

GCMTA News



From the President

Can you believe we are rounding the corner to the end of the year?

We are in the midst of the piano teacher's busy season. Thank you to all the teachers who are not only caring for your own students, but making the festivals, auditions, and scholarships possible for all of us by giving generously of your time and working many hours behind the scenes.

You may have noticed that young people these days are less inclined to want to take on leadership and management roles, even in volunteer capacities. So, I want to encourage you not only to keep pressing on, but to encourage others to get involved in order for these events to continue for years to come.

Here are a few positives to consider, whether you've been serving for years or are just thinking about getting started:

1. Connect with others - Volunteering is a great way to make new friends and to meet like-minded people who are willing to invest their time and talents for others. Want to boost your social and relationship skills? Get involved!
2. Be healthy - Getting involved helps fight depression and boosts self-confidence. It provides a sense of purpose and can keep you more physically active - just ask the teachers who have to move all those boxes and bins for the events!
3. Gain valuable skills - Just think about all the computer skills we've had to learn as we've adjusted to things moving online - Zoom meetings, online registrations through Vivace and Tenuto, and all kinds of online communication. This has been a huge shift and we've had to learn more quickly because of our various roles. Before taking on the treasurer role years ago, I didn't even know how to use spreadsheets!

All of our wonderful events for our students could not continue without people stepping up and taking responsibility. We are one willing chairperson away from these events not happening. With this great, supportive group of teachers, I could not think of a safer place to start getting involved. So, please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or want to try helping out in any small way.

I hope to see many of you at the MTNA National Conference in Atlanta. Our very own Pam Asberry will be performing at the opening event with her arrangement of "Georgia On My Mind". How exciting!

Best wishes for your students' growth and success and for your joy as a music teacher,

Gloria Park

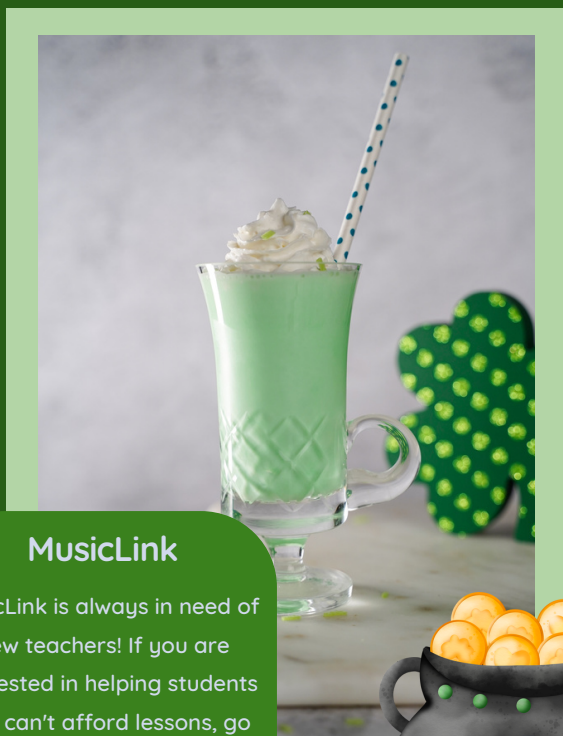
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Teacher of the Year

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>.



MusicLink

MusicLink is always in need of new teachers! If you are interested in helping students who can't afford lessons, go to www.musiclinkfoundation.org.



Make Music Day

CALLING ALL COLLABORATIVE PIANISTS!

WHAT: MAKE MUSIC DAY

WHEN: June 21, 2024, 3-5PM

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

Make Music Day began in France in 1982; since then, the holiday has spread throughout the world and is now celebrated in more than 1,000 cities in 120 different countries on June 21st, to coincide with the summer solstice.

Pianists of all ages and levels of ability (students too!) are invited to participate in the second annual Make Music Day event, to be held at PianoWorks on June 21, 2024 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!

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>.

Meetings and May Luncheon

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 27, at PianoWorks. This is our March Masterclass with Dr. Joe Chapman. The following students will be participating:

Avaneesh Singh, student of Tina Darden
Beethoven Sonata in G, Op. 79, 1st movement

Aislin Burke, student of Kathy Dawal
Debussy - Sunken Cathedral

George Frilot, student of Jean Mann
Gillock - Sleighbells in the Snow

There is no meeting in April.

The May luncheon will be Wednesday, May 22, at Grace 1123 House in Snellville, 1123 Dogwood Road.

GCMTA Local Auditions

Thank you to the 27 teachers who entered students for the 2024 Local Auditions and served to make the event held at Piano Works on February 17 a successful and enjoyable event. Everyone participated well and willingly while also adjusting to new roles when there was a need. We had three experienced judges select the 70 students who may progress to Regionals (OPR) : Dr. Jerico Vasquez, Dr. Vicente Della Tonia & Dr. Geoffrey Haydon. There were 102 students who registered. Extra special thanks: 1. Rie Hosoi who came to help me set up the day before 2. Gloria Park for figuring out how to get us online at Auditions so that the scores were coded into Tenuto before we left 3. Sun Duck Kim for coordinating the hospitality and 4. Kathy Dawal who handled lunch ordering and delivery. All of these teachers did these roles in addition to working that day.

Tammy Noh is coordinating the trophies which will be available at the March meeting. Student certificates can be downloaded by the teacher through Tenuto. Rating sheets that were written rather than typed into Tenuto can be received from Debra Hughes at the meetings, as well.

Here are the 2024 GCMTA LOCAL AUDITION results: Students(teachers)

4th grade - 10 OPR: Andrew Fan(Xu), William Chung(SH Kim), Ava Park(K.Lee),Iffah Farooqui(Jin), Bown Choi(J.Lee), Raymond Feng(Xu), Nathan Jiang(K.Lee), Hailey Lee(Bak), Flora Yu(Hwang), Junsu Kim(Choi) **3 AE:** Inwoo Choi(Hwang), Gloria Cho(Bak), Emily Kim(SD Kim)

5th grade - 10 OPR: Nhien Vo(H.Kim), Joey Raez(Kwak), Emma Nguyen(Kwak), Natalie Fang(Xu), Chaeyeong Park(SD Kim), Dallin Peck(Andrews), Sophia Kong(Xu), Benjamin Li(Xu), Ian Huang(Jin), Hunter Huynh(Kwak) **8 AE:** Elena Bae(Choi), Hawon Yoo(Kwon), Ethan Min(Choi), Jihoo Lee(Choi), Colleen He(K.Lee), Emily Kim(SD Kim), Meghna Nag(Choi), Mason Yue(Hwang)

6th grade - 10 OPR: Emily Han(J.Lee), Seungwoo No(Noh), Zooey Won(Bak), Edward Kim(SD Kim), Kailyn An(Jang), Marc Shu(Xu), Jiakuan Li(Xu), Kate Han(SH Kim), Jaden Zhang(K.Lee), Eric Oh(J.Lee), **3 AE:** Alice Smith(Dawal), Monica Yu(Gaal), Dylan Phan(Hughes), **1 HM:** Esther Cho(Bak)

7th grade - 10 OPR: Maggie Yang(K.Lee), Caleb Chen(Xu), Ellie Jin-Britt(Xu), Chrissy Raez(Kwak), Jack Chen(Park), Suny Peck(Andrews), Eliword Son(Choi), Ethan Nguyen(Kwak), Bryan Chu(SH Kim). **2 AE:** Serene Bok(Choi), Lucas Kim (Kwon)

8th grade - 10 OPR: Corinne Thorpe(Xu), Abigail Yuan(Boguslavskiy), Hansinee Saka(Kwak), Annie Chen(Xu), Ilisa Nakamiya(Choi), Eileen Yu(Gaal), Rocco Rosenberg(Dawal), Kenneth Low(Liebeskind), Natalie Hoang(Choi), Sidvipa Vittikuti(Hosoi), **3 AE:** Charlotte Black(Choi), Ashvat Sinha(Kwak), Karunya Challa(Peck)

9th grade - 6 OPR: Aislin Burke(Dawal), Anushka Nag(Choi), Soovien Ok(Park), Andrew Chen(Xu), Eric Shu(Xu), Alex Han(J.Lee)

10th grade - 7 OPR: Benjamin Vasquez(Andrews), Allison Nguyen(Kwak), Julia Liu(Xu), June Choi(Kim), Jessica Han(Boguslavskiy), Haily Culp(Xu), Sarah Lackey(McTier), **1 HM:** Anna Rodriguez(Boguslavskiy)

11th grade - 8 OPR: Justin Hwang(J.Kim), Rayna Park(Choi), Ellie Yin(Xu), Vincent Li(Jin), Abigail Marley(Park), Sophia Li(Xu), Ian Du(Jang), Jason Dinh Nguyen(Bak), **1 OP:** Nathan Liu (J.Kim), **2 AE:** Sreenithi Sri Kumar(Peck), Rachel Wang(K.Lee), **2 HM:** Kaundinya Challa(Peck), Ashley Lee(Choi)



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.



Theory

GATE from the Local Audition will be returned to teachers by mail after Regional video submission.



Membership

Welcome to HAEUN SONG YOON who lives in Lawrenceville and teaches piano and violin. We are very happy you joined GCMTA!!

When you Enter our Local MTA Consider yourself One of the unique Members of Gwinnett County Music Teachers who are Enthusiastically ready to grow and encourage each other!

Reminder: MTNA membership fee is half priced right now for new members until June 30.

North Federated Festival

We are so excited for our North Gwinnett Federated Festival on March 9th at Duluth First Baptist Church Duluth! With over 300 registrations this year, all of our rooms are FULL all day long.

Since our schedule is so full that day, remember:

- Expect to be busy that day. Whatever our assignments are (door monitors, runners, registration, check-out) every job is important. If you need to leave your post, be sure to swap with someone or see if someone can fill in for you while you step away.
- If you are not sure how to answer a question or complaint from a student, parent, or another teacher, please simply let Judy, Melissa, or Beth know so that we can handle it for you. If there is anything you are unsure of, please ask. We are here to help and support one another.
- Extra patience, understanding, and encouragement for one another goes a LONG way in making events like this run smoothly (working together with a smile not only helps all of us have a great day, but we also model great professionalism for all the students and parents who see us that day)
- Wear or bring comfortable shoes (even if you are assigned to be sitting most of the day)
- Bring extra water or snacks if you need or want something specific to help keep you going throughout the day. Of course, there will be great snacks and beverages in the Hospitality room. But if you want something specific to keep your energy going, please bring it with you.

This event is about the students and making sure they have the best experiences possible. For years, I have admired the teachers who set aside their own complaints or inconveniences that day, in order to focus on helping, calming, and encouraging all of the students they encounter (not just their own). We are a strong community of teachers with the same goal - shaping wonderful, healthy musicians in our communities. See you on March 9th!

West Federated Festival

CI am always surprised whenever we go through months of planning and preparation how it can all come to fruition and be over in a matter of hours. From the very first deadlines way back in September - the senior clubs - then the deadlines for the junior club rosters followed by a few moments of panic from new teachers who were terrified at having missed deadlines - then just to see things "work out" anyway...then the process of acquiring judges etc. etc. etc. everything happened like it had been scripted in a play. Thankfully, the venue was not an issue. Oh but all the detailed planning and SO many things to remember! And now...it's over? Did time pass by so quickly...again?!

Here are the facts! There were a total of 201 events with only 2 "no-shows." Twelve will be playing in Central or North. Judges awarded 192 Superior ratings with only 6 "Excellents" and 1 "Needs Improvement" and that was in the area of theory testing. Only two played solely for the judge's comments.

The teachers all outdid themselves with the fantastic snacks and sodas (and water...oh yeah, and coffee!) In addition, there were some delicious baked goods brought in from the ladies and teens from Berean Baptist Church (our venue) that were available for everyone at the event including us teachers and workers!

The phrase, "A good time was had by all" can certainly apply to our - dare I call it a "party?" - last Saturday!

We had the privilege of awarding six scholarships to the following students:

| | |
|---|---|
| Voice - \$100 to Meredith Manlove-Simmons (student of Deb Hughes) | Honorable Mention (Piano Solo) - |
| Flute - \$100 to Ava Aldridge (student of Marcia Rygh) | Emma Munar (Student of Cathy Thacker) |
| Piano - | Victoria Mahecha (Student of Cathy Thacker) |
| 1st place - \$500 to Steven Zhou (student of Deb Hughes) | Myra Dang (Student of Susan Andrews) |
| 2nd place - \$300 to Samara Brown (student of Rebecca Bonam) | |
| 3rd place - \$200 to Chizua Ndukwe (student of Susan Andrews) | |
| 4th place - \$100 to Alex Baker (student of Rebecca Bonam) | |

One last little piece of information: One young boy was waiting to play and just before he had to go into the studio, he discovered he lost a tooth and was wondering what he should do with it! We helped him wrap it up so that the proverbial Tooth Fairy might take care of the situation further! Ha! More happened! Lots of fun and fellowship! But for now - a big sigh of relief and gratitude to all who were a part!

Rebecca Bonam, West Chair

Piano Works Performances and Masterclass

Dr. Vicente Della Tonia, Solo Piano
performing works by Haydn, Chopin, Liszt, and Villa-Lobos

Friday, March 22nd
6:00PM
PianoWorks
2805 Buford Highway
Duluth, GA 30096

Praised for his “impeccable interpretation” and “highly refined technique, imagination and musical taste” (Jornal da

Cidade Bauru, Brazil), pianist Vicente Della Tonia has performed in concert halls throughout Europe, North and South

America. Earlier in his career, he received top prize awards in numerous piano competitions, including the XXI Concurso Latino-Americano de Piano Rosa Mística. Recently, Vicente was featured as a guest artist in the WFMT and WXVS/Wabe public radio stations, Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series (Chicago, IL), Universidade Estadual de São Paulo, Conservatório Souza Lima, Conservatório Baurense (in Brazil), the VII Coloquio do Seminário Permanente de História y Música (Mexico City), as well as a soloist with the DeKalb Symphony Orchestra and the Perimeter Wind Ensemble (Atlanta, GA). He has been highly involved with the Music Teachers National Association’s (MTNA) and presented lectures and recitals at the national and state conferences in various states such as Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Minnesota, Nevada, South Carolina, Texas and Washington.

Two-time recipient of the Steinway & Sons’s Top Teacher Award of the Year (2017 and 2020), Dr. Della Tonia is Coordinator of Keyboard Studies and Associate Professor of Piano at Georgia State University/Perimeter at Clarkston, where he is the founder and director of the Perimeter PianoFest. Prior to Georgia State, he was a faculty member at Allen University and University of South Carolina’s Community Music School in Columbia, SC; Claflin University in Orangeburg, SC; and Seminário Santo Antônio and Conservatório Musical de Lençóis Paulista, both in Brazil.

Vicente Della Tonia is a recording artist for the ACA Digital Recording label, and his debut album with works by Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos, will be released early in 2024.



Ghadeer Abaido & Svetozar Ivanov

Master Class and Concert
Friday, April 12th
2:00PM - Master Class
4:00PM - Concert
2805 Buford Highway
Duluth, GA 30096

Please join world-class pianists Ghadeer Abaido and Svetozar Ivanov for a very special afternoon of collaborative music. Titled Fancy, the program features Fantasies for piano four-hands by English Renaissance composers Tomkins and Carleton,

Viennese composers Mozart and Schubert, and American composers Feldman and Lang. Inspired by John Keats’ poem Fancy, verses of the poem, along with other pre-recorded material, are woven into the concert.

Prior to their performance, Abaido and Ivanov will conduct a master class for high school and college students at the intermediate level and above. Please note that duet teams are especially encouraged to apply.

For consideration, please email Dr. Vicente Della Tonia (vdellatonia@gsu.edu) with the pianist’s name, age, grade in school, repertoire, and performance time.

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 Duszyniki, 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

PRICE CUT:

\$50 Total for
both days!

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

2024 Technithon and Hymnfest

2024

Competitive Piano

Technithon and Hymnfest

Saturday
April 27, 2024

 **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 28th.

More information & registration online at bbclilburn.org/technithon

Deadline for entry is April 13, 2024.

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!

