



GCMTA Newsletter

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Calendar

March 2006

- 18 GMTA Local Auditions
- 22 GCMTA meeting
- 25 JR/SR Scholarship Auditions

April 2006

- 21-22 GMTA In-State Auditions at UGA
- 29 GCMTA Ensemble Concert

May 2006

- 17 GCMTA Luncheon

June 2006

- 30 2006-2007 MTNA Dues Deadline

Help Wanted

A pianist and choir director is needed at Mt. Creek Baptist Church in Monroe, GA. If you are interested or know someone who might be, call James Ezell at 770.554.4011.

GCMTA Program: March 22

The program for March 22, 2006 is "Technology in the Piano Studio" by Dr. Geoffrey Haydon. Dr. Haydon is a professor at Georgia State University.

Newsletter Deadlines

Want something in the newsletter? Please **EMAIL** your information to **Debbie Largent**.

e.Mail LargentATL@hotmail.com

Mail 2225 Chickering Court
Cumming, GA 30041

Phone 770.889.5714

The deadline for submitting information for publication is the **1st of each month**.



GCMTA NEWS NOTES

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From the desk of Yumi Patterson

The Patterson Report

Thanks for the great turnout! 775 students, 52 teachers, and 18 judges, represented three districts of the Federated Festival. It was a great success.

- **Kudos** to chairpersons Tina Darden (West Gwinnett), Ping Xu (North Gwinnett), Maisy Pritchard (Central Gwinnett), and their committees. Also, thanks to all of the teachers who worked to prepare the events and to the students who participated.
- **Congratulations** to the winners of the scholarships and honors!

Thank you to each of the teachers and students who performed in the February Master Class by Dr. Patti Dinkins-Matthews. The program was great, and we appreciate the time and effort by all. Also thanks to Music & Arts for donating gift certificates for the performers.

Mark your calendar! March 22 is the last GCMTA program this school year. There is no meeting in April, and we will conclude our year with a luncheon in May.

Have you voted? Susan Andrews is running for the Southern Division Director. Susan is a past president of GMTA and former president of GCMTA. You can vote online at www.MTNA.org and go to the election.

Encore!

Winners of the GCMTA local Auditions will perform one of their pieces on recitals to be held at Grace Community Church on Five-Forks Trickum Road in Lawrenceville on March 26, 2006.

- Grades 4, 7 & 10 will perform at 2pm.
- Grades 5,8, & 11 will perform at 3pm.
- Grades 6, 9, & 12 will perform at 4pm.



Ode to a Page Turner ...

The following program notes are from an unidentified piano recital:

“Tonight’s page turner, Ruth Spelke, studied under Ivan Schmertnick at the Boris Nitsky School of Page Turning in Philadelphia. She has been turning pages here and abroad for many years for some of the world’s leading pianists.

“In 1988, Ms. Spelke won the Wilson Page Turning Scholarship, which sent her to Israel to study page turning from left to right. She is winner of the 1984 Rimsky Korsakov Flight of the Bumblebee Prestissimo Medal, having turned 47 pages in an unprecedented 32 seconds. She was also a 1983 silver medalist at the Klutz Musical Page Pickup Competition: contestants retrieve and rearrange a musical score dropped from a Yamaha. Ms. Spelke excelled in ‘grace, swiftness, and especially poise.’

“For techniques, Ms. Spelke performs both the finger-licking and the bent-page corner methods. She works from a standard left bench position, and is the originator of the dipped-elbow page snatch, a style used to avoid obscuring the pianist’s view of the music. She is page turner in residence in Fairfield Iowa, where she occupies the coveted Alfred Hitchcock Chair at the Fairfield Page Turning Institute.

“Ms. Spelke is married and has a nice house on a lake.”

North Gwinnett Festival

Ping Xu, Chair

North District had federated festival on February 11, 2006 at the First Baptist Church of Duluth. We had 296 students participating. Dr. Jeffrey Haydon was the judge of the High School Division.

Thanks to all the teachers in North District. Special thanks to Tina Darden, Judy Harper, Robin Engleman, Lisa Gaal, Stephanie Freeman, Alicia Chandler, and Debbie Largent for their great work and support.

Scholarship Winners:

Cassie Xie Ping Xu, Teacher

First alternate

Daniel Forkner Mary Parsons, Teacher

Second alternate

Helen Li Ping Xu, Teacher

Honorable Mentions

Angela Chiang Rwei Hao, Teacher
Andrew Sears Stephanie Freeman, Teacher
Kelvin Wey Stephanie Freeman, Teacher

Quotes about the piano

When asked the secret of piano playing, Australian pianist Artur Schnabel replied: "I always make sure that the lid over the keyboard is open before I start to play."

"Nothing soothes me more after a long and maddening course of pianoforte recitals than to sit and have my teeth drilled."

— George Bernard Shaw, Irish playwright and music critic.

"When she started to play, Steinway himself came down personally and rubbed his name off the piano."

— comedian Bob Hope commenting on the skills of fellow comedian Phyllis Diller.

West Gwinnett Festival

Tina Darden, Chair

On February 11, 2006, the West Gwinnett Federated Festival was held at Smoke Rise Academy of Arts in Stone Mountain. A total of 249 students participated with 228 earning a Superior rating.

Emily Dedo, Kyle Glasser, Lucy Pettitt-Scheiber, and Elizabeth Powell each earned their 10th consecutive Superior this year. Congratulations to them as well as the following Scholarship Winner, Alternates, Honorable Mentions and their Teachers:

Scholarship Winner

Sakurako Stephens Yumi Patterson, Teacher

1st Alternate

Adam Smith Carole Mitchell, Teacher

2nd Alternate

Joe Chambers Yumi Patterson, Teacher

Honorable Mentions

Elias Crist Brenda Wheeler, Teacher
Annie Eaton Susan Andrews, Teacher
Angela Holleman Susan Andrews, Teacher
Tori Ross Yumi Patterson, Teacher
Kristyn Saroff Susan Andrews, Teacher

We would like to thank Smoke Rise Academy for allowing us to use their wonderful facilities again this year. The Academy staff works especially hard behind the scenes to ensure we have a successful festival day each year.

Definition

PIANO TUNER: A person employed to come into the home, rearrange the furniture, and annoy the cat. The tuner's chief purpose is to ascertain the breaking point of the piano's strings.

Central Gwinnett Festival

Maisy Pritchard, Chair

Greetings to everyone. Festival day was a success! It was an exciting day. Thank you all for your hard work, individually and collectively. It was great to see so many students participate in this event. Altogether, 230 students performed. Of these, 216 scored the Superior rating. Congratulations to all these students and their teachers.

We are happy to report that we have 1st and 2nd place winners as well as four alternates and one Honorable Mention for the high school scholarship this year.

1st place winner

Hanna Lin Jean Mann, Teacher

2nd place winner

Jong-il Choi Hee Kyung Lee, Teacher

1st alternate

Christopher Kuo Jean Mann, Teacher

2nd alternate

Katy Hsu Jean Mann, Teacher

3rd alternate

Joan Kwak. Hee Kyung Lee, Teacher

4th alternate

Susanna James Joan Irwin

Honorable Mention

Mark Hadden Tim Wheeler, Teacher

There were no concerto participants in Central this year.

We also have one vocal scholarship winner and one string scholarship winner.

Vocal winner:

Lindsay Guyton Darlene Mehring, Teacher

String winner:

Sophia Kirchhoff Mary Lee, Teacher Pennington

CONGRATULATIONS to all these students and their teachers!

To date, there have been numerous compliments from teachers and judges, and we strive to keep up the good work. We are thankful to Central Baptist Church for the very kind use of their facility, and to Piano Works, Inc. for providing the pianos for our Festival.

If you'd like to send me your feedback about our Festival, please feel free to e-mail me at maisyp@bellsouth.net. Have a great and musically-productive rest of the year, Maisy Pritchard.

Did you know ...?

- The earliest pianos had no sharps or flats.
- There are approximately 10,000 parts in an average upright piano.
- Even though the plate on a piano is made of cast iron, and can weigh as much as 500 pounds, and can withstand enormous pressure, it is very fragile and can crack or break very easily.
- A piano's worst enemy is fluctuations in humidity.
- If you live in a climate with extreme temperatures and humidity in winter and summer, your piano will be

sharp in the more humid months, and flat in the less humid months.

- If the strings in the bass section of a piano weren't of greater mass, that the height of an upright piano would be about 20 feet. A grand piano would be 20 to 25 feet long. Imagine trying to fit that in your living rooms!
 - That you do not have to know how to play the piano in order to be a good piano technician.
 - The design of an acoustic piano has not changed significantly in the past 100 years.
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