

GWINNETT COUNTY MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION MINUTES

September 24, 2025

PianoWorks

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

President – Kimber Kwiatkowski called the meeting to order at 9:52 AM following Deb Hughes' performance of Robert Vandall's "Buckeye Rag". Kimber welcomed visitors and new members and expressed appreciation for everyone's participation.

President-Elect – Kathy Dawal – The Dates sidebar on the website inadvertently had three February dates listed. That has been corrected. There are two meetings scheduled in February. One is a shared meeting with the North DeKalb association, Thursday, February 19, and the other is Wednesday, February 25 for our business meeting and member recital.

Secretary – Tina Darden – The minutes were approved as posted on the GCMTA website.

Treasurer – Nancy Morris – The opening balance is \$27,803.32 and the closing balance is \$27,510.84. Income and expenses were itemized in the full treasurer's report which was emailed to the membership. The report was approved as emailed.

Debra Hughes presented the association with a check for \$600 from NFMCA.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Advisory – Gloria Park – No report

Anti-Trust – Mary Ann McTier – No report

Certification – Yanni Chan – No report

Digital Resources – Kathy Dawal – The website has been updated. Please let Kathy know if you notice any errors or if something needs to be changed.

Directory/Internet – (Open)

Federated Festivals – Melissa Slocum – All Jr. Club Dues and student rosters are due no later than October 15th, 2025. Rosters must be submitted online, and only online

payments are accepted (no checks). Dues received late are automatically assessed a \$50 late fee. Melissa has created a brief video tutorial outlining the steps to register your Jr. Club at <https://vimeo.com/1114384039/6fed74f247?share=copy>

Vivace updates:

- Please archive on Vivace any students who are no longer in your studio so that any future transfers may be handled quickly and easily.
- Be sure to review the spellings of all student names – it is not possible for an admin to correct a misspelled name.
- You can now view parts of the Bulletin in Vivace! Click here to see Bulletin updates and parts of the Bulletin online. <https://festivals.nfmc-music.org/>
- Student History Report - you can download and print your own student history reports for each student. This will help you see past events and points awarded for each student.

Central District will offer a virtual option for all three Gwinnett districts. If a registered student becomes ill or has a family emergency, the student will still be able to participate and get points by submitting a recording of the pieces for a virtual judge. Kathy Dawal will provide all the information for that option later in the year. The virtual entries will be judged on March 14th, 2026.

West – Becky Bonam – the site and judges have been secured, so everything is on schedule for the festival on Feb. 28.

North – Melissa Slocum/Young Lee – No report

Central – Kathy Dawal/Lisa Ogg – The Central festival is scheduled for March 7, 2026.

GMTA Auditions – Sun Hee Kim – No report

GMTA/GATE Theory – Rie Hosoi- October 1 is the deadline for registering for the GMTA Theory Tests.

The GATE tests have been revised and sample tests are available on the GMTA website. There will be 3 levels: A (grades 4 ,5, 6) B (grades 7, 8, 9) and C (grades 10, 11, 12).

Hospitality – Sarah Peterson – Sarah asked members to sign up to bring refreshments to future meetings.

Junior/Senior Scholarship – Cathy Thacker, NCTM -- The 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 csbt88@gmail.com.

MED/PED Scholarship – Kathy Dawal –GCMTA offers a scholarship to qualified high school seniors who plan to pursue a Bachelor of Music Education or Pedagogy degree. Please see the information on our website under the Student Activities tab for more details. Application may be made online, or can be printed out and returned to Kathy Dawal by May 1.

Member-at-large – Susan Andrews, NCTM – No report

Membership – Deb Hughes, NCTM— GCMTA had 95 members last year. As of July 31, there are 78 members, but the latest membership reports have not been received yet from MTNA. Upon receipt of those reports, Deb sends new members a welcome note, provides information and offers to arrange for a mentor. Deb would like to have members volunteer to serve as mentors. New members are: Riis Winston, a collegiate member (vocal coach/piano), Dr. Xiaohan Chen (vocal) and Yu Hung Serene Lee (piano). Dave Reesman (piano) was a visitor at the meeting.

New business cards have been printed for current members to give to potential new members. See Deb Hughes for the new cards.

Music Day –Yulia Soboleva - Registration is now open, and we encourage all teachers to register their students promptly, rather than waiting until the last minute. As of September 24, there are 36 registrations from 4 teachers. Registration for Music Day closes on October 17, 2025. Payment can be made by Zelle or check postmarked October by 22. As with all GCMTA and Georgia MTA events, once registration closes no refunds are possible.

Please note that teachers entering students in Music Day must have all dues confirmed as paid. For literature guidelines and teacher work requirements, please go to our website: <https://gcmta.org/home/index/student-activities/music-day/gcmta-music-day-rules-and-procedures>.

We will have box lunches from Publix available. The lunch order form will be open from Oct. 20 through Nov. 11.

Siblings and time requests (based on need, not preference) should be noted in the Comments section of the registration form. Please note that AM/PM time requests might mean the student will be scheduled out of their grade, in which case they are not eligible for a cash award.

Music Link – Chris Morrow -- MusicLink is a national non-profit organization that links teachers who are willing to reduce their tuition by at least half with underprivileged students who otherwise may not receive a musical education. If you are already

lowering your fees to help a family in need, why not join MusicLink? For more information on the benefits contact Chris Morrow at twomorrrows93@gmail.com.

MTNA Foundation/GMTA Awards – Mary Ann McTier – GCMTA will again provide a basket for the GMTA Award raffle at the conference. The theme this year is relaxation, and members are asked to bring items such as crossword puzzle books, tea, etc. to the October meeting.

Newsletter – Diana Cleland Passmore -- Kimber praised Diana for her excellent work on the newsletters.

Performance Day – Various options for the venue and possible dates were discussed, and members are asked to consider volunteering to chair the event.

Teacher of the Year – Gloria Park - Teacher of the Year:
Nominations for our 2026 GCMTA Teacher of the Year are due by December 31, 2025. Use this simple form and then ask colleagues and a parent of a student (past or present) for recommendations.
<https://gcmta.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/TeacherOfYearNomination.pdf>
Send forms and any questions to gloriapark4@gmail.com

OLD BUSINESS

NFMC report: GCMTA was awarded prizes in 5 categories that we entered last year for a total of \$600. We won 2nd place for \$200 for American Parade and the \$100 each for American Music, American Women Composers, Jazz and Sacred Music. The money will be distributed in scholarships for High School Federated Festival participants. The booklets that were submitted last year are on display at the meeting.

NFMC's American Parade will again be held this year on Saturday, November 29, at Piano Works from 10:30 – 12 AM. To qualify for the American Music and Jazz Awards again this year, each meeting will feature a work by an American composer. Members who are interested in either of these performing opportunities should contact Debra Hughes at bndhughes@comcast.net.

NEW BUSINESS – GCMTA has been asked to provide hospitality items for the GMTA Conference at Piedmont University in November. Members who plan to attend are asked to volunteer to provide hospitality items.

GOOD OF THE ORDER - None

Motion to Adjourn –The meeting was adjourned at 10:39 AM.

Attendees: Susan Andrews, Kathy Dawal, Mary Marshall Dekkers, Lisa Gaal, Debra Hughes, Charles Hutton, Jiyeon Kwak. Kimber Kwiatkowski, Young Lee, Yu Hung

Serene Lee, Jennifer Lin, Jungwon Shin, Nancy Morris, Gloria Park, Sarah Peterson, Dave Reesman, Mallory Steibel, Ping Xu

*All actions for this **Executive Board Meeting OR Business Meeting** were taken in accordance with the stated purpose of the organization and in accordance with the Bylaws.*