

# GCMTA NEWS



## From the President

MTNA presented a webinar in April entitled “Health, Wellness, and Wholeness in the Music Studio” which is actually the title of a new book by Gail Berenson, Linda Cockey, and Charles Turon. The authors hosted the webinar and announced that they would be giving away a couple of copies of the book to attendees. Lo and behold, I received an email a few days later saying that I had won a book. Yippee!

Chapter 1 begins with a quote from Frances Clark: “When you’re teaching, you’re teaching first the student, second, you’re teaching music, and third, piano.” She was a piano teacher, but this concept would apply to any musical instrument. The book seeks to address the social, psychological, and behavioral aspects relevant to the study of music.

When you think about it, the 30 minutes to an hour that you spend with a student may be the only one-on-one time that a student has with an adult during the entire week. The undivided attention is precious. If a student comes to a lesson upset, sad, or has any range of emotions it is almost impossible to focus on the task at hand. I have learned to try to meet my students where they are. Consequently, at various times I have worn many hats during lessons: counselor, nurse, substitute mom, you name it. I have dispensed alcohol prep pads, bandaids, cough drops, water bottles, and hugs. Usually, with this attention to the student’s immediate needs, we are able to move on to music generally and piano in particular.

I am looking forward to seeing you at our first meeting on September 24!

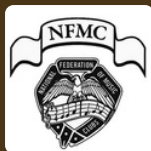
Kimber Kwiatkowski

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## NFMC AWARDS



We again will be featuring performances at each of our meetings in efforts to be awarded financially through NFMC. We need American compositions only to be performed - composers that we did not feature last year. Please contact Deb Hughes -

[bndhughes@comcast.net](mailto:bndhughes@comcast.net) Last year we earned \$600 - WOOHOO!

## PARADE OF AMERICAN MUSIC

Saturday after Thanksgiving,  
November 29 at 10:30-12 is a free  
recital at Piano Works in Duluth.  
Limited number of performers -  
first come, first serve. ONLY  
American Composers. All  
instruments welcome. To  
participate, please email  
[bndhughes@comcast.net](mailto:bndhughes@comcast.net).



## MEMBERSHIP

WELCOME to new members Xiaohan Chou who lives in Suwanee and teaches voice, Riis Winston (collegiate member) from Lawrenceville who lists piano and vocal coach as areas of teaching and Serene Lee who hails from Johns Creek who teaches piano. We are so glad to have you all join us!!

OOOOPS!! Some of us have forgotten to pay our dues and GCMTA does not have you recorded as a member. Is that you?? Please know we want you to join us and be part of our many events! Just go to [MTNA.org](http://MTNA.org) and sign up TODAY!! Psst...we will remove all nonmembers from our online Directory.

By the way, did you know  
That being a member of GCMTA  
Is a big deal for you and so  
We'd love you to join today!







## SEPTEMBER MEETING

Our first meeting of the year is September 24, at PianoWorks. Please be sure to arrive by 9:45 a.m., for refreshments, a bit of socializing, and a performance of a piece by an American composer. Our business meeting will start promptly at 10 a.m., to allow our guest presentation to begin by 10:30 a.m.

We will start our year off with piano technician Texas Galan giving us tips to maintain our instruments in top condition. We look forward to seeing everyone after our long, hot summer!



## JR./SR. SCHOLARSHIP

Jr./Sr. Scholarship is set for Saturday morning, April 18, 2026, at PianoWorks. Dr. Geoffrey Haydon from Georgia State University will be the adjudicator. Registration is online, and the firm deadline is March 13, 2026; please see the website at <https://gcmta.org/home/index/student-activities/juniorsenior-scholarship> for the information and repertoire requirements. This is a reminder that students must participate in at least one other GCMTA-sponsored event during the school year to be eligible.

If you have questions, please contact Cathy Thacker, NCTM, Chair, at <mailto:csbt88@gmail.com>.



## CERTIFICATION

MTNA Certification is a powerful way to strengthen your teaching, gain professional recognition, and build trust with families. As a **Nationally Certified Teacher of Music (NCTM)**, you'll join a respected network of educators dedicated to excellence and lifelong learning.

The process is straightforward - submit an application, complete a series of projects (or administrative verification if you're faculty), and earn a credential that sets you apart.

Learn more and get started here at <http://certification.mtna.org>

Let's raise the standard of music education in Gwinnett together!

## NOTES FROM YOUR AREA FEDERATED CHAIR

Thank you to everyone who turned in your Sr. Club dues on time so that our treasurer could take care of payment and registration for all three of our districts. Next year we plan to have an easy form for you to complete to make it less confusing and more efficient for everyone.

Here are the dates for all of the District Festivals GCMTA offers:

**West Gwinnett Federated Chair** - Rebecca Bonam at [rbonam@bbclilburn.org](mailto:rbonam@bbclilburn.org)

Festival Date: February 28, 2026

Location: Berean Baptist Church, Lilburn

Events: Piano, Voice, Instrumental (mainly flute,) and Music Theory

**Central Gwinnett Federated Chair** - Kathy Dawal at [kdawals1@gmail.com](mailto:kdawals1@gmail.com) & Lisa Ogg

Festival Date: March 7th, 2026

Location: First Baptist Church, Lawrenceville

Events:

**North Gwinnett Federated Chairs** - Young Lee at [eyoung20@gmail.com](mailto:eyoung20@gmail.com) and Melissa Slocum at [bwcagrl@gmail.com](mailto:bwcagrl@gmail.com)

Festival Date: March 7th, 2026

Location: First Baptist Church, Duluth

Events: Piano, Ensembles/Concertos, Voice, Music Theory

**Virtual Federated Event Option** - Kathy Dawal, Melissa Slocum  
Festival Date: March 14th, 2026

Location: online only, no competition available for High School

**PLEASE** record these dates on your calendar now, and **PLEASE** pass your District date along to your studios NOW. Calendars continue to fill up quickly for our busy students and it is far easier to set aside the day now, then to be frustrated with conflicts later. Remember that if you enter students into your District Festival, you are required to work the day of your District Festival. If you have questions, please contact your District Chair.

### **Jr. Club Rosters and Payment are Due October 15th**

Now it is time to compile our Student Rosters and submit our Jr. Club Registration form and fees online.

**All Jr. Club Registrations are due no later than October 15th, 2025. Registrations received late are automatically assessed a \$50 late fee.**

Please follow the steps below to register your Jr. Club for your District (West, Central, or North Gwinnett). I have also created a brief video tutorial for you if you prefer to see the steps in video form. (It is 7 mins)

<https://vimeo.com/1114384039/6fed74f247?share=copy>

- 1) Go to <https://georgianfmc.org>
- 2) Select 'Membership' and drop down and click on 'Membership Area' (the password is georgiapeach)
- 3) Select the link for Jr Club Registration Form
- 4) Complete the online Form

- the name of the Junior Club is your studio name or your name (whatever you have used in past years)
  - enter your name for Counselor/Teacher
  - enter West, Central, or North Gwinnett for your GFMC Senior club
  - enter West, Central, or North Gwinnett for the Festival in which your Jr Club members participate
  - enter one student name at a time (alphabetically) and click Add New to continue entering student names for all students who will be participating from your studio
  - your total fee will be automatically calculated, so click on 'Proceed to Payment Screen' to make a secure Credit Card payment for your Jr. Club Registration
- 5) You will receive a confirmation email from GFMC with your payment and roster listed. You are to forward this to your festival chair. No handwritten or typed rosters to your chairman are acceptable.

That's it! Your Jr. Club will be registered. **Remember that the deadline to register your Jr. Club student rosters and payment online is October 15th, 2025.**

If you need more information or instructions, please visit <https://gcmta.org/home/index/student-activities/federated-festival/nfmc-membership>

Thank you for participating in NFMC Festivals!  
Melissa Slocum





## GMTA 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 15, 2025

**Exam Fee:** \$15 per student

**Location:** Duluth First Baptist Church, Duluth, GA

**Application Deadline (Online Only):** October 1, 2025

Music Day Chairman: Yulia Soboleva, 404-918-2449,

[musicteacherjulia@gmail.com](mailto:musicteacherjulia@gmail.com)

Test Administrator: Rie Hosoi, 678-596-0401,

[riehosoi@yahoo.com](mailto:riehosoi@yahoo.com)

### APPLICATION INFORMATION:

\*Registration for the **GMTA Theory Test** is only available **online** at GMTA's 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 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Exam Fee:** \$15 per student

**Location:** PianoWorks, Duluth, GA

**Registration Deadline (Online Only):** January 15, 2026

Auditions Chairman: Sun Hee Kim, 404-655-2993,

[sunheekimpiano@gmail.com](mailto:sunheekimpiano@gmail.com)

Exam Administrator: Rie Hosoi, 678-596-0401,

[riehosoi@yahoo.com](mailto: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 four (4) 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

**Registration is now open! While the information on the website may not have been updated yet, all information on the registration form is correct.**

Registration is the same for all students. Teachers will register individual students on our online registration form.

You must select either virtual or in-person for each student.

You may put students in either category. It is an individual choice, not a studio choice. Registration fees are the same for in-person and virtual performance.

You will receive an emailed registration receipt for each individual student. **You must keep this receipt.** You may use the Edit link on the receipt to make any changes to your registration up until registration closes.

The website may not be updated, but the form is. All requests should be added on the registration, **not emailed.** Up until registration closes, please do not email requests as these are hard to keep track of. Once the schedule goes out, you may only request a change from in-person to virtual performance.

### If you have scheduling requests:

Changes should be made on the registration form. Use the edit tab on the registration receipt. **Not emailed.**

No requests for schedule changes other than to virtual after the schedule is mailed out.

Make sure that you have a receipt for each student registered. If you do not, after checking your spam/junk file, contact Kathy Dawal: [kdawal81@gmail.com](mailto:kdawal81@gmail.com)

Once registration is closed, and up to the Wednesday before the event, in-person students may switch to virtual. Contact Kathy Dawal to arrange: [kdawal81@gmail.com](mailto:kdawal81@gmail.com)  
*Virtual students cannot switch to in-person after registration closes.*

**Registration: [Click Here](#)**

## MUSICLINK

MusicLink is a non-profit organization that links teachers who are willing to teach at a reduced tuition rate with underprivileged students who otherwise would not be able to afford a musical education. It also accepts used instruments and helps these students to get access to an instrument whenever possible. If any of you are already teaching at a reduced rate to help out a family, please consider joining MusicLink. It's a national program, and offers discounts for teachers for many organizations, as well as reduced or free music for the student. Contact Chris Morrow at [twomorrow93@gmail.com](mailto:twomorrow93@gmail.com) for further details.

## MTNA FOUNDATION AND GMTA AWARDS

What are **MTNA Foundation** and **GMTA AWARDS**!? 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, young and old alike. Additional information about MTNA Foundation can be found at

<https://www.mtnafoundation.org/> and GMTA Awards at <https://georgiamta.org/grants.php>

**The MTNA Foundation** funds programs that nurture the creation, performance, study, and teaching of music. GCMTA's budget designates \$75 yearly towards this cause. GMTA raises funds at the state conference through the sale of raffle tickets, and one lucky member will win a hydraulic piano bench donated by PianoWorks!

Of particular note is the **MTNA Foundation Fellow** which honors members who have made significant contributions to the music world and the music teaching profession. This program supports the efforts of MTNA through donations to the MTNA FOUNDATION FUND in an individual's name. Our very own Susan Andrews received this honor in 2011, and GMTA has honored many in our state with this designation.

Click here to understand the many facets of MTNA Foundation!

[https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Engage/Awards/MTNA/Engage/MTNA\\_Awards/Awards.aspx?hkey=18b9de87-99ab-40d2-813e-0183394475ff](https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Engage/Awards/MTNA/Engage/MTNA_Awards/Awards.aspx?hkey=18b9de87-99ab-40d2-813e-0183394475ff)

**GMTA Awards**, similar to MTNA Foundation but at a state level, encourages the creativity, performance, study, and teaching of music. GCMTA contributes \$75 annually towards this fund. GMTA raises funds at the state conference through the sale of raffle tickets, and winners choose from a variety of great donations from local associations across the state.

Of particular interest to teachers are the **GMTA Grants**. Four \$400 grants are given annually to active GMTA members and collegiate members. Funds may be used for student instruction or professional development. The deadline to apply is **Monday, September 8**. <https://georgiamta.org/grants-active.php>

Other GMTA Awards are **The Betty Nolting Award in Composition**, **The Joan Broadhurst Award in Piano**, and **The GMTA General Award Fund**. Click here to learn more about each of these <https://georgiamta.org/grants.php>

### GCMTA Donation for GMTA Awards Raffle

We are collecting items to go in the GCMTA basket which will be donated to the GMTA Awards Raffle on Saturday, November 8 at the state conference. This year's basket will include items such as puzzles, coloring books and pens, and any other "leisure time" type items, including food/drink. **If you have something you would like to donate, please bring it to our September and October meetings.** Be sure to register for the conference and buy some raffle tickets so you have a chance to win!

<https://georgiamta.org/conference.php>





# PianoFest 2025

**SEP 21**

3:00 PM

**DR. VICENTE DELLA TONIA**

✓ OPENING RECITAL

**SEP 22**

4:00 PM

7:30 PM

**DR. ÉVA POLGÁR**

✓ MASTERCLASS

✓ RECITAL

**SEP 23**

4:00 PM

7:30 PM

**DR. ROSANGELA YAZBEC SEBBA**

✓ MASTERCLASS

✓ RECITAL

**SEP 24**

4:00 PM

**DR. VICENTE DELLA TONIA**

✓ MASTERCLASS

**SEP 25**

11:30 AM

4:00 PM

**DR. JERI-MAE G. ASTOLFI**

✓ RECITAL

✓ MASTERCLASS

**SEP 27**

3:00 PM

**PARTICIPANTS CONCERT**

✓ CLOSING CEREMONY AND RECITAL

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3735 MEMORIAL COLLEGE AVE.  
CLARKSTON, GA, 30021**

