

# GCMTA NEWS



## From the President

Can you believe that it is May already? It seems like Christmas was just a few weeks ago, and we're almost halfway through the year to another one. This month will be full of celebrations – Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day, Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, my son's birthday, graduations, family reunions, and the list goes on and on. There will be end of the year concerts, recitals, and parties. And then, when all is said and done, we will be out of the school year routine for a couple of months.

When I was younger (oh so long ago!), I remember the long summer days, and even long days during the year. Some seemed that they would never end. But, of course, they did. My wish for you is that you have some of those long summer days where you can do whatever you want to do whenever you want to do it, where time doesn't matter, and you can be refreshed.

I would like to thank everyone for a wonderful year. Special thanks to our officers for planning our speakers, taking the minutes, and handling the treasury, Thanks to all of our committee chairs for handling their areas of responsibility graciously. And finally, many thanks to all of our members for making GCMTA the organization that it is. I appreciate you.

I look forward to seeing you Wednesday, May 13, for our final meeting of the year!

Kimber Kwiatkowski

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## MAY MEETING

Every year, GCMTA honors one of our own as Teacher of the Year. Come to the luncheon on May 13 to congratulate this year's deserving recipient.



## MUSIC DAY - SAVE THE DATE

Join us for **Music Day 2026** on **Saturday, November 14, 2026**, at Duluth First Baptist Church.

In addition to piano solos and duets, students of **voice, guitar, and string instruments** are warmly invited to participate. This event is a great opportunity for students to perform, gain confidence, and share their musical progress.

More details will be provided in the **August newsletter**. We look forward to celebrating music together!

## MEMBERSHIP

It's time again to renew your membership to GCMTA which will expire on June 30. Remember that dues is three-fold: national, state and local. When you go to [MNTA.org](http://MNTA.org), choose MTNA, Georgia MTA and Gwinnett County MTA.

MTNA has launched a new website. If you haven't already set a new password to access it and need help or have questions call (513) 421-1420 or (888) 512-5278, Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

NOTE: Only active members may vote, hold office and enter students in the MTNA Competitions. State membership is also required. Active Members age 70 and older receive a 25% discount on national dues.

## NFMC AWARDS

THANK YOU to all teachers who performed American compositions this year at our meetings: Jennifer Luo, Kathy Dawal, Gloria Park, Young Lee, Yulia Soboleva, Deb Hughes, Mary Marshall Dekkers, Cathy Thacker, Francis Leach, Deborah Brady and Dave Reesman. Their efforts were included in the applications for NFMC's Parade of American Music, National American Music Award, American Women Composers and Jazz Music Award. We are hopeful that GCMTA will be selected again for cash awards.

Here are the American Composers that were presented this year by our talented GCMTA teachers: Martha Meir, Catherine Rollin, Ernest Bloch, George Gershwin, Frank Sanucci, Robert Vandall, Ed McLean, Pam Asberry, Deborah Brady, Roger Sessions, and Tan Dun.

## CERTIFICATION

"Pursuing my national certification as a music teacher has been both a challenging and deeply rewarding journey. It pushed me to reflect on my teaching, refine my approach, and hold myself to a higher professional standard. Through the process, I've gained greater clarity in how I support students' growth, not just technically, but musically and emotionally. Being certified has strengthened my confidence as an educator and reinforced my commitment to providing thoughtful, high-quality instruction. More than anything, it has reminded me that great teaching is always evolving, and I'm grateful for how this journey continues to shape both me and my students."

- Mandy Enman, Owner of Jefferson Music Academy

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 took place on Saturday, April 18, 2026, at PianoWorks. Eight students registered and performed.

Congratulations to the following winners:

1. Nicole Lee, student of Ping Xu
2. Andrew Chen, student of Ping Xu
3. Kale Maxwell, student of Gloria Park
4. Benjamin Vasquez, student of Susan Andrews, NCTM

Congratulations to the following Honorable Mentions:

- Aislin Burke, student of Kathy Dawal
- Andrew Tran, student of Kathy Dawal
- Victoria Mahecha, student of Cathy Thacker, NCTM

Thank you to everyone who participated this year! Next year's Jr./Sr. Scholarship event is scheduled for Saturday, April 17, 2027, at PianoWorks.

Cathy Thacker, NCTM  
Jr./Sr. Scholarship Chair

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

We have not received any applications for the Med/Ped scholarship this year. Please keep it in mind for any of your high school seniors planning to pursue a Bachelor of Music Education or Pedagogy degree.

## DIGITAL RESOURCES

Don't relax just yet! While our teaching year is winding down and we are looking forward to conversations that include words other than "F#," "B-flat" and "you really need to get that piece memorized," we still have a bit of work to do.

Summer is the time to review our website and make updates for next year. Kathy Dawal will be contacting everyone responsible for pages to work with you in getting the updates made. This year we are doing a lot more than updating dates and locations. The goal is to reformat and streamline every page. We need dates, locations, rules, registration information, etc., to be in the same format and same order on each page. We need our pages to be clear, concise, accurate, and user friendly. Please go ahead and be looking over your pages.

Each event page should answer:

- What it is
- When it will be
- Where it will be held
- Who may participate
- How do participants enter
- Performance requirements
- Teacher requirements
- What else do we need to know

Non-event pages should answer:

- What is the purpose of the page
- Who needs to know it
- What do they need to know
- What do they need to do about it
- How to do what needs to be done

And we aren't done yet! We are working on building a library of materials for event chairs to be able to access. We hope to include reusable documents for the events, timelines, teacher letters, parent letters, schedules, newsletter articles, reports, data, anything that can be a reference for someone new (or old) to the job, organized and labeled for ease of use. Event chairs, please be gathering your current documents. And, be thinking of what would have really helped you when you first took on the role, what you look back at every year, what would really help you now, and what you need to be able to access quickly. I will be in touch!

## MAY 13 MEETING: TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD AND LUNCHEON

Our final meeting of the year will be May 13, at Pianoworks. The meeting will start at 10:00 a.m., but please come a bit earlier for coffee and catching up with fellow GCMTA members.

Lunch will consist of a sandwich platter, salads, sides, and desserts from Publix and Costco. If you would like to join us, the cost of the luncheon is \$12 per person. Please Zelle the \$12 to Kathy Dawal, use my email: [kdawal81@gmail.com](mailto:kdawal81@gmail.com). Please put your name in the comment field so that I know who is coming.

I will update (nag) everyone over the next few days. I need your reply by May 8.

Please plan on joining us as we honor one of our colleagues as Teacher of the Year!