

GWINNETT COUNTY MUSIC TEACHERS MEETING MINUTES

October 28, 2026

PianoWorks

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

President – Kimber Kwiatkowski called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Kimber welcomed everyone. At our last meeting we discussed the chapter purchasing a banner. The Executive Board voted and we have the banner with us today. For those using the banner, leave the top and bottom poles intact to make it easier to put up and down. There is a box for storage. Kimber announced a new venue that can be used for recitals and meetings. It's Grace Hall, Peachtree Industrial BLVD. in Duluth. It has a 100 seat capacity, an elegant stage layout and a Yamaha C3 Grand piano.

President-Elect – Kathy Dawal

Our next meeting is November 18. Lois Finlay will be presenting a duet Master Class. This will be a joint meeting with North DeKalb. Our business meeting will be on Zoom, November 11, 9:30 a.m. Dr. Barbara Lister-Sink has been rescheduled for February 24. Our business meeting for that day will also be scheduled on Zoom.

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

Treasurer – Nancy Morris – The opening balance is \$ \$28,301.59 and the closing balance is \$35,788.28. Our Money Market account made \$18 this month. 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 – Info can be found in the newsletter.

Digital Resources – Kathy Dawal – Dave Reesman will be assisting Kathy on Digital Resources. More documents will be going into our Dropbox library in November. Anyone who has problems uploading video files for Music Day virtual participation should contact Kathy. The instructions can be found in the October newsletter along with a live link for submitting your files. To protect sensitive information such as

uploading links, our newsletters are now password protected. The password is the same for all protected areas of our site: (contact any officer should you need the password).

Directory/Internet – (Open)

Federated Festivals – Melissa Slocum – Area Chair

- Jr. Club Dues and Rosters were due October 15th. To ADD to your Roster, Look for the Blue highlighted text at the TOP of the page. If you need a refund, due to overpayment, we will be discussing how to handle those at our State Bd mtg in November.
- Bulletin - teachers must buy a copy of the current bulletin (either hard copy or online); our festivals do not provide them for teachers.
- Student Registration should open in Vivace in December, look for emails from your Festival Chair regarding Student Registration in Vivace. All Registrations for all festivals are due on the same day - January 29th, 2027. Please make sure your zelle payments go to events@gcmts.org, not the treasurer's personal account. Or you may pay by check.
- Be sure to read the newsletter and check the website for all Festival Dates, including the Virtual Festival, so that if you have students who need to play out of District, or for the Virtual Festival, you can look that information up for yourself. To play out of District you need approval from the Festival Chair of the District you are asking students to play in, and your own District Festival Chair

West – Becky Bonam – West Federated Festival is February 27, 2027.

North – Melissa Slocum/Young Lee – March 6, 2027, is North's Federated Festival. 25 teachers and 217 students are currently participating.

Central – Kathy Dawal/Lisa Ogg – March 20, 2027, is Central's Federated Festival.

GMTA Auditions – Sun Hee Kim –Auditions will be held February 20, 2027, at PianoWorks.

GMTA/GATE Theory – Rie Hosoi- No Report

Hospitality – Sarah Peterson – thanks to Gloria and Nancy for bringing refreshments. You can sign up to bring refreshments through SignUpGenious.

Junior/Senior Scholarship – Cathy Thacker, NCTM - Jr./Sr. Scholarship is set for Saturday morning, April 17, 2027, at PianoWorks. Dr. Vicente Della Tonia, Jr., will be the judge. Registration is online, and the firm deadline is March 19, 2027; 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>.

MED/PED Scholarship – Kathy Dawal – If you have any seniors pursuing a Music Education/Pedagogy degree, please apply for this scholarship.

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

Membership – Deb Hughes, NCTM -

1. GCMTA currently has 93 members, making us one of, if not, the largest chapters in the state. Deb has inquired with Mandy about possibly getting the info on our state website to list each member's affiliation and she is hoping to have that available soon. One GCMTA member is affiliated with 5 local groups. Good for her!

Deb is working to justify and balance her records to match those of MTNA.

There are no new members this month; however, Deb handed out brochures and encouraged us to invite someone to the meetings.

2. Special thanks to **Young Lee** for mentoring a new member.

3. Members are being featured in our newsletter as Members of the Month so we can get to know each other better! In that same vein, we invite everyone to come to AFTERGLOW: **MEET UP today at ARTE** - 1291 Old Peachtree Rd NW #210, Suwanee (1st Floor: Cafe) You gotta eat so why not do that and enjoy getting to know more GCMTA members at the same time!

Music Day – Serene Lee reported that this year's Music Day will have 277 students, 25 teachers, 8 in-person judges, and 1 virtual judge participating!

Kathy sent out the students' schedules at 8:00 AM this morning. Please review them carefully and notify her of any errors or discrepancies by Friday, October 30, so that necessary corrections can be made.

A heartfelt thank-you to Kathy for her tireless dedication and hard work over the past two weeks. She has devoted countless hours and sacrificed much of her personal time to coordinate the schedules and honor every teacher's requests.

The instructions for virtual students are in the October newsletter and teachers' work schedules will be sent out soon. Please check your email regularly for these important updates.

A special thank-you to Debra Hughes for coordinating the refreshment sign-up! Please respond to her email and sign up to contribute.

Important Reminders:

- **Student Materials:** Please remind your students to bring their comment sheets, with your teacher number written on the back, along with two music books.
- **Morning Assignments:** Teachers assigned to the morning session should report to the office by 8:15 AM.
- **Afternoon Assignments:** Teachers working in the afternoon are asked to help with cleanup at the end of the event and pick up their packages.
- **Work Schedule – Very Important:** Every assigned position plays an essential role in the success of Music Day. We are counting on each teacher to be present and fulfill their assigned responsibilities. Your commitment and participation are greatly appreciated and will help ensure the event runs smoothly and successfully. If you have any questions or concerns about your assignment, please contact Serene as soon as possible.
- **Lunch Orders:** If you would like to order lunch, please visit our chapter's website and use the lunch order link provided.
- **Virtual Performance Deadline:** Please notify Kathy Dawal by Tuesday, November 10, if any of your in-person students need to switch to virtual participation. All virtual performance videos must also be submitted online by this deadline.

Serene and Susan need help setting up at noon on Friday.

Music Link – Chris Morrow --No Report

MTNA Foundation/GMTA Awards – Mary Ann McTier – Thanks to everyone who contributed to the GCMTA basket for the conference raffle. MaryAnn hopes to see you there. If anyone is looking to carpool to Valdosta, please let her know. Reach out to 0609@comcast.net or 770-262-8639.

Newsletter – Diana Cleland Passmore – Deadline is always the first of the month.

Performance Day – Jennifer Luo – **Date/Time:** December 5 @11-4PM

Location: Von Maur in Mall of Georgia

Registration Fee: \$10/student, paid to GCMTA, due @ November meeting (11/25).

Performer names are due on November 21. Please click on the tab that matches your time slot and fill in the names. The name **MUST** be there for the student to perform! *There was discussion on whether to display students' names at the actual performance.*

Contact: Jennifer Luo at jenniferluopianostudio@gmail.com

Styles of Music: This event is open to all instruments. Christmas music is encouraged, but other styles of music are welcome! Duets and trios are encouraged. There is no limit for how many pieces each student performs, if they stick to their allotted time. Memorization is not required.

Day of Performing: Schedule each student to arrive 15 minutes **PRIOR** to their time slot. There will be no bowing or announcements. Feel free to dress up for the holiday spirit!

Teacher Responsibilities: Teachers **MUST** be present throughout their students' performances. Teachers will arrange their students in performance order at the event. You may provide a program of pieces for your studio if you wish. Teachers who overestimate the length of their time slot must fill the rest of the time with their own performance. Teachers may self-promote through business cards or flyers. Teachers will be given certificates to give to each of their students after their performance.

Teachers will receive certificates from Jennifer on Performance Day based on the number of students turned in on the spreadsheet. It is their responsibility to write in the names and the teacher's signature. *Jennifer asked for a small budget to print out certificates. She will turn in an estimate to Nancy.*

Teacher of the Year – Gloria Park – Please submit your nominations for our 2027 Teacher of the Year! We have many wonderful and deserving teachers in our organization. You will find all the information about the nomination process on our website. The deadline for submissions is December 31, 2026.

Please contact Gloria Park if you have any questions.

OLD BUSINESS –

NFMC

November 28 - Saturday after Thanksgiving is Professor Schramm's PARADE of AMERICAN MUSIC. Free but limited space to perform American Music 11:30 am – 2:00 pm

Thanks to Gloria Park who performed two pieces by American Composer - Mary Kay Sallee at the beginning of today's meeting. Please contact Deb Hughes if you would like to play a piece by an American Composer at our upcoming meetings.

Mary Marshall Dekkers is leaving the name tag box here today for someone else to take responsibility for.

NEW BUSINESS - Yanni Chan gave an overview of the new Atlanta Piano Competition. There is an Early Bird discount for teachers who register before November 15. Info can be found in the October newsletter.

Anca Banerjee is gathering interest for Guild Auditions in Dacula.

Good of the Order -

Motion to Adjourn –The meeting was adjourned at 10: 56 AM.

Attendees: Anca Banerjee, Yanni Chan, Tina Darden, Kathy Dawal, Mary Marshall Dekkers, Deb Hughes, Kimber Kwiatkowski, Yoon Kyuong, Serene Lee, Young Lee, Jennifer Luo, Nancy Morris, Gloria Park, Sarah Peterson, Dave Reesman, Jungwon Shin, Melissa Slocum, 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.