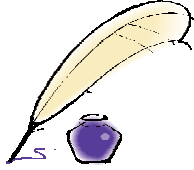


GCMTA NEWSLETTER

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From the desk of Lois Simon



SIMON SAYS

If you have never attended a GCMTA Ensemble Concert, you really should try. It is such a gala event – the five black lacquer grand pianos on the stage at Lawrenceville Church of God are nothing short of “Hollywood”. The students, in their formal attire and getting pictures taken before the concert, are filled with excitement. The concert, itself, features many of the younger students at the beginning. It is obvious that the skill of playing WITH someone else is new to them, as they work hard at keeping their fingers moving at the same tempo with the other players. Having a drummer helps so much at this stage. The real treat comes at the end, with the late intermediate and advanced students. Usually, these students receive a much deserved standing ovation from the audience of a thousand people.

Brava to Nora Martin, Pam Asberry and Linda Walker for their passion and many months of work that went into the concert last Saturday, April 26th.

THANKS to you all for chairing events and committees, entering students, attending meetings and, in general, making GCMTA the organization it is. We have had a truly successful year.

Our Hospitality Chairman, Mary Marshall Dekkers will not be able to continue in that position next year. Anyone who is interested in filling this opening, please contact me.

I hope to see you at the May Luncheon on May 21st. Our Executive Board meeting in the fall will be on August 27 at my home.

Have a FANTASTIC summer!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The MTNA National Conference will be IN ATLANTA next year, March 28 – April 1, 2009.

It is not an overstatement to say that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity for us. I know many of you plan your entire teaching year in the fall, so you’ll want to be sure and include these dates in your schedule.

The cost of the conference is not cheap; you can expect to pay a registration fee of approximately \$275. You can also expect to receive \$150 - \$200 in complimentary music from various publishers and you will receive free tickets to a concert by a well known artist. (This year in Denver, the featured performer was Lang Lang.)

Because the conference is very large (2000 teachers) there truly IS something for everyone. There is a technology track, a group lesson track, many master classes and workshops that are of interest to all teachers (such as sightreading and memorization techniques). The choices are too numerous to mention and you’ll find yourself wishing you could be in two places at once!

OPPORTUNITY FOR ADULT STUDENTS

The Gwinnett County Piano Club is being formed as a support group for adult piano students. Because many adult students have difficulties with performance anxiety, this group conceived as a non-threatening opportunity for performance. The group will probably meet monthly at the home of an adult student. Please contact Lynn McCarty (student of Lois Simon) or Chris Lynberg (student of Yumi Patterson) if you have a student that might enjoy this association.

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GCMTA Newsletter

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GCMTA ENSEMBLE CONCERT

For yet another year, the students involved in the GCMTA Ensemble Concert experienced the thrill of performing under the direction of seasoned conductors as possibly a precursor to when they will be the guest performers playing one concerto after another to the thunderous applause of grand audiences. The 11th Ensemble Concert, held again at the Lawrenceville Church of God on April 26, 2008, was a stunning success with visual arts and entertaining percussion accompaniment, fanciful props and beautifully attired conductors. Linda Walker was the M.C. for the second time this year and managed the stage, the microphone and the presentations with aplomb. Much appreciation and admiration goes to our slate of conductors: Linda Walker, Lois Simon, Marge Engle, Robin Engleman and our esteemed guest conductor, Mary Brown Hinely. We also give many thanks to our substitute conductors Terry Schroader and Debra Hughes for saving the day during rehearsal.

We want to recognize the generosity of Don and Cindy Bennett at Piano Works for providing rehearsal space for more than 150 students and for providing the beautiful grand pianos that adorned the stage. We also thank Blake Cooper at Cooper Music for graciously providing two weeks of rehearsal space. The Lawrenceville Church of God, specifically Teresa Durden and Tim Fike, were kind hosts of the event and also provided excellent sound and video support. Tim Wheeler with DoubleSharp Music again provided the professional sound recording of the concert at an affordable price. Recognition is also due to our percussionists, the talented Rick Simon and, new this year, Samuel Martin, a prior piano participant in numerous Ensemble concerts. We applaud each of the twenty-two teachers who entered students and worked to prepare them to play "in concert" with partners and other students. Finally, we recognize the hard work and dedication of the Ensemble Committee in working together to produce a quality experience for all the students (as well as the students themselves and their parents): Linda Walker, Pam Asberry, Nora Martin, Marge Engle, Robin Engleman and Lois Simon.

We invite returning teachers and newcomers to come be a part of a quality experience by entering students in next year's Ensemble Concert!