

GCMTA News



From the President

During a lesson with one of my middle school students, I played some portions of two classical sonatas for him to choose from. He chose the Mozart and then said, "You know, I realized you taught me everything I know about piano." I felt both honored and anxious. Did I teach him everything I should have?

When I think about all that my piano teacher taught me, I am forever grateful. How did she do it? And why does it seem like we just don't have the time to cover all that same material now? We do live in different times, and we need to keep learning so that we can help our students to have what they need to continue in their musical pursuits long after they have left our studios. We play the long game as music teachers. We know that the full appreciation of what we invest may come many years down the line.

I trust that your desire to do the best for your students is also what motivated you to join GCMTA. Part of my motivation for joining MTNA was the fact that my teacher set that example for me, and I understood, in a limited way at the time, the benefits that we both received. So, I hope you will join us for our monthly meetings to meet some wonderful colleagues, get some fresh ideas and find renewed motivation to be the best teacher you can be.

I hope to see you on September 27 at PianoWorks!

Gloria Park

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Teacher of the Year

December 31st is the deadline to make your nomination for GCMTA's 2024 Teacher of the Year! Nominees will be considered upon receipt of the nomination form (found online at <https://gcmta.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/TeacherOfYearNomination.pdf>) 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, Cathy Thacker, at csbt88@gmail.com.



September Meeting

Please join us for our first meeting of the year on Wednesday, September 27 at 9:45 AM!

Where: PianoWorks, 2805 Buford Highway, Duluth, GA 30096

Our own Cathy Thacker, NCTM, will be speaking on "GMTA Auditions: An Overview."

Our upcoming meeting dates can be found on our website.

Kevin Olson Workshop

WHAT: KEVIN OLSON WORKSHOP!

WHEN: Friday, October 13, 2023

WHERE: PianoWorks, 2805 Buford Highway, Duluth, Georgia

Kevin Olson is coming to PianoWorks! He will represent CCC Music Company, publisher of works created by a variety of contemporary composers around the globe - composers we know and love, such as Philip Keveren, Mary Leaf, Wynn-Anne Rossi, and many others. These compositions reflect the diversity of their experiences, conveying the passions, dreams, and quiet musings of these talented musicians.

The schedule for the day is as follows:

- 8:30am - Registration
- 9:00-10:15am - Workshop 1
- 10:15-10:30am - Break
- 10:30-11:45am - Workshop 2
- 11:45-12:00pm - Q&A

Light refreshments will be served, and everyone who pre-registers will receive a FREE piece of sheet music, courtesy of CCC Music Company. To pre-register for this FREE event, email pam@pianoworks.com with your name and email address.



Local Auditions

The date for GCMTA's Local Auditions is Saturday, February 17, 2024 at Piano Works. Registration is ONLY ONLINE at GeorgiaMTA.org. The deadline is January 15. Local Auditions is the first preliminary for GMTA's State Auditions for piano students grades 4-11. Remember to also register Local Auditions students for the Auditions Theory Exam (GATE) by January 15 if not already eligible by passing the GMTA Theory Test (given at GCMTA's Music Day on November 11). Each teacher who enters students in Local Auditions is also required to work in some capacity for this event.

NOTE: Seniors must also register by the January 15 deadline but are not required to perform until the State Audition competition on April 13. Seniors also MUST take and pass the theory test to be eligible.

Local Auditions repertoire requirements: two pieces- one from Baroque or Classical period (through Beethoven), PLUS one piece from Romantic, Impressionistic, or Contemporary periods. Only original solo piano compositions will be accepted and memorization of all repertoire is required. All music must be purchased. Scores from free online music or public domain sites are NOT acceptable for GMTA Auditions. If you have questions about literature, please refer to GeorgiaMTA.org for a full listing of repertoire guidelines.

Only students who receive an Outstanding Performer rating AND pass the theory test requirement will be eligible to continue on to the second preliminary round which is referred to as Regionals (regional evaluation is through video recordings only). The final Audition is a state level competition on April 13 at Piedmont University which will be an in-person adjudication.

Junior/Senior Scholarship

The Junior/Senior Scholarship event will take place on Saturday, April 20, 2024, at PianoWorks in Duluth. The entry deadline is March 15, 2024, and registration is now online. Information and requirements are posted online at <https://gcmta.org/home/index/student-activities/juniorsenior-scholarship>. If you have questions, please contact Cathy Thacker, chair, at <mailto:csbt88@gmail.com>.

Guidelines for Teachers Performing Group A Piano Study Group

Purpose

The Teachers Performing Group provides a forum for piano teachers to improve their skills as musicians and teachers through self-directed study and group support. Each member will plan his/her personal musical goals and will have the opportunity to present something to the group at meetings regularly.

Examples of Presentations

- Performance of piano repertoire, any style
- A section, movement, or (time permitting) a complete work
- “Performance ready” or “in progress”
- Solo or duet repertoire; accompaniment (preferably with soloist present; improvisation; original composition)

Generally speaking, each presentation may last up to 10 minutes, depending upon the number of participants that day. If any member has an upcoming performance and needs extra time, he/she should tell the coordinator before the meeting.

No critiques will be given after a performance unless requested by the performer. However, since this is a teachers group, discussions about related teaching issues (technique, style, editions, etc.) can be a valuable part of our meetings.

Membership

Membership is open to any pianist/teacher who will commit to the goals of the group and who will participate regularly (but not necessarily at each meeting).

When, Where, Etc.

The group will meet every month, year round, at PianoWorks in Duluth. Meetings will generally be held on the third Friday of each month, although the date is subject to change in case of conflict with other events at PianoWorks. Doors will open at 10:00AM; meetings will begin promptly at 10:15 AM and conclude by noon. It is not practical for children to attend.

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2023.

Communication will be done via e-mail. To sign up for the e-mail list, contact pam@pianoworks.com.

NFMC

Teacher's Junior (students) Club Application, Dues, and Junior Club Roster are due no later than October 15th. The application and roster are to be filled out and Junior dues paid by credit card online at <http://www.georgianfmc.org/membership>. Then, open the Junior Club Registration Form. Where it asks for GFMC Senior Club and Festival, enter the name of your Sr Club (West, Central, or North Gwinnett). You are the counselor of your Jr Club. The name of your Jr Club should be the same as what you submitted last year.

There is a minimum fee of \$32 for 16 or less students, \$2 for each student over the minimum, and \$6 for the Keynotes magazine. Remember that only students who pay dues are eligible to participate in Festival. You can add students later, but you cannot enter students who are not on your final roster. Once you receive your confirmation receipt with roster from GFMC, it is very important to forward that email to your Festival Chair. Typed or hand-written rosters are NOT acceptable.

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 11, 2023
Exam Fee:	\$15 per student
Location:	Duluth First Baptist Church, Duluth, GA
Application Deadline (Online Only):	October 1, 2023
Music Day Chairman:	Kathy Dawal 404-583-9769 kd@dawalpianoandguitar.com
Test Administrator:	Rie Hosoi 678-596-0401 riehosoi@yahoo.com



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.

Georgia Auditions Theory Examination: GATE

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

Date:	February 27, 2024
Exam Fee:	\$15 per student
Location:	PianoWorks, Duluth, GA
Registration Deadline (Online Only):	January 15, 2024
Auditions Chairman:	Deb Hughes 770-401-1978 bndhughes@comcast.net
Exam Administrator:	Rie Hosoi 678-596-0401 riehosoi@yahoo.com

Masterclass

Acclaimed performer and pedagogue Professor Robert Hamilton will be holding a masterclass at PianoWorks on October 13th, from 1:30-3:30pm. You can find his CV here. <https://search.asu.edu/profile/84507>

If you would like more information or are interested in having your student participate, please contact Michelle Nam at michelle.nam.piano@gmail.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/>

MUSIC DAY

Mark your calendars for November 11, 2023. Entering your students in Music Day is an excellent way to start your students' performance season. Online registration opens September 1. All students, pre-K through adult, are invited to enter. Grades 4-12 are competitive. We will have both in-person and virtual options, which will be judged separately. Students receiving OPR at auditions in 2023 are not eligible to win, but can be recommended for the spring Master Class.

Piano, voice, flute, and guitar are the primary instruments, but you are welcome to enter your students in other instruments as well.

Please visit GCMTA.org for further information. Contact Kathy Dawal (kdawal81@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Important Dates:

Application Deadline: Submitted online by Sunday, October 1, 2023

Registration Fee Postmark Deadline: Friday, October 6, 2023

In-Person Performance Date: Saturday, November 11, 2023

Virtual Performance Submission Deadline: Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Mail checks/payment to Kathy Dawal, 1735 Fort Daniels Trail, Dacula, GA 30019-4888.

Entry Fee: \$25.00 per student plus \$10.00 for each additional instrument

Roomful of Pianos - Make Music Winter

WHEN: Thursday, December 21, 2023, 3-5PM

WHERE: PianoWorks, 2805 Buford Highway, Duluth, Georgia

Make Music Day takes place on the summer solstice (June 21st). Since its inception in France in 1982, the holiday has spread throughout the world and is now celebrated in more than 1,000 cities in 120 different countries.

On December 21, 2023, the first annual Make Music Winter event will be held to coincide with the winter solstice. Brought to you by Roomful of Pianos / NAMM and affiliated with the Make Music Alliance, our local event will be a piano ensemble concert featuring duets, duos, trios, quartets, and more! Pianists of all ages and levels of ability are invited to participate; please email pam@pianoworks.com for an application.

Whether or not you choose to perform, plan to attend and be a part of this international musical event!

CERTIFICATION

I began my certification journey in May of 2019, just before my last year of grad school at Piedmont College. I was studying under the wonderful Dr. Jeri-Mae G. Astolfi, who acted as the catalyst in getting me started on the process. Throughout the coming year, I worked on five different projects in the hopes that they would not only get me closer to achieving national certification, but that they would also help me further my understanding of pedagogy, theory, music history, and running a business (something I had only done minimally at that point, since I taught on the side and was a full-time student). In a sense, this seemed to be a much more daunting task than the capstone I would have to present at the end of my school year.

That being said, I am so glad that I went through the process and became certified. The five projects (Write Your Teaching Philosophy, Analyze Four Teaching Pieces, Present Your Teaching, Share Information About Your Teaching Environment, and Discuss Your Business Ethics and Studio Policies) each cover a different aspect of being a music teacher and helped me see where I had strengths and where I could grow. There is also something to be said for having a nationally recognized stamp at the end of my name, hopefully giving my piano studio more credibility and showing others my dedication and love for what I do. Albeit a challenging journey, it was more than worth it! -Diana Cleland, NCTM

"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



Monthly Meetings

Please join us for our monthly Wednesday meetings! Here is our schedule.

Where:

PianoWorks
2805 Buford Highway
Duluth, GA. 30096

September 27: Cathy Thacker, NCTM
“GMTA Auditions: An Overview”

October 25: Dr. Francis Leach
“Practice Strategies that Lead to
Performance Confidence “

November 15: Dr. Vicente Della Tonia,
Jr.
“Effective Practice: A Shorter Road to
Stronger Results”

January 24: Luncheon

February 28: Dr. Alan Woo
Title of presentation TBA

March 27: Masterclass with Dr. Joe
Chapman

May 22: Luncheon and TOTY

North Federated Festival

North Federated Festival will be held on Sat., March 9, 2024 at First Baptist Church Duluth.

Membership

MEMBERSHIP:

A very hearty WELCOME to newest members: Mark Anthony Belloto of Tucker who teaches piano and guitar, Dr. Katherine Emeneth from Sugar Hill who teaches flute, Eunji Kwon of Buford who teaches piano, and Kenneth Wilson of Grayson who teaches piano. We hope your tenure with GCMTA is a good one full of opportunity, benefits, and encouragement! You are very important part of the continued success of GCMTA.

Each new member is being mentored by Pam Asberry, Debra Hughes, and Jiyeon Kwak, respectively. A very special thanks to each of them for stepping up to mentor these new members. Our many events' deadlines and rules can become overwhelming to new members, so mentors can alleviate confusion or misunderstanding. This helps our new members become an integrated part of our group. As new members join us, we ask that veteran members consider being a mentor. Notify Debra Hughes if interested.

- New calling card invitations are now printed with current information.

They will be distributed at our first meeting. ALL members are 'card carrying' - ready to invite a potential new member (though the old ones are still very serviceable)! Please see Debra Hughes for additional MTNA brochures and calling cards for placement at music stores or academies.

West Festival

It is encouraging to see new members in our organization! The festival for the West group of GCMTA teachers will be held Saturday, February 24, 2024 at Berean Baptist Church in Lilburn, GA. We look forward to a wonderful event!

Central Gwinnett Federated Festival

The Central Gwinnett Federated Festival will be held on March 2nd, 2024 at Hebron Baptist Church (202 Hebron Church Rd, Dacula, GA 30019).

Co-Chairman/Vivace coordinator: Kathy Dawal

Contact information:

cell: 404-583-9769

email: kdawal81@gmail.com

Co-Chairman: Michelle Peck

Contact information:

cell: 404-735-0092 (call or text)

email: michellenews@hotmail.com

Georgia Federation of Music Clubs (GFMC) Fall Conference 2023

Catherine Rollin Master Class

GFMC, along with N.Fulton MTA, and N.DeKalb MTA, are excited to present Catherine Rollin as Headliner for GFMC Fall Conference Sept. 16, 2023.

Location for Event

Northbrook United Methodist Church
11225 Crabapple Rd, Roswell, GA 30075
Ms. Rollin will present 2 workshops and a Master Class.



Workshop #1 – The Magic of Imagery

Catherine will demonstrate with examples from Chopin, Beethoven, Rollin and many others, to show how storytelling, singing, dancing, and artwork imagery can lead to magical results and inspired performances from our students.

Workshop #2 – Creativity and Composing – The States of Mind and Means of Inspiration

In this session Catherine will explore four well received series of her music: "The Bean Bag Zoo Collector's Series," "Lyric Moments," "Sounds of Spain," and "Museum Masterpieces" and how each series evolved. Each of these series involved very different processes of writing, but at the foundation is the desire to explore how we can all find our creativity. The goal is to inspire creativity in all aspects of our work as musicians – to understand the composers' approach – helps us all to be more creative interpreters and teachers.

Master Class

There will be 6 students chosen by committee to participate in this Master Class.

Register
Now!

Free
Workshop!



Presented to you
by:
GFMC, NFMTA,
NDMTA,
AMTA, and
Piano Works

When:

Saturday,
September 16, 2023
9:00 - 3:00pm

Where:

Northbrook United
Methodist Church
11225 Crabapple Rd
Roswell, GA 30075

Catherine Rollin!

9:00 am Workshop 1
10:30am Workshop 2
12:00pm Catered Lunch
1:00pm Master Class

Reservation Required

Email Marcena Kinney:
mkinney555@gmail.com