



# GEORGIA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2019

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GEORGIA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, AN AFFILIATE OF MTNA

## Inside this issue:

President's Report	2
President-Elect's Report	4
College Faculty News	4
GMTA Conference	1, 6
MTNA Conference	5
MTNA Foundation	9
Teacher of the Year	10
GMTA Award Funds	11
GMTA Grants	11
Membership	12
GMTA Auditions & Results	13
Local Association Reports	27
Collegiate Chapter Report	30
Arts Awareness and Advocacy	31
Judges List	31
MusicLink Report	32
Independent Music	33
Advertising Index	33
New Member Listing	34
GMTA Calendar	35
GMTA Leadership	36

Make plans to attend the 2019 GMTA Conference in Columbus, GA!

November 7-9, 2019

Schwob School of Music at Columbus State University



Terry Lowry,  
Commissioned  
Composer



Henry Kramer and Wendy Warner,  
Performance  
Headliners



Katherine Fisher and Dr. Julie Knerr  
Hague, Pedagogy Headliners

See page 6 for more information.



BY JOY POOLE, GMTA PRESIDENT

Since our last newsletter, GMTA has had many successful events. I am happy to report to you the outstanding representation that GMTA had at the Southern Division and National Competitions. Look for the results of MTNA National Competitions and also GMTA State Auditions in the reports of this newsletter and on our website. GMTA was represented well and we are very proud of their accomplishments.

The 2019 MTNA Competitions will be held October 25-26, 2019 at the University of West Georgia under the direction of Ashley Craig-Diaz, VP Competitions. Read over her article so you can be informed of new updates to this competition.

GMTA would like to express our gratitude to all of the host schools for the recent GMTA Region and State Auditions. Without the support of these schools, GMTA would not be able to offer these events for the students across the state of Georgia.

Region I – Brenau University

Region II – Augusta State University

Region III – Columbus State University

Region IV – Agnes Scott College

Region V – University of West Georgia

Pre-College Piano Auditions – University of Georgia

College, Voice and Instrumental State Auditions – Kennesaw State University



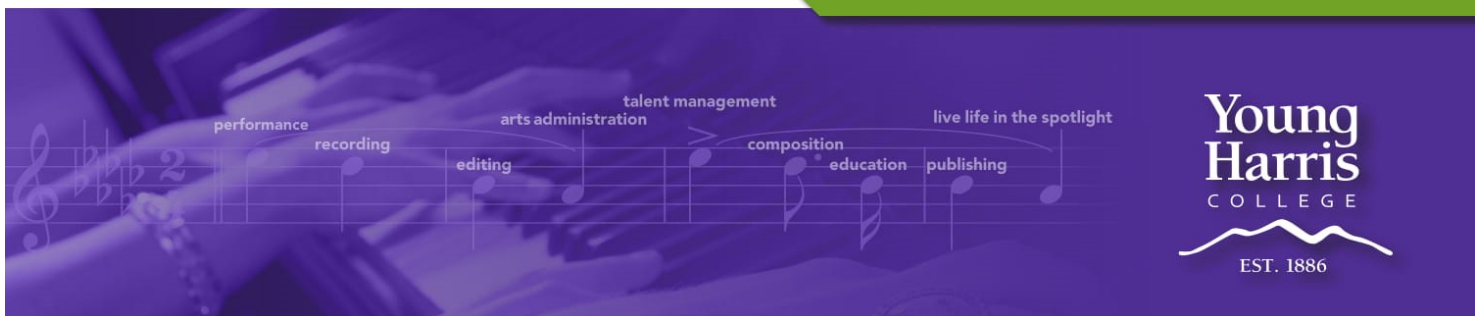
# AT YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE, WE BELIEVE THE GREATEST RISK IS LETTING TRUE POTENTIAL REMAIN UNREALIZED.

Our campus is filled with endless opportunities to be bold and dare to be great. This is where young artists can venture to be original, inspire others and do more than they ever imagined.

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## FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND PROGRAM INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Young Harris College Department of Music  
Dr. Edwin S. Calloway, Chair  
(800) 241-3754 ext. 5181  
finearts@yhc.edu | yhc.edu





## FROM THE PRESIDENT

JOY POOLE, GMTA PRESIDENT

Thank you to our State and Region Audition staff and volunteers, under the direction of Dr. Yien Wang, for your excellent work in making the state auditions successful. Thanks also to Dr. Martha Thomas of UGA and Dr. Robert Henry of KSU for your assistance in hosting the state level Auditions. GMTA appreciates the extra time given to support these events.

The plans for the 2019 GMTA State Conference that will be held at Columbus State University are well underway. Many thanks to Dr. Owen Lovell, VP of Programs, for his work on planning the conference. Check out the conference article in this newsletter for complete details.

GMTA currently has 673 members. Donna Dasher, VP of Membership, is diligently working with the local associations with ideas of promoting membership. Thank you to Donna and all of the local associations for your efforts on reaching new members.

It is time to start adding important dates and deadlines to your calendar. Make special note of the deadline of June 30<sup>th</sup> to renew your membership. Do you know of a teacher who is not a member of GMTA? Why not encourage them to join you for a local meeting, renew membership or join GMTA? Take a moment to look over the important dates listed in this newsletter and always check the GMTA website ([georgiamta.org](http://georgiamta.org)) for a complete calendar.



Hugh Hodgson School of Music  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

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- Bachelor of Music*
- Master of Arts in Musicology*
- Master of Music*
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- Doctor of Education – Music Ed.*
- Doctor of Musical Arts*
- Doctor of Philosophy – Music*

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- Masterclasses with Guest Artists · Student Travel Grants*
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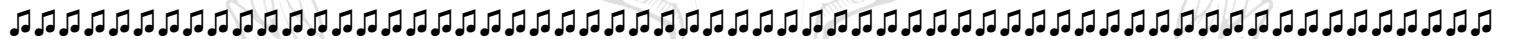


As President-Elect, I am looking forward to meeting and working with presidents of each local association. We had a highly successful LAP meeting on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at Kennesaw State University with 13 out of 20 local associations represented - and it was spring break. I was glad to put names with faces and hear such wonderful ideas from each LAP. I believe we found in Georgia we have great variety-- with smaller associations who only have 1-3 meetings a year to some associations with monthly meetings and impressive speakers and workshops. However, each association functions well with the obstacles and advantages they face. It was very encouraging and motivating to hear from each president.

Each association was concerned with number of members who actually participate in activities. I would encourage each member to get involved with their association. Participate in one activity you haven't done before. This is how we grow as teachers.

I thought it was interesting that almost every association had their most successful meeting as a meal! Guess we all love to eat! I encourage you to read the newsletter, especially the articles written by the presidents of our local associations. This is how other associations get ideas for workshops and speakers. Have a great summer.

Jan Adams, NCTM  
GMTA President-Elect



**COLLEGE FACULTY NEWS from Dr. Tracy Xian**



The College Faculty Exchange program continues to expand and thrive for the third year. Thanks to Dr. Owen Lovell, the former College Faculty Chair, who initiated the project in 2017. This year we have fourteen schools and twenty-four dates donated by collegiate faculties from the Georgia, Alabama, and Florida Music Teacher Associations for the 2019-20 academic year.



# MTNA CONFERENCE 2019

JOY POOLE, GMTA PRESIDENT

## 2019 National Conference

GMTA had a great representation at the MTNA National Conference in Spokane, Washington. Dr. Robert Henry and Dr. Geoffrey Haydon represented Georgia well in their sessions. Attendees chose from inspiring sessions in many areas, including developing technique, the latest practice skills, recreational music, masterclasses and working with special needs children, to name a few. The exhibits were filled with the latest teaching curriculum, products and instruments available to enhance teaching.

Congratulations to all of the students who participated in the national competitions at the conference. We are proud to announce the following awards: Joseph Bickel was the winner of the Brass Performance Senior Category,

Kolyo Vanchev placed third in the Young Artist Brass category, and Zachary McDonald placed third in the Young Artist Composition category.

The MTNA National Conference is attended each year by teachers, students and industry experts from all across the United States. For the 2019 conference, we were also joined by members of MTA China. I encourage you to consider going to a National Conference. The 2020 MTNA National Conference will be in Chicago, and the 2021 MTNA National Conference will be held in Atlanta. Make plans now to attend!



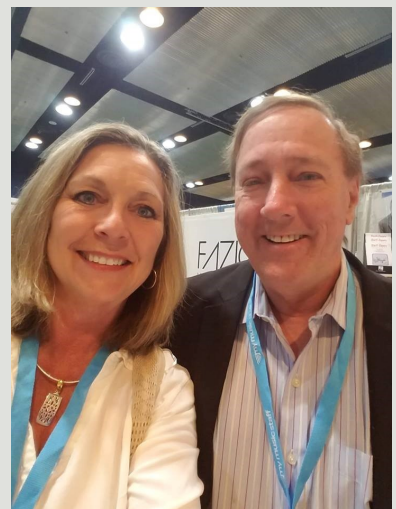
The beautiful view from the conference hotel.



GMTA members attending the Southern Division meeting.



Robert Hjelmstad, Dr. Martha Thomas, Dr. Jessica Pacheco, and Dr. Pete Jutras



Donna Dasher, NCTM, and Dr. Geoffrey Haydon



The 2019 GMTA State Conference will feature:

- Katherine Fischer and Dr. Julie Knerr from *Piano Safari*, pedagogy headliners (pictured on page 1).
- Wendy Warner, cello, and Henry Kramer, piano, performance headliners (pictured on page 1).
- Terry Lowry, commissioned composer.

Conference Highlights:

- One pedagogy headliner session each day.
- Masterclasses for both strings and piano.
- Featured performers' recital will be half chamber music, half solo piano.
- GMTA Auditions concerto competition winners' performances with the CSU orchestra.
- Live performance of commissioned composer, Terry Lowry.
- Free parking across from the Schwob School of Music.

**Our pedagogy headliners will be Katherine Fisher and Dr. Julie Knerr Hague, authors of *Piano Safari*.**

**Dr. Julie Knerr Hague** teaches piano at her home studio in Windsor, Connecticut. She was formerly on the piano faculty at the Hartt Community Division in West Hartford, Connecticut. Before returning to her home state of Connecticut, Julie taught applied piano, piano pedagogy, and group piano as a faculty member at the University of Missouri, Oklahoma City University, and Ohio University.

Julie holds a PhD in Music Education with an Emphasis in Piano Pedagogy from the University of Oklahoma, where her dissertation on elementary level piano technique was nominated for the Best PhD Dissertation Award in 2006. Additional degrees include MM degrees in Piano Performance and Piano Pedagogy from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where Dr. Knerr studied piano and harpsichord; and a BM in Piano Performance from the University of Puget Sound. Her mentors in Piano Pedagogy include Jane Magrath, Barbara Fast, Christos Tsitsaros, and Reid Alexander.

As an accomplished collaborative pianist, Julie enjoys performing with both instrumentalists and singers. Her former piano teachers include Duane Hulbert, James Barbagallo, William Heiles, Timothy Ehlen, and Edward Gates. Julie is a frequent adjudicator at festivals and competitions throughout the United States. Her current research interests include elementary level piano technique, lesser known pre-college piano repertoire, and group piano pedagogy.

**Katherine Fisher** is on the faculty of the Athens Community Music School at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. Her responsibilities include teaching private piano lessons as well as coordinating the Piano Safari Program (group lessons) for children who are beginners at the instrument.

Katherine Fisher and Dr. Julie Knerr developed the Piano Safari Method during their time in school together at the University of Oklahoma. While graduate students, they realized they had a mutual dream of writing a piano method that would incorporate the best elements of the various techniques they had been using in their teaching.

Katherine is a member of the Fisher Piano Duo with husband, Dr. Christopher Fisher. The duo has performed throughout the United States. They are co-authors of the revised and expanded edition of Piano Duet Repertoire (Indiana University Press, 2016). A native of Ohio, Katherine received her degrees from the University of Oklahoma (MM in Piano Performance and Pedagogy) and the Wheaton College Conservatory of Music (BM in Piano Performance). Her former teachers include Jeongwon Ham, Jane Magrath, Barbara Fast, Karin R. Edwards, and Nancy Bachus.



**Our performance headliners will be Wendy Warner, cello, and Henry Kramer, piano.**

**Wendy Warner** soared to international attention in 1990, winning top prize at the International Rostropovich Cello Competition at age eighteen. Her career took off with concerts conducted by Mstislav Rostropovich and debuts in Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Köln, Düsseldorf, Berlin and New York at Carnegie Hall. A Chicagoan from a musical family, Warner studied with Rostropovich at the Curtis Institute of Music from which she graduated. She has collaborated with prominent conductors Vladimir Spivakov, Christoph Eschenbach, Andre Previn, Jesús López Cobos and Michael Tilson Thomas, among others. And has appeared with leading U.S. orchestras and internationally—from Paris and London to Serbia and Russia.

Warner, as a part of the Beethoven Project Trio, played the 2009 world premiere of a newly discovered Beethoven piano trio. She and pianist Irina Nuzova recently performed the complete Beethoven cello sonatas on tour, with a special appearance at the U.S. Supreme Court. Other collaborators have been Vadim Gluzman, Gideon Kremer, the Fine Arts Quartet and Chicago Chamber Musicians. Warner, who has given recitals in Milan and Tokyo, is a frequent guest on WFMT in Chicago.

Hailed by *Strings* magazine for her “youthful, surging playing, natural stage presence and almost frightening technique,” Wendy Warner can be heard on recordings for Cedille, including *Haydn & Myslivecek*; *Russian Music for Cello & Piano*; *Popper & Piatigorsky*; *Double Play*; and *Eclipse*. She has recorded Hindemith's chamber works on Bridge Records; Barber's Cello Concerto for Naxos; and compositions by Dalit Warshaw on Albany Records. An Avery Fisher Career Grant recipient, Warner holds the Leah D. Hamer Distinguished Faculty Chair at the Schwob School of Music, Columbus State University. She plays a 1772 Joseph Gagliano cello.

Praised by *The Cleveland Classical Review* for his “astonishingly confident technique” and *The New York Times* for “thrilling [and] triumphant” performances, pianist **Henry Kramer** is developing a reputation as a musician of rare sensitivity who combines stylish programming with insightful and exuberant interpretations. In 2016, he garnered international recognition with a Second Prize win in the Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels. Most recently, he was awarded a 2019 Avery Fisher Career Grant by Lincoln Center – one of the most coveted honors bestowed on young American soloists.

Kramer began playing piano at the relatively late age of 11 in his hometown of Cape Elizabeth, Maine. One day, he found himself entranced by the sound of film melodies as a friend played them on the piano, inspiring him to teach himself on his family's old upright. His parents enrolled him in lessons shortly thereafter, and within weeks, he was playing Chopin and Mozart.

Henry emerged as a winner in the National Chopin Competition in 2010, the Montreal International Competition in 2011 and the China Shanghai International Piano Competition in 2012. In 2014 he was added to the roster of Astral Artists, an organization that annually selects a handful of rising stars among strings, piano, woodwinds and voice candidates. The following year, he earned a top prize in the Honens International Piano Competition.

Kramer has performed “stunning” solo recital debuts, most notably at Alice Tully Hall as the recipient of the Juilliard School's William Petschek Award, as well as at Amsterdam's Concertgebouw. At his Philadelphia debut, Peter Dobrin of *The Philadelphia Inquirer* remarked, “the 31-year-old pianist personalized interpretations to such a degree that works emerged anew. He is a big personality.”

A versatile performer, Kramer has soloed in concertos with the Bilkent Symphony Orchestra, Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra, Indianapolis Symphony and the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, among many others, collaborating with conductors such as Marin Alsop, Gerard Schwarz, Stéphane Denève, Jan Pascal Tortelier and Hans Graf. Upcoming performances in the 2019-20 season include a return engagement with the National Orchestra of Belgium performing Beethoven's Concerto No. 4, as well as debuts with the Columbus and Hartford Symphony Orchestras playing Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3.

His love for the chamber music repertoire began early in his studies while a young teenager. A sought-after collaborator, he has appeared in recitals at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the Mostly Mozart Festival, the Mostly Mozart Festival, and La Jolla Music Society's Summerfest. His recording with violinist Jiyeon Lee on the Champs Hill label received four stars from *BBC Music Magazine*. This year, *Gramophone UK* praised Kramer's performance on a recording collaboration (Cedille Records) with violist Matthew Lipman for “exemplary flexible partnership.” Henry has also performed alongside Emmanuel Pahud, the Calidore and Pacifica Quartets, Miriam Fried, as well as members of the Berlin Philharmonic and Orchestra of St. Luke's.

Teaching ranks among his greatest joys. Since 2018, Kramer has held the L. Rexford Distinguished Chair in Piano at the Schwob School of Music at Columbus State University in Columbus, Georgia. Throughout his multifaceted career, he has also held positions at Smith College and the University of Missouri Kansas City Conservatory of Dance and Music.

Kramer graduated from the Juilliard School where he worked with Julian Martin and Robert McDonald. He received his Doctorate of Musical Arts from the Yale School of Music under the guidance of Boris Berman. His teachers trace a pedagogical lineage extending back to Beethoven, Chopin and Busoni. Kramer is a Steinway Artist.



## GMTA Conference Lodging

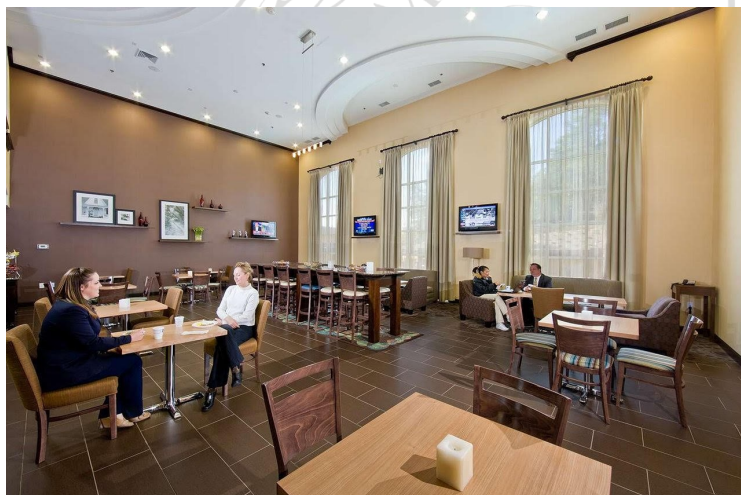
This year's conference lodging is located just 1.5 miles from the conference site:

**Hampton Inn & Suites Phenix City-Columbus Area**

**620 Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway**

**Phenix City, AL 36869**

The GMTA group rate for rooms is \$117, including a free hot breakfast. We have a nice mix of double queen rooms and deluxe single king rooms available in this non-smoking hotel. Amenities include a fitness center, business center, and an outdoor pool. Additional taxes: 15%, thankfully no added \$5 GA room fee this year. Rates are guaranteed until October 6, 2019.



Make reservations by calling (334) 664-0776 and asking for the GMTA conference rate, or online via this direct link:

**Booking Link:** [https://secure3.hilton.com/en\\_US/hp/reservation/book.htm?inputModule=HOTEL&ctyhocn=CSGPCHX&spec\\_plan=CHHGMT&arrival=20191106&departure=20191110&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT](https://secure3.hilton.com/en_US/hp/reservation/book.htm?inputModule=HOTEL&ctyhocn=CSGPCHX&spec_plan=CHHGMT&arrival=20191106&departure=20191110&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT)





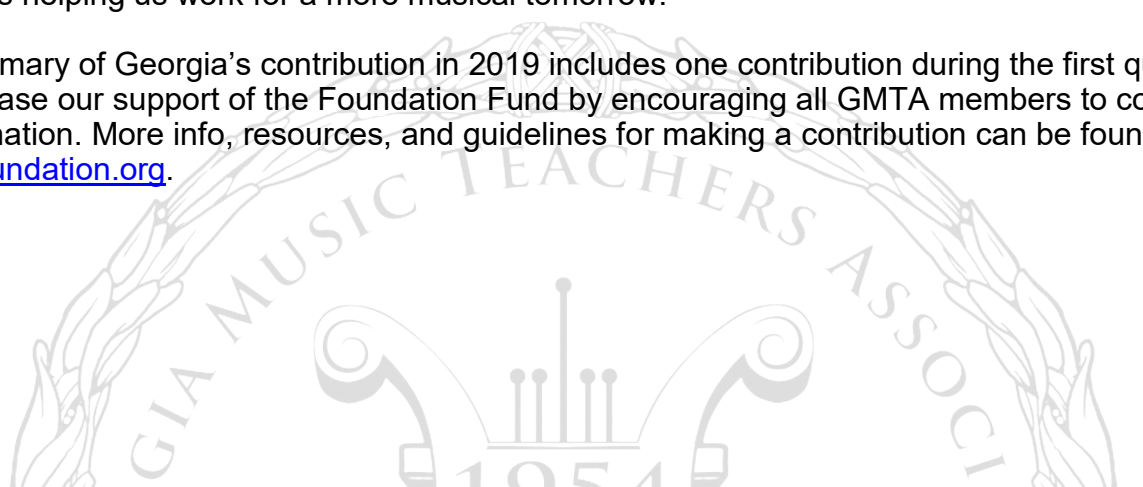
MTNA FOUNDATION

JORDAN SOMMER, CHAIR

9

The Foundation Fund is the repository for all funds from the former MTNA Foundation that was integrated into MTNA on July 1, 2003. It is the fund that receives all tax-deductible contributions to MTNA, and is held and maintained separately from MTNA funds. Since the establishment of the MTNA Foundation in 1989, many thousands of dollars have been provided in grants and awards to students, gifted composers, outstanding teachers and performers and to local associations. By investing in MTNA through your contribution to the MTNA foundation fund, you can support MTNA's mission to advance the value of music study and music making to society and to support the professionalism of music teachers, thus helping us work for a more musical tomorrow.

A summary of Georgia's contribution in 2019 includes one contribution during the first quarter. We hope to increase our support of the Foundation Fund by encouraging all GMTA members to consider making a donation. More info, resources, and guidelines for making a contribution can be found at [www.mtnafoundation.org](http://www.mtnafoundation.org).



# SCHOOL OF MUSIC

## PIANO Faculty

**Robert Henry** *Coordinator, Piano Studies*

Julie Coucheron

Huu Mai

John Marsh

Judy Cole, Collaborative Piano

Erika Tazawa, Collaborative Piano

musicKSU.com



## Degrees:

Bachelor of Arts in Music

Bachelor of Music in Performance

Bachelor of Music in Music Education



The GMTA Teacher of the Year Award is presented annually to a member of GMTA in recognition of lifetime achievement as a music teacher, with excellence in teaching, musicianship, professional activity, and service to the community and/or state.

Any GMTA association or member may nominate any other GMTA member for the Teacher of the Year. The GMTA Teacher of the Year will be selected from nominated applicants and entered in the MTNA Teacher of the Year competition.

The online submission form will require the following information or uploaded documents: <https://georgiamta.org/teacher-year-application.php>

- Teaching/professional achievement
- Number of years of teaching experience
- Evidence of teaching excellence (i.e., students' successes)
- Accomplishments/contributions to MTNA
- Participation in local, state or national MTNA programs
- Community involvement
- Former student and/or parent letter of support (upload document)
- Professional colleague letter of support (upload document)

Nominations will need to be submitted online by Monday, September 9, 2019. The winner will be acknowledged at the 2019 GMTA Conference Banquet.

With so many fine teachers in Georgia, please consider nominating one of your favorites.

For a list of past Teachers of the Year and to read their Teaching Tips, go to:

<https://georgiamta.org/teacher-year-application.php> .

**BRENAU**  
UNIVERSITY

Ben Leaptrott  
bleaptrott@brenau.edu  
678.613.8723

**COLLABORATIVE PIANO**





# GMTA AWARDS AND GRANTS

LEIGH ANNE BLEICHNER, GMTA AWARDS CHAIR

**The Nolting Award in Composition** was established in 1987 and initially funded by beloved GMTA member Betty Nolting. It is given at the GMTA Conference each year to first-place winners in the MTNA Student Composition Competitions for the state-level competitions in each age category.

**The Broadhurst Award in Piano** was established in 1992 by the Broadhurst family in commemoration of Joan Broadhurst. This award is presented annually at the GMTA Conference to the winner of the MTNA Junior Performance Competition.

**The GMTA General Award Fund**, established in 1993, includes honorary and memorial gifts and is awarded at the discretion of the GMTA Finance Advisory Committee. Awards from this fund are given to senior string, vocal, and brass/woodwind winners of GMTA Auditions. Donations not designated for a specific fund go into this fund.

## GMTA GRANTS

The Georgia Music Teachers Association will award four \$400 GMTA Grants to active or collegiate members of GMTA. Awarded grants can go toward student music instruction or professional development (including fees for school institutions or conference registrations for collegiate members).

Any GMTA active or collegiate member is eligible to apply for a GMTA Grant. Grants are awarded each year at the November GMTA State Conference. GMTA members can be awarded a GMTA Grant only once in a five-year period. The application deadline for a GMTA Grant is the 2nd Monday in September at 11:59 PM.

**A raffle to support each of these funds will be held at the state conference. Local associations are encouraged to participate by donating items for the raffle.**

*The Joyce and Henry*  
**SCHWOB**  
SCHOOL of  
**MUSIC**

*Dr. Scott Harris, Director*  
is pleased to announce the appointment of



## Henry Kramer

to  
*The L. Rexford Whiddon*  
*Distinguished Chair in Piano*

**The Jack and JoRhee Pezold Division of Keyboard Studies** supports student scholarships for pianists in undergraduate, master's degree, and artist diploma programs.

*Organ studies are led by University Organist and Professor of Music Joseph Golden.*





# MEMBERSHIP

12

DONNA DASHER, NCTM, VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBERSHIP

It's summer! Time to take a break, right? Wrong! Now is the perfect time to begin recruiting for your local organization. July 1<sup>st</sup> starts the new teaching year, so we need to begin reaching out to those new, or old, teachers now, so they can experience the full benefit of what each chapter has to offer.

Where do you start? Start by having members submit the names of teachers they know or have heard of that are not members of your chapter, with contact information where known. Also, go to local music stores and “bat your eyelashes” to get a list of the music teachers that frequent their store. Attend events where young musicians perform and “eavesdrop” to find out who their teacher is. Or better yet, just ask them! And don't do this all alone. Ask all your members to participate and use the old “divide and conquer technique,” giving members different prospects to contact. Stay accountable by having members give updated reports on their efforts to contact potential members.

Next, actually contact them. Duh! Just getting their names together doesn't do any good if you don't contact them and invite them to lunch, for example, so you can enlighten them on all your organization has to offer. A free meal works every time, well, almost! If they don't get excited enough to immediately join, then “hound them like a dog” until they do! Or better yet, just keep in touch, inviting them to exciting events, not boring meetings. Offer to pick them up and let them ride with you in the car, not in the bed of the truck, please! Face it, if you invite someone to join you one time, and get turned down, you can rest assured they won't ever join your organization if you never contact them again. Keep trying. And if you can't get them interested, ask another member to follow up after you've tried a gazillion times!

On a more serious note, **da da da dum**, if you will print out the testimonials from GMTA members offered in last year's GMTA summer newsletter, you can use these, along with testimonials from your own chapter, to entice potential members. Keep it exciting – you know it is! The link to review, and print is <https://georgiamta.org/documents/599/NewsletterSummer2018.pdf>. All credit here goes to last year's VP of Membership, Dr. Jerico Vasquez, and the many GMTA teachers who offered testimonials. Looking forward to seeing our membership RISE UP!

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# 2019 GMTA State Auditions Results

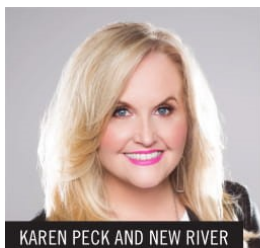
The 2019 GMTA State Auditions were held on March 30 and April 6 at the University of Georgia, Hugh Hodgson School of Music, and the Kennesaw State University. The GMTA Auditions Staff extends our gratitude to both universities for allowing us the use of their facilities for the GMTA Auditions.

A total of 402 Students participated in 2019 GMTA State Auditions. The following categories were represented:

- ◆ Pre-College Piano, Grades 4-11 - 217 State Participants
- ◆ 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Piano - 29 Participants
- ◆ Pre-College Piano Concerto - 12 Participants
- ◆ Pre-College Piano Duet—48 Participants
- ◆ College/Adult Piano - 17 Participants
- ◆ College Piano Concerto - 1 Participant
- ◆ Voice - 9 Participants
- ◆ Strings/Guitar - 47 Participants
- ◆ Woodwinds/Brass - 1 Participant
- ◆ Instrumental Concerto - 21 Participants

Congratulations to all students and teachers who participated in this year’s Auditions!

*~Yien Wang | Vice President of GMTA Auditions  
~Joy Poole | Pre-College State Coordinator*



KAREN PECK AND NEW RIVER



THE CRAIGLEWIS BAND



THE BRENAU GOSPEL CHOIR



JEFF & SHERI EASTER

THE IVESTER PROGRAMMING SERIES

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**GOSPEL**  
EXPERIENCE



March 28-30, 2019 | Gainesville, Georgia

[brenau.edu/gospel](http://brenau.edu/gospel)

## GRADE 4

Ping-Yun Hsu, Chair

Award: Conference Recitalist

Nelson Solon Liu                      Hwee Boon Ng                      Atlanta

Award: 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate

Sophia Yin                                      Hwee Boon Ng                      Atlanta

Award: 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate

Gavin Joseph Poon                      Hwee Boon Ng                      Atlanta

Award: Outstanding Performer

Eva Chu    Hyangbin Choi                      Augusta

Jack Landrum                                      Hsin-Lan Chien                      Cobb County

Zizhan Wang                                      Rwei Hao                                      North Fulton

Evan Xue    Anne Sun                                      Atlanta

Award: Award of Excellence

Alex Han    Junghee Lee                                      Gwinnett County

Jiabo Hu    Ping-Yun Hsu                                      Cobb County

Jason Qian    Frances Yao                                      North Dekalb

Abigail Shang                                      Ping-Yun Hsu                                      Cobb County

Eric Shu    Ping Xu    North Dekalb

Melvin Xu    Elena Cholakova                                      Atlanta

Jack Xu    Ping Xu    Atlanta

Award: Honorable Mention

Aislin Burke    Kathryn Dawal                                      Gwinnett County

Mason Cao    Ping Xu    North Dekalb

Eason Fang    Hsin-Lan Chien                                      Cobb County

Lewie Han    Eunkyung Hwang                                      Coweta-Fayette

Marcy Ip    Ping Xu    North Dekalb

Kylie Reeve    Deanne Ohman                                      Cobb County

Hanyu Su    Hyangbin Choi                                      Augusta

## GRADE 5

Ping-Yun Hsu, Chair

Award: Conference Recitalist

Ethan Palmer                                      Robert Henry                                      Cobb County

Award: 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate

Jae Ren Yee                                      Seonhee Cho                                      North Fulton

Award: 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate

Mai Sugino                                      Momoko Yamamoto                                      Cobb County

**Award: Outstanding Performer**

Hailey Culp	Ping Xu	North Dekalb
Michelle Feng	Ping Xu	Atlanta
Dori Guo	Min-Jung Jin	Gwinnett County
Haejoon Oh	Anne Sun	Atlanta
Yining Tang	Anne Sun	Atlanta
Jae Ren Yee	Seonhee Cho	North Fulton

**Award: Award of Excellence**

Yilan Cheng	Jonathan Klein	Athens
Scarlett Liu	Hsin-Lan Chien	Cobb County
McKinley Moore	Lily Bowman	Cherokee
Ethan Nie	Ping Xu	Atlanta
Anna Shang	Ping-Yun Hsu	Cobb County
Peyton Siphavong	Young Choi	North Dekalb
Brady Zhang	Miao-Fen Lin	North Dekalb

**Award: Honorable Mention**

Eva Ballerstedt	Wendy Vann	North Dekalb
Chase Choi	Min Kim	Decatur
Rania Haque	Yien Wang	Columbus
Ethan Lo	Hsin-Lan Chien	Cobb County
Alice Maple	Zhong Lin	Columbus
Allison Nguyen	Lois Simon	Gwinnett County
Edwin Tang	Ping Xu	North Dekalb
Harry Zhou	Bo Wang	Augusta

**GRADE 6**

**Robin Engleman, NCTM Chair**

**Award: Conference Recitalist**

Nathan Liu	Joanna Kim	Northeast GA
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**Award: 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate**

Lauren Kim	Anne Sun	Atlanta
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**Award: 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate**

Hanze Zhang	Miao-Fen Lin	North Dekalb
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Award: Outstanding Performer

Caroline Chang	Ping Xu	North Dekalb
Kaitlyn Chang	Ping-Yun Hsu	Cobb County
Aidan Pabis	Grace Huang	Athens
Joanna Catherine Wang	Tracy Xian	Columbus
Austin Wu	Huu Mai	Cobb County

Award: Award of Excellence

Nathan Hsu	Grace Li	Greater Marietta
Claire Jiang	Grace Li	Greater Marietta
Bochen Shen	Joseph Hokayem	Athens
Ashley Si	Anne Sun	Atlanta
Fredrick Wu	Ping-Yun Hsu	Cobb County
Andrew Zhang	Joseph Hokayem	Athens
Albert Zhang	Keli Xu	North Fulton
Matthew Zhu	Huu Mai	Cobb County

Award: Honorable Mention

Kevin Chen	Yien Wang	Columbus
Claire Jing	Ping Xu	Atlanta
Eunice Kim	Joanna Kim	Northeast GA
Woojin Lee	Inyoung Choi	Coweta-Fayette
Ian Lee	Yoonmi Choi	Gwinnett County
Abigail Marley	Jean Mann	Gwinnett County
Sean Powell	Tracy Xian	Columbus
Ellie Yin	Ping Xu	Atlanta

**GRADE 7**

**Robin Engleman, NCTM, Chair**

Award: Conference Recitalist

Erin Li	Alexander Wasserman	Cobb County
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Award: 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate

Eric Xu	Miao-Fen Lin	North Dekalb
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Award: 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate

Ethan Liu	Joanna Kim	Northeast GA
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Award: Outstanding Performer

Jerry Lu	Clara Park	Augusta
Alex Wa	Ping Xu	Atlanta
Luke Xu	Anne Sun	Atlanta



Award: Award of Excellence

Kimmie Bateman	Jonathan Klein	Athens
Rayna Chang	Anne Sun	Atlanta
Julia Pearson	Ping Xu	North Dekalb
Daniel Qiu	Frances Yao	North Dekalb
Alison Wang	Hwee Boon Ng	North Fulton
Aaron Yang	Joseph Hokayem	Athens

Award: Honorable Mention

Jaia Alli	Shirley Irek	Atlanta
Yuchen Guo	Hyangbin Choi	Augusta
Faye Lu	Yelena Faber	North Fulton
Anna Nguyen	Ping Xu	North Dekalb
Xinyu Su	Hyangbin Choi	Augusta
William Yin	Jonathan Klein	Athens

**GRADE 8**

**Anne Sun, Chair**

Award: Conference Recitalist

Zhu Yun Wei	Hwee Boon Ng	Atlanta
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Award: 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate

Jonathan Xue	Robert Henry	Cobb County
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Award: 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate

Caroline Malcom	Anne Sun	Atlanta
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Award: Outstanding Performer

Susan Meng	Anne Sun	Atlanta
Joline Tran	Hwee Boon Ng	Atlanta
Maxwell Zhang	Nancy Elton	Atlanta

Award: Award of Excellence

Nico Brett	Joe Seidel	Cherokee
Ilya Bryantsev	Anne Sun	Atlanta
Jeffrey Li	Clara Park	Augusta
Ethan Liu	Alexander Wasserman	Cobb County
Spencer McKee	Mary McKee	Savannah
Christie Peng	Anne Sun	Atlanta

Award: Honorable Mention

Joey Dagostino	Laura Lozier	Cherokee
Faith Huang	Hsin-Lan Chien	Cobb County
Benjamin Hubbs	Frances Yao	North Dekalb
Jane Lee	Gayle Vann	North Dekalb
Michael Salamat	Gloria Park	Gwinnett County
Samuel Vaillancourt	Yien Wang	Columbus
Tianyue Jack Xu	Hsin-Lan Chien	Cobb County

**GRADE 9**

**Anne Sun, Chair**

Award: Conference Recitalist

Grace Peng	Raffi Besalyan	Atlanta
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Award: 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate

Daniel Pan	Ping Xu	North Dekalb
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Award: 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate

Katherine Yang	Elena Cholakova	Atlanta
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Award: Award of Excellence

Andrew Bae	Grace Kim	North Fulton
Ethan Bernhard	Alexander Wasserman	Cobb County
Gavin Carr	Lois Finlay	North Dekalb
Isaac Cheon	Aesook Moon	Columbus
Anna Kim	Anne Sun	Atlanta
Leanora Parish	Clara Park	Augusta
Hao-Tzu Wang	Anne Sun	Atlanta

Award: Honorable Mention

Shirley Chen	Hwee Boon Ng	North Fulton
Jayden Chong	Lois Finlay	North Dekalb
Fiona Guo	Ping Xu	North Dekalb
Michelle Ho	Joanna Kim	Northeast GA
Susan Jiang	Yien Wang	Columbus
Jaden Lim	Clara Park	Augusta
Daniel Noelle	Marcia Rygh	Gwinnett County
Caeley Woo	Ellen Feibish	Decatur

## GRADE 10

Diane Boyd, NCTM, Chair

Award: Conference Recitalist

Charlie Li	Elena Cholakova	Atlanta
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Award: 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate

Skyler Feng	Ping Xu	Atlanta
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Award: 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate

Alice Zhang	Lois Finlay	North Dekalb
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Award: Outstanding Performer

Robert Jeon	Elena Cholakova	Atlanta
Rajath Prabhakar	Alexander Wasserman	Cobb County
Daniel Shen	Keli Xu	North Fulton
Eric Zhang	Keli Xu	North Fulton

Award: Award of Excellence

Ellen Daugherty	Alexander Wasserman	Cobb County
Nicholas Ge	Elena Cholakova	Atlanta
Samantha Gregory	Francisco Silva	Cobb County
David Qu	Francisco Silva	Cobb County
Jessica Tang	Ping Xu	Cobb County
Carolyn Tran	Elinor Boyer	Cobb County

Award: Honorable Mention

Jason Huang	Ping Xu	Atlanta
Michelle Pi	Clara Park	Augusta
Xuefei Ren	Ping Xu	North Dekalb
Abigail Ryan	Marissa Woodall	Cherokee
Aaron Wei	Miao-Fen Lin	North Dekalb
Michelle Wu	Ping Xu	North Dekalb

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## GRADE 11

Diane Boyd, NCTM, Chair

Award: Conference Recitalist

Jason Guo	Elena Cholakova	Atlanta
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Award: 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate

Gabriella Kogan	Elena Cholakova	Atlanta
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Award: 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate

Michelle Wang	Ping Xu	North Dekalb
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Award: Outstanding Performer

Junui Lee	Yoonmi Choi	Gwinnett County
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Vivia Lung	Anne Sun	Atlanta
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Annabel Shue	Lois Finlay	North Dekalb
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Jesse Tu	Anne Sun	Atlanta
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Award: Award of Excellence

Chloe Chen	Elena Cholakova	Atlanta
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Jenny Chen	Miao-Fen Lin	North Dekalb
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Alexander Gravitt	Dawn Dalangin Hawk	North Fulton
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Eric Hayashi	Hsin-Lan Chien	Cobb County
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Grace Lee	Gayle Vann	North Dekalb
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Catherine Mi	Lois Finlay	North Dekalb
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Celina Zhao	Jonathan Klein	Athens
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Award: Honorable Mention

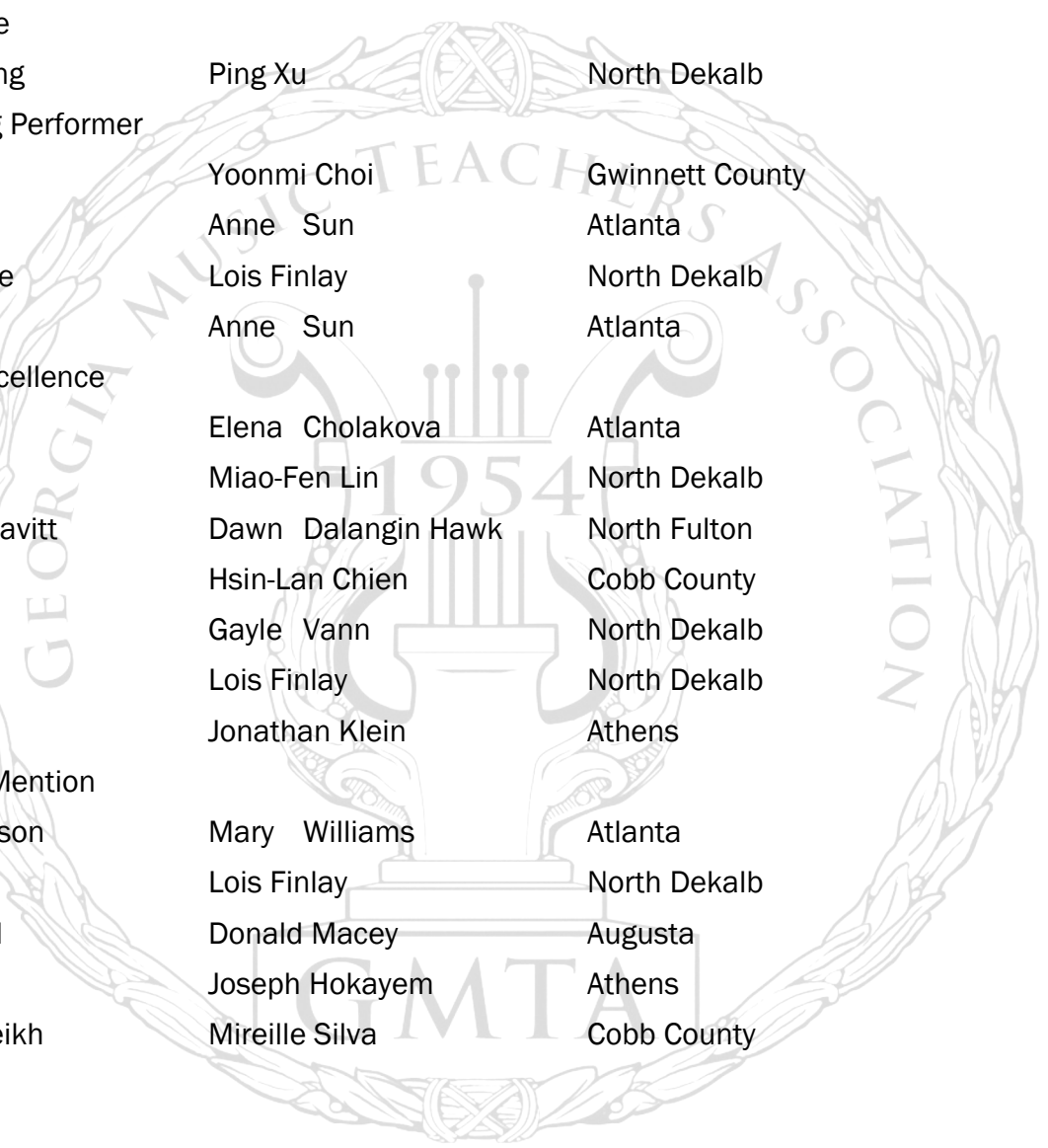
Asena Anderson	Mary Williams	Atlanta
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Aakash Joshi	Lois Finlay	North Dekalb
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Tommy Lloyd	Donald Macey	Augusta
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Grace Pan	Joseph Hokayem	Athens
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Shanzeh Sheikh	Mireille Silva	Cobb County
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Award: Honorable Mention

Susanna Huang

Huu Mai

Cobb County

Lawrence Zhou

Debra Hughes

Gwinnett County

**Piano Duet Upper and Lower Division Yien Wang, Chair**

Award: Conference Recitalist

Upper Division

Michelle Wu

Ping Xu

North Dekalb

Daniel Pan

Ping Xu

North Dekalb

Lower Division

Julia Pearson

Ping Xu

North Dekalb

Anna Nyugen

Ping Xu

North Dekalb

Award: 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate

Upper Division

Annabel Shue

Lois Finlay

North Dekalb

Shirley Chen

Hwee Boon Ng

North Fulton

Lower Division

Christina Zhang

Joanna Kim

Northeast GA

An-Khoi Hoang

Joanna Kim

Northeast GA

Award: 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate

Upper Division

Daniel Kim

Joanna Kim

Northeast GA

Michelle Ho

Joanna Kim

Northeast GA

Lower Division

Nathan Liu

Joanna Kim

Northeast GA

Ethan Liu

Joanna Kim

Northeast GA

Award: Outstanding Performer

Sean Zhong

Gayle Vann

North Dekalb

Jane Lee

Gayle Vann

North Dekalb

Jenny Hu

Jonathan Klein

Athens

Yu Zhou

Jonathan Klein

Athens

Award: Award of Excellence

Kyra Andrews	Gayle Vann	North Dekalb
Emma Dong	Gayle Vann	North Dekalb
Emilie Vu	Gayle Vann	North Dekalb
Lisa VanNess	Gayle Vann	North Dekalb
Ellie Yin	Ping Xu	Atlanta
Claire Jing	Ping Xu	Atlanta
Evan Dong	Gayle Vann	North Dekalb
Eva Lesciauskas	Gayle Vann	North Dekalb
Selina Huang	Huu Mai	Cobb County
Matthew Zhu	Huu Mai	Cobb County
Susanna Huang	Huu Mai	Cobb County
Amy Huang	Huu Mai	Cobb County
Andrew Lin	Mary McKee	Savannah
Spencer McKee	Mary McKee	Savannah
Xuefei Ren	Ping Xu	North Dekalb
Michelle Wang	Ping Xu	North Dekalb

Award: Honorable Mention

Mitali Bidkar	Rwei Hao	North Fulton
Reanna Rafiq	Rwei Hao	North Fulton
Rebecca Menoni	Lydia Walker	Decatur
Lindsey Dernavich	Lydia Walker	Decatur
Kelly Huang	Gayle Vann	North Dekalb
Grace Lee	Gayle Vann	North Dekalb
Eric VanNess	Gayle Vann	North Dekalb
Kaitlyn Kotake	Gayle Vann	North Dekalb



## College/Adult Piano

### Elena Cholakova, Chair

#### Lower College

Caleb Esmond  
 Sydney Chung  
 Christian Lee  
 Sammy Mishkin  
 Meekah Howell  
 Jesse Cook  
 Caleb Sutton  
 Clay Davis

Ian Altman  
 Kristi Helfen  
 Ian Altman  
 Robert Henry  
 Liza Stepanova  
 Robert Henry  
 Carol Gingerich  
 Carol Gingerich

OP – Conference Recitalist  
 OP – 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate  
 OP – 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate  
 Award of Excellence  
 Award of Excellence  
 Honorable Mention  
 Honorable Mention  
 Honorable Mention

#### Middle College

Rachel Chon  
 Valentina Qishan Huang

William Ransom  
 Chenny Gan

OP – Conference Recitalist  
 OP – 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate

#### Upper College

Tsai-Wei Li  
 Ngan Nei Chan  
 Seung Hyun Yoo

Liza Stepanova  
 David Fung  
 Liza Stepanova

OP – Conference Recitalist  
 OP – 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate  
 OP – 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate

## College Piano Concerto Elena Cholakova, Chair

Dora Yuru Jin

Chenny Gan

OP – Cash Prize

## Voice

### Dr. Patricia Callaway, NCTM, Chair

#### Grade 9

Andrew Boyacigiller

Huu Mai

OP – Conference Recitalist

#### Grade 10

Rebecca Menoni  
 Lindsey Dernavich

Lydia Walker  
 Lydia Walker

OP – Conference Recitalist  
 Award of Excellence

#### Grade 11

Grace Rivord  
 Kaylyn Manlove-Simmons  
 Remahlia Kormalos  
 Gilliane Conklin

Elizabeth Castillo  
 Debra Hughes  
 Debra Hughes  
 Leigh Anne Bleichner

OP – Conference Recitalist  
 OP – 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate  
 Award of Excellence  
 Award of Excellence

#### Grade 12

Scott Johnson

Patricia Callaway

OP – Cash Prize

#### Lower College

Samantha Chambers

Patricia Callaway

Award of Excellence



## Strings/Guitar

Yien Wang, Chair

### GRADE 2/3

Charlotte Jeong  
Ellie Kim  
Risden Harmon  
Yukki Wu

Amy Chang  
Virginia Sloan  
Mirna Dinovic  
Que Yang

OP – Conference Recitalist  
Award of Excellence  
Honorable Mention  
Honorable Mention

### GRADE 4/5

Angelina Lu  
Lucas Liu  
Mahalia Mason  
William Wei  
Caroline Huang  
Ethan Lo  
Evelyn Smith

William Pu  
Que Yang  
Martin Gueorguiev  
William Pu  
Que Yang  
Hsin-Lang Chien  
Kathryn Dawal

OP – Conference Recitalist  
OP – 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate  
Award of Excellence  
Award of Excellence  
Award of Excellence  
Honorable Mention  
Honorable Mention

### GRADE 6/7

Claire Cho  
Alex Ko  
Eugenie Lim  
Kristen Song  
Sunny Kim  
Abigail Stone  
Jayden Lee

Nadir Khashimov  
Martin Gueorguiev  
Sonja Foster  
Martin Gueorguiev  
Sonja Foster  
William Pu  
Martin Gueorguiev

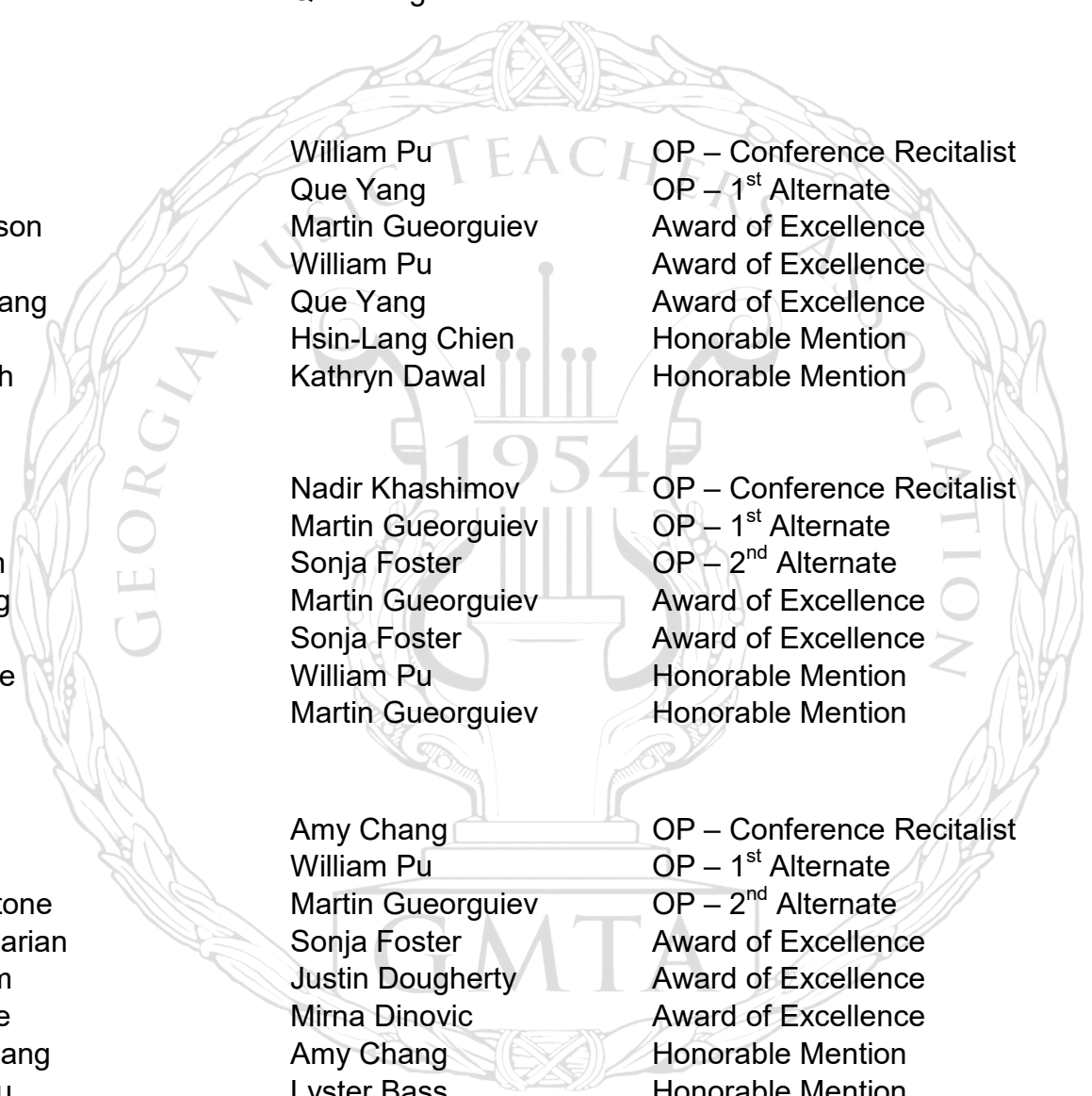
OP – Conference Recitalist  
OP – 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate  
OP – 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate  
Award of Excellence  
Award of Excellence  
Honorable Mention  
Honorable Mention

### GRADE 8/9

Jason Seo  
Kelly Jeong  
Nathaniel Stone  
Danielle Najarian  
Matthew Kim  
Brandon Lee  
Nicholas Chang  
Pranav Aluru  
Kai Lee

Amy Chang  
William Pu  
Martin Gueorguiev  
Sonja Foster  
Justin Dougherty  
Mirna Dinovic  
Amy Chang  
Lyster Bass  
Martin Gueorguiev

OP – Conference Recitalist  
OP – 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate  
OP – 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate  
Award of Excellence  
Award of Excellence  
Award of Excellence  
Honorable Mention  
Honorable Mention  
Honorable Mention



## GRADE 10/11

Jennifer Deng	Sonja Foster	OP – Conference Recitalist
Erin Cho	Nadir Khashimov	OP – 1 <sup>st</sup> Alternate
Evan Nicholson	Martin Gueorguiev	OP – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Alternate
Zoe Gotlin	Sonja Foster	Outstanding Performer
Sunglin Hsieh	Sonja Foster	Award of Excellence
Bradley Hu	Nadir Khashimov	Award of Excellence
Yuji Yamada	Nadir Khashimov	Award of Excellence
John Cho	Amy Chang	Award of Excellence
Kevin Chen	William Pu	Honorable Mention
Hilary Chen	Que Yang	Honorable Mention
Anna Hu	Que Yang	Honorable Mention
Kaci Xie	Amy Chang	Honorable Mention

## GRADE 12

John Kang	Justin Dougherty	OP – Cash Prize
Zoe Lo	Sonja Foster	Award of Excellence
William Kim	Martin Gueorguiev	Honorable Mention

## Instrumental Concerto

### Yien Wang, Chair

Evan Nicholson	Martin Gueorguiev	OP – Conference Recitalist
Erin Cho	Nadir Khashimov	OP – 1 <sup>st</sup> Alternate
Eugenie Lim	Sonja Foster	OP – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Alternate
Sunglin Hsieh	Sonja Foster	Outstanding Performer
Bradley Hu	Nadir Khashimov	Outstanding Performer
Yuji Yamada	Nadir Khashimov	Outstanding Performer
John Cho	Amy Chang	Outstanding Performer
Kevin Chen	William Pu	Award of Excellence
Josephine Han	Nadir Khashimov	Award of Excellence
Kaci Xie	Amy Chang	Award of Excellence
Jayden Lee	Martin Gueorguiev	Award of Excellence
Kristen Song	Martin Gueorguiev	Award of Excellence
Jason Seo	Amy Chang	Award of Excellence
Jason Zhuang	Sonja Foster	Honorable Mention
Hilary Chen	Que Yang	Honorable Mention
Joshua Yu	Justin Dougherty	Honorable Mention
Alex Ko	Martin Gueorguiev	Honorable Mention
Nathaniel Stone	Martin Gueorguiev	Honorable Mention
Kelly Jeong	William Pu	Honorable Mention

## Woodwinds/Brass

### Yien Wang, Chair

## Grade 12

Shawn Zhu	Debra Hughes	OP – Cash Prize
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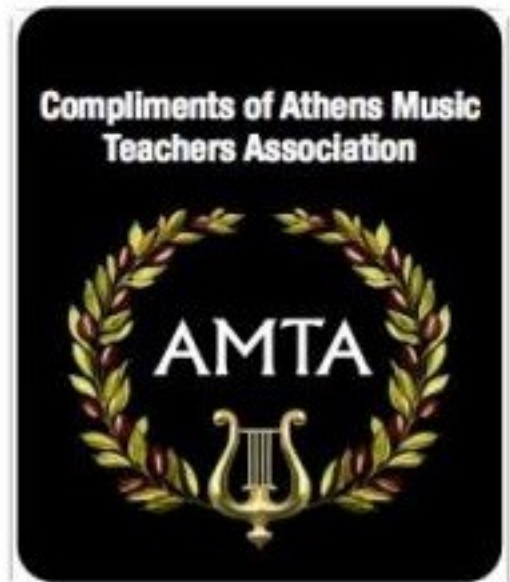
**ATHENS**

Membership in Athens Music Teachers Association (AMTA) increased to 46 members this year. Our most significant accomplishment was updating our website presence where teachers can locate all information, enter students in events, and pay their application fees. To increase the effectiveness of Master Class, we divided it into two entirely separate sessions, one for those performing Intermediate repertoire and another for those playing Advanced selections with no age restrictions on either. Repertoire was confined to that catalogued in Jane Magrath's "The Pianist's Guide to Standard Teaching and Performance Literature." In addition, we restructured our grading system for festivals into three tiers: "Gold," "Silver," and "Bronze," thus enhancing the meaning of each score. We also began awarding pins to participants in the AMTA Festival as we have medals for those in the Sonatina Festival.

Sonatina Festival continues to be our most popular event with 18 teachers entering 123 students, followed by AMTA Festival with nine teachers entering 67 students. Twenty-three students entered Local Auditions, with nineteen advancing to Regionals; at State, three were awarded OP, eight earned AE, and two received HM. We continued Fall and Honors Recital as well as our quarterly newsletter where we read the biography of three different members each time.

Four business meetings included one workshop by Dr. Pete Jutras, a panel discussion, and a concert by Priscilla and Keith Jefcoat. Our opening Meet and Greet was a brunch, and our end of the year was a luncheon.

♪ Submitted by Sharon Reid, President of Athens MTA

**NORTH DEKALB**

North DeKalb Music Teachers Association had 37 members in the year of 2018-19. Our members met once a month at Cambridge Music Academy in Johns Creek from August-May for business meetings and programs except for December and April when luncheons were held.

We held three student events: Bach Competition (October) biennially and Ensemble Olympics (February) annually and Local Auditions (February). The Bach competition promotes the teaching and learning of contrapuntal techniques and repertoire. This year, the competition had 238 entries in 7 categories: Anna Magdalena Notebook, Little Preludes and Fugues, CPE Bach Selections, Two-Part Invention, Three-Part Invention/Duetto, French Suite, Partita, English Suite, Fantasia, Prelude and Fugue, Toccata/Italian Concerto/Chromatic Fantasy or Fugue. The competition took place at the music building of Georgia State University (GSU) in Atlanta. ND awarded 53 students a cash scholarship. All first-place and second-place winners performed at the winners' recitals the next day at PianoWorks in Duluth.

The Ensemble is a non-competitive event organized in 45-minute mini-concert format. It encourages students to collaborate with others. We had total of 207 entries-181 duets and 26 concertos. Eight teachers participated, and nine concerts were formed. This is our fund-raising event.

Local Auditions were held at GSU with 89 entries. 81 students received OP and advanced to regional round. ND offers two scholarships to high school students. Our scholarship winners are Annabel Shue, first place; Alice Zhang and Jessica Tang tied for second place.

As for our programs, ND invited Dr. Jeremy Samolesky (September) and Raffi Besalyan (March) to be the clinicians for master classes. The other programs focused on repertory: Piano Sonatas of Mozart (David Fung), Fitzwilliam Virginal Book (George Mann), Albums for the Young (Dr. Grace Huang), New Music for Piano-Repertoire of All Levels, Suggestions for Recitals and Competitions (Dr. Liza Stepanova), Beethoven's Early Works (Dr. Sergio Gallo). Each speaker shared great resources with our teachers. The topics covered from Renaissance to contemporary music.

♪ Submitted by Shu-Lin Cheng, President of North DeKalb MTA

**COWETA-FAYETTTE**

CFMTA is growing, and we had several new members join. Sadly, we also had a few retire or leave the state.

In September, our first meeting was a presentation by Portia Hawkins, and many new and prospective members were in attendance. Portia spoke on The Many Challenges of Teaching Private Piano Lessons. It was an enlightening presentation and very informative for our newer members.

In October, we welcomed George Mann to speak on the Haydn Sonatas, which was a personal favorite. The wisdoms of our more experienced colleagues are always enriching.

In November, we held our annual fundraiser, the CFMTA Fall Festival. It was a great success, continuing a steady increase in participation with approximately 70 students.

In December, we had a wonderful Christmas Luncheon. We discussed the upcoming GMTA Auditions process and our masterclass amongst other administrative and business issues.

In February, Nancy Elton taught our masterclass, in which several late intermediate and advanced students performed, including Chopin's Nocturne in Em and Debussy's Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum. These masterclasses are always very educational for students and teachers alike. This event helped students prepare for Auditions.

Later in February, we held our Local Auditions as well as GATE and GMTA Theory tests. Local Auditions was a HUGE success with a massive increase in participation. We had a total of seventeen students move on to Regional Auditions, and we had more students in State Auditions than I can remember from years past.

In March, we held our Federated Festival. Participation was down, but I believe it is a turning point as we had several teachers express interest and volunteer their time despite not entering students this year.

Soon after on March 17, we had our largest Honors Recital in CFMTA history. We had twenty-seven performers, including a solo guitar performance and a duet on piano and cello.

While we had much larger numbers in State Auditions than in recent years, we did not fare as well as we might have liked. We are educating ourselves on how to improve in future GMTA State Auditions.

We look forward to installing new officers in key positions during our annual Spring Luncheon. Overall, it has been the best year for CFMTA in a very long time. We look forward to continued growth both in numbers and professionally in the year to come.

♪ Submitted by Eric Clay, President of Coweta-Fayette MTA

**GWINNETT**

Currently 90+ members strong, GCMTA had a year full of educational programs for our teachers and performance opportunities, both adjudicated and for pleasure, for our students. Our 2018-2019 program lineup was as follows: September- Dr. Benjamin Warsaw “Microcosms/Working Improvisation into Your Practice”; October- Dr. Grace Huang, “Albums for the Young (And Young at Heart)”; November- Dr. Thomas Martin Wubbenhorst, “Personality Characteristics of Music Educators and Performers”; January-our annual brunch with Dr. Yumi Patterson, Cathy Thacker, NCTM, and Pam Asberry with the William Gillock Association USA ; February- Dr. Robert Henry, “Practicing Like a Pro”; March-our annual master class with guest clinician, Dr. Alex Wasserman; May- spring luncheon announcing our teacher of the year, Dr. Yumi Patterson. In Local Auditions we had over 45 entrants, representing 18 teachers, with 41 students receiving OP and progressing on to Regional Auditions. Federated Festival had a total of 754 participants. Jr.-Sr. Scholarship, specifically for our high school juniors and seniors, was held in April as an open audition, and a total of \$2000 was awarded in scholarships to the top four performers.



♪ Submitted by Eva Bone, President of Gwinnett County MTA

**SAVANNAH**

The Savannah Music Teachers' Association started our 2018-2019 year in September with a fun “Music Fair” for children K-6<sup>th</sup> grade. The children moved in groups from one room to another for theory and rhythm games, musical crafts and a recital, enjoying snacks and treats along the way. In October a very large group of students participated in our Hymnfest. We also gave our GATE and GMTA Theory tests in October. In December we had a member and guest dinner.

In February we had Auditions and our Naegeli Metcalf Performance Evaluation Clinic, where students are evaluated on their performance of two memorized pieces. We also administered the GMTA Theory tests again. This was followed by the keyboard skills tests we call “Piano Olympics.” The very popular prize for this is a spin-medal with the student’s name, year and level. Ribbons designate the level of performance.

In April we had an Honors recital and Senior Recognition. We concluded our 2018-2019 year with a member luncheon.

SMTA has increased in membership the last few years, and we are glad to report that our new members are participating in events and taking leadership roles. We have already secured dates and places for most of our events for 2019-2020. Since the consolidation of Armstrong and Georgia Southern, it has been difficult to secure recitals in the Armstrong recital hall, but we have finally had some success and will be able to hold our Honors recital in that hall.

♪ Submitted by Diane Boyd, President of Savannah MTA



*Where teachers come together  
to encourage and build*

President: Eva Bone  
770-403-0482  
Membership: Debra Hughes  
770-978-9680  
[gcmta.org](http://gcmta.org)



Amy Neal, Chair

While our teaching schedules may be winding down, this is also the time when we plan for the 2019-20 school year. It is my goal to introduce our students to the value of GMTA and MTNA during their college years. So as we head into the summer months, here are some ideas for ways to involve your college students during the 2019-20 school year:

- ◆ Encourage them to join GMTA and MTNA! It is only \$29 for college students to join both GMTA and MTNA. (Local association dues vary.)
- ◆ Encourage them to attend the GMTA Fall Conference. College students who are members of GMTA attend the annual conference for FREE!
- ◆ If you have students attending the fall conference, let me know (aneal@shorter.edu). I am hoping to have an opportunity for the college students to get together while we're in Columbus. ●
- ◆ As we interact with each other in GMTA, encourage your students to begin networking in our state. As our students graduate, they will be the next leaders of GMTA. How wonderful will it be if they already know each other from their college years!
- ◆ If you have a collegiate chapter in place, look for ways to support your community - both within your host institution and beyond. Collegiate chapters have offered recitals, workshops, and service projects in a variety of ways. This can be as simple as performing at a nursing home or as involved as hosting a summer camp. Georgia currently boasts seven collegiate chapters, but I would love to see that number increase across our state. If you have even a few interested students (of any major or instrument), you can start a chapter! MTNA has a helpful website to get you started: [https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Engage/Young\\_Professionals/MTNA/Engage/Young\\_Professionals/Young\\_Professionals.aspx?hkey=702f9d23-4975-49ef-9d32-227fc088ddf8](https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Engage/Young_Professionals/MTNA/Engage/Young_Professionals/Young_Professionals.aspx?hkey=702f9d23-4975-49ef-9d32-227fc088ddf8) . I'm also happy to help with any questions you have!

Finally, if you have ideas for our collegiate chapters to work together, please let me know! I am always looking for ways to help the chapters interact - from recitals to presentations and more!

As the Collegiate Chapters Chair, I believe that students who are continuing their musical studies at the collegiate level are poised to become the next leaders for music in the state of Georgia. I look forward to seeing our college students grow into the new generation of teachers and musicians in our state!

*Decatur Music Teachers Association*

# **DMTA**

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# ARTS AWARENESS & ADVOCACY

DEBRA HUGHES, NCTM, ARTS AWARENESS & ADVOCACY CHAIR

“Georgia’s Own” is an online listing of GMTA teachers who are willing to serve the local chapters as seminar speakers and music education presenters. Currently there are 16 persons on the updated list willing to travel to your Association to share their expertise. Please go to Member Resources on GMTA’s website to see the complete list. Individuals included in this listing must be GMTA members in good standing with paid dues for each membership year and must keep their contact information updated through Mandy Reynolds, GMTA Executive Director, at [georgiamta@gmail.com](mailto:georgiamta@gmail.com). If you would like to be added to Georgia’s Own, please contact Debra Hughes, NCTM, GMTA Arts Awareness & Advocacy Chair, at [bnhughes@comcast.net](mailto:bnhughes@comcast.net).

**ARTS AWARENESS:** The arts are an economic and employment powerhouse; the arts mean business in Georgia in economic activity, tax revenues and full time jobs. The state arts agency’s budget was cut by 90% during the recent recession. After a decade, it is time to restore funding for the arts in Georgia. Investment in the arts and in arts education will improve Georgia’s current status of being ranked 50th in the U.S. by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies for per capita state support. (NASAA Report Feb 2018, p 11) Can YOU make a difference? Is there a way that we can help achieve an increase in state funding for the arts and arts education (K-12) in 2019?

## JUDGES LIST

Susan Andrews, NCTM, Chair



I’m pleased to announce two new judges who have been added to the GMTA Judges List: Monique Arar and Elena Dorozhkina. We would like to have some judges of voice and other instruments on the Judges List. If you are interested in judging for competitive or non-competitive events, please consider applying. The information is on the Judges List page on the GMTA website under Member Resources. Here is the link to that page: <https://georgiamta.org/piano-judges.php>. In the near future, we will have the application and recommendation forms available for online submission.



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# Atlanta

*Music Teachers Association*  
[www.atlmta.org](http://www.atlmta.org)

President:  
**Elena V. Dorozhkina**  
(817) 403-3870

*See Website for  
2018 RIPC Info*

## MUSICLINK MYTHS

As a MusicLink (ML) Coordinator, I often hear from teachers who would like to get involved in MusicLink but have come to accept certain myths about the program which prevent them from following through. I would like to dispel some of these myths. Here are a few of the more common ones:

**MYTH:** It's a complicated, time-consuming procedure to register a student in ML.

**FACT:** It takes the completion of one 1½ page registration form, and now this can even be done online. No downloading, copying or mailing is involved.

**MYTH:** Being a ML teacher will involve a lot of paperwork. I don't have time for that.

**FACT:** Once a student is registered, there is no other paperwork involved except for a 1-page evaluation which is completed each spring. You are asked to rate your student's progress in 4 areas. It should take less than 5 minutes to complete. This can also be done online.

**MYTH:** I will have to change the way I teach to meet someone else's method.

**FACT:** You teach your ML student exactly the same way you teach any of your other students.

**MYTH:** Once I agree to be a ML teacher, I will be expected to take several students on scholarship.

**FACT:** As a ML teacher, you are asked to take on just one student. Many teachers choose to teach more than one student, but the vast majority teaches one student.

**MYTH:** As a ML teacher, I will be expected to teach a student for no pay at all.

**FACT:** A ML teacher must agree to teach a student at up to one-half the teacher's normal rate. The exact amount will depend upon the situation of the student. Many families are able to pay a nominal amount, and this is encouraged by the ML Foundation as a way of fostering commitment to lessons.

**MYTH:** Once I take on a ML student, I must continue to teach them even if they don't practice or show up for lessons regularly.

**FACT:** If a ML student doesn't show commitment to lessons, they will be dropped from the program. You are under no obligation to teach an uncommitted student.

**MYTH:** I could end up teaching a student who isn't in need at all.

**FACT:** Any family that registers their student online is asked to send in the first page of their most current Tax Return to document their financial need.

**MYTH:** If I teach a MusicLink student, everyone will find out and I will be asked to lower my fee for my other students.

**FACT:** The only way anyone will know that your student is a MusicLink student is if you share this information with others. We do not share that information with anyone.

I hope this helps to clear up some of the misconceptions about the ML program. Becoming a ML teacher is simple, and the rewards are great! If you would like to learn more, please contact me at: Nora Martin, SE Regional Coordinator, 770-861-4283, or [wolf1193@charter.net](mailto:wolf1193@charter.net).





ROBIN ENGLEMAN, NCTM, COMMITTEE CHAIR

I am happy Joy asked me to work on the GMTA Executive Board as IMTF (Independent Music Teacher's Forum) Chair. As I was beginning to think about my new responsibilities, I reached out to the new MTNA IMTF chair, Geri Gibbs. She took the time to reply with things that MTNA is initiating to reach the needs of the IMT, which makes up the largest percentage of our membership.

The AMT (American Music Teacher) Magazine is being reformatted to be more user friendly, faster to grasp concepts and contain more pertinent information.

More sessions at the National Conference are going to be offered that will appeal to the IMT.

State Presidents and IMTF Chairs are being asked to gather insights from you, the members, as to how we (your local association/GMTA/MTNA) can better serve you, and what you would like to receive from your organization.

I encourage you to view this brief YouTube video, "Why Should You Join MTNA?" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=adn-FEi0wTU>. I know I'm preaching to the choir, if you're reading this, but please consider sharing this video with friends and colleagues who are not members or those who may be struggling with their current membership.

Finally, I invite you to send me any ideas, suggestions or concerns, that you have as an independent music teacher.

Robin H. Engleman, NCTM  
GMTA IMTF Chair  
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## Advertising Index

ABRSM: page 19

Athens MTA: page 27

Atlanta MTA: page 31

Brenau University: page 10

Brenau University - Gospel: page 13

Cambridge Academy: page 35

Columbus University: page 11

Decatur MTA: page 30

Greater Marietta MTA: page 35

Gwinnett County MTA: page 29

Kennesaw State University: page 9

North DeKalb MTA: page 34

North Fulton MTA: page 37

Steinway Piano Galleries: page 12

University of Georgia: page 3

Young Harris College: page 2

GMTA welcomes its new members! They are:

Bethany Johnston

William Bush

Kimber Kwiatkowski

Kati Arikoski-Johnson

Demetri Chrissos

Sarah Deal

Kirk-Jearvin Habana

Katrin Meidell

Jonas Lonzanida

Mary Katherine McClung

Zachary Sutton

Ashley Wilson

Jesse Cook

Monique Clarke

Moon Hamilton

Susan Hoffman

Macy Fox

Timothy Thomas

Jason Montague

Caleb Ramirez

Fnu Ahui

Sonny Yoo

Richard Knepp

Ngan Nei Chan

Mackenzie Perry

Lydia Walker

Melissa Lucas

Elizabeth Castillo

Amy Chang

Olga Pikus

Katy Willard

Chaozhao Zhang

Spencer Williams

Heather Hancock

Katie Carpenter

Virginia Sloan

David Fung



## North Dekalb Music Teachers Association

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Shulchen@yahoo.com

Derek Vann, VP of Membership

678-332-7076

Derek@pianoworks.com

[www.ndmta.net](http://www.ndmta.net)

## June 2019

- 1 Deadline for all GMTA Expense Reports to be submitted to the GMTA Executive Director for reimbursement ([georgiamta@gmail.com](mailto:georgiamta@gmail.com))
- 30 Membership renewal deadline

## August 2019

- 1 Deadline for articles to be included in the GMTA Fall Newsletter. [csbt88@gmail.com](mailto:csbt88@gmail.com)
- 13 Officer reports due to Secretary for upcoming Board meeting
- 18 GMTA Council of Local Association Presidents Meeting and GMTA Executive Board Meeting, Clayton State University

## September 2019

- 9 Application deadline for GMTA Teacher of the Year, Steinway Teacher Awards, GMTA Teacher Grants (Deadline always on second Monday of September)
- 11 MTNA Competitions Online Registration Deadline: 3:00 pm EST  
<https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Engage/Competitions/Competitions.aspx>
- 30 Student Membership Renewal Deadline. Student membership year runs from October 1 thru September 30.

## October 2019

25-26 MTNA Competitions, University of West Georgia

## November 2019

7-9 GMTA State Conference, Columbus State University, Columbus, GA

continued on next page



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For more information, visit  
[www.gmmta.us](http://www.gmmta.us)

## March 2020

- 14 Tentative date for Regional Auditions
- 21-25 MTNA National Conference—Chicago, Illinois
- 27-28 Pre-College Piano, College Piano, Instrumental and Voice State Auditions at Columbus State University
- 28 GMTA Council of Local Association Presidents Meeting and GMTA Executive Board Meeting—Columbus State University

[Click HERE for the complete GMTA Calendar.](#)

### Executive Board:

President: Joy Poole [jpoole@burnthickory.com](mailto:jpoole@burnthickory.com)

President-Elect: Jan Adams, NCTM [jadams9800@bellsouth.net](mailto:jadams9800@bellsouth.net)

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Member-at-Large: Michiko Otaki [MichikoOtaki@clayton.edu](mailto:MichikoOtaki@clayton.edu)

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Executive Director: Mandy Reynolds [georgiamta@gmail.com](mailto:georgiamta@gmail.com)

### Committee Chairs:

Chair-Arts Awareness & Advocacy: Debra Hughes, NCTM [bndhughes@comcast.net](mailto:bndhughes@comcast.net)

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Chair-Independent Music Teachers Forum: Robin Engleman [englemanr@bellsouth.net](mailto:englemanr@bellsouth.net)

Chair-MTNA Foundation: Jordan Sommer [jordanbsommer@gmail.com](mailto:jordanbsommer@gmail.com)

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Chair-Theory: Jason Bennett [BennettMusicStudio@gmail.com](mailto:BennettMusicStudio@gmail.com)

Chair-Wellness: Julie Harbin, NCTM [julieharbin@gmail.com](mailto:julieharbin@gmail.com)

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## NORTH FULTON MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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<p><b>President</b>  <b>Arlene Martinides</b>  <a href="mailto:amartinides@gmail.com">amartinides@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> VP Membership</b>  <b>Jean Schmidt</b>  <a href="mailto:schmidtplanostudio@gmail.com">schmidtplanostudio@gmail.com</a></p>
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The Georgia Music Teachers Association (GMTA) is a member of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) and memberships are jointly held in both organizations. Members receive subscriptions to *The American Music Teacher*. Membership is open to individuals professionally engaged in any field of musical activity and dues should be sent to MTNA, 1 W. 4th St., Ste. 1550 Cincinnati, OH 45202. MTNA is available toll-free at 1-888-512-5278 to answer your questions regarding membership dues or on the web at [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org).

### **Notice**

The GMTA Newsletter is an information journal focusing on matters directly related to MTNA, GMTA and local associations only. It does not promote the studios of individual teachers or institutions by publishing articles regarding the accomplishments of teachers, students, or an institution's activities. Paid advertising is available for this purpose. GMTA expressly reserves the right to refuse publication of any article, photograph, or advertisement contrary to the objectives of MTNA or the Associations. All articles are subject to editing due to size or content.

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### **Submittals**

GMTA publishes its online newsletter three times per year. Publication dates and their respective deadlines are as follows:

January 15th (Deadline: December 1st) June 15th (Deadline: May 1st) September 15th (Deadline August 1st).

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