

GCMTA News

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Notes From The President

New Year's greetings and all best wishes as you begin 2010 and settle back into both new and old routines. I say that because many of us hope to do a few things differently in the new year. Here's hoping your resolutions are 100% successful and that in their pursuit, we can all be an encouragement to one another.

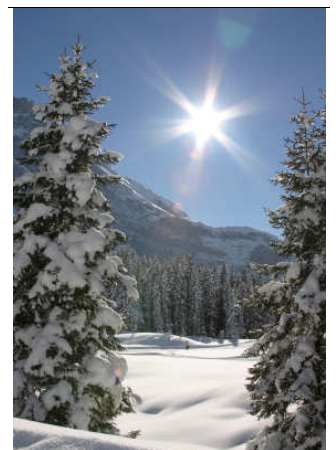
We're especially hoping that our newest members are getting the necessary mentoring to make involvement in our winter and spring events go smoothly. Our executive board and committee chairs seek to be both accessible and helpful to all our members. All should feel free to ask for help and advice. As we help each other, our association grows even stronger.

Speaking of new members, be sure to read Amy Turner's (one of our newest!) article this month about her piano classes at Meadowcreek High School. Although unable to attend most of our meetings, both she and her students are becoming involved in GCMTA activities and events. Who knows what opportunities lie ahead for us in collaboration with programs such as hers. It's important for us to

know what's going on in the schools and we appreciate her work and sharing about it. Once again, here's that recreational music and group approach concept that we've been hearing so much about. Amy, we're glad to have you on board!

On another note, with January comes one of our traditionally most enjoyable meetings of the year! Not only does Bonnie Bowen's hospitality offer the best in southern tearoom ambiance, but Cathy Thacker has planned a program that will be both fun and entertaining, as well as practical. Many of us bring our favorite recipes, so you won't enjoy a better meal anywhere. Also, this brunch meeting is a great opportunity to meet, greet and catch up with one another. Be sure to RSVP to Bonnie by Tuesday, January 19 so she'll know to set a place for you. Hope to see all of you at "Bonnie's Tearoom" at 9:30 on Wednesday, the 27th.

.....Janet Will



January Meeting and Brunch

Please join us on Wednesday, January 27, for our annual brunch meeting. It is a great time to visit with music teacher friends, sample good cooking, and learn some practical tips. Bonnie Bowen has graciously agreed to host our annual brunch for us again, and we are very grateful to her! We will meet at Bonnie's house at 9:30am (see directions on page 3), share brunch, have our business meeting, and enjoy the program. Some of our very own thespians will act out student/teacher situations in humorous skits, and the audience (you!) will interact in "How Do You Solve This Problem?" (Of course, I'm sure none of you have any of these situations in your

own studio, so we'll all be speaking theoretically!) Seriously, it will be a great time of sharing ideas with each other. You need to RSVP to Bonnie at 770-963-9319 by Tuesday, January 19, for the Wednesday, January 27 meeting - so she will know how many lovely tables to set up. Thanks to those who have already volunteered to help with the setup and cleanup. I will contact you about that shortly. Everyone is asked to bring a casserole or salad to share. Bread and beverages will be provided. There will even be some door prizes! Visitors are welcome.

Cathy Thacker, Programs



GCMTA Fall Festival Winners

Grade 4 Winners: Caleb Sides [Mann], Sean Woo [Bennett], Jack Johnston [Patterson], Neena Anthony [Bennett], Paul Wang [Bennett], Allyn Doyle [Andrews], Sara Lim [Bennett]

Grade 4 HM: Caroline Gotschang [Will], Christian Simmons [McTier], Claudi Coliba [Gaal], Dimitri Cholak [Gaal]

Grade 5 Winners: Sam Morton [Mann], Crina Coliba [Gaal], Kinsey Costello [Dawal], Conner Snyder [Gaal], Jaqueline Endozo [Peck], Jillian Perry [Parsons], Malisa Reichard [Patterson], Alex Perrone [Will], Kashi Sinha [McCormick]

Grade 5 HM: Erika Allen [Woodward], Marissa Perry [Parsons], Lauren Flynt [Woodward], Julia Rosas [Simon], Erin Giuliano [Woodward], Tessy Hammond [Gaal], Jerri Norman [Patterson], Ritwika Chakrabarti [Will], Natahlia Robinson [Hughes], Olivia Hunsaker [Bennett]

Grade 6 Winners: Jenny Choi [Bowen], Anna Clack [Andrews], Aileen Li [Bennett], Jerry Hughes [Dawal], Crosby Melendi [Purkerson], Christine Albright [Bennett]

Grade 7 Winners: Savannah Horne [Simon], Alex Payne [Walker], Katie Bergs [Walker], Emily Rand [Asberry], Jackie Bonilla [Peck], Jacob Anderson [Freeman], Joe Reichard [Patterson]

Grade 7 HM: Hannay Yi [Bennett], Meaghan White [Albert]

Grade 8 Winners: Matthew Do [Freeman], Mallory Duffield [Andrews], Evangeline Crist [Andrews], Kimberly Simpson [Brady], Alicia Bachtel [Compton]

Grade 8 HM: Robby Brassell [Gaal], Leesa Quinlan [Simon], Kristin Burton [Simon], Rebekah Moore [Compton], Mykal Gerald [Dawal], Shaffer Patrick [Simon], Alexandra Luther [Simon], Justin Ralston [Patterson], Hoon Choi [Ko], Sarah Denton [Compton],

Grade 9 Winners: Cassidy Sims [Walker], Gregory Cooke [McTier], Robby Compton [Patterson], Charis Hanson [Patterson],

Grade 9 HM: Jordan Hughes [Dawal]

Grade 10 Winners: Michael Song [Freeman], Kyle Mancuso [Freeman], Kia Quinlan [Simon], Anneka Zee [Patterson]

Grade 10 HM: Malini Laxman [Harper], Nia Mtnaul [Hughes], John Grigsby [Patterson]

Grade 11 Winners: Lauren Landers [Andrews], Holly Eaton [Andrews], Emma Crist [Andrews]

Grade 11 HM: Julie Coppedge [Thacker], Jay Ralston [Patterson]

Grade 12 Winners: Marissa Smith [Simon], Joanna Denton [Compton], Andrew Chambers [Patterson]

Grade 12 HM: Chrissy Douglas [Asberry], Katie Adcock [Woodward]



***Congratulations
to this year's
Winners and
Honorable
Mentions!
Great job
everyone!***



Local Spring Auditions

Local Spring Auditions will be March 6 at Harmony Grove Methodist Church. Applications can be found on page 42 of the State Yearbook or on www.georgiamta.org under student activities. A single check of \$20.00 per student entered made out to GCMTA, plus the completed applications must be delivered to Janice Wong, 3942 Coventry Park Lane Duluth, Georgia 30096 by January 27 or given to her at the January meeting.

If you have any questions please call Jean Mann 770 932 5185 or Janice Wong 678 520 4036. You must be in the local directory in order to enter students. The teacher of the student must work the day of the Audition.

Federated Notes

The deadline for entering students in the Federated Festivals is January 9, 2010.

* Be sure to follow the guidelines in the NFMC Bulletin and that your repertoire choices are correct. All other rules and information are listed on p. 21-27 of your Directory.

* PLEASE READ AND FOLLOW DIRECTIONS AS REQUESTED ON

THE 2010 APPLICANT LIST. This will help the chairman and schedulers as they prepare.

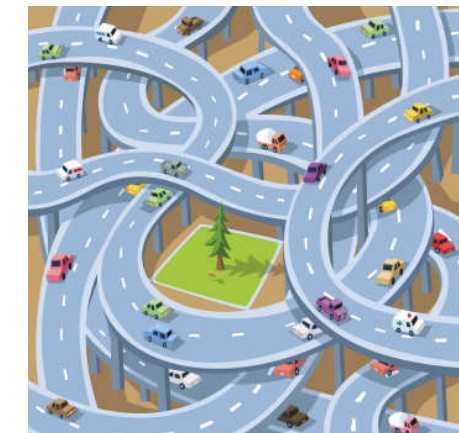
* If you have transfer students, please fill out the form JR 3-1 so that your student's previous information can be recorded correctly.

* Students in grades 9-12 are eligible for scholarships at the discretion of the chairman.

*The fee for each student is \$18.50. FEES FOR ANY EXTRA EVENTS ARE \$11.00.

* Contact your chairman or myself for any questions.

Judy Harper
judyharper@comcast.net



Directions to the Brunch

Going south from Lawrenceville on Ga Hwy 124: from the intersection of Ga 124 and Ga 124:

- Cross Gwinnett Drive in front of Summit Ridge Hospital
- Take the next left onto Poplar Creek Drive. There is a short left turn lane
- At the bottom of the hill the road merges with Forest Valley Road
- Forest Valley dead ends into Pineview.
- Turn right onto Pineview which almost immediately becomes Summit Ridge
- Our house is on the right just after you pass Windsor Farms Drive (273)

Going north from Snellville on Ga Hwy 124:

- After you enter the Lawrenceville city limits watch for a divided entrance and a brick sign with Forest Hills on it. During holiday seasons this is frequently decorated with season appropriate wooden figures. (Pilgrims, Uncle Sam etc.)
- Turn right at the divided entrance onto Maple Wood Drive.
- Turn at the first left onto Forest Valley Road.
- Forest Valley dead ends into Pineview.
- Turn right onto Pineview which almost immediately becomes Summit Ridge.
- Our house is on the right just after you pass Windsor Farms Drive (273).

A New Face in Gwinnett Piano Education



For sixty-four public high school students in Gwinnett County (this past semester alone), a life long dream has now become reality...during their school day. Five piano keyboard classes are now offered at Meadowcreek High School in Norcross, and in their own words, here is a sample of what students have to say about the opportunity:

“...the best part of my school day is playing the piano.”

“Piano class is one of the...reasons I go to school.”

“...I am now able to play an instrument I love.”

As their teacher, it is my privilege to teach these students daily using traditional techniques while incorporating some group teaching philosophies found in the national movement of Recreational Music Making. The keyboard lab, installed in 2007, includes 15 keyboards/headphones with a teacher control station from which I can talk to

and play for the entire class, an individual student, or a selected group of students. As the lab adjoins the chorus room, students also have opportunities to play on acoustic pianos weekly: after each day’s group lesson is concluded, students take turns playing on the grand and upright piano in adjoining rooms.

As more students find out about keyboard classes, the program continues to grow, lives continue to be enriched, and music is being promoted in more homes. Among other benefits, camaraderie among the students is evident daily as students “hang out” in the chorus/piano room as soon as they get off the bus in the morning and as soon as they finish their last class of the day. As George Litterst states in the Dec/Jan 09-10 issue of *American Music Teacher*, the “group dynamic [can be used] to full advantage, promoting a shared learning experience.”

And speaking of a shared learning experience, I want to thank GCMTA for being such a welcoming group of people helping me through the learning curve of joining a new organization. And in case you’re curious, opportunities abound for collaboration with you and our school program—feel free to contact me if you would like to know more.

Amy Turner
Meadowcreek High School
Piano/Keyboard Instructor



This is the piano lab that has 15 keyboards and 1 teacher station



*Gwinnett County Music
Teachers Association*

*Janet Will, President
jbwill2@bellsouth.net*

GCMTA News



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!

Newsletter....

If you have information that needs to go in the newsletter, please email it to gcmtamail@gmail.com. Label your email with "newsletter" in the subject line. You can also call me at 678-985-9302. Please send me your information as you want it worded in the newsletter in **Microsoft Word format**, or simply typed in your email, and have it to me by the 1st of the month. Please try not to do too much formatting on your information (spacing, tabs, etc.) Leave that up to me. Thank you!

Natalie Hardy

Odds & Ends

Yoonah Oh entered her student Jasmine Kim into the GMEA competition and she won 1st place in the 6th grade division. Congratulations!



On behalf of GCMTA, a \$50 donation was made in the memory of Chris Wolfgang, Dianne Wolfgang's son, to Perimeter Church, the family's charity of choice".

Another little "nugget" regarding the upcoming theory test!

You may get the requirements for this test if you go online to www.georgiamta.org, click student activities, click theory test.

If you look at the Level 1, you will notice that most of the requirements are concepts we teach everyday from the basic theory books. You might keep this page close to your teaching materials and make a special effort to emphasize the concepts the students are learning in their theory books.

Perhaps because this may be a new project for you, you might take just one level this year, and add more later for the advancing students.

- Lois Sivert

