

# GCMTA News

## Promoting Music Education

### Notes from the President

#### Customer Service

Why is good customer service so difficult to find? Many companies tout their customer service, but few deliver on their promises. A recent appointment at a car dealership reminded me of the importance of customer service. What was supposed to take one hour took three, the job was not done properly, and I was not a happy customer.

Are we providing a good “customer service experience” for our students? Granted, a teaching situation is different from the retail and service universe, but we should still strive to achieve a level of satisfaction among our “customers.” We need to communicate clearly to our students and their parents what our expectations and goals for them are. When a student asks an irrelevant question or wants to tell me about something other than music during their lesson, do I get impatient and brush the question or comment aside? Occasionally that response is appropriate (some kids will do anything to derail their lesson), but often taking a few moments to interact with them about another area of interest in their lives makes a lasting impact. One of my former students whom I was fortunate to teach for twelve years told me after she graduated that she appreciated how I was interested in her as an entire person, not just as a pianist. That remark packed quite a punch!

Let's make customer service a priority this year. Let's take the time to be engaged and involved with our students, and let's resolve to communicate well with our students and their families. In the long run, we'll be so much happier, and our “customers” will be, too!

Cathy Thacker, NCTM  
GCMTA President

#### LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

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## SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

9/22: Dr. Annalisa Chang - Teaching students with special needs  
The meeting will begin at 9:30am and the program will follow.

Lawrenceville First Baptist Church  
165 Clayton Street SE  
Lawrenceville, GA 30046

## MUSIC DAY

Music Day is scheduled for an in-person event on **Saturday, November 13, 2021**, at Duluth First Baptist Church. Because of the latest Delta Strain of Covid, the Executive Board voted to make Music Day a hybrid event to include virtual judging, as well as in-person. Entry fees are \$22 for the first event. For students entering multiple events, each extra event will be \$10.

Registration is now open on the GCMTA website. Registration deadline is Friday, October 1. Entry fees need to be received by Kathy Dawal at 1735 Fort Daniels Trail, Dacula, GA 30019-4888, postmarked by October 8, 2021.

Please note: Use the same registration form for in-person and virtual entries. There will be a new box to check either in-person or virtual for each student registered. Teachers will receive an email registration receipt for each student registered. Check your email to verify you have received a receipt for each student. Keep these receipts until Music Day. Use the edit tab on these receipts to make any changes you need to make to your student entries. Clicking on the edit tab in the email will take you back to your original entry. Teachers may edit and save their entries through Friday, October 1.

Please go to the GCMTA website and read the Rules and Procedures and Guidelines under the Music Day tab. Many questions will be answered, and many issues will be solved if we follow these guides and rules.

There will be adjustments to the schedule to accommodate the MTNA Guidelines. Please read over the MTNA Guidelines at:

[https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Connect/Affiliate Services/Events FAQs.aspx](https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Connect/Affiliate_Services/Events_FAQs.aspx)

I'm looking forward to a successful, enjoyable and rewarding Music Day that is a positive and learning experience for all involved. Best wishes to each of you and your students.

Patti Bennett  
Music Day Chair



## Digital Resources for Music Day

With Music Day being a hybrid event, we have adjusted the registration form for you to select how your student will participate. You may have some doing virtual while others prefer in-person. Please read all instructions/explanations carefully.

Up until October 1, you can adjust any entry yourself by using the edit tab on your email receipt for each student. After October 1, please email changes to Kathy Dawal.

You can see a screen shot of the form here.



Once you have filled in all required information, click "Continue".

(Please excuse me for forgetting my student's name halfway through the requests. I seem to have figured it out by the last request.)



MachForm

### Music Day 2021 Student Registration

Register your students for the 2021 Music Day. When completed, please submit the form.

The fee is \$22 per entrant and \$10 each extra event. Registration Deadline is Friday, October 1, 2021. Payment must be postmarked no later than Friday, October 8, 2021

#### Teacher Name \*

First      Last

#### Teacher email \*

#### Student Name \*

First      Middle

Last

#### In-Person, or Virtual. \*

In-person

#### Additional Event

Additional Entry

#### Requests

John S. Brown, brother, will also be participating.  
Mary will also be participating in Voice.  
Mary will also be participating in Piano duet with Susan Smith.  
If possible, please schedule Jane in the morning.

#### Instrument:

Note: For Duets, trios, etc., please select the instrument ensemble.

Other Instrument: Choose other in drop down list above, then type in the instrument here. Also use for listing instruments in a mixed ensemble.

#### Grade

#### Composition 1

#### Composer (Composition 1)

#### Composition 2

#### Composer (Composition 2)

#### Eligible to win?

Select "No" if this student won at Local Auditions (ANY association, not just GCMTA) in 2021. \*

Yes

Any student receiving OPR at local auditions is ineligible to win. If student received OPR at Local Auditions but did not pass the GATE, then the student is not a winner.

Powered by MachForm

You will then see this page. Check your entry and fix any errors. When ready, click "Submit" and your student will be registered. Check your email for the registration receipt.

**GCMTA Music Day**  
Music Day 2021 Student Registration - Receipt  
To: Kathryn Dawal,  
Reply-To: GCMTA Music Day

Teacher Name	Jane Doe
Teacher email	<a href="mailto:kdawal81@gmail.com">kdawal81@gmail.com</a>
Student Name	Mary R. Brown
In-Person, or Virtual.	In-person
<b>Requests</b>	
John S. Brown, brother, will also be participating. Mary will also be participating in Voice. Mary will also be participating in Piano duet with Susan Smith. If possible, please schedule Jane in the morning.	
<b>Instrument:</b> <b>Note: For Duets, trios, etc., please select the instrument ensemble.</b>	
Piano Solo	
Grade	5
Composition 1	Minuet in G
Composer (Composition 1)	J.S. Bach
Composition 2	Tarantella
Composer (Composition 2)	C. Chaminade
<b>Eligible to win?</b> Select "No" if this student won at Local Auditions (ANY association, not just GCMTA) in 2021.	
Yes	
Total	\$0 USD

**Edit Response**

## MachForm

You have not yet registered. Please review Your Entry  
After reviewing your information, click Submit button to finish.

**\$0.00**  
TOTAL

Teacher Name	Jane Doe
Teacher email	<a href="mailto:kdawal81@gmail.com">kdawal81@gmail.com</a>
Student Name	Mary R. Brown
In-Person, or Virtual.	In-person
	John S. Brown, brother, will also be participating. Mary will also be participating in Voice. Mary will also be participating in Piano duet with Susan Smith. If possible, please schedule Jane in the morning.

Instrument: Note: For Duets, trios, etc., please select the instrument ensemble.	Piano Solo
Grade	5
Composition 1	Minuet in G
Composer (Composition 1)	J.S. Bach
Composition 2	Tarantella
Composer (Composition 2)	C. Chaminade
Eligible to win? Select "No" if this student won at Local Auditions (ANY association, not just GCMTA) in 2021.	Yes

**Submit** [Previous](#)

Your emailed Registration Receipt will look like this.  
Notice the tab  
← "Edit Response"

Click on this tab to return to your original entry to make any needed edits.

## CERTIFICATION

### MY CERTIFICATION JOURNEY

By Cathy Thacker, NCTM

The first time I heard about MTNA certification was over a decade ago when Robin Engleman, NCTM, gave a program to our GCMTA members about becoming certified. I was intrigued at the time because it sounded very appealing, but I was also afraid because it sounded like a lot of work. I decided to shelve the idea because I was too busy raising children, teaching lessons, and playing piano for my church. There just wasn't time left over to pursue certification. Besides, I already had a college degree, so why was certification necessary?

A few years after Robin did her program, she asked for any of us who were interested in certification to meet with her at a local Panera. I went because I love Panera, and there was no real commitment. Once again, I was challenged to raise my level of professionalism to a higher level. This time I decided to follow through and embarked on the path to certification. That fall I received a grant from GMTA towards that goal, and the die was cast!

I enlisted the help of a local legend, David Watkins, an MTNA Nationally Certified Master Teacher, to mentor me. It had been years since I had performed on a serious level, and my theory knowledge and skills were not where they should be. Taking private lessons with David and having him review my written material was very nerve-wracking at first, but I learned so much from him, and he was supportive and encouraging every step of the way. He was a wonderful mentor!

Some people push certification as a tool for making more money, and it is a legitimate reason to charge higher rates than average. Others tout the professional respect it affords you from your colleagues, and that is true as well. The main reason I pursued certification, though, was to learn on a deeper level and to understand music like I never had before. I was awarded NCTM in September 2014, and I'm over the halfway point of becoming permanently certified. I like the fact that MTNA holds me accountable each year for re-certification with their points system.

Certification taught me about repertoire, theory, new approaches to teaching, the value of professional development, patience, and that undervalued characteristic called determination. I am so glad that I invested the time to become an MTNA Nationally Certified Teacher of Music in Piano! I'm very happy to meet with anyone who has questions, doubts, or concerns, because I did, too, and maybe I can help you in some way.



## 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

## NFMC

Teacher's Junior (students) Club Application, Dues, and Junior Club Roster is due no later than October 15th. The application and roster are to be filled out and Junior dues paid by credit card online at georgianfmc.org. Click on Festivals, Festival Forms, then Jr. Club Membership to open the form. You can refer to the August Newsletter or website if you have any questions in filling it out. This must be done by October 15th or there will be a late fee. Remember that only students that pay dues are eligible to participate in Festival. You can add students later, but you can't enter students that are not on your final roster.

Once you receive your receipt from GFMC, it is very important to forward that receipt to your Festival Chair. Hard copy applications/checks are not acceptable.



## JR/SR SCHOLARSHIP

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

Please visit [gcmta.org](http://gcmta.org) for more information on the application and eligibility.

-Yumi Patterson

## LOCAL AUDITIONS

Local Audition Location: PianoWorks, Duluth

Local Audition Date: February 12th, 2022

Please see [gcmta.org](http://gcmta.org) for more information. If you have questions, please email Jiyeon Kwak at [jiyeonatwell@me.com](mailto:jiyeonatwell@me.com).



## THEORY EXAMS

### GMTA THEORY EXAMS & GATE

1. The GMTA Theory Test (**NOT** GATE) will be administered at Music Day on November 13th.
2. The test includes ear training as well as a written exam.
3. Teachers will be given a specific time, different than the performance time, for testing.
- 4. You must register for the Theory Test online at the GMTA website.**
- 5. Teachers must have an account on the GMTA website in order to register students. If you do not have one, you will see instructions on the website regarding how to set up an account. In this account, teachers will enter student info and register for GMTA Theory and GATE.**
6. Payment for events will be paid online, or teacher may choose to mail in payment to the state office (Mandy Reynolds).
7. You can find complete information, instructions, and practice tests on the GMTA website. The **GCMTA September newsletter** also has the list of instructions and a link to the **GMTA Theory Web Page**.

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8. The GATE theory test will be given at Local Auditions.
9. The GATE is a required component for entering Auditions, and the test must be passed. You can find passing scores listed at the GMTA website.
10. Ear Training is not part of the GATE testing.
11. An exemption for GATE may be possible by taking the GMTA Theory Test.
12. You can find complete information about exemptions for GATE as well as practice tests, and registration requirements in the September newsletter and at the GMTA website.



## THEORY EXAMS (CONTINUED)

### GMTA THEORY EXAMS

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

<b>Date:</b>	November 13, 2021
<b>Exam Fee:</b>	\$10 per student
<b>Location:</b>	Duluth First Baptist Church, Duluth, GA.
<b>Registration Deadline (Online Only):</b>	October 1, 2021
Music Day Chairman:	Patti Bennett, 404-490-5548, <a href="mailto:musicbypatti1@gmail.com">musicbypatti1@gmail.com</a>
Test Administrator:	Rie Hosoi, 678-596-0401, <a href="mailto:riehosoi@yahoo.com">riehosoi@yahoo.com</a>

#### **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:**

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

<b>Date:</b>	February 12, 2022
<b>Exam Fee:</b>	\$10 per student
<b>Location:</b>	PianoWorks, Duluth, GA.
<b>Registration Deadline (Online Only):</b>	January 14, 2020 Auditions
Chairman:	Jiyeon Kwak, 661-305-9980, <a href="mailto:jiyeonatwell@me.com">jiyeonatwell@me.com</a>
Exam Administrator:	Rie Hosoi, 678-596-0401, <a href="mailto:riehosoi@yahoo.com">riehosoi@yahoo.com</a>

#### **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/>

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

## MTNA/GMTA AWARDS REPORT FROM EB MEETING 8/25

GCMTA donates a basket for the raffle that is held at our annual GMTA conference. I would love to hear from members regarding a desired theme for this year. This may include donations of small items from individual members.

Discussion resulted in the decision to have a spa-themed basket. Members will bring items to the September and October meetings, and Mary Ann McTier will combine these into an attractive basket to take to the GMTA conference. If you have questions, please contact Mary Ann at [mam0609@comcast.net](mailto:mam0609@comcast.net).

## TEACHER OF THE YEAR

December 31st is the deadline to make your nomination for GCMTA's 2022 Teacher of the Year! Nominees will be considered upon receipt of the nomination form (available on the website) supported by letters of recommendation from colleagues and/or former students. The winner will be recognized at the annual May luncheon. Nomination forms, along with the appropriate documentation, should be sent to committee chair Pam Asberry ([pamasberry@gmail.com](mailto:pamasberry@gmail.com)).

## PIANO TEACHER NEEDED

Gwinnett Christian Terrace, a senior living facility in Lilburn, is seeking a new piano teacher from approximately 1-2 every Friday. Pay is \$33 per hour, and they currently have 3-4 dedicated students, but their teacher is leaving.

If you have an interest in encouraging these committed senior citizens with their musical growth, please communicate with Melody McTier at [melody.mctier@christianterrace.com](mailto:melody.mctier@christianterrace.com) or Mary Ann McTier at [mam0609@comcast.net](mailto:mam0609@comcast.net).

