GWINNETT COUNTY MUSIC TEACHERS MEETING MINUTES

November 18, 2026

PianoWorks

David Reesman performed *The Duke* by American composer Dave Brubeck.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

President – Kimber Kwiatkowski called the meeting to order at 10:45 AM. She congratulated Serene Lee on Music Day's success.

President-Elect – Kathy Dawal - January 27: Luncheon and Teaching gems.

Kathy will be in email contact with members with further details about our January luncheon. We will have a presentation of hidden studio gems again this year. We only scratched the surface last year. So, please share your pieces that motivate, build up, dazzle. We particularly hope that you will share pieces you use that are not found in the standard method books.

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

Treasurer – Nancy Morris – The opening balance is $ $35,788.28 and the closing balance is $36,357.62. 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 – Kevin Chance, MTNA president, spoke to us at the state conference about COPPA (Children's Online Privacy Protection Act). That law applies to private teachers in that they should not make public online any personal information about children 13 or younger (MTNA suggests 18), including full name, picture, birthdate, etc. Likewise, organizations should follow that standard and, additionally, should not store any personal info about children.

Certification – Yanni Chan – No Report

Digital Resources – Kathy Dawal - With Music Day finished, we will be uploading the forms, letters, and procedure spreadsheets to our Dropbox Library.

Directory/Internet – (Open)

Federated Festivals – Melissa Slocum – Area Chair Updates from our Georgia NFMC Executive Board:

● Due to an increase in Gold Cup expenses last year, GFMC is increasing their student fee by $1 for the 2028 season. That means instead of paying $7.50/student to GFMC, $8.50/student will go toward GFMC for the 2028 season and going forward. Sr. Clubs should consider that increase and Melissa recommends it be part of our GCMTA budget discussions in April.

● We have secured composer, Kevin Olson, as our Headliner and Clinician for our GFMC Conference on Sept. 18th, 2027, 10am-4pm at Piano Works. Kevin will present 2 workshops plus a Masterclass.

Please mark your calendars now!

● Through NFMC Sr. Clubs now have the opportunity for free engraving of Gold Cup plates up to 40 characters. Sr. Clubs can learn much more about this opportunity from an Informational Zoom Mtg on Jan. 8th, 2027 at 10am. Julie Vu, our State Gold Cup chair will explain the process and answer questions. Members of the Board were enthusiastic about this opportunity and potential savings for teachers who pay for engraving themselves. The Zoom invitation will go to all Sr. Club Chairs.

● Be sure to check the GFMC Newsletter for Scholarship opportunities and deadlines.

Area Chair Updates:

● Sr. Club Chairs are updating their Festival information in Vivace and most will open Student Registration in Vivace in December. The deadline to register your students in Vivace is Jan. 29th, 2027. That deadline applies to ALL festivals including Virtual.

● All Student or Teacher transfer requests should be complete by the end of November. If you still have students you need to archive so they can be transferred to another studio, please take care of that immediately. If you are still waiting for another teacher to archive a student so you can register them in your studio in Vivace, please let me know immediately.

● Please see our GCMTA website for all information related to Federated Festivals:

○ It will answer your questions about when other district festivals are happening in case you need a student to play out of district

○ You will find all deadlines and rules

○ You will find all payment information

○ Please check that page of our website first, before contacting your 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.

Central – Kathy Dawal/Lisa Ogg – Date is March 20, 2027. Location: First Baptist Church of Lawrenceville. We have had several new teachers join our Central group and are looking forward to having those teachers and their students participate with us.

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

GMTA/GATE Theory – Rie Hosoi- No Report

Hospitality – Sarah Peterson –. We need members to sign up for meeting refreshments.

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 - No one has applied so far this year. The scholarship application is on our website.

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

Membership – Deb Hughes, NCTM - Welcome to the following new members: **Melissa Epsy** (piano/organ) and **Grace Lee** (flute) both from Buford, **Shanshan Han** (piano/voice) from Johns Creek and **Seunghee Jun** (piano) from Duluth! We look forward to meeting them and having them get involved in our many activities...

Two of our members were honored at the state conference. Julie Kirskey has been a member for 50 years. Becky Bonham was selected as the State Teacher of the Year. Congratulations! Deb Hughes has been recognized at MTNA's Teacher of the Year. Congrats Deb!

Deb gave us tips on how to invite people to join GCMTA.

Music Day – Serene Lee -

Music Day 2026 was a great success! Everything went smoothly, thanks to everyone's hard work!

Participation Summary

• 265 participants

• 271 events

• 24 participating teachers

• 8 in-person judges and 1 virtual judge

Performance Categories

• Piano Solo: 243

• Piano Ensemble: 10 students (5 teams)

• Voice: 20

• Guitar Solo: 3

Virtual Participation

We had a total of 28 virtual entries, including:

• Virtual Piano: 12

• Virtual Voice: 15

• Virtual Guitar: 1

Ratings and Awards

Out of 265 participants:

• Superior: 260

• Excellent: 3

• Comments Only: 2

Congratulations to all 57 winners and their teachers! Each winner received a $30 cash prize, for a total of $1,710 in cash awards.

The complete listing of winners and honorable mentions will go in the January newsletter.

There were suggestions on things to improve for next year.

Music Link – Chris Morrow --No Report

MTNA Foundation/GMTA Awards – Mary Ann McTier – Thanks to everyone who donated for the raffle. We had beautiful baskets.

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

Performance Day – Jennifer Luo – We have performances scheduled from 11:45 am - 4:00 pm. She needs help setting up at 11:00 am. There will be a photo area next to the piano. Please send her all the performers' names. Payment due today.

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 – Thanks to Dave Reesman who performed for us today! Deb needs a performer for the May meeting.

Reminder: NFMC Parade of American Music is November 28 at Piano Works at 11:30 am. Free. Must perform American music. All ages and instruments welcome!

NEW BUSINESS -. We need to let MTNA know what our local dues will be for 2027-2028 by the first week of January. After some discussion, Cathy Thacker made a motion that we look at this more in depth at the April Executive Board Meeting. Mary Ann seconded. The motion passed.

Nancy Morris made a motion that we add a line-item budgeting $100 for Performance Day. Deb seconded. The motion passed.

Good of the Order -

Motion to Adjourn –The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Attendees: Susan Andrews, Tina Darden, Kathy Dawal, Deb Hughes, Seunghee Jun, Kimber Kwiatkowski, Serene Lee, Junghee Lee, Young Lee, Jennifer Luo, MaryAnn McTier, Nancy Morris, Gloria Park, Dave Reesman, 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.