



GEORGIA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



WINTER NEWSLETTER 2020

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

Inside this issue:

Teacher of the Year	1
President's Report	3
Teaching Tips	4
2019 Conference	5
Conference Recital Review	6
Grants and Pedagogy Headliner	7
Composer Interview	8
GMTA Auditions	10
MTNA Competitions	11
New Members	11
Local Association Reports	12
Membership	13
Arts Awareness & Advocacy	16
2020 Teacher of the Year	17
GMTA Awards	18
Conference	19
Advertising Index	19
GMTA Calendar	20
GMTA Leadership	21

TEACHER OF THE YEAR HUU MAI



Have you ever wanted to visit another teacher's studio and be a fly on the wall? Learn their secrets, watch them in action with their students? While reading the letters of recommendations from students, parents and colleagues of this year's Teacher of the Year, I wanted to be that fly on the wall. Here are some phrases used to describe him:

Enthusiastic, always positive, teaches us life skills as well as piano lessons, compassionate, role model/mentor, always thinking about how to do things better, energetic and highly skilled in music, yet maintains a remarkable level of humility.

These are words from a student: "He genuinely cared for his students and their personal journeys with piano. Competitions were not the first priority, but rather, he chose to see his students and their needs as well as strengths first and foremost. He reminded me that my playing was a story and a means of communication."

A parent commented: "He takes on students far older than the traditional private music student and teaches adult students with the same care and enthusiasm that he shows toward younger students."



BY JAN ADAMS, NCTM, GMTA PRESIDENT-ELECT

Our 2019 TOTY is Huu Mai. He began his musical journey at the age of seven with piano lessons in Salt Lake City, Utah. In 1993 he moved to Georgia where he began his violin studies. He composed his first musical works at age 13 and dreamed of being a composer and conductor. As a passionate advocate of the musical arts, he has dedicated much of his life's work toward the proliferation and achievement of music education. A passionate believer in passing on the gift of music, his students have been recognized nationally and internationally.

He is a frequent guest lecturer having presented for numerous associations including chapters of the MTNA and the College Music Society National Conference. Mr. Mai's presentations include *Circular Technique*, *The Art of Practice Bach and Math*, *Developing Artistry: Keys to Unlocking Musicality* and *Breathing and Rhythm: The Missing Link to Expression*. In addition to speaking engagements, he is an active adjudicator with the Georgia Music Teachers Association and throughout the southeast.

A believer in the importance of service to the community, Mr. Mai served as president of the Cobb County Music Teachers Association from 2012-2016. In 2009, Mr. Mai co-founded the "Rising Star Concerto Competition" along with Eriko Ishikawa and Robert Trocina.

In 2001, he was a recipient of the Steinway John Innes Grant and received 1st prize in the GMEA Collegiate Piano Competition. He holds a B.M. from Kennesaw State University in Piano Performance, where he studied with David Watkins. He is certified with the Yamaha Music Education System for which he taught from 2004-2008.

He has performed with orchestras as a concerto artist and as a collaborative artist with saxophonist, Thomas Giles and violinist, Sinisa Ciric. He has served as music director of several churches in Atlanta. In 2014, Mr. Mai conducted the Atlanta premier of "Shanti: A Journey of Peace" by Kanniks Kannikeswaran featuring a diverse ensemble including a Hindustani chorus, a western chorus, full orchestra, Hindustani instrumentalists, and traditional Indian dancers. An avid composer, a number of his compositions have been featured in concerts including his song cycle, "Three Songs of Eternity," choral works, "Image" and "You Are Not Forsaken," among many others. His music spans many genres from concert music, Broadway, and contemporary commercial music.

Currently Artist-in-Residence in Piano at the Kennesaw State University School of Music, Mr. Mai's intention is to inspire aspiring musicians to develop into the versatile, proficient, and imaginative artists our ever-evolving world demands.

He is delightfully married to his soul-mate, Marielle, loves to cook haute cuisine, play tennis, explore the outdoors with his wife, and live life!

As we honor and congratulate our 2019 TOTY -Huu Mai - let us follow his advice: "Make yourself the best version of you that you can imagine. Expect the highest from yourself as you should your students. Aim for excellence in all aspects of your lessons. And most importantly, remember to dream a most beautiful dream."

Huu Mai was nominated by Joy Poole. Thanks to our 2019 Nominating Committee which consisted of 2016 Teacher of the Year - Jan Adams; 2017 Teacher of the Year – Susan Andrews, and 2018 Teacher of the Year – Ping-yun Hsu.



Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and some well-deserved down time. By now, we are all back to our busy schedules.

Many of you were able to attend the 2019 GMTA State Conference. GMTA Vice-President, Programs, Dr. Owen Lovell, worked tirelessly in all aspects of planning our conference. We were not disappointed that we attended this year. So many wonderful sessions, recitals and the headliners were fabulous! Congratulations and much appreciation to Dr. Lovell for an outstanding job!

A special thank you to the faculty and staff of the Schwob School of Music at Columbus State University for serving as the conference host this year. GMTA appreciates your continued support over the years. I would also like to thank the Columbus Music Teachers Association for providing hospitality during the conference and serving as our local host.

In October GMTA also hosted the MTNA Competitions. Thank you to Vice-President, Competitions, Ashley Craig-Diaz, for her excellent work in organizing the competitions. Thank you also to the University of West Georgia for serving as the host school and to Jan Adams for her assistance.

GMTA is supported throughout the year by our advertisers and exhibitors. We are grateful that they join with us to support music education across the state. We are so appreciative of Steinway Piano Galleries for their continued support through grants to our members each year. GMTA also would like to thank PianoWorks for their donation of the HM Hydraulic bench to raise funds for the MTNA Foundation and serving as our conference music store. PianoWorks went above and beyond this year by providing our conference bags. Your support does not go unnoticed!

It is encouraging to see how the members of GMTA work together to continue to offer excellent programs for both the teacher and the student. Thanks to each of you who volunteer at the local and state level. I would especially like to thank the Executive Board, the FAC and Mandy Reynolds, Executive Director, for their excellent service to GMTA.

Each member has so much to offer. I encourage each of you to find a place to serve on the local and state level.

Inspiring Musical Achievements

We support music making, teaching and learning through our world-leading assessments, qualification & resources worldwide since 1889.

Our graded exams and diploma program are offered in 93 countries for piano, singing, orchestra and band instruments, & music theory.

We are in partnership with the four Royal Schools of Music in UK.

Margaret Liu, ABRSM Representative, Georgia, USA
(678) 523-6703 abrsmga@gmail.com
www.abrsm.org





What is music to you? Music was my salvation. As a child, I experienced many moments of excruciating suffering. The world as I knew it was sparse of compassion and kindness. Loneliness became my constant companion. When I heard orchestral music for the first time, I was shocked by how joyful it was. “How could music be so joyful in such a world?” I thought. As I grew older and a bit wiser, I realized by my early teenage years that I was not alone in wanting to live in a better world. The deep yearning I felt within myself was also within the great composers. I knew I was not alone. How could others write of such beauty unless they, too, yearned for it? Perhaps, they had even experienced such beauty in their lives.

By the time I entered high school, I was a fully-fledged dreamer. I became an idealistic dreamer who believed all things were founded in love. Music was my salvation. It saved me, for I could express the deepest of pain, soul-shattering outcries of despair, as well as the fire of hope and dreams of what a perfect love might feel like. I loved performing. They became opportunities for me to be free, if just for a few minutes at a time. I would listen to Samuel Barber’s *Adagio for Strings* every morning before school to *feel* and to summon the courage to *really live*.

You see, I believe to the core of my being that music is one of the most powerful forms of living magic. The core of music is sound and silence. And sound is resonance. All things resonate. Even our emotions, our very beings, our intentions. The purest forms of love are resonance. Resonance does not want to be stifled. It does not fear. It knows only *freedom*. The freedom to *be*. And when we listen to the wisdom and love in the *Intermezzo in A Major, op. 118, no. 2*, by Johannes Brahms, if we surrender ourselves and allow our spirits to sympathetically resonate with the emotions of the music, we cannot help but be transformed by it. We become a bit wiser, more thoughtful. Kinder. Is this not magical?

We yearn for freedom. Freedom from fears. Freedom to express. Freedom to be our best selves. Freedom to dream, to believe, to love. This is my dream. And it is beautiful to me. Imagine if we could help another discover this freedom. This is my dream. This is my dream. So when you sit with your precious students, remember the magic of music. Remember this beautiful dream. For if through music you can help one student find a bit of

beauty and of freedom, have you not succeeded in making our world more beautiful?

Aspire, in all aspects of your teaching to be compassionate, to be caring, to be kind, to believe in your students, to aim for the highest beauty that you can imagine, to see the beauty in your students, to help them grow as people and as artists, to give them the greatest opportunities to succeed, to listen and *hear* them, to help them rise up when they are down, to go the extra mile when no one else will, and to be grateful for every precious moment you have with them. Teaching is as much about being transformed by our students as it is about sharing our knowledge and wisdom with them.

One last thing. Make yourself the best version of you that you can imagine. You deserve it, and your students will benefit for it. Expect the highest from yourself as you should your students. Aim for excellence in all aspects of your lessons. And most importantly, remember to dream a most beautiful dream.

Decatur Music Teachers Association

DMTA

Home of the
Jo Evans Scholarship
for High School Students
www.decaturmusicteachers.com

Charles Hutton
President
(404) 862-3415
chpianostudio@bellsouth.net





2019 CONFERENCE

JAN ADAMS, NCTM, PRESIDENT-ELECT

5



The 2019 GMTA Conference at Columbus State University will be remembered as the conference that combined piano and string performances. I heard many compliments of how pleased teachers were that GMTA was branching out to include other instruments besides piano. This approach wouldn't have occurred without the vision of Dr. Owen Lowell, Vice-President, Programs. He planned the 2019 conference with this combination in mind, and members were not disappointed. I think we will long remember the moving performance of cellist, Wendy Warner, and pianist, Henry Kramer.

The concert featuring our 2019 GMTA Pre-College Concerto Winners was inspiring. These two students played with such energy and artistry. We are very grateful to Paul Hostetter and the Columbus Symphony Orchestra for giving these excellent students the opportunity to play with such a high-quality orchestra.

Our pedagogy headliners, Katherine Fisher and Dr. Julie Knerr Hague, intrigued us to leave our comfort zones and try teaching our students some pieces by rote to develop their memory, aural skills and technique.

We are always amazed at the talent exhibited by students in Georgia, and the recitals did not disappoint. The master classes were another combination of String/Piano talent as we used students from both instruments to perform and have lessons with our performance headliners, Wendy Warner and Henry Kramer.



Not only students, but teachers in Georgia participated in the Georgia's Own Sessions with valuable information for us ranging from elementary to college level teaching. We also had two sessions conducted by future teachers featuring the student chapters from Shorter University and Kennesaw State University.



The conference wouldn't be complete without recognizing our 2019 Teacher of the Year – Huu Mai. His touching words in "A Beautiful Dream" brought many teachers to tears. Huu Mai is a very talented teacher as well as role model – filled with compassion and humility. May we all desire to be part of his dream.

If you didn't attend the 2019 GMTA Conference you missed a treat of talent, hard work and camaraderie with colleagues. I hope you mark your calendars to attend the 2020 conference.



PAM ASBERRY, REVIEWER

The biography of 2019 GMTA Conference headliner states “pianist Henry Kramer is a musician of rare sensitivity who combines stylish programming with insightful and exuberant interpretations.” Based on his performance at the GMTA Conference Recital, I heartily concur!

The piano solo portion of the program opened with Chopin’s Polonaise-Fantasia in A flat Major, Opus 61. One of Chopin’s later works (published in 1846), it took nearly a century for this work to gain favor with pianists or audiences. But in Kramer’s hands, Chopin’s unique marriage of nocturne-like dreaminess with polonaise rhythm and complex harmonic progressions flowed seamlessly.

Next, Kramer played Chopin’s Mazurkas, Opus 50. These struck me as perfect miniatures: individual dramatic tales, spun from artfully woven motives and phrases, musical dialogue, and rising and falling moods and expressions. In his interpretations of these pieces, Kramer proved himself a master storyteller; I found myself listening with rapt attention to every note, wondering where the music would take me next.

Following the Mazurkas, Kramer performed Chopin’s Ballade No. 4 in F minor, Opus 52. This twelve-minute piece runs the gamut of musical expression and as Kramer followed its meandering stream of consciousness, he made the most of every breathtaking moment: from the opening that seemed to come out of nowhere, to the building from simplicity to increasing complexity, to the addition of contrapuntal voices, and his effortless execution of ornamental embellishments.

Finally, Kramer was joined by cellist Wendy Warner in a performance of Chopin’s Cello Sonata in G minor, Opus 65, one of only nine works published during Chopin’s lifetime written for instruments in addition to the piano. Composed for and dedicated to Auguste Franchomme, a renowned cellist and close friend of Chopin’s, the last three movements were first performed in public by Franchomme and Chopin at the composer’s last public concert. Although the work was considered to be “un-Chopin-like” and even poorly written by critics throughout the nineteenth century, this work was in fact ahead of its time. In this masterful performance, the Sonata in G minor was utterly captivating, astonishing both in its sheer beauty and in the obvious rapport between the two artists.

The standing ovation that followed was well deserved. The 2019 GMTA Conference Recital was positively riveting from start to finish!



**BRENAU
UNIVERSITY**

Ben Leaptrott
bleaptrott@brenau.edu
678.613.8723

COLLABORATIVE PIANO



Steinway Piano Galleries Music Educator Grant Recipients

Elena Dorozhkina

Ting Ting Goh, NCTM

GMTA Music Educator Grant Recipients

Karen Zgonc

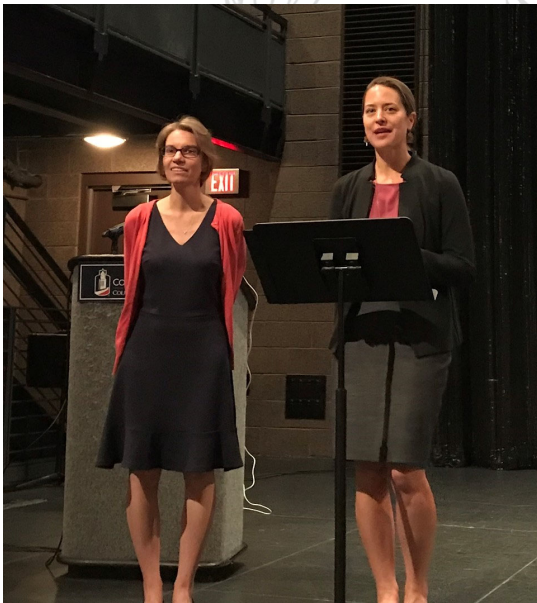
Jan Adams, NCTM

Portia Hawkins, NCTM

Monique Arar, NCTM

PEDAGOGY HEADLINERS: DR. JULIE KNERR HAGUE & KATHERINE FISHER

BY: CATHY THACKER, NCTM



Our 2019 Conference Pedagogy Headliners were Dr. Julie Knerr and Katherine Fisher. Hague and Fisher are the authors of the *Piano Safari* method and technique books. Their paths converged when they were pursuing graduate degrees at the University of Oklahoma, where both studied with the renowned Jane Magrath. Hague and Fisher presented three sessions at the conference: Rote Teaching: A New Paradigm, Excellence from the Start: Foundations of Piano Technique, and Piano Safari: The Journey Begins.

The first program emphasized how to engage young learners by utilizing rote teaching. The videotaped students were very enthusiastic when they were able to play alongside the teacher in lessons

and recitals. Hague and Fisher were not discounting the importance of note reading, but challenging us to think differently. We teachers want to inspire our students to learn; including teaching by rote will help us reach that goal.

Their second program emphasized the importance of developing technique from the very beginning. They spoke of using large muscles before small ones (forearm before fingers), and reminded us that developing good hand position takes time.

The last workshop was an overview of the *Piano Safari* books, including performances of recent releases of Christmas music.

All told, Hague and Fisher were informative and entertaining!



When did you first start composing?

- I composed my first piece, for solo piano, at age 8.

Which composers or groups influenced your musical style and tastes?

- Like most pianist-composers, my early compositions were influenced by the piano music I was studying. So, my early music sounded a lot like really bad Chopin and Rachmaninoff! Not long after it was published, my piano teacher, Bill Knight, gave me a copy of Lowell Liebermann's Gargoyles and I spent 18 hours one Saturday learning it. I couldn't stop playing it!

• In the nineties, it was still vogue in universities to focus on serialism, especially twelve-tone music, so much of my student work reflects that influence. Not so much Schoenberg, Webern and Berg, but lots of Boulez, Babbitt and Dallapiccola - even Berio and Nono. My first real composition teacher, Dr. Peter DeWitt, introduced me to other compositional aesthetics, like those of Krzysztof Penderecki, Peter Mennin and Kaija Saariaho. This led to a lifelong obsession with modern music (really modern, as in.....brand new): Esa Pekka Salonen, John Adams, Thomas Ades, Jennifer Higdon...the list goes on and on. Pete and I continue to share new composers with each other. These composers, and many others, continue to inspire and influence me.

Do you play instruments other than the piano?

- Yes, but only in private! I was an all-state trumpeter in high school, and I enjoy playing Latin percussion with my children, but there are only so many hours in the day!



What is your creative style when you compose?

- It really depends on the piece. If there is a text involved, I always spend a great deal of time with the words. Inevitably, there is a period of improvisation at the piano, at least until the piece begins to tell me what to do. Once that happens, I might continue to compose at the piano or I might work sitting at my dining room table.

Do you write using pencil and paper or notation software?

- Again, it depends on the piece and the forces for which I'm writing. I prefer to compose with pencil and paper. The "copy and paste" function in notation software is very tempting and writing every note by hand gives me the opportunity to question and challenge myself with every measure. Of course, the time eventually comes when the piece has to be entered into the computer, but I try to discipline myself to finish composing (at least the first draft) before I open up Finale.

What was your inspiration for composing "Getting Away With It"? What does the title signify?

- When I was in college I loved to listen to the great jazz pianist Paul Mitchell at Dante's Down the Hatch at Underground Atlanta. He would begin each evening playing by himself but as the night went on other musicians from around the city would join him. By 2:00am there could be 10 or 12 musicians jamming together. "Getting Away With It" begins with a piano solo that is later joined by the rhythm section and then by a trombone solo. A tenor sax enters next, followed by a muted trumpet solo. Eventually, the entire band arrives for what I hope sounds like a party. The title was inspired by a question asked of me by Johanna Mahmud, the Musical Director of the Carrollton Jazz Orchestra. After listening to an early version of the piece he asked "If this were part of a movie soundtrack, what would be happening on the screen while this music played?" The scene that came to mind inspired the title.

Do you compose in styles other than jazz?

- Actually, this was my first jazz composition. I took this commission as an opportunity to learn a new language. I love that you asked me that!

What challenges have you faced as a composer?

- I think the act of composing is itself a challenge. It is difficult - with the constant distractions of text messages and social media - to find the time and the quiet to develop musical thoughts. For me, it is important to block out time for improvisation and composition each day, the same way I block out time for piano practice.

What advice would you give to young people who aspire to compose?

- Through the educational outreach programs of the Carroll Symphony Orchestra, I am privileged to work with hundreds of young musicians, many of whom are aspiring composers. I try to give to them the gift that my wonderful teachers gave to me, starting with my father, who was also a concert pianist. Bill Knight, Peter DeWitt, Janet Robinson, and my first elementary school music teacher, Cathy Horne, all instilled in me a fanatic love for music, and the belief that the music inside me deserved to be heard.
- 1) Spend time improvising and composing every day - even if for only a few minutes. 2) Try to put your ideas on paper; you can "fix" and develop them later. 3) Believe that what you have to say deserves to be heard, and 4) don't compare your compositions to those of other composers. If you compare yourself to Bach, you won't come out very well! Write YOUR music. If it is meaningful and beautiful to you, chances are it will be meaningful and beautiful to someone else, too.

Now that you've delivered your commissioned composition to GMTA, what's next?

- 2020 is a Beethoven year, so like most musicians, his music will occupy a lot of my time over the next 13 months or so. I am about to record the *Hammerklavier* and will tour with it throughout the US, and will play it in Vienna in December. I'm also revising a Broadway-style musical about the life of Martin Luther King, Jr, called "Montgomery" that I co-wrote in 2016 with playwright Dennis Blackmon and the talented director Regina Wells. I am also developing the libretto for my first opera, which is very exciting to me.
- In addition to my ongoing work as Conductor of the Carroll Symphony Orchestra and its affiliate ensembles, I am overseeing the release of v2.0 of Musical Overture, which we are building into the world's first global directory of musicians. The new software will have many new features like zero-lag video conferencing and recording so musicians can rehearse and record together in real time, up to 600 miles apart.



*Rent our spacious Recital Hall
and Studio Rooms in Johns Creek
for your next event*

*Recital Hall*

- 80-Seat Recital Hall
- Two 7-Foot Kawai Grand Pianos
- High 18-Foot Ceiling
- Sound-Proofed Walls
- Dimmable Lighting
- Green Room with Direct Stage Access
- Spacious Parking Lot
- Seated Lobby
- Yamaha Grand Pianos & Uprights in Studio Rooms

Contact Us and Reserve Now! (678) 957-1100 www.cambridge-music.com



Here are the 2020 dates and sites for Regional and State Auditions. Thank you to all of my wonderful State Chairs and Regional Coordinators, who work so hard to make Auditions run smoothly! We still need a few people to complete the positions available. Please contact me at Yien Wang auditions.georgiamta@gmail.com if you wish to help.

DATE	WHAT
February 24, 2020	Registration Deadline for GMTA Regional Auditions and Deadline for Regional Coordinators to submit Judge information to VP of Auditions
March 14, 2020	GMTA Regional Auditions
March 15, 2020	Postmark Deadline for completed GMTA Theory Tests to be mailed to Diane Boyd
March 16, 2020	Registration Deadline for GMTA State Auditions
March 27 to 28, 2020	GMTA State Auditions, Columbus State University

State Audition Chairs:

- Grades 4-5 Ping-Yun Hsu
- Grades 6-7 Robin Engleman, NCTM
- Grades 8-9 Anne Sun
- Grades 10-11 Diane Boyd, NCTM
- Grade 12/Concerto Yien Wang
- College/Adult Dr. Elena Cholakova
- Instrumental: Strings & Concerto TBA
- WW, Brass, Guitar TBA
- Voice Dr. Pat Callaway, NCTM

Regional Coordinators:

- Region I – Gwinnett, North DeKalb, Northeast Georgia
Ping Xu – Piedmont College | Demorest, GA
- Region II – Athens, Augusta, Golden Isles, Savannah
Colette Keogh – Augusta University | Augusta, GA
- Region III – Columbus, Coweta-Fayette, Macon, South Georgia, South Metro Atlanta
Yien Wang – Rainey-McCullers School of The Arts| Columbus, GA
- Region IV – Decatur, North Fulton, Atlanta
Anne Sun – Agnes Scott College | Decatur, GA
- Region V – Cherokee, Cobb, Greater Marietta, Rome, West Georgia
Jan Adams – University of West Georgia | Carrollton, GA



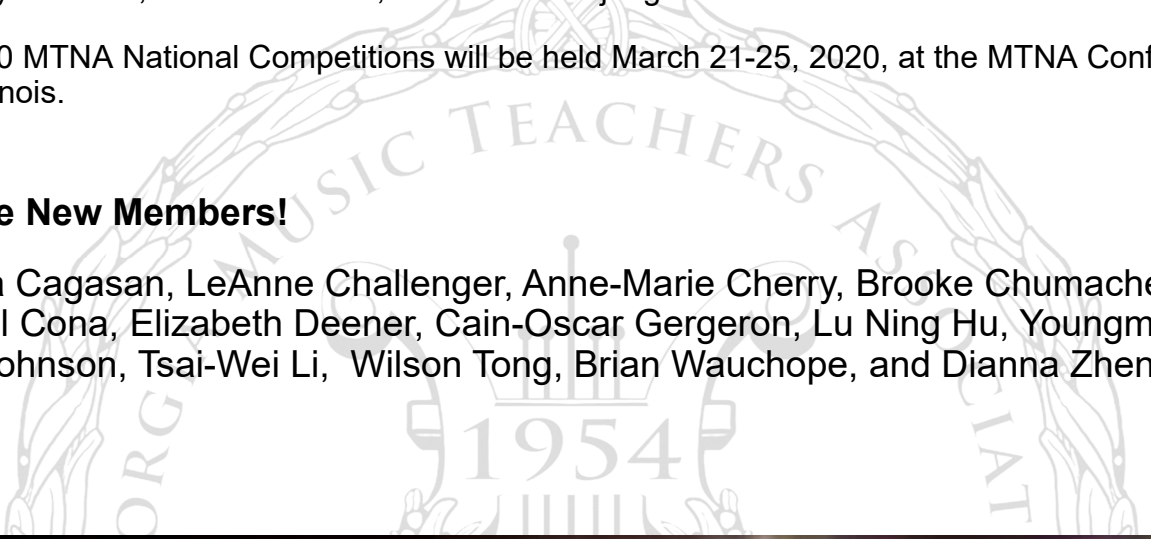
The 2019-20 MTNA State Performance Competitions were held in October at the University of West Georgia in Carrollton, Georgia, under the supervision of Ashley Craig-Diaz, NCTM, VP of MTNA Competitions. State Coordinators were Rebekah Healan, Joy Poole, and Jan Adams.

There were 76 total entrants participating; GMTA will be represented by 15 state winners at the Southern Division Competitions. The 2019-20 MTNA Southern Division Competitions will be held through an online video-only round. There were two Composition winners for Georgia: Annalise Murphy, student of Mary Williams, and Brian Shon, student of Soojung Jeon.

The 2019-20 MTNA National Competitions will be held March 21-25, 2020, at the MTNA Conference in Chicago, Illinois.

Welcome New Members!

Annalysa Cagasan, LeAnne Challenger, Anne-Marie Cherry, Brooke Chumachenko, Campbell Cona, Elizabeth Deener, Cain-Oscar Gergeron, Lu Ning Hu, Youngmi Kim, Sidney Johnson, Tsai-Wei Li, Wilson Tong, Brian Wauchope, and Dianna Zheng.



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

PIANO Faculty

- Robert Henry** *Coordinator, Piano Studies*
- Julie Coucheron
- Huu Mai
- John Marsh
- Judy Cole, *Collaborative Piano*
- Erika Tazawa, *Collaborative Piano*

Degrees:

- Bachelor of Arts in Music
- Bachelor of Music in Performance
- Bachelor of Music in Music Education

musicKSU.com



Coweta Fayette MTA has had a strong start this year; membership is up with three new members.

In September, we had a book swap and discussed advanced repertoire ideas. We are always looking for something new!

In October, George Mann returned to discuss the nuances of the Romantic Period. It was illuminating! George is our favorite presenter!

In November, we had our annual fundraiser, the CFMTA Fall Festival. With 68 students participating, and veteran and prospective members serving as judges, it was a great success all around with several notable performances.

In December, we enjoyed our annual Christmas Luncheon. We reflected on our successes and looked at ways in which we can improve.

From everyone at CFMTA, we hope that you had a great Thanksgiving and a wonderful and Merry Christmas! It truly has been the most wonderful time of the year. Happy New Year!

Submitted by Eric Clay, President of Coweta Fayette MTA



Augusta MTA happily welcomed 5 new members to our local association! We thankfully didn't lose any members either! We had our Kickoff luncheon in early September at a local Italian restaurant where new members were welcomed, yearbooks were handed out, and important dates were mentioned. It was a nice time of fellowship.

We had our first meeting in October. Bek Wall spoke to us about The House Method, which is a point-based system that promotes long term motivation and helps students progress and reach goals.

On November 2nd, we had a Community Outreach Recital at a local nursing home. We had about 15 students participate. A teacher also played 3 patriotic songs for all of us to sing. It was a nice time.

For our November meeting, Portia Hawkins presented "The Many Challenges of Teaching Private Piano Lessons." This meeting was well attended, and I saw some new faces.

Our association is offering the GATE test on December 7th and again on February 22nd.

On December 14th, we had another community outreach recital at a different local nursing home. The students played Christmas music for the residents. We all enjoyed that.

Our local music store, Turner's Keyboards, is hosting the second annual Steinway Jr. competition on April 26th. Registration opens on January 15th.

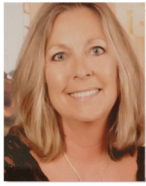
We will be having a Winter Workshop and Masterclass on February 8th. Fred Karpoff will be presenting.

We will have our 3rd community outreach recital on February 29th at a local nursing home.

On March 7th we will have our annual piano festival held at Augusta University. This event is our major fundraiser of the year.

Our spring end-of-the-year luncheon will be on May 18th.

Submitted by Amy Phillips, President of Augusta MTA



Ok. This time each year, we usually talk about the fact that membership is half price for the second half of the year, that there is still time to get students into adjudications, festivals, auditions, theory testing, etc., and that's a great reason for non-members to join GMTA/MTNA. But, non-members don't usually read the GMTA newsletters, do they? And they won't know about this if you don't tell them! 'Nuff said!

This time, I'm going to share great reasons for YOU, the member, to continue and renew your membership. One thing that I dearly love about membership, and that a lot of people don't know about are the programs and certificates offered by MTNA. All these are found by clicking on the links when on the MTNA website. You will have to log in as a member. Then go to "Join + Renew", then "Members Only," then "Music for Everyone." I've copied the site below for your convenience.

Everything, and I mean everything, is included in these programs on the MTNA website EXCEPT your certificate paper! Get some nice, thick certificate paper as these will be keepsakes and endow a sense of pride and accomplishment with each one earned. (And, of course, if you do the Studio Festival Program, you will need a judge!) I've included the certificates in miniature so you can see how nice these are, and would be for your students. NO ONE ELSE outside of being an MTNA can offer these to your students. So, since you ARE a member, and you're going to REMAIN a member, give your students the benefit of these programs.

Music For Everyone

Music Achievement Award Program

The purpose of MTNA's Music Achievement Award Program is to help encourage ALL the students in the teacher's studio, especially the "everyday" students, to continue their music study and to strive to achieve goals that will not only help them become better musicians, but also will enhance their love and appreciation of music.

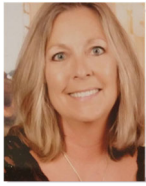
The teacher sets goals that are both realistic and attainable for each individual student according to the student's needs, ability and motivational level.

The student achieves the goals over a specified period of time.

Included in the free implementation packet are:

- Program Description
 - Program Implementation Suggestions
 - Achievement Goals Suggestions
 - Goals List Suggestions
 - Artwork/templates for optional awards (see link at upper right).
 - Suggested Press Release and Directions
- Suggested Notice to Parent(s)/Guardian(s) with Tear-off Return Form

[Download your free implementation packet.](#) [Music Achievement Program Certificate Template](#) This "fillable" PDF file allows teachers to download and complete a certificate on their computer, should they choose.



Music Study Award Program

The MTNA Music Study Award motivates students by acknowledging their commitment to music lessons. As students progress through music lessons, this program offers certificates celebrating their accomplishments. These awards recognize years of music study.

As students progress through music lessons, the MTNA Music Study Award program offers elegant certificates celebrating their accomplishments.

The certificates are convenient and effective motivational tools for your entire studio. These awards recognize years of music study. These certificates also will serve for years to come as mementos of cherished musical experiences.

Certificates are available for download.

Studio Festival Program

The MTNA Studio Festival Program will allow students to soar musically in a nationally sponsored event, held in your own studio. This program is another way to showcase your students' musical talents in an exciting and meaningful performance opportunity. In addition to enjoying a stimulating performance experience, your students will receive a supportive critique from an experienced musician.

Let Your Students Soar

Statement of Purpose

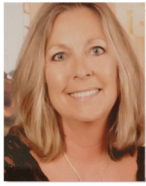
The purpose of the MTNA Studio Festival Program is six-fold:

- To provide the teacher and the teacher's students with an opportunity to participate in a nationally sponsored program that is open to students of all ages and level of advancement, and that is implemented by the teacher's own studio.
- To provide a performance opportunity that is simple, convenient and at little or no cost to the individual teacher and at reasonable cost to the student.
- To provide an incentive for practice as well as an incentive for selection of appropriately challenging repertory.
- To provide an opportunity for students to receive supportive critique from a musician in addition to the student's teacher, but from a musician of the teacher's own choosing.
- To provide national recognition to individual students, teachers and judges for participation in a non-competitive event.
- To provide a performance opportunity for students in geographical areas where performance opportunities are not readily available.

The innovative nationally sponsored Studio Festival Program will allow your students to soar musically in an event held in your own studio.

The Studio Festival Program is ideal for any studio because there are no set rules or regulations. Tailor the event to meet your needs.

In addition to enjoying a stimulating performance experience, your students will receive a supportive critique from an experienced musician, chosen by you, and an official certificate recognizing their participation.



MEMBERSHIP

DONNA DASHER, NCTM, VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBERSHIP

Open to students of all ages and levels, the Studio Festival offers a noncompetitive atmosphere to inspire your students in their musical abilities.

Getting started is easy. MTNA provides all the materials free, including

- Organizational Checklist/Timeline
- Budget Worksheet
- Judge's Guideline Sheet
- Judge's Comment Sheet (copies to be duplicated by the teacher as needed)
- Sample Letter to Parents (copies to be duplicated by teacher as needed)
- Festival Performance Schedule (to be completed by the teacher)
- Artwork/templates for optional awards (see upper right)

Press release and information about publicizing your studio festival

Download your free starter kit. [Studio Festival Certificate Templates](#)

This "fillable" PDF file allows teachers to download and complete certificates on their computer, should they choose.



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.

Musically inclined students can choose from programs of study in Music, Music Education and Musical Theatre.

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





ARTS AWARENESS & ADVOCACY

DEBRA HUGHES, NCTM, ARTS AWARENESS & ADVOCACY CHAIR

16

What can you do today?

(Did you know that GMTA members are already registered members of ArtsGeorgia?)

FREE things you can do to promote and advocate for music:

1. Subscribe to ArtsGeorgia newsletter.

Subscribe to 'State of the Arts' by emailing your request to artsga@artsgeorgia.net. Include your name, organization and street address, and you will receive a reply confirming receipt of your request. 'State of the Arts' is a quarterly publication which includes articles of interest to artists, arts educators, arts administrators, patrons, advocates and those interested in Georgia arts. 'State of the Arts' covers what is new in Georgia and includes stories where we find success with initiatives, programs and people in the arts.

2. Join the AFTA Arts Auction Fund.

Join to advance the arts and arts education in your community and across the country. The Americans for the Arts' Arts Action Fund annual membership is free, and your online benefits include:

- Membership to vote on the legislative policy platforms
- Breaking news and legislative alerts from the e-advocacy center
- Quarterly updates through Arts Action e News
- Exclusive access to the members' only Arts Action Fund PAC

Be part of the movement to guarantee healthy arts funding and arts education in America. Join the Arts Action Fund at <https://www.artsactionfund.org/>

GEORGIA'S OWN—It's NOT a secret!

If you desire to have quality programming for your local chapter meetings, consider using Georgia's Own. It is a registry of many individuals who have made themselves available to serve as presenters for GMTA chapter meetings. These GMTA members have a large diversity of topics, and you can find them on the GMTA website at this link: <https://georgiamta.org/georgias-own.php> You contact the presenters directly and discuss how they can enhance your meeting with their program.

If you are a member of GMTA and wish to offer your services as a presenter to our local chapters,



NORTH FULTON MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

www.NFMTA.com

President
Arlene Martinides
amartinides@gmail.com

2nd VP Membership
Jean Schmidt
schmidtpianostudio@gmail.com

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' success)
- Accomplishments/contributions to MTNA
- Participation in Local, State, and/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 7, 2020.

The winner will be acknowledged at the 2020 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-of-the-year.php>



**CERTIFICATION REPORT FROM
RENEE HOLLIMAN, NCTM, CERTIFICATION CHAIR:**

I was brainstorming of what I would say at the GMTA Banquet when congratulating those teachers who had received their MTNA National Certification in 2019. There are so many occupations that require ongoing training and being certified. When I start researching, I was surprised as to just how many: teachers, nurses, doctors and most occupations in the medical field, cosmetologists, therapists, notary publics, and lawyers, just to name quite a few. I'm grateful to have done my MTNA Certification many years ago—it requires me to keep learning and growing in my teaching profession by attending conferences, conventions and workshops, plus volunteering and chairing different events. Please consider applying to start the process of becoming Nationally Certified, and you will see how many more doors and opportunities of growth and enrichment it will open for you!

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.

Get a free Boston grand piano pattern!



www.steinwaypianogalleries.com

Steinway Piano Galleries
5950 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30022
(770) 777-1300



Department of Music



School of the Arts

A Kawai EPIC Institution

- Offering the BM and MM degrees in Performance and Music Education, and the BM in Composition
- Optional Performance Emphases in Piano Pedagogy and Jazz Studies
- Initial Certification program

West Georgia students study and perform on grand pianos by Steinway, Bösendorfer, and Shigeru Kawai, and on the Reuter organ.



(678) 839-6516
music@westga.edu
westga.edu/music

Auditions

Destination: Music
Monday, February 17, 2019

Piano auditions arranged by appointment. Contact: Dr. Carol Gingerich
cginger@westga.edu
678-839-6273

Saturday, March 4, 2019

Saturday, April 4, 2019

Text **MUSIC** to 678-586-0794



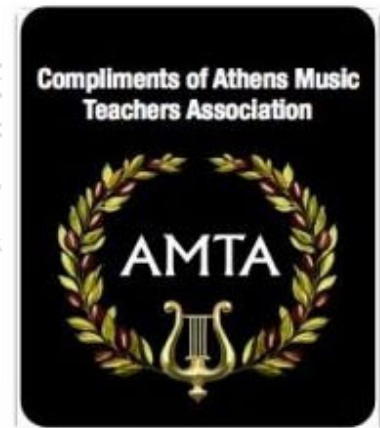
Music
College of Arts and Humanities

An Accredited Institutional Member of the National Association of Schools of Music

Presenter Proposals for the 2020 GMTA Conference are now being accepted. Please submit the online form by April 1, 2020, to be considered for the 2020 GMTA Conference. The venue is TBD, and the Conference will be held on Thursday through Saturday, November 5-7.

Questions? Contact the GMTA Conference Committee at programs.georgiamta@gmail.com.

To submit a proposal, click here: <https://georgiamta.org/conference-proposal.php>



Advertisement Index

ABRSM: page 3	SMAMTA: page 4
Athens MTA: page 19	Steinway Piano Galleries: page 18
Atlanta MTA: page 20	University of West Georgia: page 18
Brenau University: page 6	Young Harris College: page 15
Cambridge Academy: page 16	
Decatur MTA: page 4	
Greater Marietta MTA: page 23	
Gwinnett County MTA: page 23	
Kennesaw State University: page 11	
Middle Tennessee State University: page 22	
North DeKalb MTA: page 19	
North Fulton MTA: page 16	

Complete Calendar can be found at <https://georgiamta.org/calendar.php>

January 2020

Go to <https://georgiamta.org/documents/625/2019-2020%20Registration%20Dates2.pdf> for Deadlines for Local Auditions, GATE and GMTA Theory Testing.

February 2020

- 24 Deadline for GMTA Regional Auditions Registrations
- 24 Deadline for Regional Coordinators to submit Judge information to VP of Auditions

March 2020

- 14 GMTA Regional Auditions
- 15 Deadline for completed GMTA Theory Tests to be mailed to Diane Boyd
- 16 Registration Deadline for GMTA State Auditions
- 21-25 MTNA Conference, Chicago, Illinois
- 27-28 GMTA State Auditions, Columbus State University
- 28 GMTA Council of Local Association Presidents' Meeting and GMTA Executive Board Meeting, Columbus State University

May 2020

- 1 Deadline for articles to be included in the GMTA Summer Newsletter
Email articles to VP of Newsletters, Cathy Thacker, NCTM
(newsletters.georgiamta@gmail.com)



Since 1952

Atlanta

Music Teachers Association
www.atlmta.org

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

See Website for
2018 RIPC Info

Executive Board:

President: Joy Poole president.georgiamta@gmail.com

President-Elect: Jan Adams, NCTM presidentelect.georgiamta@gmail.com

Conference Committee: programs.georgiamta@gmail.com

Vice President of Membership: Donna Dasher, NCTM membership.georgiamta@gmail.com

Vice President of Newsletters: Cathy Thacker, NCTM newsletters.georgiamta@gmail.com

Vice President of GMTA Auditions: Yien Wang auditions.georgiamta@gmail.com

Vice President of MTNA Competitions: Ashley-Craig Diaz, NCTM Mtnacompetitions.georgiamta@gmail.com

Secretary: Mary Ann McTier Secretary.georgiamta@gmail.com

Member-at-Large: Robert Henry robert@roberthenry.org

Member-at-Large: Michiko Otaki MichikoOtaki@clayton.edu

Immediate Past President: Rebekah Healan Boles rebekahhealan@yahoo.com

Executive Director: Mandy Reynolds georgiamta@gmail.com

Committee Chairs:

Chair-Arts Awareness & Advocacy: Debra Hughes, NCTM bndhughes@comcast.net

Chair-Certification: Renee Holliman hollidolli@comcast.net

Chair-Collaborative Performance: Shu-Ling Chen, shulchen@yahoo.com

Chair-College Faculty: Dr. Tracy Xian tracyxian9@gmail.com

Chair-Collegiate Chapters: Amy Neal amynpiano@gmail.com

Chair-Commissioning: Dr. Jeri-Mae Astolfi, NCTM Commissioning.georgiamta@gmail.com

Chair-Finance/Advisory: Rebekah Healan Boles FAC.georgiamta@gmail.com

Chair-GMTA Awards: Leigh Anne Bleichner leighanne.bleichner@gmail.com

Chair-Independent Music Teachers Forum: Robin Engleman englemanr@bellsouth.net

Chair-MTNA Foundation: Jordan Sommer jordanbsommer@gmail.com

Chair-Piano Judges List: Susan Andrews, NCTM pianosusan@comcast.net

Chair-Theory: Jason Bennett BennettMusicStudio@gmail.com

Chair-Wellness: Julie Harbin, NCTM julieharbin@gmail.com

Local Association Presidents:

Athens: Nancy Robertson nlpiano@bellsouth.net
 Atlanta: Elena Dorozhkina elena.dorozhkina@gmail.com
 Augusta: Amy Phillips amyvthomas79@gmail.com
 Cherokee: Mason Conklin nmc@reinhardt.edu
 Cobb County: Leigh Anne Bleichner leighanne.bleichner@gmail.com
 Columbus: Yien Wang wang_yien@columbusstate.edu
 Coweta-Fayette: Eric Clay ericcranstonclay@gmail.com
 Decatur: Charles Hutton chpianostudio@bellsouth.net
 Golden Isles: Donna Nilsson nilsson.music@att.net
 Greater Marietta: Judith Speigel yourpianostudio@me.com
 Gwinnett County: Pam Asberry pam.asberry@gmail.com
 Macon: Owen Lovell owen.lovell@gcsu.edu
 North DeKalb: Julie Vu julievannvu@gmail.com
 North Fulton: Arlene Martinides amartinides@gmail.com
 Northeast Georgia: Diana Peoples dp3peo@gmail.com
 Rome: Kathryn Nobles rknobles@bellsouth.net
 Savannah: Diane Boyd dianelboyd@comcast.net
 South Georgia: Kendra Gannaway, NCTM kendrag555@gmail.com
 South Metro Atlanta: Michiko Otaki michikootaki@clayton.edu
 Western Georgia: Jan Adams jadams9800@bellsouth.net



Focused on the future!



BACHELORS AND MASTERS OF MUSIC DEGREE

AUDITION DATES 2020: Friday, February 7; Saturday, February 22; Saturday, February 29
 Competitive out-of-state scholarships

I AM *true*
BLUE

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF MUSIC
MTSU Box 47
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
615-898-2469
mtsumusic.com

Middle Tennessee State University is an AA/EEO employer.

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.

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.

Advertising

Limited advertising space is available for firms or individuals who have a product or service of specific interest or benefit to GMTA members. All correspondence regarding advertising should be sent to the Executive Director, Mandy Reynolds, by email at georgiamta@gmail.com.

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)

Editors

Cathy Thacker, NCTM, VP of Newsletters newsletters.georgiamta@gmail.com

Proofreaders

Rebekah Healan, Immediate Past President
Mandy Reynolds, GMTA Executive Director



*Where teachers come together
to encourage and build*

President: Pam Asberry
404-434-8004
Membership: Debra Hughes
770-978-9680
gcmta.org



Dr. Judith S. Siegel, NCTM, President
770-710-8537
yourpianostudio@me.com
www.yourpianostudio.net

Lou Lyon, NCTM, Membership
770-993-5504
loulyon128@gmail.com

For more information, visit
www.gmmta.us

**Greater Marietta
Music Teachers**