Barge (Andrews)
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Honorable Mentions

Sarah Park (Park)	Jonathan Hill (Park)	Madeline Andrews (Andrews)
Kate Warner (McTier)		

Master Class Recommendations

Daniel Mode (Bonam)	Sarah Park (Park)
Jonathan Hill (Park)	Isabella Russell (Murphy)

VOCAL ART SONG (all grades) – Ashley Drake, Judge

Winner

Savannah Greene (Murphy)

Honorable Mentions

Noelle Wiley (Murphy)	Meredith Manlove-Simmons (Hughes)
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VOCAL MUSICAL THEATRE (all grades) – Ashley Drake, Judge

Winner

Noelle Wiley (Murphy)

Honorable Mentions

Savannah Greene (Murphy)	Skylar Koch (Hughes)
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Vocal Master Class Recommendations (includes Vocal Art Song and Vocal Musical Theatre)

Savannah Greene	Noelle Wiley
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GCMTA MUSIC EDUCATION PEDAGOGY 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

