

GWINNETT COUNTY MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION MINUTES

January 28, 2026

PianoWorks

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

President – Kimber Kwiatkowski called the meeting to order at 9:53 AM. Kimber reminded us about the UGA Piano Symposium next weekend.

President-Elect – Kathy Dawal – Our presentation today is a luncheon and Studio Gems. A big thank you to everyone who brought food and those who have volunteered to share their studio gems with us.

We have two meetings in February:

- **February 19:** co-host with N. DeKalb: Dr. Yoshiko Arahata, Assistant Professor of Music (Collaborative Piano, Music Theory). She is presenting the program "Teaching Piano music with Dance Elements beyond Canon".
- **February 25:** Business meeting and member recital - Members are invited to perform solo and ensemble music. Anyone who would like to perform, please contact Kathy Dawal.

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

Treasurer – Nancy Morris – The opening balance is \$33,766.51 and the closing balance is \$32,613.15. 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 – There have been a few date corrections on our website. Please double-check dates for upcoming events. If anyone spots an error, please feel free to contact Kathy.

Central Federated Festival and Local Auditions online lunch order menu can easily be adapted for other events ordering from Publix. Contact Kathy if you would like online lunch ordering for your event.

Directory/Internet – (Open)

Federated Festivals – Melissa Slocum – No Report

West – Becky Bonam – No Report

North – Melissa Slocum/Young Lee – No Report

Central – Kathy Dawal/Lisa Ogg – Everything is in place. The registration deadline for all three events and virtual is this Friday. If you anticipate needing help, please contact Kathy before Friday.

GMTA Auditions – Sun Hee Kim – There are 102 student registrations representing 27 Gwinnett County teachers. There are 3 Judges. The event is between 9:00 am-4:30 pm. 21 teachers are working half or full days. 3 teachers are working Friday set-up, Lunch, etc. 3 are paying the work fee. PianoWorks is moving next door so the entrance for auditions will be different than before. Everyone will enter at the right main entrance.

GMTA/GATE Theory – Rie Hosoi- No Report

Hospitality – Sarah Peterson – If you would like to volunteer to help with refreshments at either February meeting, please let Sarah know.

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 let Cathy know.

MED/PED Scholarship – Kathy Dawal – We're looking for someone to nominate for this scholarship. Information can be found on our website.

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

Membership – Deb Hughes, NCTM— Welcome to new members **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.

You could win a \$250 Visa gift card by referring someone to join MTNA. If the teacher you refer signs up, your name is put in for a drawing.

Music Day - The full listing of Music Day cash award winners and honorable mentions will be posted in the February GCMTA Newsletter. There were 294 participants in the event, which resulted in a profit of \$1,861.73.

Music Link – Chris Morrow --No Report

MTNA Foundation/GMTA Awards – Mary Ann McTier – No Report

Newsletter – Diana Cleland Passmore – No Report

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

Teacher of the Year – Gloria Park – We have the teacher. Come to our May meeting for the big reveal.

OLD BUSINESS – NFMC AWARDS: Please contact Debra Hughes bndhughes@comcast.net if you can perform a work by an American composer at one of our upcoming meetings. This provides good opportunity for our chapter to earn money, which helps provide scholarships to deserving students.

NEW BUSINESS - In light of the profit from the 2025 Music Day event, Cathy Thacker made a motion that we reinstate the previous amounts of JR/ SR Scholarship Awards to \$800, \$600, \$400, and \$200. Mallory Stiebel 2nd the motion. There were questions and discussion regarding this motion, and one member suggested tabling until the next meeting. Once the vote was called, the motion passed overwhelmingly.

GOOD OF THE ORDER –

Motion to Adjourn –The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 AM.

The Business Meeting was followed by a brunch and recital program of Studio Gems, featuring the compositions of Marius Herea, Andrea Dow, Mark Nevin, David Karp, Vincent Ho, Catherine Rollin, Martha Mier, Debra Brady and Ernest Bloch.

Attendees: Debra Brady, Xiaohan Chen, Tina Darden, Kathy Dawal, Mary Marshall Dekkers, Deb Hughes, Sun Kim, Sun Hee Kim, Kimber Kwiatkowski, Junghee Lee, Serene Lee, Young Lee, Francis O. Leach, Jennifer Luo, Nancy Morris, Gloria Park, Sarah Peterson, Dave Reesman, Mallory Stiebel, Cathy Thacker, 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.

