

GCMTA NEWS



From the President

This month, we remember the oldest of all American traditions, when we seek to manifest spiritual thankfulness for material blessings.

At the time of the first Thanksgiving, a small band of Pilgrims boarded a tiny ship called the Mayflower and left England for America. They all fully realized that the Mayflower would return to England, and they would be left stranded in America. This was a dedicated group of people seeking religious freedom. They suffered a near mutiny, sickness, and depletion of food during their sixty-five days at sea. Finally, they came ashore at Plymouth. We cannot know what it was like for those Pilgrims, the emptiness and silence of the great forest, not knowing what might be in it or lie beyond it. They never had enough to eat.

Even the poorest of us today have received many, many more blessings than did our Pilgrim Fathers. In this Thanksgiving season, as we dine bountifully in comfortable surroundings, safe and secure in every respect, as we live in cities which we did not build, as we drink from wells which we did not dig, and eat fruit which we did not plant, let us not forget our debt of gratitude for the work, suffering, and sacrifice of all of our ancestors who have made these things possible for us in a material way.

More importantly, let us say of our Lord with the Psalmist: "Enter into his gates with Thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good: his mercy is everlasting; His truth endureth to all generations."

I am thankful for you!

Kimber Kwiatkowski



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SPECIAL THANKS

Special THANKS to Mary Marshall Dekkers for performing an American Composition at our November meeting to help with GCMTA's pursuit of NFMC's American Music Award.

NFMC'S PARADE OF AMERICAN MUSIC

****DON'T FORGET** to sign up for the **PARADE OF AMERICAN MUSIC****

Saturday, NOVEMBER 29 at PianoWorks to perform American compositions, wave flags and enjoy some great music!

10:30 am-noon...FREEEEE!!! All instruments welcome.

Contact Deb Hughes bndhughes@comcast.net by November 14 (limited space available)

BTW: IF anyone is interested, able and willing: The honorable mayor of Snellville is declaring the month of November as Snellville's American Music Month by an official proclamation at 7:30 at City Hall on November 10. All are invited to attend and get in the pic! (We are welcome to leave right after the proclamation.)



A NOTE OF THANKS TO GCMTA

Dear friends, the kindness you brought, through your get well card, hit the spot. Your words sent sweetness, light, and cheer, reminding me that music friends are dear. With gratitude both deep and true, I offer heartfelt thanks to all of you.
- Deb Hughes

MEMBERSHIP

A very warm **WELCOME** to our three newest members: **Jennifer Luo** who teaches piano, **Dr. Shu-ling Chu** & **Dr. Sonny Hyun Yoo** who both teach piano and theory; all three hail from Duluth! GCMTA is very glad that you are part of our association. We look forward to making your acquaintance and to you getting involved in our many events, meetings and projects.

Welcome, new teachers, where together we aspire
To kindle young hearts with musical passion and fire.

We learn and we share, we guide and explore.

May you find all you hope for, and even more.

Where we expect you'll find friends that are true,
And where we plan that our harmony will grow lovelier with
you.

Special thanks to Kimber Kwiatkowski for mentoring one of our new members! We are always looking for mentors to help our new members to make a connection and gain understanding how we do what we do in GCMTA. If interested, 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.



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>.

THINKING ABOUT NATIONAL CERTIFICATION?

If you're not yet nationally certified, I highly encourage you to explore the opportunity! You can achieve certification either by completing the Teacher Profile Projects or through Administrative Verification.

Becoming a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music (NCTM) not only enhances your professional credibility but also demonstrates your commitment to excellence in teaching.

Learn more about the process at www.mtnacertification.org

If you have any questions or would like guidance through the process, please don't hesitate to reach out — I'd be happy to help!

Yanni Chan (yannichan221@gmail.com)



2026 LOCAL AUDITION

- Audition Date: Saturday, February 14, 2026
- Location: PianoWorks (2805 Buford Hwy, Duluth GA 30096)
- Registration Deadline: January 14, 2026 through TenutoWeb (<https://gmta.tenutoweb.com>)
- All applicants must register for the GATE test separately unless exempt.
- Audition Chair: Sun Hee Kim
- Sun Hee's email: sunheekim.piano@gmail.com
- Sun Hee's phone: 404-655-2993

NOVEMBER MEETING: DR. KEVIN CHANCE

Our next meeting is November 19. Mark your calendars now as you won't want to miss Dr. Kevin Chance as he shares his insights on teaching students artistry from the beginning. This is a joint meeting with the North DeKalb chapter so make sure you arrive by 9:45 a.m.

Pianist Kevin T. Chance has been hailed as "a superlative musician" playing "with musical conviction and muscularity." He has performed throughout the United States and abroad as both soloist and collaborator. Currently on sabbatical, and traveling performing extensively, Dr. Chance serves as Associate Professor of Piano and Chair of the Gloria Narramore Moody Piano Area at the University of Alabama. In addition to his college-level students, he maintains a private studio with students of all ages.

Dr. Chance is an outstanding educator and generous in sharing his skills with others. Our November 19th program will be a one you don't want to miss!

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

Location: Duluth First Baptist Church, Duluth, GA

Music Day Chairman: Kathy Dawal, 404-583-9769,

kdawal81@gmail.com

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

riehosoi@yahoo.com

*Students may take the same test or the next level. Sample tests can be found on the GMTA website.

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

We are very pleased to have so many teachers and students involved in Music Day again this year.

Student schedules will be going out in a different email. We have made every effort to honor scheduling requests. If your student cannot attend at their scheduled time, they may switch to Virtual. Contact Kathy Dawal to arrange.

Teacher numbers must be marked on the back of every rating sheet.

This will allow us to put them in the correct teacher file. All instructions and information about teacher numbers, virtual event etc. will be provided soon.

Student schedules will go out in a separate email.

This year the provision has been added to allow teachers to exempt out of work on the actual day by paying a fee or sending an adult substitute.

We hope that will make participation easier for teachers who need to be elsewhere on

November 15.

Please keep in mind the following information from our website:

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.**

