

GCMTA NEWS

Promoting Music Education

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Priorities

Summer is a good time to organize your space, both physically and mentally. For me, I have different approaches for these two types of organization. On the physical side, there are clothes and household items to sort, kind of like an archaeological dig. De-cluttering is always a great idea, but it goes beyond sorting through closets and cupboards. The summer break also allows me more time to think about priorities, which is a way of organizing mental space.

One priority that I value is time spent with my music colleagues within GCMTA as well as within GMTA. I am very excited about the opportunity to meet in person again this year! We enjoyed our May meeting at Alexander Park, and we look forward to hearing speakers face-to-face again. I hope that you will make it your personal priority to attend our meetings this year. Gloria has some wonderful programs and speakers lined up for us. The new venue, Lawrenceville First Baptist Church, has the choir suite set up with social distancing. We will also stream the programs via our Facebook page if you aren't able to join us or don't feel comfortable being around others.

The GMTA state conference will be held on November 4-6 at Piedmont University in beautiful Demorest, Georgia. There will be some exciting incentives this year, including a free banquet ticket with your paid registration. Plan on attending; get reacquainted with your friends from around the state and make some new friends.

GCMTA Junior Senior Scholarship:

The GCMTA Junior Senior Scholarship is scheduled for April 16, 2022, at PianoWorks.

Please visit GCMTA.org for more information on the application and eligibility.



LOCAL AUDITIONS

Local Audition Location:

PianoWorks, Duluth

Local Audition Date:

February 12th, 2022

Please see gcmta.org for more information.

If you have questions, please email Jiyeon Kwak at jiyeonatwell@me.com.

I hope that you have had a chance to get together with family and friends this summer, taken a trip, or done something that you enjoy. We teachers definitely need to recharge our batteries before heading into the new school year. Be sure to take care of yourself!

Cathy Thacker, NCTM

GCMTA President



MusicLink Myths

As a MusicLink (ML) Coordinator, I often hear from teachers who would like to get involved in MusicLink, but have come to accept certain myths about the program which prevent them from following through. I would like to dispel some of these myths. Here are a few of the more common ones:

MYTH: It's a complicated, time-consuming procedure to register a student in ML.

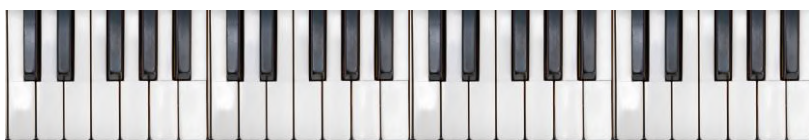
FACT: Complete a 1½ page registration form on-line. No downloading, copying or mailing involved.

MYTH: Being a ML teacher will involve a lot of paperwork. I don't have time for that.

FACT: Once a student is registered there is no other paperwork involved except for a 4 question evaluation each spring. It takes less than 5 minutes and can be done on-line.

MYTH: Once I agree to be a ML teacher, I will be expected to take several students on scholarship.

FACT: As a ML teacher, you are asked to take on just one student. Many teachers choose to teach more than one student, but the vast majority teaches one student.



Central Gwinnett Federated Festival Announcements

Central Gwinnett Federated Festival is looking to add members! If you are a teacher in the Lawrenceville, Suwanee, Grayson, or Dacula area and are interested in having your students participate in the NFMC Federated Festival, or would just like more information, please contact Michelle Peck at 404-735-0092 or email at michellenews@hotmail.com.

Central Gwinnett Federated Festival will be held at Hebron Baptist Church on March 5th, 2022. The festival will be a hybrid event, offering a virtual as well as an in-person option.

MYTH: As a ML teacher, I will be expected to teach a student for no pay at all.

FACT: A ML teacher must agree to teach a student at up to one-half the teacher's normal rate. The exact amount depends upon the situation of the student. ML Foundation encourages families to pay something as a way of fostering commitment to lessons.

MYTH: Once I take on a ML student, I must continue to teach them even if they don't practice or show up for lessons regularly.

FACT: If a ML student doesn't show commitment to lessons, they will be dropped from the program. You are under no obligation to teach an uncommitted student.

MYTH: I could end up teaching a student who isn't in need at all.

FACT: Any family that registers their student online is asked to verify financial need through a tax return, pay stub, wage statement, etc.

MYTH: If I teach a MusicLink student, everyone will find out and I will be asked to lower my fee for my other students.

FACT: The only people who know that you teach a MusicLink student are those you tell yourself. We do not share that information with anyone.

I hope this helps to clear up some of the misconceptions about the ML program. Becoming a ML teacher is simple, and the rewards are great. If you would like to learn more, please contact me at: Nora Martin wolf1193@charter.net 770-861-4283





2021 Teacher of the Year



Congratulations to our 2021 Teacher of the Year, Mary Ann McTier! Mary Ann has a private piano studio in Lawrenceville; she has had multiple winners through the years in GCMTA Music Day, Central Gwinnett's Federated high school competition, and GCMTA Local Auditions. She has former students who have gone on to major in music programs in college. She models the "lifelong learning" principle by having taken private lessons as an adult, and by attending many pedagogy workshops and conferences. She has such a humble and gracious spirit and does not realize what a wonderful teacher she truly is! She is generous with her time and talents by serving in many capacities in GMTA and GCMTA. Currently she is the Georgia MTA Awards Chair. She has served as the President-Elect, President and Advisor for GCMTA, as well as the Central Gwinnett Federated Festival Chair for many years.

A parent of three children who were taught by Mary Ann said that she thanked Mary Ann for "creating a lasting love of music. My children's involvement in musical activities has continued into adulthood...Mary Ann's approach to teaching, gently pushing with expectations of success, but always understanding when life got in the way of a perfect week of practice, was just the type of teacher my children needed."

Suzanne Woodrum, a colleague from Savannah, wrote a letter of recommendation on behalf of Mary Ann. She told us that Mary Ann "has continued a passion to have a great piano studio and offers her students opportunities to succeed and serve as she has." She also said that "two years ago, [Mary Ann] volunteered to come to Savannah and play with her duet partner from High School for my husband's funeral, and I deeply appreciated her thoughtfulness, love and kindness." Those three words- thoughtfulness, love and kindness- really sum up Mary Ann McTier as a friend and as a teacher. We congratulate our 2021 Teacher of the Year, Mary Ann McTier!



MTNA Certification Program

“The MTNA Certification Program provides distinctive recognition to the dedicated music teaching professional and gives opportunities for continuous career growth.”

Ka Man “Melody” Ng, NCTM

www.mtnacertification.org/process/

Robin Engleman, NCTM

englemanr@bellsouth.net



Digital Resources

By Kathy Dewal

Handling our performance events during Covid has certainly been challenging. Our event organizers had to quickly come up with workable solutions for virtual participation or put their event on hold. Working on their own had our hardworking chair persons essentially having to ‘reinvent the wheel’ in coordinating, uploading and linking virtual performances.

In reaction to this need, Digital Resources has been established to help all event organizers make use of existing technology in handling current and future challenges. I am happy to be able to help GCMTA in this role.

The function of the Digital Resources chair is to work with other GCMTA chairs to research and suggest online methods to streamline event activities, such as registration, virtual performance coordination, and other actions as may become available or needed. Consulting on upcoming events may be initiated by either the Digital Resources chair, the Event chairperson, officers of GCMTA, or person(s) designated by them. The Digital Resources chair will either create the necessary structure or work with outside resources to accomplish what is needed.

Applications and benefits include:

- Similar registration and uploading procedures for all events
- Online registration for local events with editing and updating options handled by individual teachers
- Virtual option with video submission for reasons such as Covid, student conflict, sickness, etc.
- Behind the scenes monitoring to keep event chairs and teachers updated on registration and on upload status of virtual performances
- Recorded and live tutorial sessions
- Sorting and exporting individual Excel documents with working links for virtual judging/scheduling, and for individual teachers
- Making virtual performance opportunities possible in addition to or to replace live performances

Please feel free to contact me for help in organizing the digital aspects of your events, and don't be surprised if I reach out to you. If your event has all the resources it needs, that's great. If it doesn't, I'm here to help.

NFMC Membership News

Senior Club Dues: Senior (Teacher) Club Dues firm deadline August 13th, 2021

Senior dues are \$10. Each teacher must pay \$10 and an additional \$10 for each ADULT student that will participate in the festival in 2022. These dues must be mailed by check, payable to GCMTA, to your district chair postmarked no later than Friday, August 13th.

No form is necessary, but provide name, address, city, zip, and email for yourself and each adult student.

North Gwinnett Sr Club

Chair: Beth Ann Wise
6980 River Island Circle
Buford, GA. 30518
770-904-3974

Email: bwise3957@yahoo.com

Date: March 26, 2022

Location: First Baptist Church, Duluth

Central Gwinnett Sr Club

Chair: Michelle Peck
2669 Snowshoe Bend
Bethlehem, GA 30620
404-735-0092

Email: michellenews@hotmail.com

Date: March 5, 2022

Location: Hebron Baptist Church, Dacula

West Gwinnett Sr Club

Chair: Becky Bonam
2188 Cannon Hill Rd.
Lilburn, GA 30047
770-375-8460

Email: bbonam@berean-baptist.org

Date: February 26, 2022

Location: Berean Baptist Church, Lilburn, GA



Junior (Student) Club Dues and Roster firm deadline October 15th, 2021

Junior Club Dues are \$2.00 per student. The Junior Keynotes subscription (\$6.00) is mandatory for each teacher, and optional for each adult student. Teachers are now required to register their junior clubs, pay junior dues, and submit junior club rosters online through the GFMC website.

<http://www.georgianfmc.org>

The form on the above website is not yet active. Please periodically check the GCMTA website for an update on the link or be on the lookout for an email from your Festival Chairman for an update for when you can begin to register.

Remember that the deadline to complete this online form and pay junior dues online is October 15th.

GCMTA Membership

Don't forget to pay your 2021-2022 dues. Go to MTNA.org and remember to mark both GMTA and GCMTA.

Being a member is an investment in personal musical commodities - continuing education, career development, peer recognition and networking programs—all designed specifically for you....and you are worth it!!

Questions to Deb Hughes: bndhughes@comcast.net

GCMTA Programs 2021-2022



Please join us for an exciting line-up of speakers.

We will be meeting in-person and at a new location this year

Lawrenceville First Baptist Church

165 Clayton Street SE

Lawrenceville, GA 30046

9/22: Dr. Annalisa Chang - Teaching students with special needs

10/27: Pam Asberry - "Fostering Creativity: From Potential to Practice"

11/17: Dr. Raffi Besalyan - How Music is Taught in Russia

1/26: January luncheon – (Location TBA) Patti Bennett and Mary Ann McTier - Ensembles and Group activities

2/23: TBA

3/23: Masterclass with Prof. David D'Ambrosio

5/18: May luncheon - Location TBA



Teaching Job Opportunity

Intown Piano & Music is hiring experienced piano teachers who are comfortable with both beginning and advanced students. We have two high-tech studios with two excellent quality pianos each. We teach both in-studio and in-home music lessons. We are also offering virtual lessons at this time due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our business is continually growing, and we are actively seeking qualified applicants.

Job Types: Full-time, Part-time, Contract

Pay: \$45.00 - \$60.00 per hour

COVID-19 considerations:

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we are offering virtual lessons. Lessons in person are handled one-on-one, with proper safeguards which can be discussed during interviews.

Ruthanna McAlister, Director

customerservice@intownpiano.com

www.intownpiano.com

GMTA Theory Exams



GMTA THEORY TEST

THE ONLY OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO TAKE THE GMTA THEORY TEST IS AT THE GCMTA MUSIC DAY EVENT.

Date: November 13, 2021

Exam Fee: \$10 per student

Location: Duluth First Baptist Church, Duluth, GA

Application Deadline (Online Only): **TBD**

Music Day Chairman: Patti Bennett, 404-490-5548, musicbypatti1@gmail.com

Test Administrator: Rie Hosoi, 678-596-0401, riehosoi@yahoo.com

APPLICATION INFORMATION:

*Registration for the **GMTA Theory Test** is only available **online** at GMTA's website: <http://georgiamta.org/>

*Students may take the same test or the next level. Sample tests can be found on the GMTA Website.

Georgia Auditions Theory Examination: GATE

THE ONLY OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO TAKE THE GATE IS AT LOCAL AUDITIONS.

Date: February 12, 2022

Exam Fee: \$10 per student

Location: PianoWorks, Duluth, GA

Registration Deadline (Online Only): January 15, 2022

Auditions Chairman: Jiyeon Kwak, 661-305-9980, jiyeonatwell@me.com

Exam Administrator: Rie Hosoi, 678-596-0401, riehosoi@yahoo.com

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Each pre-college piano or piano concerto participant in GMTA's local, regional, and state auditions is **required to take and pass** one of the three (3) theory exams ("GATEs") in order to advance beyond local auditions. Students may become EXEMPT from taking some or all of the GATEs. For exemption information, practice exams, and other important information regarding the GATE, visit the GMTA website at: <http://georgiamta.org/>

APPLICATION INFORMATION:

Registration for the **GMTA Theory Test** is only available **ONLINE** at the GMTA website: <http://georgiamta.org/>