

GCMTA News



From the President

“Beware the Ides of March.”
Julius Caesar, William Shakespeare

This ancient warning to Julius Caesar sounds overly melodramatic to our ears, but they are words that he should have heeded. He was told that there would be an attempt on his life before the 15th of March, and he went about his business, not believing in his own downfall. On March 15, 44 BCE, he was stabbed to death by a group of Roman senators who wanted to change the Roman Empire into a Republic. Nowadays the warning stands generally about a possible betrayal.

I want to talk about a touchy subject. Sometimes students leave our studio, and it can feel like a betrayal. We’ve poured our heart and soul into teaching them, nurturing them, developing them, and they repay this with an exit. They aren’t thinking about our emotions and the time and attention that we’ve given them. Sometimes students just straight up quit lessons, despite our admonishments that they will later regret this action. Sometimes they change to a different teacher. The reasons for quitting lessons are varied: changing or waning interests, being too busy, desire to be with another teacher deemed more successful than the one they currently have. To us teachers, it can be hurtful.

Years ago, I taught a girl from K-5 through 6th grade. She had much older siblings, and her mother constantly compared her to her older brother, who had been valedictorian of his high school class and was currently in a prestigious university. He could have been a piano performance major, but he chose a different career path. The mother sat in on each lesson and would interrupt to fuss at her daughter. I had had enough of this one day and asked her to let me handle the teaching. I told her that her child needed encouragement and praise from her, not belittling. This girl was a good student and excelled in Federated Festival and Music Day. However, when she was in 6th grade, she had a major memory slip playing for a judge, and received an Excellent rating that time. Her mother was very unhappy and decided that her daughter needed a different teacher. Both the girl and I cried and protested, but to no avail. This lady’s mind was made up. That girl had two or three more teachers after she left my studio. The mom actually reached out to me by email shortly after she left to ask questions and seek advice. It made me mad, but I responded with diplomacy. Years later I was rewarded by the mom emailing me to inform me that her daughter had been accepted into a music education major, and that her musical foundation was due to my good teaching.

It’s not easy to lose a student, but ultimately good things can come from it. Keep your wits about you, and stay calm. Often, there will be another student to take the place of the one leaving your studio, and quite possibly the new relationship will be better than the previous one. Stay positive!

Cathy Thacker, NCTM
GCMTA President

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"When Things Go Wrong" - Imran Jayed

When things go wrong as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all up hill,
When funds are low and the depths are high,
And you want to smile but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest if you must, but don't you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turn.
As everyone of us sometimes learn
And many a failure turns about
When he might have won had he stuck it out.

Don't give up though the pace seems slow,
You may succeed with another blow.
Success is failure turned inside out -
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt.
And you never can tell how close you are.
It may be near when it seems so far.
So stick to the fight when you are hardest hit.
It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.



Membership

We encourage you to remember that as a member of GCMTA, you REPresent it as an ambassador and an inviter/host for prospective new members to attend our meetings. Use our calling card invitations and brochures to entice potential new teachers to our meetings. (Need some? See Deb Hughes).

If you have opportunity, you might inform them of the three main advantages of being a member:

1. Resources
2. Education
3. Peers



PERKS (a Resource) of being a member of MTNA are not only national (travel, printing costs, etc.) but local, as well. As a member of GCMTA, you have some very good opportunities:

Free Tickets for teachers to the Atlanta Master Chorale's performances must be requested in advance: admin@atlantamasterchorale.org

Free performances of chamber musicians. Sign up: chambermusicsociety@emory.edu

Half priced tickets for teachers for piano performances: chopinsociety2@gmail.com

Free performance opportunities for students through Atlanta Music Club: Young Performers Recitals: AtlantaMusicClub.org

GFMC Awards: Piano, non-piano (voice separate from instrumental) - go to GeorgiaNFMC.org

NFMC Junior Awards: National entry fees are so reasonable (\$10) for: blind, special needs, piano & piano concerto, strings, vocal, ballet, dance, etc. Go to NFMC-music.org and look under Junior of the Competitions and Awards.

NFMC Senior Awards: (include teachers) Compete to win cash. NFMC-music.org

% Discount from Joann's Fabric entire purchase for teachers. (By random I mentioned that I was purchasing for students. The cashier asked whether I was a teacher and I got a discount - surprise!)

-Deb Hughes, Membership Chair



Junior/Senior Scholarship

GCMTA Junior Senior Scholarship is scheduled for April 22, 2023, at PianoWorks. For more information, please visit our website: <http://www.gcmta.org>.

Yumi Patterson, NCTM

MED/PED Scholarship

If you have a high school senior who will be pursuing a Bachelor in Music Education or Pedagogy, please have them look into our MED/PED scholarship.

All information is on our website.

Deadline is May 1.



West Gwinnett Federated Festival

The West Gwinnett group enjoyed a wonderful day on February 25th when we conducted our 2023 festival again at Berean Baptist Church in Lilburn. Students and parents (and all of us teachers, as well) were delighted with the homemade cookies, brownies, and bottled water the church provided. Likewise, we appreciated the extra help from some of the church members (as well as from the private studios of Cathy Thacker and Deb Hughes). We also thank Mallory Stiebel for helping out and being such a delight the entire day.

There were 190 events that students participated in that day in several categories. We were very pleased with the expertise of our judges, and we are pleased to list the following results of students who received scholarships.

Piano Scholarship

- 1st place - Benjamin Vasquez (student of Susan Andrews)
- 2nd place - Jeremiah T. Vang (student of Cathy Thacker)
- 3rd place - Shiloh G. Neal (student of Cathy Thacker)
- 4th place - Chizua Ndukwe (student of Susan Andrews)
- Honorable Mentions - Ariana Encarnacion-Rivera (student of Marcia Rygh), Sophie Heim (student of Yumi Patterson), Erin Smith (student of Susan Andrews), and Calvin Zhu (student of Susan Andrews)

Woodwind Scholarship

- Winner - Yegin Christine Son (student of Marcia Rygh)
- Honorable Mention - Ava Aldridge (student of Marcia Rygh)

Vocal Scholarship

- Winner - Kennedy Coakley (student of Deb Hughes)
- Honorable Mention - William Clay Dysart (student of Deb Hughes), Meredith Manlove-Simmons (student of Deb Hughes), Imani Hawks (student of Debbie Murphy), and Clara Maxcy (student of Debbie Murphy)

We congratulate all the students who participated last Saturday, along with those listed above and their teachers for their outstanding accomplishments.

Rebecca Bonam

Teacher of the Year

The nominations have been submitted and the votes are being tallied! Be sure to attend the May luncheon for the big reveal!

Pam Asberry
pam.asberry@gmail.com

Meetings and May Luncheon

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 22 at First Baptist Church Lawrenceville.

This is our March Masterclass with David Watkins. The following students will be participating:

- Benjamin Vasquez, student of Susan Andrews
Mozart Sonata in D, K 576, 1st movement
- Vincent Rao, student of Yanni Chan
Clementi Sonatina Op. 36, No. 3, 3rd movement
- Ramon Lopez, student of Nora Martin
Timothy Brown - Polonaise in G minor

There is no meeting in April.

IMPORTANT CHANGE: The May luncheon will be on Wednesday, May 10, and will be held at Alexander Park Pavilion #1.



Local Auditions Report

We successfully completed our Local Auditions on the 18th of February. I thank all of the teachers for participating. Special thanks to Tina Darden for bringing and setting up refreshments, as well as Gloria Park and Min-Jung Jin for staying late to help clean up.

- We had 77 out of 81 audition.
- OPR - 67
- OP - 3
- AE - 7
- 70 Trophies ordered.



- Feb. 27th - Deadline to Register for Regional Auditions
- Mar. 10th - GMTA Regional Auditions Video Submission Deadline - instructions will be sent by the state.

Theory

GATE was given on the Saturday of February 18, 2023 along with the local audition.

- Participants: A - 33 students, B - 22 students, and C - 16 students
- Exemptions: A - Two students, B - One student, and C - Three students
- Cancellations: A - One student, B - One student

All tests will be returned to audition teachers sometime between April to May.



Central Gwinnett Festival

Our Festival is March 4 at Hebron Baptist Church in Dacula. With nearly 300 students entered, we anticipate a busy day. We appreciate our many student volunteers and, of course, all our hard-working teachers. A special thanks to Michelle Peck who has been invaluable in getting our event ready.

Digital Resources-

Our online event lunch form and our funds request form are both working well. The lunch form can be adapted for specific events. Please contact Kathy Dawal (kdawal81@gmail.com) if you need a form created or adapted.

North Federated Festival

North Federated Festival is March 11 at The First Baptist Church of Duluth.

Please check your emails regarding teacher assignments..





2023

Competitive
Piano

**Technithon
and
Hymnfest**

Saturday
April 22, 2023



**Berean Baptist
Music Academy**

1405 Hewatt Rd SW
Lilburn, GA 30047

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.

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

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 23rd.

More information & registration online at bbclilburn.org/technithon

Deadline for entry is April 7, 2023.

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.

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

