

GCMTA NEWS



From the President

Welcome to February, the month known for one of if not the most discussed subjects ever, love. Below are some quotes regarding love, ranging from the humorous to the profound.

“You can’t blame gravity for falling in love.” Albert Einstein

“There is only one happiness in this life, to love and be loved.” George Sand

“Love is something sent from heaven to worry the h*ll out of you.”
Dolly Parton

“It is a curious thought, but it is only when you see people looking ridiculous that you realize just how much you love them.” Agatha Christie

“The greatest happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved; loved for ourselves, or rather, loved in spite of ourselves.” Victor Hugo

“Love is a fire. But whether it is going to warm your hearth or burn down your house, you can never tell.” Joan Crawford

“Tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all.”
Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

I hope that your February is filled with love.

Kimber Kwiatkowski

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NFMC AWARDS

Please contact Debra Hughes bndhughes@comcast.net if you can perform an American composer at one of our upcoming meetings. This provides good opportunity for our chapter to earn money which helps provide scholarships to GCMTA students.



FEBRUARY MEETINGS

We have two meetings in February.

February 19 (a Thursday): We are co-hosting with North Dekalb. Our presenter is Dr. Yoshiko Arahata, speaking on teaching piano music with dance elements beyond canon.

February 25: Our regular Wednesday business meeting along with a member recital. Please consider performing either solo or ensemble at our meeting. We are looking for volunteers. Anyone who would like to perform, please contact Kathy Dawal.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Three new notes have joined our score today,
Stepping in with hope, with skill, with play.

Different paths, yet one shared art,
Each with music written deep in heart.

Together now, the harmony grows wide,
Fresh new faces standing side by side.

Yingling Zhu from Duluth, **Hyun Jo** from Cumming, and **Jingyi Han** from Norcross. We are so glad to have you be part of our association and hope that we can encourage you as music professionals.

GCMTA MUSIC EDUCATION/PEDAGOGY (MED/PED) MAJOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Do you have a student planning to pursue a degree in Music? High school seniors pursuing a Bachelor of Music Education or Pedagogy are eligible to apply for a \$500 scholarship. See our website for further information.

CERTIFICATION

"Just after I completed my Masters in Piano Performance in 1996, my husband and I moved to the Atlanta area where we have lived for almost 30 years now. I always loved learning and setting goals for myself. An opportunity came up to add some important and special letters after my name - NCTM. I decided to study, put together a portfolio, and take a written exam to be allowed to use the NCTM after my name. Since 1997, I've loved having NCTM after my signature. It comes with a standard of excellence and professional credibility that has served me well over these years. NCTM shows potential groups, boards, and families that I am nationally recognized and on lists of credible piano teachers.

I recommend the process to all music teachers."

- Mrs. Amy VanderLugt, NCTM

If you are not yet nationally certified, I warmly encourage you to explore this meaningful professional milestone, whether through the Teacher Profile Projects or the Administrative Verification pathway.

<https://certification.mtna.org/>



JR./SR. SCHOLARSHIP

Jr./Sr. Scholarship is scheduled on Saturday morning, April 18, 2026, at PianoWorks. Registration is online, the entry fee is \$35, 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>.



GCMTA LOCAL AUDITIONS

Audition Date: Saturday, February 14, 2026

Location: PianoWorks

2805 Buford Hwy, Duluth, GA 30096

Audition Chair: Sun Hee Kim

Email: sunheekim.piano@gmail.com

Phone: 404-655-2993

Judges: Vicente Della Tonia, David Watkins, Alan Woo

Trophy Information:

OP/OPR winners are eligible to receive a GCMTA trophy.

- Trophy fee: **\$15.50**
- Payment method: **Zelle to events@gcmta.org**
- Please email the **student names** of those wishing to receive trophies to **gloriapark4@gmail.com**

GMTA Regional Auditions

- **Teacher Registration Deadline:** February 25, 2026
- **Video Submission Deadline:** March 18, 2026

Teachers may register and submit payment for the regional auditions through **Tenuto Web**.

PREPARING FEDERATED DOCUMENTS

By now, you all are likely in the final stages of memorizing and polishing pieces with your students. One final step is to get your documents prepared. Please remember that all students must bring either commercially printed, or purchased digital copies of their music. Don't forget to number the measures! And, keep in mind that no photocopies are allowed, nor is there a provision for leaving music for students at any of the desks. If siblings are sharing music, please coordinate with the parent/caregiver to make that happen and note it in the scheduling notes box in the registration form.

Each student must have a rating sheet printed from Vivace. There are two ways to print your rating sheets. If you only need to print a rating sheet for one student, you can do it from within "My Students." If you need all your rating sheets, there is an easier, quicker way. Both methods are outlined below.

To print out individual rating sheets:

Log in to Vivace.

From the Home page, click on "My Students"

For each student, go to the Action column. Click on the third icon (Go to Performances List).

On this new page, the top listing is for our 2026 event. In the action column, click on the Adobe icon.

Your rating sheet will be downloaded to your downloads file on your computer.

Clicking on the downloaded document will open it, allowing you to print it out.

To print out rating sheets for your entire studio:

Log in to Vivace.

From the Home page go to Festivals

Select "Central Gwinnett"

From the Action column, select the third icon (Download Rating Sheets). My document opened into a new screen. From there, you can print it out, or save it to your computer.

FEDERATED: VIRTUAL EVENT

The final day possible for students to switch to the Virtual event is March 8, 2026. All scores (with measures numbered) and rating sheets must be delivered to Kathy Dawal by March 9, 2026. All scores and rating sheets will be returned to the teacher at the March meeting or may be picked up before that time. Further information will be provided.

Uploading Recorded Student Performances for the Virtual event: Deadline March 12, 2026

For a rating, music must be memorized and no music score should be visible on screen.

The performer's face and hands must be visible at all times in the video. For more advanced students, making face, hands, and feet visible in the video is best.

No editing, zooming, or panning is allowed.

Each piece must be one continuous shot/video. No editing or combining.

Name each of the two recordings using your level, student name (last_first) and choice or required. For example: E4_Smith_John_Choice; E4_Smith_John_Required

Upload the two video recordings per student to this Dropbox Link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/kZBxRyEHKD59GCOsC1iK>



MUSIC DAY RESULTS

Thank you to all who participated and helped to make 2025 Music Day a big success. There were 294 entrants, 22 of which were virtual. There were 286 Superiors, 4 Excellents and 4 Comments Only. 61 cash awards were presented.

12th Grade Piano

Dinara Fernando (Andrews) W
 Kale Maxwell (Park) HM
 London McDaniel (Bennett) HM
 Shiloh Neal (Park) HM
 Benjamin Vasquez (Andrews) HM

11th Grade Piano

Michael Bradley (Park) W
 Dariana Henriquez (McTier) HM
 Soovien Ok (Park) HM
 Sonya Patel (J. Lee) HM

10th Grade Piano

Sebastian Dimu (Thacker) W
 David Lomashvili (Andrews) W
 Pratyush Verma (Soboleva) W
 Angeleena Vo (J. Lee) W
 Eileen Yu (Gaal) W
 Clara Moreira-Chauvel (J. Lee) HM

9th Grade Piano

Jakob Cheban (Bennett) W
 Emily Hoadley (J. Lee) W
 Adrian Kosasi (Gaal) W
 Enoch Liu (Chan) W
 Joel Pak (Park) W
 Jack Chen (Park) HM
 Nehemiah Yoo (Park) HM

8th Grade Piano

Mahika Galhena (Park) W
 Elias Kim (J. Lee) W
 Ethan Pak (Park) W
 Ricardo Sanchez (SH. Lee) W
 Monica Yu (Gaal) W
 Bennett Free (McTier) HM
 Austin Lam (Gaal) HM
 Dylan Phan (Hughes) HM

7th Grade Piano

Ariana Ford (Park) W
 Colleen He (Chiang-Hsieh) W
 Ruby Li (Chan) W
 Joe Liu (Thacker) W
 Amin Morales (Andrews) W
 Isabelle Pak (Park) W
 Jayden Tran (McTier) W
 Isabella Valencia (Shin) W
 Emma Chen (Thacker) HM
 Dallin Peck (Andrews) HM
 Aaradhyu Sunilkumar (Bennett) HM
 Oliva Tsao (J. Lee) HM
 Zihan Wang (Chiang-Hsieh) HM
 Josselyn Zhao (Chiang-Hsieh) HM

6th Grade Piano

Bowon Choi (J. Lee) W
 Caleb Liu (Chan) W
 Theodore Lomashvili (Andrews) W
 Emelyn Mathews (Gaal) W
 Nicolas Pamieri (Bennett) W
 Katelyn Quan (Chiang-Hsieh) W
 Calvin Shin (Gaal) W
 Grace Sumalan (Bennett) W
 Kiley Hatfield (Bennett) HM
 Maynor Jiao (Chan) HM
 Elise Lee (Kwiatkowski) HM
 Mia Lin (Chian-Hsieh) HM
 Evan Lu (Y. Lee) HM
 Rayna Sitanggang (SH. Kim) HM
 Francesca Vieriu (Bennett) HM
 Joshua Vinodh (Y. Lee) HM
 Bryan Zhao (Chiang-Hsieh) HM

5th Grade Piano

Nina Csizma (SH. Kim) W
 Lena Jiang (Chiang-Hsieh) W
 Hajin Lee (SH. Kim) W
 Jayden Lin (Chiang-Hsieh) W
 Ryan Oh (J. Lee) W
 Gloria Ren (Chan) W
 Cadence Tran (Y. Lee) W
 Yutong Wu (Chan) W
 Elena Xu (Chiang-Hsieh) W
 Ana Mihaly (Bennett) HM
 Anna Lee (J. Lee) HM
 Isabella Xu (Gaal) HM
 Allison Yang (Keiserman) HM

4th Grade Piano

Ava Bekele (Thacker) W
 Ivan He (Chiang-Hsieh) W
 Seoyeon Jang (Jang) W
 Emma Liang (Jang) W
 Oliver Lu (Jang) W
 Vileena Nallabelli (S. Lee) W
 Olivia Qu (Chiang-Hsieh) W
 Rachel Tan (Chan) W
 Richard Vieriu (Bennett) W
 Eva Feng (Chan) HM
 Lael Lee (SH. Kim) HM
 Johnny Ren (Chiang-Hsieh) HM
 Christopher Tsao (J. Lee) HM
 Liam Wong (Kwiatkowski) HM
 Christian Yang (Keiserman) HM
 Benjamin Zamor (Dawal) HM

Vocal Art Song

Angelina Tong (Chen) W
 Jiayi Li (Chen) HM
 April Zhang (Chen) HM

Vocal Musical Theater

Isla Dysart (Hughes) W
 Minh kha Vo (Chen) W
 Lina Ye (Chen) W

Piano Ensemble

Jayden Tran (McTier) W
 Olivia Tran (McTier) W
 Amanda Guo (Chiang-Hsieh) HM
 Emily Shu (Chiang-Hsieh) HM

Guitar

Dariya Harrell (Dawal) W

Virtual Piano

Taylor Ferguson (Dawal) W
 Tyler Lyu (Darden) W
 Finley Armond (Dawal) W

