

GCMTA NEWS



From the President

It's graduation season. Like me, you may have some graduating seniors in your studio. This year I have three, and two of my own children are graduating as well (from college and high school). Along with the busyness, it's a time to reflect and to be thankful to the Lord for protecting them and guiding them and for all the people who have helped them get to this point.

One of my graduating students was a student of Jean Mann for several years, so I invited Jean to come to my studio recital to present Abigail with her senior certificate. I know Abi could not have accomplished what she has without the wonderful and firm foundations that Jean laid for her.

Whether we're a long or short thread in the tapestry of our students' lives, it's a privilege to be woven into their stories, and hopefully, to make them more beautiful through the gift of music.

As I finish off my term as president of GCMTA, I am forever grateful to all of the wonderful teachers who work behind the scenes to run every meeting and every event. Having served as an officer for 8 years now, I can truly appreciate those who make this special organization what it is. It has been an honor to serve alongside you all.

I hope you enjoy a beautiful summer,
Gloria Park

IN THIS ISSUE

Music Day	2
NFMC Awards	2
Teachers Performing Group	2
2025 Summer Solstice Concert	2
GATE Update	3
Gillock Festival	3
Save the Date!	3
Theory Exams	3
Jr./Sr. Scholarship	4
May Meeting	4
Central Federated Festival	4
Digital Resources	4
Musiclink	4
Certification	4
Free Piano Workshop	5



MUSIC DAY

Music Day 2025 is scheduled for November 15 at the First Baptist Church of Duluth. In addition to piano solo and ensemble, mixed ensembles are welcome, as are vocal, guitar, clarinet, and string students. It isn't too soon to start planning with your students. November will be here before we know it.



NFMC AWARDS

THANK YOU to all who have stepped up to perform and participate in our efforts to hopefully win six different NFMC awards. Great appreciation to GCMTA members: **Susan Andrews, Pam Asberry, Rebecca Bonam, Tina Darden, Kathy Dawal, Mary Marshall Dekkers, Deb Hughes, Sun Hee Kim, Kimber Kwiatkowski, Young Lee, Mary Ann McTier, Gloria Park, Michelle Peck, Marcia Rygh, Lois Simon, Yulia Soboleva, and Cathy Thacker.**

The applications that will have been submitted by the time of this newsletter are: American Music Award, American Women Composer Award, Just Jazz Award, Music Outreach Award, Parade of American Music Award, and Sacred Music Award. With everyone working together it has made our meetings a little different *and* GCMTA may be rewarded monetarily if we are finalists for our endeavors! Yippee!



TEACHERS PERFORMING GROUP

The Teachers Performing Group provides a forum for piano teachers to improve their skills as musicians and teachers through self-directed study and group support. Each member will plan his/her personal musical goals and will have the opportunity to present something to the group at meetings. Membership is open to any pianist/teacher who will commit to the goals of the group and who will participate regularly (but not necessarily at each meeting).

The group will meet every month, year round, at PianoWorks in Duluth. Meetings will generally be held on the third Friday of each month, although the date is subject to change in case of conflict with other events at PianoWorks. Doors will open at 10:00AM; meetings will begin promptly at 10:15 AM and conclude by noon.

For more information or to be added to the e-mail list, contact pam@pianoworks.com.



2025 SUMMER SOLSTICE CONCERT

Pianists of all ages and levels of ability (students, too!) are invited to participate in the annual Summer Solstice Concert, to be held at PianoWorks in Duluth, Georgia on Thursday, June 19, 2025 from 3-5PM. Affiliated with the Make Music Alliance, our local event will be a piano ensemble concert featuring duets, duos, trios, quartets, and more! Please email pam@pianoworks.com for more information or an application. The application deadline is Friday, June 5th, so don't delay!

Whether or not you choose to perform, plan to attend and be a part of this international musical event!

Pam Asberry
pam@pianoworks.com



2025
**SUMMER
SOLSTICE
CONCERT**

PIANOWORKS
2805 BUFORD HWY | DULUTH, GA
Thursday, 19 June 2021, 3-5PM

FREE ADMISSION

www.pianoworks.com



GATE UPDATE

Dear Teachers,

Thank you for all the participation in the Georgia Auditions Theory Exam (GATE) survey conducted last month. We had a tremendous response of 89 members!

As a result, the vast majority of you felt the GATE exam should encompass the basic and practical concepts of music theory and not highest levels of theory mastery. Also, 86% said they felt GATE was too difficult this year.

With these results taken into consideration, a GATE committee comprised of members of the GMTA FAC (Financial Advisory Committee) is now planning how to revise GATE for next season.

Please know that we are committed to creating high-quality tests that will serve and support the students and teachers of GMTA.

Sincerely,

Kristi Helfen, NCTM

President, GMTA

GILLOCK FESTIVAL

You are cordially invited to be a part of the first annual Gillock Festival! This event will be held from 9AM-noon on Saturday, June 14th at PianoWorks in Duluth, Georgia. Participating students will play one Gillock piece of their choice in recital. Memorization is recommended but not required. Certificates and medals will be awarded to all participating students. The registration fee is \$5.00 payable via Zelle (pam.asberry@gmail.com) or personal check (Pam Asberry, 1001 Fountain Glen Drive, Lawrenceville, GA, 30043); the postmark deadline is May 31st). Participation will be limited to the first 30 paid registrants; all profits will be donated to the MusicLink Foundation. Questions? Email pam@pianoworks.com. To register, click [HERE](#).

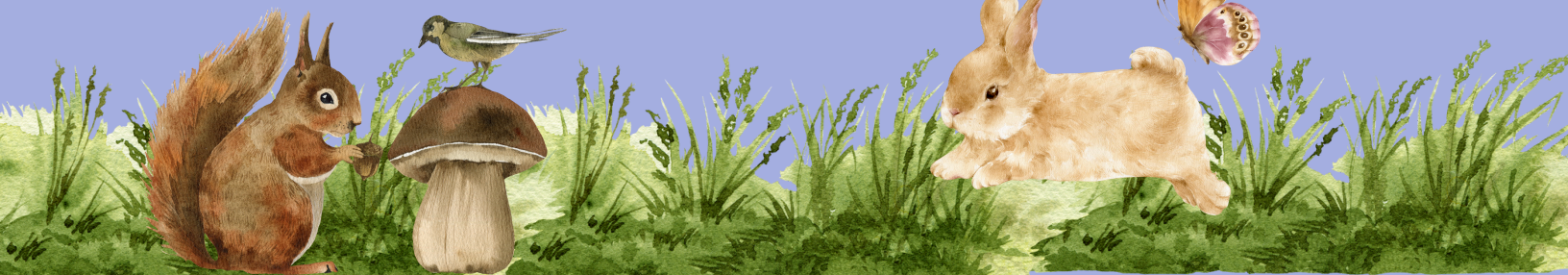
SAVE THE DATE!

Lisa Bastien of Kjos will present a summer workshop at PianoWorks on Wednesday, July 23rd from 9:30-11:30AM. Check the March newsletter or further details!



THEORY EXAMS

No update for the GMTA Theory Exams at this time!



JR./SR. SCHOLARSHIP

Jr./Sr. Scholarship took place on Saturday, April 19, 2025, at PianoWorks. Fifteen students were registered; fourteen performed, and there was one no show.

Congratulations to the following winners:

1. June Choi, student of Dr. Joanna Kim
2. Vincent Li, student of Min-Jung Jin
3. Shiloh Neal, student of Gloria Park
4. Sarah Lackey, student of Mary Ann McTier

Congratulations to the following Honorable Mentions:

- Daniel Hill, student of Gloria Park
- Kale Maxwell, student of Gloria Park
- Dillan Flanagan, student of Pam Asberry
- Miranda Schoon, student of Pam Asberry
- Junhyuk No, student of Tammy Noh
- Myviord Djaja, student of Lisa Gaal, NCTM
- Chase Choi, student of Gloria Park



Thank you to everyone who participated this year! Next year's Jr./Sr. Scholarship will take place on Saturday, April 18, 2026.

Cathy Thacker, NCTM
Jr./Sr. Scholarship Chair

MAY MEETING

Our last meeting of the school year is May 7, 2025 at 10:00 AM. We will have our Teacher of the Year announcement and will vote to accept the budget for next year.

We will meet at PianoWorks and have our luncheon of sandwiches, pasta salad and drinks from Publix. Please bring your favorite dessert to share. Cost is \$10.

DIGITAL RESOURCES

Contact Kathy Dawal if you would like any forms adjusted or created over the summer.



Are you Nationally Certified? Let this be the Year! Click here for more information:
<http://www.mtnacertification.org>



CENTRAL FEDERATED FESTIVAL

Our festival is completed, reports submitted, and trophies ordered. Teachers will be contacted when their trophies are available to pick up. Please keep in mind that individual teachers are responsible for having the name plates engraved.

We want to thank everyone for sending well-prepared students and for working to make our event a success.

Would you like to help underprivileged students who can't otherwise afford lessons? Sign up to be a **MusicLink** Teacher! Contact Chris Morrow for more details.



JOIN LISA BASTIEN FOR A

FREE PIANO WORKSHOP AT PIANO WORKS

PIANOWORKS
DULUTH  GEORGIA

*WEDNESDAY JULY 23
9:30AM-11:30AM*

*Piano Works
2805 Buford Highway
Duluth, GA 30096*

ABOUT THIS WORKSHOP

Join Lisa Bastien as she shares her time-tested teaching, technique, and motivating technology tips for beginning piano students!



LISA BASTIEN

RSVP Pam, 770.623.0683

pam@pianoworks.com

