

GCMTA NEWS



From the President

Why study music? As music teachers we innately know the answer to this question. Some of the benefits of instrumental study involve sharpening fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination for young students. For older students, playing or singing can reduce anxiety and blood pressure.

I have a student who is 81 years old. She is from Germany and came to the United States about 30 years ago. She took piano lessons as a child and describes walking through the rubble from World War II for an hour each week to get to her lesson. As she grew older, school and career consumed her life and she was not involved with music at all.

About a year ago she contacted me about lessons. When I arrived at her house, she showed me her original German piano books, the pages yellowed and crumbling around the edges. I saw the markings of her teacher, and she played some of the pieces that she had learned. She immediately knew when she had played a wrong note, and she often sang the melody.

Her wedding anniversary was in early September, and she and her husband had planned a trip to Hawaii. She told me that she would not be available for lessons for about three weeks. To my surprise, I received a text from her about two weeks later requesting a lesson. Unfortunately, a hurricane warning had been issued and they had to cancel their trip. Two days later her husband developed severe bronchitis. Then she received a call from Germany that her older brother had suffered a fall and broken his hip and right shoulder.

She concluded the text with, "I am very sad! Only music can help...!" This may indeed be the best reason to study music, because sometimes only music can help.

Have a musical October!

Kimber Kwiatkowski

IN THIS ISSUE

Mentors	2
Parade of American Music	2
Members	2
GCMTA Music Performers	2
Teacher of the Year	2
Meetings	3
Jr./Sr. Scholarship	3
Certification	3
NFMC Updates	4
Performance Day	4
Digital Resources	5
Funds Request Form	5
Central Federated	5
MED/PED Scholarship	5
GMTA Theory Exams	6
Music Day	6
MusicLink	6



MENTORS

Mentors are veteran teachers willing to answer questions and perhaps give advice to new members who need guidance or clarification of our many splendid events! If you would be willing to volunteer to be one, please contact Deb Hughes at bndhughes@comcast.net and THANKS!! We all need a hand up at some points in our life, right?!

NFMC'S PARADE OF AMERICAN MUSIC

Any musical performer on any instrument is welcome as long as it is an American composition. Saturday, November 29 from 10:30-noon. FREE admission. Limited slots available, so register early with Debra Hughes - bndhughes@comcast.net (*HINT: This will be advertised in October to other clubs, so GCMTA has first dibs.*)



MEMBERS

Use this card to invite prospective new members. They just need to go to MTNA.org to join us. It is so easy. Perhaps you know of a music store near you or a church music program where you could drop a couple of business cards off? We always are in need of new members. Remember to sign the back so they can contact you.

**Gwinnett County
Music Teachers
Association**

Join us!
MTNA.org

Kimber Kwiatkowski
President
Debra Hughes
Membership

GCMTA MUSIC PERFORMERS PLEASE!!

Is that you? Sign up!! Each meeting we will carry on the tradition of performing American compositions to try and win award money from NFMC (which is totally mercenary of us) BUT it is a good thing, fun, encouraging, and supports the mission of NFMC to promote American music. Please contact Deb Hughes - bndhughes@comcast.net.



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.

MEETINGS

We have an exciting year planned. Our presenters are Dr. Martha Thomas, Dr. Kevin Chance, and Dr. Patricia Dinkins-Matthews. At our January luncheon, we will feature studio gems. Please be prepared to share music you like to use in your studio that is not found in the standard teaching repertoire. In February, we will co-host with N. DeKalb for a presentation with Dr. Yoshiko Arahata, and have a second meeting later that month for our Business Meeting and a member recital. So, start practicing now!



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://gcmtna.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!

NFMC UPDATES

Jr. Club Registration Information:

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

Our Georgia NFMC officers are requesting that all Jr. Club Dues are submitted online along with online payments. If you have printed the form and sent checks in the past, please know that our Georgia NFMC respectfully requests that we no longer send paper forms and checks. Please follow the steps below to register your Jr. Club for your District Festival. 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'

(If prompted for a password enter: 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 [Central, West, or North] Gwinnett for your GFMC Senior club

enter [Central, West, 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>

A Few More Updates...

Vivace Updates:

- Please make sure you log in and update or clean up your student roster. Please archive any students no longer in your studio so that if there is a transfer needed later on, we can handle those quickly and easily. Be sure to review the spellings of all of your student names - we cannot change those on the backend for you. (Parents always ask us at Registration and at Check Out to correct their child's name on their Rating Sheet, but we are not able to do that.)
- 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.

Virtual Option now available for All Gwinnett Districts:

Central District has graciously opened up their virtual option for all three Gwinnett districts. So if you have a registered student who falls ill or has a family emergency, they will still be able to participate and get points if they are able to record their pieces and submit for a virtual judge. Kathy Dawal will provide all the information for that option later in the year. The Virtual Festival entries will be judged on March 14th, 2026.



PERFORMANCE DAY

GCMTA Needs You!

Performance Day is a highly popular event for students, teachers, and our audience. Our only problem is finding someone to chair the event.

The Performance Chair locates the venue and secures a date for GCMTA students to perform in a non-competitive situation. Previous events have included playing at Von Maur in the Mall of Georgia in early December and playing at an extended care center.

Contact Kimber Kwiatkowski to volunteer.



DIGITAL RESOURCES

The website has been updated. Please let Kathy Dawal know if you notice any errors or if something needs to be changed. A big thank you to those who have already let me know of errors.

Our Dates sidebar inadvertently had three February dates listed. That has been corrected. We do have two meetings scheduled in February. One is a shared meeting with the DeKalb chapter, Thursday, February 19, the other is Wednesday, February 25 for our Business meeting and member recital.

CENTRAL FEDERATED

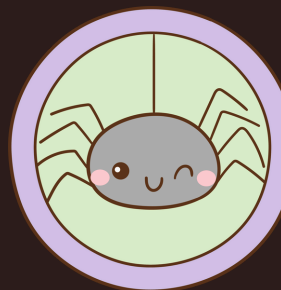
Date: March 7, 2026

Location: Lawrenceville First Baptist Church, Lawrenceville.

Please make sure to turn in your student rosters on or before October 15 to avoid having a late fee.

FUNDS REQUEST FORM

When requesting reimbursement for approved items purchased for our association, please refer to the Funds Request Form. This form can be found under "Forms" on our website. Please fill it out and email it to Nancy Morris at pianowithnancy@gmail.com. Also, please indicate your preferred form of payment (check or Zelle).



MED/PED SCHOLARSHIP

Do you have a student interested in pursuing a Bachelor of Music Education or Pedagogy degree? GCMTA offers a scholarship to qualified high school seniors. Please see the information on our website under Student Activities for more details. Application may be made online, or can be printed out and returned to Kathy Dawal by May 1.



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

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

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 14th, 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

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 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

The GCMTA sponsors a Music Day festival every November. The purpose of this festival is to encourage study and to provide an opportunity for students to perform and receive an evaluation of their performance and cash awards. Proceeds from Music Day are used to provide funds for scholarships and to support the budget.

Registration Deadline: Submitted online by Friday, October 17, 2025

Registration Fee Postmark Deadline: Wednesday, October 22, 2025

In-Person Performance Date: Saturday, November 15, 2025

Virtual Performance Submission Deadline: Tuesday, November 11, 2025

A filled-in rating sheet and print copy of the music must be provided to Kathy Dawal by Saturday, November 8, 2025.

Zelle payment to events@gcmta.org or mail checks/payment to Nancy Morris, 3125 Dogwood Creek Pkwy, Duluth, GA 30096.

Entry Fee: \$25.00 per student, plus \$10 each additional instrument.

Teacher Requirements:

1. Teachers entering students in Music Day must have all dues confirmed as paid.
2. All teachers entering students in Music Day are required to work the event on the following basis:
 - a. 7 or fewer students: work ½ day, assist with setting up or clean up.
 - b. 8-14 students: work a full day, assist with clean up.
 - c. 15 or more students: work a full day and assist in an administrative role.
3. Teacher work requirements are mandatory regardless of student cancellations; however, a teacher may pay an exemption fee of \$50 for ½ day, \$100 for a full day, or **a teacher may send an approved adult substitute.**

MUSICLINK

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 twomorrow93@gmail.com.