



GEORGIA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2022

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

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2022 GMTA STATE CONFERENCE



**Wynn-Anne Rossi,
Pedagogy Headliner**



**Paul Barnes,
Conference Recitalist**



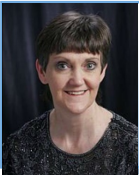
**Brandon K. Smith,
Commissioned
Composer**

November 3-5 at Kennesaw State University



See pages 4 and 5 for more Conference details.

Conference registration opens in August.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

JAN ADAMS, NCTM, GMTA PRESIDENT

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We had another Covid outbreak in January which led to many continuing to hold Local Association events virtually. The Executive Board voted to bypass the GATE Theory Test until conditions were more favorable for testing. Even with the January scare, many Local Associations held their Local Auditions in person.

The State Auditions were held April 22-23, 2022 at Piedmont University. Thank you to Jeri-Mae Astolfi for offering this beautiful campus for our Auditions. Huu Mai, VP of Auditions, and his team of Regional and State Coordinators worked tirelessly to make this a successful event for our teachers and students. We had an awesome number as we returned to in person Auditions.

In March, I attended Division and State meetings for the MTNA Conference. I was disappointed that another conference had to be cancelled due to Covid. The 2023 MTNA conference will be held in Reno, Nevada. The dates are March 25-29, 2023. Hopefully, it will be in person.

I want to extend a thank you to all of our members who voted in the election for Southern Division Director. Our very own Joy Poole is now the Director-Elect for MTNA Southern Division! Thanks to all who voted in support of Joy, who will be an exceptional Director. Congratulations!

Our 2022-23 MTNA Competitions will be held in person at Columbus State University on October 21 and 22. Applications will be available on the MTNA website in August. The deadline to apply is Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at 3:00 PM.

Our 2022 Conference dates are November 3-5. Kristi Helfen, VP of Programs, is planning another great conference with Wynn-Anne Rossi as the Pedagogy Headliner and Paul Barnes as the Conference Recitalist. Mark your calendars now because you don't want to miss the conference!

Finally, I am extremely grateful to all members of the Executive Board, chairs and Mandy Reynolds, our Executive Director, for their willingness to give their time to make GMTA the great organization it is. You are always willing to answer my questions, serve on committees and give me support. It is an honor to work with all of you.

**BRENAU
UNIVERSITY**

Ben Leaptrott
bleaptrott@brenau.edu
678.613.8723

COLLABORATIVE PIANO





FROM THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

CATHY THACKER, NCTM, GMTA PRESIDENT-ELECT

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The local associations are thriving! Kudos to all for figuring out how to handle meetings and events this past year. Many associations returned to in-person activity, and a few significantly grew their membership roster.

Our Local Association Presidents' meeting via Zoom on April 30 was an encouragement to all attendees, with eleven out of twenty local associations represented. Other association presidents who couldn't attend sent in their reports. We discovered a common theme of wonderful programs, and we were reminded to use the resource of "Georgia's Own," a list of GMTA members willing to present programs or workshops. See [page 13](#) for more information.

Another common theme among our local associations was a variety of performance opportunities for our students. Music is alive and well in the State of Georgia!

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

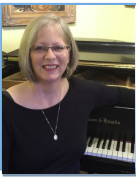


PIANO FACULTY:

Dr. David Murray, Piano Area Head
Dr. Karla Rocker, Coordinator of Collaborative Piano
Dr. Pierce Dickens
Mr. Jonathan Murphy
Dr. Tom Pearsall
Dr. Benjamin Warsaw

GeorgiaSouthern.edu/Music





2022 GMTA STATE CONFERENCE

KRISTI HELFEN, NCTM, GMTA VP OF PROGRAMS

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Make plans now to join us for the Georgia Music Teachers Association State Conference, **November 3-5, 2022**. This fall we will be in historic Kennesaw, Georgia at **Kennesaw State University**. We have some wonderful guests coming to serve as our Pedagogy Headliner, Conference Recitalist, and Commissioned Composer, and I am very excited to tell you about them.

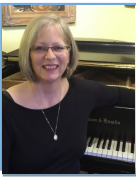


Composer, Pianist, and Educator **Wynn-Anne Rossi** is our **Pedagogy Headliner**. Rossi has a vibrant educational outreach to audiences across the US and around the world. With over 150 publications, her focus has been mostly on compositions for piano, but she has also written vocal works, chamber music, and pieces for concert band and orchestra. As a presenter, she's known for her innovative lectures and workshops on a wide variety of subjects. Many of her compositions have been included in the National Federation of Music Club's Festival Bulletins. Her two most popular series are *Musica Latina* and *Jazzin' Americana*.

Our **Conference Recitalist** is pianist **Paul Barnes**, Professor of Music at the University of Nebraska. Barnes has served as Conference Artist at several MTNA State Conventions and has been named Teacher of the Year by the Nebraska MTA. He has also been featured seven times on APR's Performance Today and on the cover of *Clavier Magazine*. *New York Times* says his playing displays a "Lisztian thunder with deft fluidity" and *Grammophone Magazine* describes him as "a shining soloist". He has collaborated with Phillip Glass on many projects, but has agreed to perform a wide variety of composers on his recital for us. A special thanks to Cathy Thacker on her recommendation of Mr. Barnes!



This year's **Commissioned Composer** is **Brandon K. Smith**, currently studying for his master's degree at Georgia State University. Brandon has had the honor of having several of his pieces, including vocal and instrumental works, selected for performance at GSU. One of his art songs was chosen for the 2019 Midwest Music Symposium, and in 2020 he won first place in the music composition category of GSU's Undergraduate Conference. Another of his pieces titled "Starry Night" was featured on NPR's *City Lights*. Brandon is an avid performer and teacher. In 2019 he founded *Leading Tone*, GSU's first chamber choir, and serves as its artistic director and primary vocal arranger. At present he is producing a virtual choir album for the group.



Conference Hotel

Hampton Inn by Hilton in Kennesaw



\$109 per night (plus taxes)

Reservation required no later than October 21, 2022

Phone: 770-427-2002

Booking already available with [this link](#)

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I am happy to report that the GMTA membership numbers are holding steady, with a slight upward trend. Through your collective efforts of advocating for our organization, we welcomed 64 new members in 2021-2022 and currently have 580 members. As many of you know, this is membership renewal season, so I strongly encourage you to renew your membership at your earliest convenience. This can be easily done by [signing into your MTNA account](#) and clicking the button “Renew MTNA Membership.”

GMTA has been featuring our members in a weekly podcast, available by searching in your podcast app for “**Georgia Music Teachers Association Podcast.**” There have been 34 episodes so far, and each contains fascinating information regarding the background of our teachers, highlights of their careers, and invaluable advice for young teachers and musicians. If you have not subscribed and listened to any of these interviews, I encourage you to give it a listen! I hope you will be inspired by our wonderful colleagues, their incredible passion and advocacy for music, and their students. Each week, [video teasers of these interviews from YouTube](#) are posted on our GMTA Facebook page that direct you to the full episode. Our listeners hail from all regions of the US and from a total of 18 countries including Germany, Belgium, France, Korea, Kenya, and Pakistan!

One of my favorite aspects of these interviews is finding commonalities between teachers who teach in diverse settings, to different populations, and even different instruments. There seems to be a consensus about the need for parental involvement, the value of prioritizing work ethic over talent, and the importance of live-music exposure in nurturing interest in the next generation. I hope as you listen to these interviews, these conversations help create connections between us that we didn’t know about which can, in turn, foster excitement and deep relationships when we meet at events such as auditions and the annual conference.

Thank you, friends, for being members who make this organization a dynamic and effective group. Finally, a hearty welcome to our new members since my last newsletter report: Anna McCoy, Erika Jackson-Scott, Karen Page, Timothy Jones, Penny Thomas, Kyung-A Yoo, Emmaline Wheeler, Haewoon Skilling, Calvin Stovall, Robert McReynolds, Seth Stringer, Matthew Shipes, Hyun Jo, Kelly Hohenstern, Rebeka Tuple, Hannah Parker, Matthew George, Kara McCoy, Eunkyung Lee, Jacob Wood, Carlos Varela, Mayu Sommovigo, Miyeon Choi, Soyoun Min, Naomi Joransen, Sarah Buttram, Asia Passmore, Amaris David, Ruslan Apostolov, Bryan Lezama, Brian Coski, William Sandberg, Diane Lee, Cindy Liao, Rachel Timmer, Nadezhda Nikitenko, Hyun Hwa Jang, James Weidman, David Chong, Hanna Jung, Rebeca Sierra, Katherine Niles, Kevin Juarez Navarro, and Griffin Hillner!

Please let me know if I can be of assistance to you, whether you are a long-time member or a new one.



MTNA CERTIFICATION

ROBIN ENGLEMAN, NCTM, GMTA CERTIFICATION CHAIR

As of April 30, 2022, GMTA had 87 nationally certified teachers. This is 2 less than last year at this time. Congratulations to Amy Neal, NCTM (Rome MTA) and Tracy Xian, NCTM (Columbus MTA) who have acquired national certification over this past year. I encourage you, if you are not nationally certified, to explore the possibility of becoming certified, either by doing the Teacher Profile Projects or through Administrative Verification. Use the [MTNA Certification link](#) or the green button below, and click on “Apply”.

Regardless of where you are in your professional teaching career, obtaining and renewing your certification shows your commitment, dedication, and respect for the teaching profession.
- Desiree Gonzales Miller, NCTM

Send any certification questions to: englemanr@bellsouth.net



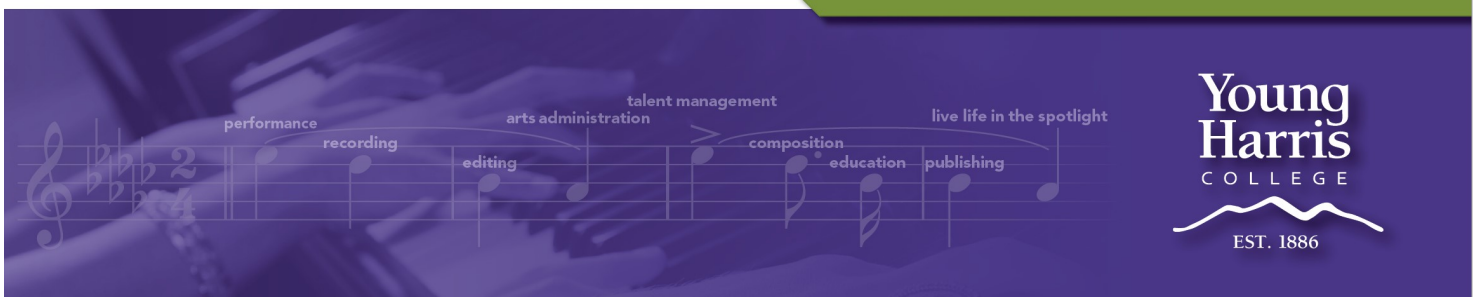
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MTNA COMPETITIONS

CHRISTINA TOOLE, GMTA VP OF MTNA COMPETITIONS

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The 2021-2022 MTNA National Competitions were held by video round, as were the Southern Division auditions. The state of Georgia was well represented in the Southern Division. Congratulations to all our Southern Division winners, alternates, and honorable mentions!

WINNER

Hayoung Choi, student of Amy Schwartz Moretti, Young Artist String Performance category.

ALTERNATES

Seven of our Georgia contestants were Alternates in the following categories: Junior and Young Artist Piano Performance, Junior and Senior String Performance, Junior and Young Artist Woodwind Performance, and Young Artist Vocal Performance.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

We had three honorable mentions for the Composition category, representing the Elementary, Junior and Young Artist levels.

Complete student results can be found on the [GMTA Website](#).

FALL COMPETITION DATES

Our 2022 state-level MTNA Competition will be held in-person at Columbus State University.

September 14 MTNA Competitions Registration Deadline @ 3:00 pm

October 21-22 MTNA Competitions at Columbus State University

GMTA AUDITIONS, THEORY TEST, AND GATE

Congratulations to all of the students and teachers who participated in this year's auditions! 2022 GMTA State Auditions Winners Results can be found on the [GMTA website](#).

There are several updates for the 2022-23 academic year:

New Registration Deadlines

October 1, 2022 Fall GATE/GMTA Theory Registration Deadline

January 15, 2023 Local Auditions, GATE and GMTA Theory Registration Deadline

GMTA Theory/GATE Update

Students who take GMTA Theory Tests in the Fall and submit tests by December 1st will have the opportunity to exempt the GATE the same school year.

CATHY THACKER, NCTM, PRESIDENT

This has been a wonderful year for GCMTA, and we appreciate the return to in-person meetings. The September program was by Dr. Annalisa Chang, who spoke to us about “Teaching Students with Special Needs.” In October, our own Pam Asberry presented her program on “Fostering Creativity: From Potential to Practice.” Dr. Raffi Besalyan was featured in November, when he gave his presentation about “How Music Is Taught in Russia.” Our annual brunch meeting was in January; we enjoyed hearing from our own Patti Bennett and Mary Ann McTier, back-to-back GCMTA Teachers of the Year (2020 and 2021), who presented their wonderful ideas for group activities, summer music camps, and ensembles. In February, Dr. Monique Arar gave her program on “Embracing an 18th-Century Musical Mindset in a 21st-Century World.” Local Auditions were also held in February; 52 students and 18 teachers participated, and 40 students advanced to Regional Auditions. The annual March Master Class featured David D’Ambrosio as our clinician, and he gave excellent feedback and insights to the students and teachers. On April 27 we had our Executive Board meeting, in which we set the budget for the 2022-23 year and reviewed policies and procedures. We concluded the year with a luncheon meeting on May 18, where Kathryn Dawal was presented with the 2022 GCMTA Teacher of the Year.

One point of pride for GCMTA is the fact that we award many scholarships and prizes to students throughout the year. Our annual Music Day event was held on November 13; 249 students participated and 54 cash prizes of \$30 each were awarded. Three different Federated Festivals were held from late February to late March, and \$3,300 was given in scholarship money to piano, voice, woodwinds and strings students. Our annual Jr./Sr. Scholarship was held at PianoWorks on Saturday, April 16, and seven students competed. \$2,000 is given each year to the top four students in the amounts of \$800/\$600/\$400/\$200. We also offer a \$500 scholarship opportunity to students planning to major in music education or pedagogy in college. Requirements for all scholarship events are listed [on our website](#), or click the ad below.



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Membership: Debra Hughes
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SUSAN MINCEY, PRESIDENT

Macon MTA has fun all year!

In Macon, we like to eat together, support one another, have fun together, and join our students in performance. This year we extended our Classical and Jazz Honor Recital at Wesleyan College beyond piano to include strings (and guitar), vocal, and even an adorable autistic student playing *Sitting on the Dock of the Bay* on his melodica! All jazz pieces were backed by a professional jazz combo! Our President-Elect Dr. Chenny Gan closed the hour and 40-minute recital with her arrangement combining classical with jazz.

We were pleased to have many students participate in Festival, GMTA Auditions, and American College of Musicians Piano Guild. There was some pleasure and some consternation in more excellent ratings at festival. Most students did not earn superior, which certainly makes it more of a challenge.

After a picnic lunch on the grounds, our May 7 Spring Planning meeting was held at Wesleyan in Dr. Chenny Gan's studio, where we enjoyed sight-reading duets and ensembles! This served as preparation in the event we are able to host our Grand Ensemble again next year! Fingers crossed! Stay away COVID!

We have had the pleasure of mentoring a Stratford Academy Intern on his Senior Project. His goal is to observe the ways teachers respond to students, teach scales and simple pieces, perform duets with students, and learn how a studio business is organized. He has assisted in all our events February-May, earning Community Service hours for graduation, and observed in the studios of President Susan Mincey, President-Elect Dr. Chenny Gan, and Vice President of Membership Susan McDuffie. He was so astute at Honor Recital that Wesleyan is hiring him to run lights at graduation ceremonies. He'll finally be paid!

We are eager to hear Derek Vann from Piano Works present *Piano Methods That Aren't Faber, Bastien and Alfred* at a workshop in Macon this August. Come join us (susanmincey@cox.net)!

It's been a grand year being able to teach in person and host in-person events. Pray it continues!

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The NEW addition of the "Performance Grade Exam" with video submission has become very popular since its launch in January 2021, as well as the online music theory exam which started in May 2021.

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

Margaret Liu, ABRSM Representative, Georgia, Florida & South Carolina, USA
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Arts Awareness is an already important part of our lives since we are all so involved through teaching and performing. We are ambassadors of making the general public more aware of the arts by performing at various venues and opening our music events for the general public. These are helpful and super positive things for us to do. We are sharing and making others aware of music and its benefits and beauty. I would challenge each GMTA member to consider how you can bring MORE music to your generation, rather than asking them to come to you—thus making others aware of your art.

And then there's Arts Advocacy, which is not part of our everyday music work. How do we stay informed to advocate outside of our own music circles? A really good and FREE way to do that is to sign up at the NEA (National Endowment for the Arts). It lists useful data regarding funding locally and nationally; it shares information of people who have influence in the government, holds free seminars on how to advance the arts and intersect with other needs/causes/arts. It features inspirational stories and offers many grants for individuals and organizations. It even offers training on how to apply for these grants. GMTA does a very worthy service in Georgia and is deserving of additional support that may be available. Being informed is an important first step, and using email makes it easy. I encourage every member of GMTA to sign up for the NEA newsletters today. Go to www.arts.gov and select from the many online resources they have available. There is nothing to lose - only gain. We can all be an even more dynamic and powerful advocate for music!



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President:

Elena V. Dorozhkina

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for 2021 RJPC



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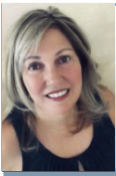
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loulyon128@gmail.com

For more information, visit
www.gmmta.us



COVID -19 hit hard this winter with the Omicron strain, but cases steadily decreased through the spring and now are low in Georgia. Fortunately, serious illness and hospitalizations are especially decreased vs. before, so overall we have a sigh of relief that this pandemic is winding down and we can get back to normal. As of May 1, however, there has been an uptick in cases of COVID-19 in some areas of the US and in Georgia, too. This reminds us that appropriate precautions and preventive measures should still be kept in mind.

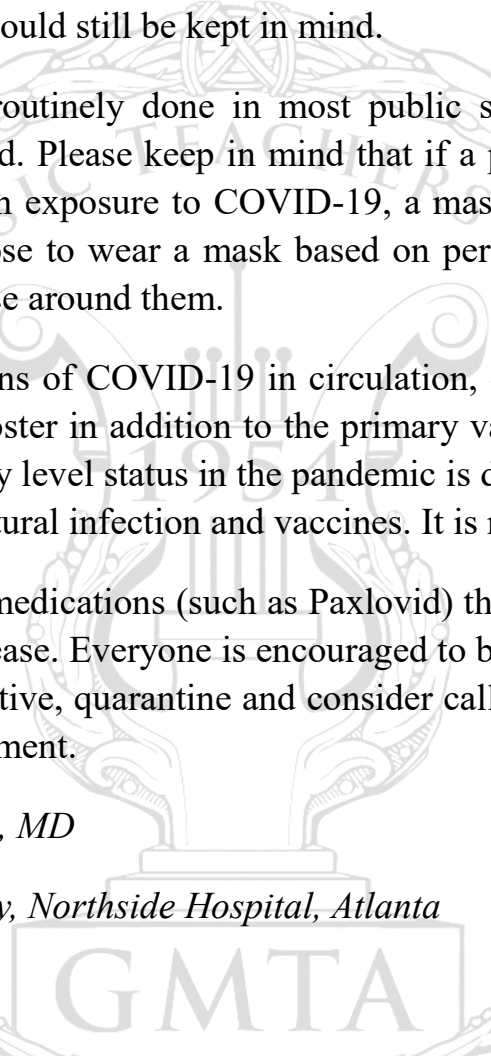
Although masking is now not routinely done in most public settings, there are still situations where wearing a mask is advised. Please keep in mind that if a person has symptoms of possible COVID-19, a positive test, or an exposure to COVID-19, a mask is advised until the situation is resolved. Many people will choose to wear a mask based on personal preference, after reviewing their own level of risk and of those around them.

Vaccines, even with current strains of COVID-19 in circulation, do help prevent serious infection and hospitalization. Doing a booster in addition to the primary vaccine series enhances immunity. Our current improved community level status in the pandemic is due to improved overall immunity in the population, due to both natural infection and vaccines. It is not too late to be vaccinated!

We also now have oral antiviral medications (such as Paxlovid) that can treat COVID-19 illness in those at risk for more serious disease. Everyone is encouraged to be tested if they are ill and suspect COVID-19 infection, and, if positive, quarantine and consider calling their doctor to see if they are an appropriate candidate for treatment.

Submitted by David Dickensheets, MD

Medical Director of Epidemiology, Northside Hospital, Atlanta



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JUDGES LIST

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SUSAN ANDREWS. NCTM, GMTA JUDGES LIST CHAIR

I'm pleased to announce that Mary Ann McTier and Dr. Chenny Gan have been added to the GMTA Judges List. The website has been updated to state that the suggested minimum compensation for judges is \$35 per hour.

Anyone who is interested in being included on the GMTA Judges List is strongly encouraged to apply. Additional voice and instrumental judges are needed. Applications and recommendations for applicants are [submitted online](#) or by clicking the button below.

GMTA JUDGES LIST



GEORGIA'S OWN

DEBRA HUGHES. NCTM, GMTA ARTS AWARENESS & ADVOCACY CHAIR

Georgia's Own is a resource for all GMTA chapters to use. If you are in charge of programming for your local association meetings, please refer to it for your next year's line-up. You may access Georgia's Own by going to the [GMTA website](#) or by clicking the button below. All Georgia's Own presenters are experienced GMTA teachers who have useful, informative seminars they are willing to present to our chapters. You will benefit greatly by using these 'experts' to share at your GMTA meetings.

If you would like to be added to the current Georgia's Own listing please contact Debra Hughes: bndhughes@comcast.net.

GEORGIA'S OWN



COMMISSIONED COMPOSER

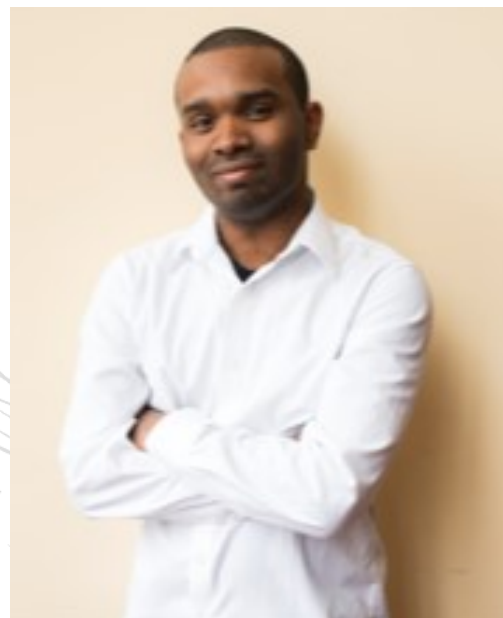
JERI-MAE ASTOLFI, NCTM, GMTA COMMISSIONING CHAIR

This year, GMTA is excited to welcome Brandon K. Smith as our 2022 GMTA Commissioned Composer. You can read more about Mr. Smith on page 4.

GMTA is pleased to invite composers who are living or working in the state of Georgia (or who have significant ties to the state of Georgia) to apply for the **2023 GMTA Commissioned Composer Award**.

More information about the award, including the guidelines and application, can be found [on the GMTA website](#). Please direct any questions to: commissioning.georgiamta@gmail.com.

Application deadline: 11:59 p.m. SEPTEMBER 1, 2022.




**North Dekalb
Music Teachers Association**

Serene Lee, President
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smlig1348@gmail.com

Derek Vann, VP of Membership
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Charles Hutton
President
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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 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:

- 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, and/or national MTNA programs
- Community involvement
- Former student and/or parent letter(s) of support
- Professional colleague letter(s) of support
- Nominating letter from the state organization

Nominations must be submitted by **Monday, September 12, 2022**. The form is [available online](#) or by clicking the button below. For a list of past Teachers of the Year, and to read their Teaching Tips, visit [GMTA's website](#). The winner will be acknowledged at the 2022 GMTA Conference Banquet. With so many excellent teachers in Georgia, please consider nominating one of your favorites!

If you have questions, contact Cathy Thacker: presidentelect.georgiamta@gmail.com

TEACHER OF THE YEAR APPLICATION



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 winners of the MTNA Junior and Senior Piano 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 and MTNA Competitions. Donations not designated for a specific fund go into this fund.

The Betty H. White Award Fund was established in 2019 by the White family in commemoration of Betty H. White. This award is presented annually at the GMTA Conference to one of the GMTA Teacher Grant recipients for a student in financial need.

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

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June 2022

- 1 Deadline for GMTA Expense Reports to be submitted to the GMTA Executive Director for Reimbursement
- 30 Membership renewal deadline (membership runs July 1-June 30)

August 2022

- 1 Deadline for articles to be included in the GMTA Fall Newsletter
- 20 Local Area President's Zoom meeting at 10:00 am, Executive Board Zoom meeting 11:00 am

September 2022

- 1 Deadline to apply for GMTA Commissioned Composer Award
- 12 Application deadline for GMTA Teacher of the Year
- 12 Application deadline for Steinway Teacher Grants and GMTA Teacher Grants
- 14 MTNA Competitions online registration deadline
- 30 Student Membership Renewal Deadline (student membership runs October 1-September 30)

October 2022

- 1 Fall registration deadline for GMTA Theory Test/GATE
- 21-22 MTNA Competitions, Columbus State University

November 2022

- 3-5 GMTA Conference at Kennesaw State University

December 2022

- 1 Deadline for articles to be included in the GMTA Winter Newsletter

January 2023

- 15 Registration deadline for Local Auditions, GMTA Theory Test, and GATE

February 2023

- 27 Registration deadline for Regional Auditions. Local auditions ratings due. GATE scores due.

March 2023

- 15 Deadline for completed GMTA Theory Tests to be mailed to Trudi Norman
- 25-29 MTNA Conference 2023 in Reno, Nevada

Executive Board:

GMTA President	Jan Adams, NCTM	president.georgiamta@gmail.com
President-Elect	Cathy Thacker, NCTM	presidentelect.georgiamta@gmail.com
VP of Programs	Kristi Helfen, NCTM	programs.georgiamta@gmail.com
VP of Membership	Beibei Lin	membership.georgiamta@gmail.com
VP of Newsletters	Amy Neal, NCTM	newsletters.georgiamta@gmail.com
VP of GMTA Auditions	Huu Mai, NCTM	auditions.georgiamta@gmail.com
VP of MTNA Competitions	Christina Toole	mtnacompitions.georgiamta@gmail.com
Secretary	Amy Phillips	secretary.georgiamta@gmail.com
Member-at-Large	Dawn McCord	dmccord@westga.edu
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