

## 2010 GMTA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

### Lois Finlay



The recipient of the 2010 GMTA Teacher of the Year is Lois Finlay. A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Lois received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Piano Performance from the Julliard School of Music as a student of Katherine Bacon and a Master of Science Degree in Piano Performance, also from the Julliard School of Music, as a student of Adele Marcus.

In 1971, Lois moved to Georgia and has been a member of GMTA and the North DeKalb Music Teachers Association ever since.

Lois has a vast array of highly successful teaching experiences. She has been an independent music teacher in Pittsburgh, Atlanta, and Clarkesville. Also, Lois has been a music faculty member at Mercer University (Atlanta), the Georgia Governors Honors Program, the Cambridge Academy of Music (Atlanta), and North Georgia College and State University. Lois has also served as Chair of the Fine Arts Department at Mercer University in Atlanta.

Lois's students have won numerous prestigious awards. Lois has produced three state winners of GMTA/MTNA Senior Performance Competitions, two Southern Division winners of MTNA Senior Performance Competitions, four state winners of GMTA/MTNA Junior Performance Competitions, three winners of GMTA Piano Concerto Competitions, and two winners of GMEA Piano Concerto Competitions. Lois has twice received the North DeKalb Music Teachers Association Teacher of the Year Award.

A fellow GMTA member says the following regarding Lois: "Her students routinely place high in competitions and a goodly number of them continue their piano studies in colleges or conservatories and have careers in music. She knows just how and when to present the right composition to students. She combines these skills with seemingly endless enthusiasm and energy. She never stops! She is always available to her students, even attending their competitions when they are out-of-state."

A parent says this of Lois: "Our decision to have our son take lessons from Lois Finlay was the best decision we ever made for his musical development. Her approach to teaching always seems to put the students' needs first. She spent many hours preparing and practicing concertos with our son and arranged for him to have duet partners every year. She gave much thought to the repertoire she chose for our son, taking into consideration his tastes and his need to explore literature outside his past experience. Our son is moving on to study piano performance at college this fall, and we honestly feel we owe Lois a great debt for inspiring him and preparing him so that he not only wants to do this, but is ready for whatever challenges come his way in college."

Lois was nominated for the 2010 GMTA Teacher of the Year Award by Peggy Lee. The award was presented to Lois at the GMTA Conference Banquet. As a result of this award, Lois will be considered for the 2011 MTNA Teacher of the Year Award. Congratulations, Lois!