

GCMTA News



From the President

Have you ever considered the overlap between good leadership and good teaching? Take this quote from a 2004 article in the Harvard Business Review: “Effective leaders take a personal interest in the long-term development of their employees, and they use tact and other social skills to encourage employees to achieve their best. It isn’t about being “nice” or “understanding”—it’s about tapping into individual motivations in the interest of furthering an organizationwide goal.” ([W.C.H. Prentice](#)) Swap out “teachers” for “leaders” and “students” for “employees”, decide your goal, and you’ll have a meaningful definition of a good teacher.

Or, how about these 5 qualities of a leader as determined by Google? Decisiveness, Trustworthiness, Empowerment of others, Clear communication, Resilience. Have you needed any of these qualities in your studio today?

As I reflect on the things I’ve learned as a piano teacher, I know that I have grown musically, but I have also grown in all of these leadership areas. What a gift it has been to work with students who have presented me with so many opportunities to learn and grow. Their various personalities, strengths and weaknesses in learning, and unique interests have pushed me to broaden my thinking, work on clearer communication, and grow in resilience. I’m thankful for these growth opportunities, though at times they have certainly seemed like frustrations and setbacks.

Whatever challenges you face as a teacher today, I hope you can see them as opportunities for growth as a person and as a leader for your students. And thank you to those who have used your skills to serve as leaders in our organization. As we head into a busy season of festivals and competitions, know that you are needed and appreciated.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on February 28th at PianoWorks!

Gloria Park

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Teacher of the Year

All nominations are in for the 2024 Teacher of the Year, so stay tuned for the announcement at the May meeting. If you have any questions, please contact the committee chair, Cathy Thacker, at <mailto:csbt88@gmail.com>.



2024 Technithon and Hymnfest

Teachers, I want to encourage you to consider entering your students in the annual Technithon and Hymnfest held on April 27, 2024 at Berean Baptist Church, 1405 Hewatt Road SW, Lilburn, GA 30047. This competitive event encourages students to actually enjoy practicing the various technical forms and offers the opportunity to win cash awards. There are 12 levels in the Technithon ranging from very easy to extremely difficult and students may enter on the level of their choice.

The Hymnfest is also a competitive event. Students are required to play two hymn arrangements of their choice from memory. There are 3 levels based on their grades in school. Hymnfest winners will be invited to perform their winning selections in a special service the following Sunday night. Afterward, there is a lovely reception for all Technithon and Hymnfest participants and guests.

Detailed requirements for both events can be found at <https://www.bbclilburn.org/technithon>. Registration is open now and goes through the deadline of April 13, 2024.

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 this is a firm deadline; no late entries will be accepted. The application form is available online at <https://gcmta.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/GCMTA-2015-16Jr-SrScholarshipApplication.pdf>.

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>.

MusicLink

If you are interested in helping students who could otherwise not afford lessons through the MusicLink program, please see Chris Morrow for more information.

Festivals at a Glance

West - February 24, 2024 Berean Baptist Church
Central - March 2, 2024 Hebron Baptist Church
North - March 9, 2024 First Baptist Church Duluth

Theory Exams

Georgia Auditions Theory Examination: GATE

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

Date:

February 17, 2024

Location:

PianoWorks, Duluth, GA

Auditions Chairman:

Deb Hughes

770-401-1978

bndhughes@comcast.net

Exam Administrator:

Rie Hosoi

678-596-0401

riehosoi@yahoo.com



February Meeting

Our next meeting will be at PianoWorks on Wednesday, February 28. Dr. Alan Woo will be giving a presentation.

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/>

MED/PED Scholarship

If you have a high school senior who will be pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Music Education or Pedagogy, please have them consider our MED/PED scholarship. All information is on our website. Deadline is May 1.

Membership

Welcome to Daniel Liebeskind of Stone Mountain who teaches piano. Our grand total of members is at 94. At this time MTNA is running the yearly ½ price special for any potential new member. Be sure to invite potential music teachers to join our association by inviting them to our meetings or passing out the invitations cards.

Local Auditions - Piano 4-11

We had 101 students register this year, which is a 25% increase above last year's registrations. We added a third judge to accommodate the number of entrants. The judges are Vicente Della Tonia, Jerico Vasquez, and Geoffrey Haydon for February 17 at Piano Works. Thank you to Pam Asberry at Piano Works for coordinating the arrangements there. Each of the 27 teachers is serving as a worker and I want to thank all of them in advance for their wonderful cooperation in fulfilling their role. The student schedule has been sent to teachers. Please tell your students their ID #. Judges will not know them by name.

There are some new things this year. Comment sheets from judges will be emailed to each teacher. The judges will be typing their comments on their personal device so teachers can not retrieve them at auditions AND we may not be able to let all teachers know if their students are OPR since we must enter the theory test into the new administrative program Tenuto before they are designated OP or OPR. No money will be exchanged at Auditions. The fee for Regionals will be sent directly to GMTA and the fee for trophies will be sent online to the person who is coordinating the optional trophies.

Each GMTA Regional registration is \$30 with a one time teacher fee of \$20. Regional registration has to be done by the teacher by February 28 online. Regional video recordings must be sent to GMTA by March 22. Go to Georgiamta.org for details.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Teachers, take note if you have entered students with repertoire that exceeds the amount of time allotted by GMTA. Please prepare your students for a possible/probable stop in their audition due to time restraints. Allotted maximum times for the audition: 4-5 grade is 8 minutes, 6-8 grade is 10 minutes, and 9-11 grade is 12 minutes. For example, a 7th-Grade student may program two pieces totaling 15 minutes in length, with the understanding that the judge will hear a maximum of 10 minutes of the program. Judges may stop a student on either or both pieces before the maximum time has expired in order to write comments.

Questions? Teachers contact Debra Hughes bndhughes@comcast.net or 770-401-1978.

Certification

MTNA's Certification Program serves to elevate the entire music teaching profession; it identifies for the public the essentials that define a competent music teacher and offers incentive and opportunities for professional growth." -Joan M. Reist, NCTM

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-racking 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 at 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.

Central Federated Festival

Central Federated Festival

March 2nd, 2024

Hebron Baptist Church in Dacula

Hybrid Festival (in-person and virtual submissions)

Please be on the look-out emails concerning scheduling, teacher work schedule, and lunch orders. Please note that registration in Vivace is now closed and no amendments to the registration can be made. Please also note that once the schedule is finalized that no adjustments can or will be made. Thank you for being considerate of all the time our scheduler puts into our Festival. If you would like to order lunch for Festival Day, please see the GCMTA website under the NFMC membership section.

****Virtual submissions:**

Please carefully note the deadlines. The first deadline is to get a copy of the music and a rating sheet to Kathy Dawal by Saturday, February 24. Please provide a photocopy, NOT a book with tabs, etc. The copies will be destroyed after judging is completed.

The second deadline is to upload a Youtube link to your student video. Do not try to upload the video itself. Video upload information will be sent directly to participating teachers.

Virtual judging will be completed by March 2nd. You will be able to pick up your rating sheets at Festival.

For assistance with Vivace and virtual submissions, please contact Kathy Dawal (text preferred) at 404-583-9769

For all other questions involving literature, payment, class/level assignments, point stacking, gold cups, etc, please contact Michelle Peck at 404-735-0092 or michellenews@hotmail.com

The World Renowned Pianist & Educator, Dr. Tamás Ungár's Master classes and Lectures

Wednesday, 3/20 & Thursday, 3/21 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
PianoWorks [2805 Buford Hwy, Duluth, GA 30096](https://www.pianoworks.org/)



Professor of Music, Texas Christian University
Founder and Executive Director, PianoTexas
International Festival & Academy

Pianist Tamás Ungár has earned worldwide acclaim for his powerful performances and innovative programming. A regular guest artist at numerous music centers in the United States, he also performs and teaches frequently all over the globe.

Between the 2006 -2014 seasons he performed over 70 concerts in America, Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Hungary, Romania, England, Taiwan, The People's

Republic of China, Korea and Japan.

In addition to his performing commitments, Tamás Ungár has become one of United States' best-known and most respected teachers of the piano. As Founder – Executive Director of PianoTexas International Festival and member of the TCU Piano Faculty, he attracts students from across America and as far afield as Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, China, England, Germany, Greece, India, Israel, Kazakhstan, Korea, Hungary, Japan, Malaya, Mexico, Poland, Republic of Georgia, Singapore, Russia, Taiwan, and Thailand.

His students have received prizes in national and international competitions. Dr. Ungár has been invited as guest teacher to the Semper International Music Festival in Völs am Schlern, Italy, the Banff Piano Master Classes, Canada, Hamamatsu Master Classes in Japan, the Tel-Hai Master Classes in Israel, International Master Classes in Katowice and the Chopin Festival in Duszynki, Poland. Since 1989 Tamás Ungár has been a regular guest teacher at the most important music centers in China and has taught in Japan, Korea, Singapore and Indonesia.

GMG Distinguished Artist, Dr. Tamas Ungar's Schedules

3/20 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. 4 master classes + Lecture - Mozart in depth + Q&A

3/21 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. 4 master classes + Lecture Beethoven in depth + Q&A

Ticket is at <https://www.mygmg.org/event-ticket> (Early bird discount ends on 2/20)
Refreshments and Lunch are included. Masterclasses detailed information will be posted on the GMG website [Georgia Musicale Group| Amateur and Professional Musicians| Georgia \(mygmg.org\)](https://www.mygmg.org/)

Please ask questions at mygmgcontact@gmail.com