

GCMTA NEWS

Gwinnett County Music Teachers Association

Notes From the President



Once again, we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to our own Bonnie Bowen for her generous hospitality in opening her lovely home to us last Wednesday for our annual brunch meeting. Not only was the gathering well attended, the food excellent, the fellowship sweet and the ambiance second to none, but the program was both fun and informative. Cathy Thacker is not just the best President Elect-Program Chair, she is also a playwright and

director. Skits written and presented by Cathy, along with Mary Ann McTier, Robin Engleman, Pam Asberry, and Natalie Hardy had us all in stitches as we remembered our own studio teaching dilemmas and successes. Some great sharing and problem solving followed. Isn't it good to know that we're not alone in our "trials" and to see someone else's perspective on a particular "issue?!!" The vignettes were so good, in fact, it was suggested they be submitted for possible programs for our next GMTA State Conference. These ladies may put us on the map yet!!!

Other highlights of the brunch included a light Bach operatic number sung by Lois Simon and accompanied by Yumi Patterson on the keyboard and Amy Wilson's flute. We were not surprised by Yumi's keyboard skills, but Lois's voice was a delightfully pleasant surprise and how often do we get to hear an exquisite flautist at our meetings? Kathy Beers played a great background program music prelude at the grand piano as we gathered and visited. Last but not least, Bonnie sent each of us home with a caramel candied "Apple for the Teacher." And don't we all deserve that?!!!

Many thanks to Rebecca McKeown and Eunju Park, our Hospitality Team, and their set up and clean up crew, without whom Bonnie Bowen would still be washing china and silver - yes, it was just that elegant!!! Certainly not a gathering to be soon forgotten...

February Program

Please join us for the February meeting to hear Dr. Priscilla Jefcoat speak to us about memorization techniques. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 24, at 9:30am, at Lawrenceville Church of God, 320 Grayson Highway SW, Lawrenceville.

Dr. Jefcoat is the Assistant Professor of Music at Brenau University in Gainesville, GA. She is also an accomplished performer. With different auditions and spring recitals approaching, this presentation on memory helps is both timely and practical. We hope you can join us for this informative and helpful session!

--Cathy Thacker, Programs

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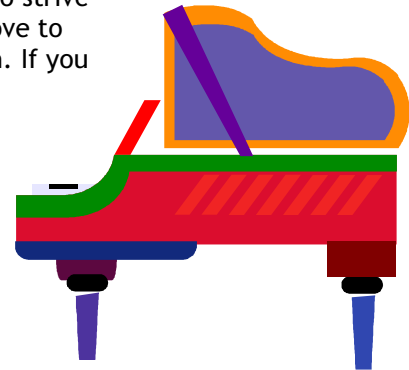
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GCMTA Auditions

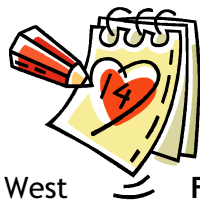
52 students representing 14 teachers will be in the March 6 audition. Please leave a check for the \$26.00 per OP winner plus the one time \$20.00 teacher fee at the registration desk on March 6. The one check must be received that day.

Outstanding performers will perform one of their selections on Sunday March 14 at Grace Community Church, 2145 Five Forks Trickum Road, Lawrenceville 30044. Even grades will be at 1:30 and odd grades will be at

3:30. Students and teachers as well as parents would really enjoy this wonderful playing. It is also a good way to inspire your good students to strive for higher goals. We would love to have teachers join us for lunch. If you can please contact Jean Mann mann428@charter.net for the menu and cost from the Blue Rooster Restaurant.



Calendar of Events



February 13 - North and West Federated Festivals

February 20 - Central Federated Festival

February 20 - Free Piano Pedagogy Symposium - UGA (Martha Hilley, Robert Duke, presenters) see GMTA website for details

February 24 - Monthly GCMTA Meeting at Lawrenceville Church of God (9:30 am) Priscilla Jefcoat - presentation on Memorization Techniques

February 28 - JR-SR Auditions Application Deadline

February 28 - Deadline for GMTA Theory Test applications

Junior/Senior Scholarship Audition

The GCMTA Junior-Senior Scholarship Audition is coming up on March 28, 2010 at Piano Works. The deadline for applications is February 27, 2010. Please send applications to

Yumi Patterson at
1767 Rivermist Drive
Lilburn, GA 30047
Be looking for the winners in the April newsletter!



Concerns and Celebrations

These members have ongoing health issues:

Stephanie Freeman, Robin Whitworth

Melissa Gann Burgess, who was responsible for our newsletter for several years, has been going through a most difficult time with her husband. Last fall, he suffered a severely debilitating stroke. Fortunately, since then, he has made great progress in his rehabilitation and the prognosis is most hopeful.

Dianne Wolfgang suffered the

loss of her young adult son in November.

Teal Justice's husband had knee surgery.

Kathy Dawal's mother had shoulder surgery. Teal and Kathy are both primary caregivers.

Please keep these friends and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

On a more joyful NOTE - Two of our younger members have recently added new MUSICIANS

to their households.

In Sun Ko gave birth to a girl, Elissa Ah-Yeon, on January 3, 2010.

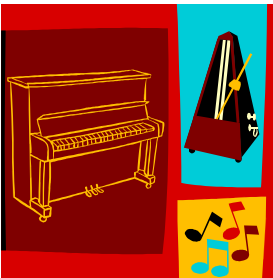
Eva Bone delivered a boy, Thomas O'Connor, on January 20, 2010.

Congratulations and best wishes to our associates and their families. Contributions will be made to the GMTA Foundation in honor of these babies. We're so proud!!!

Pam Asberry will no doubt be wanting to add this new duo to the roster for the 2016 Ensemble Concert!!



Suzuki Piano Workshop



With Master Teacher Jane Kutscher Reed from Ohio

**Saturday,
April 17th, 2010**
Parent Seminar
9am – 1pm
Master Classes
4pm – 7:30pm

Location:
Rebecca McKeown
Piano Studio
1200 Plainview Way
Lawrenceville, 30043

Any teacher interested in knowing more about the

Suzuki Method or observing how it works is invited to attend free of charge.

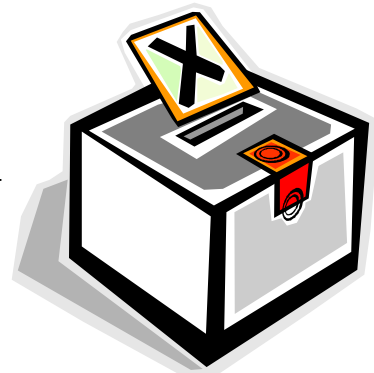
Contact Rebecca at rsmck@bellsouth.net or call 678-442-0562

Cast Your Vote!

Please exercise your right to VOTE - the election is now open for members to vote for Southern Division Director-Elect. Those elected will serve on the 2110-2012 MTNA Board of Directors. UGA's own Martha Thomas, immediate Past President of GMTA, is on the ballot. Electronic voting is a

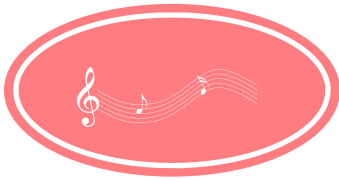
very easy process. Go to the MTNA web site (www.mtna.org), click MTNA Division Elections in the middle of the screen. From there, follow the procedure as directed. You will need your member number to vote. Alternate ways of voting are explained in

detail in the February-March 2010 AMERICAN MUSIC TEACHER magazine (MTNA JOURNAL) pg. 40. Candidate bios are included there, as



GCMTA News

Janet Will, President
jbwill2@bellsouth.net



Please visit our website

www.gcmta.org

A few things you will find on the website are: various forms for events, photos, committee members' email addresses, past newsletters, the "Find a Teacher" tool, and many other things. Kathy Dawal and Eric Asberry are working hard to make it both useful and attractive for us and the community.

If you haven't visited yet, take a look!

Odds & Ends

Welcome new members!

Renee Banks Seawell

Rosely Piraino

