

GWINNETT COUNTY MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION MINUTES

May 13, 2026

Piano Works

To open our meeting, Young Lee performed a Pam Asberry solo titled *Dunn's River Falls*.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

President – Kimber Kwiatkowski called the meeting to order at 10: 03 AM.

President-Elect – Kathy Dawal – We have most of our presentations lined up for next year. Our August newsletter will have more information.

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

Treasurer – Nancy Morris – The opening balance is \$31,830.43 and the closing balance is \$29,156.01. Income and expenses were itemized in the full treasurer's report which was emailed to the membership. The report was approved as emailed. The fiscal year ends May 31st so if you have requests for reimbursements, please get in before the end of the month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Advisory – Gloria Park – No Report

Anti-Trust – Mary Ann McTier – No Report

Certification – Yanni Chan – No Report

Digital Resources – Kathy Dawal – Almost everyone who looks after an event or cares for a responsibility for GCMTA will also be responsible for their webpage content. Kathy will be contacting you over the summer to streamline and organize your pages.

Directory/Internet – (Open)

Federated Festivals – Melissa Slocum – Area Chair – No Report

West – Becky Bonam – The date is February 27, 2027 is secured at Berean Baptist Church.

North – Melissa Slocum/Young Lee – No Report

Central – Kathy Dawal/Lisa Ogg – We are working to find a suitable venue for 2027. Our potential dates are March 13 or 20th. March 13 is a large ensemble event in Gwinnett County. So, moving the date to the 20th will take pressure off our Virtual event. We will have more details at the August EB meeting and in the August and September newsletters.

GMTA Auditions – Sun Hee Kim – The Audition date is being permanently moved to the third Saturday in February as of 2027.

GMTA/GATE Theory – Rie Hosoi- It was decided at the State Executive Board meeting to lower the passing grade on GATE from 80% to 70%.

Hospitality – Sarah Peterson – No Report

Junior/Senior Scholarship – Cathy Thacker, NCTM

Jr./Sr. Scholarship took place on Saturday, April 18, 2026, at PianoWorks. Dr. Geoffrey Haydon from Georgia State University was the judge. 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.

MED/PED Scholarship – Kathy Dawal – No applicants this year.

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

Membership – Deb Hughes, NCTM We have 94 members. Now is the time to join by paying dues for next year.

Music Day – Serene Lee - Serene thanked Susan Andrews for securing the venue and coordinating the judges for this year's Music Day Event.

The Music Day Event will be held at First Baptist Church of Duluth on November 14th.

In addition to piano solos and duets, we are pleased to welcome voice, guitar, and string students to participate this year.

The judges for the event are:

- Dr. Patti Dinkins-Matthews
- Dr. Grace Huang
- Rebekah Boles
- Donna Bailey — Voice & Piano
- Leslie Kennedy — Guitar & Piano
- Dr. Karen Lin — Strings & Piano
- Stephanie Freeman
- Debbie Murphy
- Lois Finlay — Virtual Judge

There will be a new webpage with more details. Please stay tuned.

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 – See below

OLD BUSINESS – 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.

NEW BUSINESS The Proposed 2026-2027 Budget was approved by a show of hands.

Motion to Adjourn –The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 AM.

Gloria Park presented the **2026 Teacher of the Year** award to Rebecca Bonham.

Attendees: Susan Andrews, Becky Bonham, Tina Darden, Kathy Dawal, Mary Marshall Dekkers, Deb Hughes, Sun Hee Kim, Kimber Kwiatkowski, Serene Lee, Junghee Lee, Young Lee, Jennifer Luo, Nancy Morris, Gloria Park, Deanna Peterson, Dave Reesman, Marcia Rygh, Mallory Steibel, Cathy Thacker

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.