

GCMTA News



From the President

Who would have imagined that so soon after the Covid pandemic we would be talking again about “unprecedented times?” With the future uncertain and conflicts abounding, this season of thanksgiving is even more necessary.

Perhaps like you, my earliest memories of Thanksgiving are of cute, costumed elementary school plays with Pilgrims and Native Americans. The reality, as you know, is that the first Thanksgiving was born out of a time of tremendous difficulty as the Pilgrims barely made it through their first winter, sustained by God and aided by their new neighbors. And, similarly proclaimed by President Lincoln in 1863 during a terrible Civil War, as he urged the nation to heal its wounds and restore “peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.”

I hope your studios continue to be reliable places of peace and growth for your students and that the spirit and the music that you help bring into the upcoming holiday season is uplifting to all. Thank you for your part in this organization and your service to your students. I look forward to seeing many of you at the conference, at Music Day and at the next meeting on Wednesday, November 15. Please remember that we do not meet in December so this will be our last meeting of 2023. I am also excited that Performance Day is back! Please take advantage of this opportunity for your students.

I hope to see you soon,

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.



Performance Day

Performance Day is being held at Special Kneads and Treats bakery located at 156 Scenic Hwy S in Lawrenceville on December 2nd from 10am- 3pm. So far, only 3 teachers have signed up! If you are interested in having your students participate, please email Chris at twomorrrows93@gmail.com to let her know. Full details are now updated to the GCMTA website.

MusicLink

Chris Morrow is now working as the Northwest US Regional Coordinator for ML. She can still serve GCMTA as our local coordinator, but if anyone else is interested in serving in this position, please reach out to her for more information: twomorrrows93@gmail.com.



Membership

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 bndhughes@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.

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

Theory Exams

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



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/>

Federated Festival

Registration will be open on December 1, 2023 - January 27, 2024 festivals.nfmc-music.org

In preparing students, please be aware of rules concerning literature choices and other important requirements.

Confirm that level choices are correct for required pieces.

Do not choose a choice piece by "Unknown" and it's best to not choose an obscure composer that may not be in the Vivace national online database.

Only original works are allowed for choice pieces. Hymns and/or American folk songs are not acceptable for Piano Solo Event.

PP and PI choices must be at least 12 measures long, not including repeats. Beginning PII, all pieces must be at least 16 measures.

Students must not have reached their 9th birthday to participate in PP level.

Beginning E1, choice pieces must be a non-American composer.

Teachers entering students out of district for scheduling conflicts or to participate in voice, strings competitions, etc., should register their students in their own districts and only notify the other chairs for scheduling purposes.

Other questions can be answered in the General Rules section of the Bulletin, or p. 15 for Piano Solo Event

Questions concerning local festival procedures and/or information about High School competition can be found at the GCMTA website: www.gcmta.org

MUSIC DAY

We are in the final preparation days for our upcoming event. A big thank you to the teachers working behind the scenes to help our event run smoothly. Everyone should have received their student schedule and teacher work schedule. If you have not, please contact Kathy Dawal. Lunch can still be ordered using the link on the main Music Day page on our website.

Worker Instructions

Teachers and student workers enter through a side door on the left side of the building. Morning workers should plan to arrive before 8 a.m. We will have a brief meeting to review job assignments and answer questions. Before November 11, review your job description sent with the teacher work schedule and share it with your student volunteers. Afternoon workers should arrive by 12:30. We will have a brief meeting with afternoon workers. Every year our student volunteers make a significant contribution to the success of Music Day. Please make sure that the student volunteers know what time to arrive, and that they are included in the worker meetings.

In-Person Instructions

Students should bring their filled in Rating Sheet (your teacher number should be on the back) and their music, with measures numbered. Masks are not required but are welcome. Keep in mind that parents are to wait for their children in the waiting room.

Virtual Instructions

The Registration Receipt you received via email when first registering your student has a link on it that allows you to edit your registration. Each teacher should edit the virtual registration for individual students, adding the performance links. You can get the link by clicking on the YouTube "share" tab and copying the link. The deadline to provide video links is Tuesday, November 7, 2023. A filled-in rating sheet and photocopy of the music must be provided to Kathy Dawal.

Please feel free to contact Kathy Dawal if you have questions. Text or email is best.

Cell: 404-583-9769

Email: kdawal81@gmail.com

Roomful of Pianos - Make Music Winter

CALLING ALL COLLABORATIVE PIANISTS!

Pianists of all ages and levels of ability (students too!) are invited to participate in the first annual Make Music Winter event, to be held at PianoWorks on December 21, 2023 from 3-5PM. 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! Please email Pam Asberry (pam@pianoworks.com) for more information or an application.

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



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

February 28: Dr. Alan Woo
Title of presentation TBA

March 27: Masterclass with Dr. Joe Chapman

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

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 and 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 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

Co-Chairman: Michelle Peck

Contact information:

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

email: michellenews@hotmail.com