

GWINNETT COUNTY MUSIC TEACHERS MEETING MINUTES

September 23, 2026

PianoWorks

Deb Hughes performed *Sand Painting #1, The White Shell* by American Indian Music Composer Connor Chee.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

President – Kimber Kwiatkowski called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. Kimber welcomed everyone.

President-Elect – Kathy Dawal – Our next meeting is October 28th. Dr. Geoff Haydon will give a presentation on Incorporating Jazz into The Piano Student's Diet. Dr. Haydon will begin with a short introduction about why and how jazz is beneficial to both piano students and teachers, then consider 12-bar blues, chord progressions, voicings, improvisation, styles, and contexts.

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

Treasurer – Nancy Morris – The opening balance is \$28,266.59 and the closing balance is \$28,301.59. 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 – The Dropbox Library has been set up for uploading recordings for the virtual participants on Music Day. Instructions will be sent out and be in the newsletter along with the link you will need. Teachers or parents will be able to use the link for uploading files. Please make sure that you follow the file naming instructions. Contact Kathy Dawal if you have any questions or problems.

Directory/Internet – (Open)

Federated Festivals – Melissa Slocum – Area Chair – Jr. Club Registration is due October 15th. Melissa has handouts outlining due dates and payments for Gwinnett County Federated Festivals.

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

North – Melissa Slocum/Young Lee – 22 Teachers enrolled in North, March 6, 2027 is North's Federated Festival.

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 – You can sign up for meeting refreshments on Sign-up Genius in the Newsletter. There is also a Sign-up sheet on the refreshment table.

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 – Keep senior students in mind. Details on the website.

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

Membership – Deb Hughes, NCTM - Currently we have 91 members. Welcome to new members **Jieun Oh** from Suwanee, piano instructor; **YuYoung Park** from Buford, piano teacher; and **Eunji Yoon** from Lawrenceville, cello teacher. New members from the month of August and early September are **Nancy Elton, Yu Park, Jee Eun Wada** and **Daniel Wilkinson**.

- New GMTA membership initiative began July 1st of 2026 and ends on June 30th of 2027. The Local Association with the most new members and the Local Association with the highest percentage of new members

will each receive one complimentary Conference registration. (Registration is \$95 this year.)

If you are willing to be a mentor to a new teacher, please let Deb Hughes know.

- TODAY after our business meeting/teaching session we will meet at Jam & Toast, 1120 Peachtree Industrial Blvd, #214, Suwanee for some intentional "Getting to Know You" time!!

Music Day – Serene Lee provided us with **very** important information regarding GCMTA's MUSIC DAY 2026. Everything she discussed including Dates, Deadlines, Entry fees, Registration Forms, Teacher Work Requirements, and Virtual Performance Info can be found on the GCMTA website.

Reminder:

1. Write the assigned teacher's number on the back of the comment sheet
2. Teachers need to remind students to bring their own original copy of music on Music Day. Sharing books might disrupt the flow of schedule.
3. If you pay exemption work fee, please tell Nancy Morris what it is for.

Please contact Serene if you have further questions.

Music Link – Chris Morrow --No Report

MTNA Foundation/GMTA Awards – Mary Ann McTier – Please bring donations for GMTA Awards Raffle to the October meeting. GCMTA will donate two baskets for the GMTA Awards Raffle on Saturday, November 8 at the state conference. Profits from this event go to support many GMTA Awards for students and teachers alike. The themes for our baskets this year are 1.) Gardening (seed packets, small hand tools, gloves, small watering can etc.) and 2.) Children's books focused on music (NOTE: not music books, but those about music, instruments, composers etc.). The latter could be used in a studio for children to check out or read while there. If you have something you would like to donate, please bring it to our October meeting or contact me at mam0609@comcast.net. If anyone brought donations today, please give them to Cathy Thacker.

Be sure to register for the conference and buy some raffle tickets while you're there so you have a chance to win! There will be lots of donations to choose from! Likewise, at the conference there will be a raffle for a hydraulic piano bench, donated by Piano Works. Profits from this go to support the MNTA Foundation which presents many awards, one of which is MTNA Foundation Fellows program.

We encourage you to donate to MTNA Foundation to make Rebekah Healan Boles an MTNA fellow.

Newsletter – Diana Cleland Passmore – No Report

Performance Day – Jennifer Luo –

Date/Time: December 5 @11-4PM, time may be adjusted depending on interest

Location: Von Maur in Mall of Georgia

Registration Fee: \$10/student

Sign-up through link in newsletter. 15 minutes per studio minimum. Studio timeslots due by October meeting. Details on performers due on November 21.

Contact: Jennifer Luo at jenniferluopianostudio@gmail.com

Music Requirements: 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, as long as they stick to their allotted time. Memorization is not required.

Day of Performing: Schedule each student to arrive 15 minutes prior to their time block and arrange them in performance order. There will be no bowing or announcements. Teachers **MUST** be present throughout their students' performances. 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. Feel free to dress up for the holiday spirit!

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 – NFMFC is Presenting GCMTA checks for 4 wins amounting to \$500 from last year. This award money will go towards prizes at Federated Festivals for stellar performances. We are continuing the pursuit of NFMFC Senior Club awards for this upcoming year.

Deb needs volunteers to present American compositions at meetings this year.

Parade of AMERICAN Music will be November 28, 11:30 am-1:00 pm at Piano Works.

NEW BUSINESS

Yanni Chan handed out flyers advertising an exciting new pre-college Atlanta Piano Competition. For more information, go to www.atlantapianocompetition.org.

Melissa Slocum had suggested at the August Executive Board Meeting that we purchase a banner with the name of our organization to be used at our various music events. Melissa shared the research she has done over the past month. After some

discussion, Deb Hughes made a motion we form a committee to work with Melissa to decide on banner size, et. Jungwan Shin seconded the motion. The motion passed. The committee will consist of Melissa Slocum, Kimber Kwiatkowski, Nancy Morris and Deb Hughes.

Mary Marshall is retiring from name tag duty. We need someone else to be responsible for them. Please contact Mary if you are willing to take this on.

Our nominating committee for 2027-2028 will be headed up by Kathy Dawal. Assisting her will be Susan Andrews and Young Lee.

Good of the Order

Motion to Adjourn –The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 AM.

Attendees: Susan Andrews, Yanni Chan, Tina Darden, Kathy Dawal, Mary Marshall Dekkers, Lisa Gaal, Judy Harper, Lee Kook Hee, Deb Hughes, Sun Hee Kim, Jiyeon Kwak, Kimber Kwiatkowski, Serene Lee, Junghee Lee, Young Lee, Jennifer Luo, Nancy Morris, Gloria Park, Dave Reesman, Yulia Soboleva, 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.