

# GCMTA News



## From the President

Fall is in the air. The cool mornings have been so beautiful that I took a walk one Friday morning, then noticed some weeds in my front yard and worked my way to the backyard, when at 9:00 I was horrified to realize I had missed an 8:00 make-up lesson! I felt awful, but I was very thankful for the mother’s gracious response and for the relationship and understanding we had built over several years. As much as I try to stay on top of everything and not fail my students, there are certainly times I will miss the mark. It’s true that we can learn the most from our mistakes.

Have you ever had a student who really does not like to make mistakes? I had a talk with a 5th grader who so clearly enjoyed playing piano but wanted to quit and was not practicing. Her mother was very frustrated and asked me to talk to her. When the child tentatively got on the phone with me, I simply asked her, “What’s going on? It seems like you really enjoy piano.” The student told me, “I love piano, but I really get frustrated when I make mistakes.” Ah, now we can start to deal with the real issue. Sometimes, helping a student might involve identifying their fears or helping them work through feelings of frustration when they make mistakes. Patiently working through these issues can be hard, but the reward is a deeper level of trust and understanding in a relationship that can last for many years. These long-term relationships are one of my favorite parts of being a piano teacher, seeing students grow musically and overcome hurdles along the way.

I hope you will enjoy the beautiful changes that this season brings and be reminded of the changes that we will see in our students’ lives as they grow and mature. See you at the next meeting on October 25!

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](mailto:csbt88@gmail.com).



## 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](mailto:pam@pianoworks.com) with your name and email address.

## October Meeting

Please join us for our next meeting on October 25, 2023! Our speaker will be Dr. Francis Leach. His presentation is titled "Practice Strategies that Lead to Performance Confidence".

## Membership

A BIG GCMTA WELCOME to Lauren Barnes of Lilburn who teaches strings and piano, Vicki Fontana of Lilburn, Eun Young Lee of Lawrenceville, and Daniel Webb of Atlanta all who teach piano. We are so excited these four new members who joined GCMTA this past month!

If anyone would like to be a mentor (veteran member) who will assist these new members with navigating our many activities, please contact Membership Chair, Debra Hughes, at [bdnhughes@comcast.net](mailto:bdnhughes@comcast.net). This is a very important part of encouraging and welcoming our newest members. It is not a big time commitment nor hard to do. A special thanks to Pam Asberry, Rebecca Bonam, Jiyeon Kwak, and Deb Hughes for already mentoring this year BUT we still need more help to do this fun job!

## 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](mailto: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.

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<b>Date:</b>	November 11, 2023
<b>Exam Fee:</b>	\$15 per student
<b>Location:</b>	Duluth First Baptist Church, Duluth, GA
<b>Application Deadline (Online Only):</b>	October 1, 2023
<b>Music Day Chairman:</b>	Kathy Dawal 404-583-9769 kd@dawalpianoandguitar.com
<b>Test Administrator:</b>	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 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.

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



### **Volunteers Needed**

Georgia MTNA Competition is looking for teacher volunteers on October 27th and 28th at Piedmont University. We hope to have volunteers that can serve as runners and monitors for the competition on both days. Hours are flexible and we can work around your schedule. If you are interested, please contact Yanni Chan, VP of Georgia MTNA Competition, [mtnacompitions.georgiamta@gmail.com](mailto:mtnacompitions.georgiamta@gmail.com) by October 7th. Thank you!

### 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](http://GCMTA.org) for further information. Contact Kathy Dawal ([kdawal81@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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!



## GMTA AWARDS AND MTNA FOUNDATION

These two entities play a significant role in our organization as they serve to honor, reward and award the talents and hard work of musicians. Please peruse additional information on the GMTA and MTNA websites.

**GMTA Awards** <https://georgiamta.org/grants.php> encourages the creativity, performance, study and teaching of music. GCMTA contributes \$75 annually towards this fund. Additionally, funds are generated at the state conference through the sale of raffle tickets. Winners are able to choose from a variety of great donations from local associations across the state.

**The MTNA Foundation** <https://www.mtnafoundation.org/> funds programs that nurture the creation, performance, study and teaching of music. GCMTA's budget designates \$75 yearly towards this cause. Additionally, funds are generated at the state conference through the sale of raffle tickets purchased to win a hydraulic piano bench donated by Piano Works!

## GCMTA DONATION TO THE GMTA CONFERENCE RAFFLE

"A Music Teacher's Treasure" is the theme of GCMTA's donation for the 2023 GMTA Awards Raffle, held on Saturday, November 4th at the conference. If you would like to donate new items (ex: bath & body products, chocolates, teas, music items, etc.) related to this theme, please bring them to our October meeting or contact me at [mam0609@comcast.net](mailto:mam0609@comcast.net). And be sure to register for the conference and buy some raffle tickets so you have a chance to win! There will be LOTS of prizes from which to choose!

Mary Ann McTier

# Monthly Meetings

Please join us for our monthly Wednesday January 24: Luncheon meetings! Here is our schedule.

Where:  
PianoWorks  
2805 Buford Highway  
Duluth, GA. 30096

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”

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.



## 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!

## Local Auditions

Deadline for registering online for Local Auditions (February 17 at Piano Works) is JANUARY 15. Check the GeorgiaMTA.org website and last month's GCMTA newsletter for many exacting details regarding literature, theory test requirements, fees and registration process. Questions: [bndhughes@comcast.net](mailto:bndhughes@comcast.net) and [GCMTA.org](http://GCMTA.org)

“Local Auditions” by Debra S. Hughes, NCTM

There are so many who pursue excellence in piano that it can't be done in just one show!

The competition is deep for Georgia musicians - the first step is GCMTA Local Auditions.

Register at [GMTA.org](http://GMTA.org) by the 15th of January so students can play and test on the 17th of February.

Don't forget that each teacher must also work that day in order for their students at Piano Works to play.

Remember there are piano and theory fees too plus the cost of a trophy which must be paid by you.

No free downloaded music or from public domain. If repertoire is copied students will know great pain.

So best wishes for a competition that is happy!  
(This poem is now over which was a bit sappy!)

## 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](mailto:kdawal81@gmail.com)

Co-Chairman: Michelle Peck

Contact information:

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

email: [michellenews@hotmail.com](mailto:michellenews@hotmail.com)