

GWINNETT COUNTY MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION MINUTES

November 19, 2025

PianoWorks

Mary Marshall Dekkers opened our meeting with a performance of Argentine composer Frank Sannuci's *Springtime in Vienna*.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

President – Kimber Kwiatkowski called the meeting to order at 9: 59 AM. Kimber passed around a couple of job ads and scholarship opportunities.

President-Elect – Kathy Dawal – Our next meeting is January 28. This will be a luncheon, and we will be presenting teaching gems from our studio. More info to come. On Feb. 19, we have a joint meeting with North DeKalb. Feb. 25 will be our regular business meeting and a member recital.

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

Treasurer – Nancy Morris – The opening balance is \$32,726.76 and the closing balance is \$33,766.51. Income and expenses were itemized in the full treasurer's report which was emailed to the membership. The report was approved as emailed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Advisory – Gloria Park – No Report

Anti-Trust – Mary Ann McTier – No Report

Certification – Yanni Chan – No Report

Digital Resources – Kathy Dawal – Funds Request form is on the password protected Treasury page. If you need the password, please contact Nancy Morris or Kathy Dawal.

Directory/Internet – (Open)

Federated Festivals – Melissa Slocum – Local Festival Chairs may open their Registration in Vivace at any time now, but the closing date is Jan. 30th for all students' registrations in Vivace. We have renewed interest in Federated Festivals from many new teachers who are in the area. Melissa recommends that the Executive Board review the current districts and possibly create a new district Sr. Club since we have

seen significant population growth in Gwinnett and increased participation in Federated Festivals. Thank you to Deb Hughes for staying on top of membership dues and responding to all the emails related to MTNA dues and Federated participation!

West – Becky Bonam – No Report

North – Melissa Slocum/Young Lee – Vivace Student Registration is now open for teachers in North. With a couple of additional teachers joining the Sr. Club this year, we are looking at adding an additional judge for a total of 9 judges for the event. Young Lee and Jungwon Shin are assisting with literature reviews and registration approvals, scheduling, and finalizing judges. Melissa, Young, and Jungwon will meet in early December to finalize plans for the event on March 7th.

Central – Kathy Dawal/Lisa Ogg – All is in place for our March 7, 2026, event. Kathy will be happy to help Central District teachers get new students added to their rosters. Please email Kathy if you need help.

GMTA Auditions – Sun Hee Kim – The local audition is fast approaching. The audition date is February 14th and the registration deadline is **January 14th**. The GMTA website lists the deadline as **January 15th**, and Sun Hee apologizes for any confusion this discrepancy may have caused.

Because of the difference between the GCMTA and GMTA calendars, she will still accept registrations submitted on January 15th.

Starting next year, she will make sure to cross-check both websites to prevent any future confusion.

GMTA/GATE Theory – Rie Hosoi- No Report

Hospitality – Sarah Peterson – No Report

Junior/Senior Scholarship – Cathy Thacker, NCTM -- 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 with a \$35 fee, 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>.

MED/PED Scholarship – Kathy Dawal – Our Senior students are busy applying to colleges. Please check with them to see if any are going to pursue a Bachelor of Music Education or Pedagogy and work with them to apply for the MedPed scholarship. There are detailed instructions on our website. The deadline is May 1.

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

Membership – Deb Hughes, NCTM— WELCOME to **GINA MYUNG** from Suwanee who teaches piano.

Do YOU know someone who is a potential member of GCMTA? Please invite them to join us at our meetings so they can see what we do! Business cards are available from Deb Hughes, Membership Chair.

Music Day –Yulia Soboleva - Thanks to everyone who participated. All went smoothly. There were 294 participants with 22 performing virtually. There were 286 Superiors, 4 Excellent, and 4 Comments Only. 60 prizes were awarded.

Music Link – Chris Morrow --.No Report

MTNA Foundation/GMTA Awards – Mary Ann McTier – A big thanks to everyone who contributed (ended up with four baskets due to your generosity).0

Newsletter – Diana Cleland Passmore – No Report

Performance Day – We are looking for someone to chair this event.

Teacher of the Year – Gloria Park – Deadline is Dec. 31. Everything is online.

OLD BUSINESS – GCMTA congratulates Robin Engleman, NCTM, as the GMTA 2026 MTNA Foundation Fellow. Robin was recognized for this award at the GMTA conference banquet.

GCMTA also congratulates our own Deb Hughes as the 2025 GMTA Teacher of the Year. She was also recognized at the GMTA banquet.

NEW BUSINESS

GOOD OF THE ORDER –

NFMC awards:

The proclamation from the Snellville Mayor announcing that November is American Music Month is on display! It is part of our pursuit of the Parade of American

Music_Award. There are still some slots left to perform on Saturday, November 29, 10:30-noon at Piano Works. See Deb Hughes or email: bndhughes@comcast.net

ANY performers for January's meeting with an American Composer? Please contact Deb Hughes -bndhughes@comcast.net

Motion to Adjourn –The mee0ting was adjourned at 10 :18 AM.

Attendees: Susan Andrews, Shu-Ling Chen, Seenhee Cho, Tina Darden, Kathy Dawal, Mary Marshall Dekkers, Robin Engleman, Lois Finlay, Yi Ho, Deb Hughes, Kimber Kwiatkowski, Hsiu Lin Lee, Junghee Lee, Serene Lee, Francis O. Leach , Jennifer Luo, MaryAnn McTier, Nancy Morris, Gloria Park, Sarah Peterson, Olga Pikey, Dave Reesman, Yulia Soboleva, Mallory Stiebel, Tami Stroup, Viola Tan, Cathy Thacker, Daniel Wilkinson, Janet Yau, Chin May Yu

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.