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## **GMTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

April 18, 2015  
11:15 a.m.

Hugh Hodgson School of Music, University of Georgia, Room 308

President Robin Engleman called the meeting to order.

The minutes from the August 23, 2014 and November 8, 2014 meetings were approved.

### **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

#### **President: Robin Engleman**

GMTA is moving along!

In mid-December, after narrowing a well qualified slate of candidates from six down to three, the selection committee (Susan Andrews, Keith DeFoor, Dawn McCord, Tom Pearsall, Edith Sweatman and I) emerged from the interviews fully convinced that GMTA should retain Mandy Reynolds as our 2<sup>nd</sup> Executive Director. I am happy to report that Mandy has been delightful. Look for an article about her in the Summer GMTA Newsletter.

I joined the MTNA Competition winners from Georgia at the Southern Division Meetings and Competitions at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tennessee, in January. I served as an indoor monitor for two of the competitions, attended Southern Division meetings, cheered on our Georgia students and enjoyed the fellowship with other Southern Division State Presidents. GMTA garnered nine awards total.

The winners represented us at the MTNA Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada in March. We had four national participants (Chamber Music Strings, Chamber Music Winds, Composition, Young Artist Performance Woodwinds). Out of those, we had two second place winners (Chamber Music Strings and Composition). Congratulations to the teachers in Georgia and their excellent students! I am excited to add that GMTA allotted \$3,300 for travel grants for these students who competed in Knoxville and Las Vegas.

In Las Vegas, I again monitored for two of the competitions and attended meetings and forums dedicated to meeting the goals of our organization as well as hearing many fine performances and masterclasses – Sir James and Lady Jeanne Galway, The Canadian Brass, Anne Schein, Lang Lang, Scott McBride Smith to name a few.

As we meet today in this building, we are flanked by many pre-college piano students and teachers competing in and diligently working the last weekend of the third year of our reorganized GMTA Auditions. Many thanks to Cathy Thacker, VP Auditions, who has worked tirelessly to make this year's Auditions the best possible experience for students and teachers alike. As one chair from last weekend commented, "Cathy Thacker certainly was the bright spot through all the Auditions."

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Since the last Executive Board meeting in November, an ad hoc committee consisting of Jonathan Klein, Chair Cathy Thacker, VP Auditions and Betty Atkins, President Augusta MTA, have worked to propose a fee structure for non-member participation in GMTA Auditions, an FTC requirement. It has been approved by the FAC and will be presented at the Executive Board meeting for approval on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your excellent work!

Plans have been underway in preparation for the GMTA Conference at Agnes Scott College in Decatur this November. The plans for the Conference are on schedule and we will hear fantastic headliners, Ian Hobson and Ingrid Clarfield, awesome Georgia's Own sessions. We will also get to meet our newly installed MTNA President, Rebecca Johnson. I am looking forward to seeing many of my friends there - college faculty, collegiate members and independent teachers alike. Look for information about the conference as well as other GMTA activities in the Summer GMTA Newsletter (mid-June) and in emails which will be sent throughout the summer.

Our 2016 GMTA Conference was to have been at Reinhardt College. These plans have changed. Joy Poole and I are looking for a new location.

Three positions have been appointed: Collaborative Performance – Lynn Ann Worchester; Wellness – Joanna Kim Doyle; Cat Massey – Face Book Page.

### **President-Elect: Rebecca Healan**

So far this year, I have been working to grasp an understanding of my responsibilities as President-Elect. I recently attended my very first FAC meeting and look forward to working with GMTA President, Robin Engleman, over the next two years. We will be actively working through the Teacher of the Year Nominations in the coming months, and I am truly excited to get to know the Local Association Presidents better this year.

### **Vice-President, Programs: Joy Poole**

The 2015 GMTA Conference will be held at Agnes Scott College in Decatur.

Conference Recitalist will be Ian Hobson, University of Illinois (<http://ianhobson.net/bio.html>) “...one of the finest pianists of his generation” (American **Record** Guide).

Conference Pedagogy Headliner will be Ingrid Clarfield (<http://ingridclarfield.com/home.asp>), nationally recognized teacher, clinician, pianist, and Professor of Piano and Coordinator of the Piano Department at Westminster Choir College of Rider University in Princeton, New Jersey.

Commissioned Composer will be Greg McLean (<http://gregmclean.net>). Greg is a nationally recognized composer and musician.

Master Classes will be held by both Conference Recitalist and Conference Pedagogy Headliner.

50 year members will be honored with a reception on Thursday evening following the evening concert.

Twenty-seven proposals have been submitted for the conference from Georgia's Own. Local associations will be asked to provide door prizes for each session.

### **Vice-President Membership: Jane Lester**

MTNA had come up with a Membership Drive Campaign Handbook. This is located on the MTNA Website. It includes new member recruiting and member retention ideas. I have included the retention ideas in my report and have shared this with the LAPS.

RETENTION IDEAS

**For New Members:**

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**Welcoming Packet.** A welcome letter or email from the state or local association president with a thank you and an invitation to the group's next meeting sets a positive tone with the new member. Although time-consuming, a follow-up phone call from the president or a local contact is a wonderful personal touch that is well worth the effort if it results in more active, satisfied members. (Personal interaction with new members is the best way to get them involved and ensure they stay involved in your association's activities.)

**First-time Meeting Buddy System.** Establish a committee of existing members that will be assigned to call new members to invite them to the next association meeting. Then the "buddy" greets the new members at the meeting and introduces them to other members to ease any initial apprehension. Some associations even go so far as to establish a rule that if a new member is present at a meeting or function, no two officers can talk to each other. They must talk with the new members.

**First-year Member Reception At State Convention.** Have your state president host a reception – open to all members – during which first-year members are recognized by the group. Think of all you can do to make them feel welcome and included.

**Association Newsletter.** List new members in each issue of your newsletter. Encourage established members to call and welcome them to the group.

**Scholarships.** Local associations award scholarships to a certain number of new members each year to attend state conference.

**Mentoring.** Ask seasoned teachers and long-time MTNA members to mentor new members. Pairing new members with veteran members will encourage the new members' participation in your group's activities and will result in increased member satisfaction and retention. Some suggested guidelines for a mentoring program are included in the next section of this handbook.

**Retention Ideas For All Members:**

Programming: Plan programs that are diverse, comprehensive and applicable to all members of your association. Be sensitive to members' schedules and locations by offering alternative times and locations for meetings and activities throughout the year. Use varying means of communication to spread the word – newsletters, telephone calls, surveys, newspapers, television, radio, email and so on.

Provide seminars and programs for the new teacher getting started in the teaching field (business aspects of running a studio and so on). Provide child care.

Assist members in getting reconnected to a new local association after they move.

Encourage meetings and activities that appeal to the non-pianist.

Provide assistance for members who need financial assistance in order to attend the state conference (registration, conference meals, carpooling).

Arrange carpooling for monthly local association meetings.

Go after non-renewals. Find out why they did not renew. Look for trends and make adjustments (types of programs, more fellowship, and the like).

Keep up-to-date in technology – use in association records and communication, plan programs on the use of technology in the teaching studio.

Hold state-wide competitions or festivals for all instruments and voice.

Keep members informed through local and state newsletters/websites. Include materials for festivals and auditions, membership directories, member handbooks, links to other resources, events, awards and pedagogical articles.

-Work younger members into leadership positions.

-Develop quality activities for students of members.

-Educate independent teachers on ways they can become full-time.

-Give IMT's ideas for affording to attend the national conference.

-Get members involved in all facets of MTNA: local, state and national. Encourage them to read the journals, visit MTNA website, become certified, enter students in the competitions, serve and recruit.

Date	Members	New	Reinstated	% of increase/decrease
6/30/14	754			
7/31/14	543	13	5	-27.98%

8/31/14	590	7	9	-21.75%
9/30/14	652	11	7	-13.53%
10/31/14	691	17	2	-8.36%
11/30/14	700	2	2	-7.16%
12/31/14	703	0	1	-6.76%
1/31/15	722	11	4	-4.24%
2/26/15	724	0	0	-3.98%
3/31/15	732	4	1	-2.92%
Totals	732	65	31	Loss or 87 Previous Members

**Vice-President, Publicity: Natalie Hardy**

Not Here

**Vice-President, GMATA Auditions: Cathy Thacker**

2015 Auditions is successful so far. The Regional Coordinators, Organizers, and State Chairs have worked very hard to ensure that the events go smoothly. This year saw the GATE theory test being introduced to all Pre-College Piano entrants.

We have a total of 656 students this year participating in the Regional and State Auditions. This is an increase from last year's total number of 636. 12<sup>th</sup> grade Piano has almost doubled in the last two years (20 in 2013), and Strings/Guitar has more than doubled (42 in 2013).

- Region I – 115                      Grade 12 - 39
- Region II – 98                      Concerto - 13
- Region III – 32                      WW/Brass - 4
- Region IV – 112                      Strings/Guitar – 87
- Region V – 112                      Voice – 16
- College Piano - 28

There were 272 Theory participants.

I strongly recommend adding a work requirement for the teachers who enter students in Auditions. Some local associations have this rule, but it is desirable at the regional and state level as well. "Many hands make light work."

Please e-mail me at [cbt88@bellsouth.net](mailto:cbt88@bellsouth.net) with any comments you may have.

**Vice-President, MTNA Competitions: Carol Payne**

The stage is set for the competitions to be held the weekend of Oct. 29 – Nov. 1. We will be hosted by Clayton State University again this year. Senior Piano Competitions will be held in Spivey Hall.

I have been in touch with our various state coordinators, Junior, Senior, and Young Artist, and one of them has already received an inquiry about the competitions. Presently, I am starting to contact judges to invite them to participate and have several confirmed. Robin

updated our information on the MTNA Competitions page, so we are all set for the registration this fall!

It states in the GMTA Procedural Manual that the VP/Auditions and the VP/MTNA Competitions should “review the judges fees/compensation report annually” and “recommendations should be presented to the FAC.” In advance of this meeting, I contacted all the people who hold similar positions to mine in the other states of the Southern Division to find out how they compensate their MTNA competition judges. Only two states provided answers so far, Florida and Alabama, both of whom differ widely from each other and from Georgia. If other states respond, I will include that information in my report for the next GMTA Board meeting.

We had several honors received by our students at the Southern Division and National Competitions:

- High school student Luka Marinkovic, student of Jeannine Morrison, won the Southern Division, and subsequently was awarded Second Place in the National Senior Composition Competition for his piano composition.
- Gabriel Pique, saxophonist, and student of Connie Frigo at UGA won the Southern Division Young Artist Woodwinds Competition.
- Gabriel Pique also is a member of “Milk,” a woodwind chamber ensemble from UGA that won the Southern Division Chamber Music, Woodwind Competition. Connie Frigo is the teacher/coach of “Milk.”
- The Columbus String Quartet, taught/coached by Sergiu Schwarz, won the Southern Division Young Artist Chamber Music Strings, and subsequently was awarded Second Place in the National Young Artist Chamber Music, Strings Competition.

#### **Executive Director: Mandy Reynolds**

GMTA Financial Summary July 1, 2014-April 9, 2015 was presented and is attached to these minutes.

#### **Arts Awareness and Advocacy: Debra Murphy**

##### ***GMTA's Georgia's Own***

The *Georgia's Own* webpage has received a makeover! I am most grateful to Tom Pearsall for sharing his creative vision and for his efforts on the project before passing the project to me.

In addition to the current listing of members willing to make presentations, three additional GMTA members have been added to the list. There are four additional members who are interested in being added to the list. Information is being gathered to finalize these new additions.

##### **Arts Awareness and Advocacy**

The 28th annual Arts Advocacy Day was held in Washington, D.C. on March 23 & 24. This event brings together a broad cross section of America's cultural and civic organizations, along with grassroots advocates. The ambition of Arts Advocacy Day is to accentuate the relevance of establishing public policies and appropriating increased public funding for the arts.

Activities this year included an orientation, advocacy training, legislature and political updates, and a briefing on the National Endowment for the Arts, Arts in Education Programs, and Charitable Giving.

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Each year, attendees are inspired by lectures intended to stimulate dialogue on policy and social issues affecting the arts. This year Norman Lear gave a moving lecture to a sold-out crowd, and the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra added inspiring musical performances to the program.

Stay up to date on arts advocacy news, legislative updates, and opportunities to voice your support of the arts to your representatives in Congress via the Americans for the Arts Action Fund link

<http://www.artsactionfund.org/pages/why>.

### **Certification: Ashley Craig-Diaz**

As of January 2015, GMTA had a membership of 722, and of those, 103 hold current Nationally Certified. We rank 27<sup>th</sup> in the nation for certification with 14.3% of our members holding National Certification.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KENDRA BALL GANNAWAY who earned her National Certification through Administrative Verification!

Now is the time to renew your National Certification for 2015/2016! You may do so at <https://members.mtna.org/mtnarenewcertificationform/>. It is incredibly easy and takes approximately 5 minutes to complete. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have regarding renewal.

There are two ways you may become a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music: through Administrative Verification or through completing a Teacher Profile Project. You may read more information about both at <http://www.mtnacertification.org/process/>.

### **College Faculty: Paula Thomas-Lee**

No report

### **Collegiate Chapters: Soohyun Yun**

The first annual GMTA Collegiate Colloquium, hosted by the Kennesaw State University Collegiate Chapter, invited 26 collegiate members and 4 piano faculty from Kennesaw State University (KSU), Reinhardt University, Shorter University and Young Harris College on January 24, 2015. Jerico Vasquez, faculty of Shorter University, and Cynthia DeFoor, faculty of Young Harris College, presented on “Maintaining a Private Studio” and “Stress Management”, four Collegiate chapters showcased their activities throughout the past year, GMTA President Robin Engleman spoke about GMTA activities, Susan Naylor, the Immediate Past Chair of the Collegiate Chapters, spoke about GMTA Collegiate Handbook, and all attended collegiate members were split into four groups and discussed about pedagogical topics for the future conference. Photos of the event can be found at MTNA-Collegiate Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/GMTACollegiateChapters>

### **News From Collegiate Chapters**

**Kennesaw State University Collegiate Chapter, (KSU-MTNA)**

Soohyun Yun, Faculty Advisor

KSU-MTNA assisted hosting the Cobb County MTA, Local Audition on 2/28/2015 and the GMTA Regional V Audition on 3/28/2015 at KSU, successfully. Beth Anne Ake and Soyoun Sheehan, officers of KSU-MTNA performed at the Scholarship Winners Recital in CCMTA monthly meeting on 3/6/2015. Four officers of KSU-MTNA presented three individual posters and one group poster on piano pedagogy topics at the 20<sup>th</sup> KSU Annual Symposium of Student Scholars on 4/16/2015. In May, KSU-MTNA will organize the third music festival for local pre-college students at KSU.

**Reinhardt Collegiate Chapter, “Naturally Sharp”**

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Susan Naylor, Faculty Advisor

At our meeting after the Collegiate Colloquium at KSU on [Jan. 24th, 2015](#), we elected our officers for 2015-16. Two of the events that we talked about attending were the Collegiate Chapters National Symposium at University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC, and the GMTA Collegiate Colloquium in 2016. On [March 21st, 2015](#), 8 members from our chapter visited the Emeritus Senior Center in Canton to present musical selections and lead the residents in singing hymns. We visited with them before and after the music presentations. On [April 21st, 2015](#), we will have our end-of-year party when we will go out to eat and then go bowling. We plan to have a meeting of the Naturally Sharp Executive Board members in August, 2015, to plan our activities for next year.

### **Finance/Advisory Committee: Susan Andrews**

Advertisers and those who wish to make donations to GMTA may now make online credit card payments using the website.

In order to comply with GMTA Bylaws and FTC regulations, Local Associations are being asked to submit their governing documents (Constitution, Bylaws) electronically to the GMTA office by June 1. They will be reviewed by Dawn McCord. Two copies will be kept on file in the GMTA office, and the documents will then be sent to the MTNA office.

GMTA files are stored in Carbonite online backup. The Executive Director will research methods of also scanning historic GMTA documents into Carbonite.

#### **BUDGET:**

Students who participated in Southern Division competitions received travel grants in the amount of \$130, and those who went on to MTNA received an additional \$130. One student who participated in chamber music and solo performance received double that amount.

GMTA will contribute \$50 for hospitality at the annual College Chapter Colloquium, and will be included in the budget under miscellaneous expenses.

Box lunches will be provided for the college student members who pre-register for the conference. Funds for this will come from the 2014-2015 budget surplus.

Four \$400 GMTA Grants will be offered in 2015. Collegiate student members are eligible to apply for the grants, and they must indicate how the grant will be used. Active GMTA members may also apply and may use the grant for teacher education or student scholarship. These grants, as well as the Steinway Grants, will be publicized in the summer issue of the GMTA Newsletter. \$400 was also budgeted for certification stipends.

The Executive Director's contract will be renewed as of July 1 for a period of two years. The Executive Director will update her job description and present it to the FAC for review in August. Thereafter, the job description and contract will be evaluated and renewed in odd-numbered years.

The Piano Judges' List will now be called the Judges' List and will include judges of other instruments.

The decision was made to temporarily discontinue the sale of mailing labels until further study can be conducted regarding sharing of members' contact information.

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## **ACTION ITEMS FOR THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:**

The FAC proposes that the Website Chair position be eliminated. Web editing and updates will be done by the Executive Director, with oversight provided by the GMTA President. This passed.

The GMTA Procedural Manual states that any GMTA Teacher of the Year who is declared MTNA Teacher of the Year will receive honorary lifetime membership in GMTA. The FAC proposes to expand the criteria used in considering candidates for GMTA honorary lifetime membership as follows: In addition to demonstrating exemplary service to the Association and to the music teaching profession, the candidate must meet one of the following requirements: 1) served as an MTNA officer; 2) designated an MTNA Foundation Fellow. The presentation of honorary lifetime membership must be approved by the FAC and the Executive Board. The bios of current Honorary Lifetime GMTA Members will be posted on the Member Honors page of the GMTA website. This passed.

The FAC proposes that a statement regarding the Code of Ethics be placed on the GMTA Website. It will include a link to the MTNA Code of Ethics. Local Associations are encouraged to make the same statement on their websites and in their bylaws, procedural manuals and/or directories. This passed.

The FAC proposes the fee structure for non-member participation in GMTA Auditions.

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### **Fee Structure for Non-Members Participating in GMTA Competitive Events**

Georgia MTA is in the final stages of becoming fully compliant with the April 3, 2014 Federal Trade Commission ("FTC") Antitrust settlement with Music Teachers National Association. One of the tenets of this

antitrust compliance is offering access to competitive events to non-members of GMTA and its affiliates. The

FTC's rationale for this is the belief that *"for music teachers, the success of students in these competitions can*

*elevate the teachers' reputations and marketability"* (ATCG, pg. 8).

GMTA and any affiliate sponsoring a competition may charge non-member teachers and students higher fees

than those of its members and still be FTC antitrust compliant. However, *"the fee differential should not be so*

*high that it effectively compels a teacher to join the MTNA, GMTA or its local affiliates"* (ATCG, pg. 9). GMTA

is in the process of implementing such a schedule of fees for non-members who wish to participate in GMTA

affiliated events and below are the proposed amounts for various student activities offered:

#### **PRE-COLLEGE PIANO AUDITIONS**

Current Active Member Dues & Fees:

\$114 MTNA/GMTA Dues (Teacher)

\$20 GMTA Audition Fee (Teacher)

\$0-\$20 Local Audition Fee (Teacher)

\$25 GMTA Audition Fee (Student)

\$15-\$20 Local Audition Fee (Student)

#### **Proposed Non-Member Fee:**

**\$75 Local Level Audition Non-Member (Per-Teacher)**

**\$35 Regional/State Audition Non-Member (Per-Teacher)**

**\$35 Local Level Audition Non-Member (Per-Student)**

**\$30 Regional/State Audition Non-Member (Per-Student)**

**Note: GMTA teachers participating in a local audition as a non-member of that local association would**

**pay the proposed non-member fees. If their participation advances to the regional/state level**

**the teacher (and related students) would pay the current active member fees.**

#### PIANO CONCERTO

Current Active Member Dues & Fees:

\$114 MTNA/GMTA Dues (Teacher)

\$20 GMTA Audition Fee (Teacher)

\$25 GMTA Audition Fee (Student)

**Proposed Non-Member Fee:**

**\$50 State Audition Non-Member (Per-Teacher)**

**\$100 State Audition Non-Member (Per-Student)**

#### COLLEGE/ADULT PIANO

Current Active Member Dues & Fees:

\$114 MTNA/GMTA Dues (Teacher)

\$20 GMTA Audition Fee (Teacher)

\$25 GMTA Audition Fee (Student)

**Proposed Non-Member Fee:**

**\$50 State Audition Non-Member (Per-Teacher)**

**\$100 State Audition Non-Member (Per-Student)**

#### STRINGS & CLASSICAL GUITAR

Current Active Member Dues & Fees:

\$114 MTNA/GMTA Dues (Teacher)

\$20 GMTA Audition Fee (Teacher)

\$25 GMTA Audition Fee (Student)

**Proposed Non-Member Fee:**

**\$50 State Audition Non-Member (Per-Teacher)**

**\$100 State Audition Non-Member (Per-Student)**

#### VOICE

Current Active Member Dues & Fees:

\$114 MTNA/GMTA Dues (Teacher)

\$20 GMTA Audition Fee (Teacher)

\$25 GMTA Audition Fee (Student)

**Proposed Non-Member Fee:**

**\$50 State Audition Non-Member (Per-Teacher)**

**\$100 State Audition Non-Member (Per-Student)**

#### WOODWINDS & BRASS

Current Active Member Dues & Fees:

\$114 MTNA/GMTA Dues (Teacher)

\$20 GMTA Audition Fee (Teacher)

\$25 GMTA Audition Fee (Student)

**Proposed Non-Member Fee:**

**\$50 State Audition Non-Member (Per-Teacher)**

**\$100 State Audition Non-Member (Per-Student)**

#### INSTRUMENTAL CONCERTO

Current Active Member Dues & Fees:

\$114 MTNA/GMTA Dues (Teacher)

\$20 GMTA Audition Fee (Teacher)

\$25 GMTA Audition Fee (Student)

**Proposed Non-Member Fee:**

**\$50 State Audition Non-Member (Per-Teacher)**

**\$100 State Audition Non-Member (Per-Student)**

#### GMTA THEORY TESTS

Current Active Member Dues & Fees:

\$114 MTNA/GMTA Dues (Teacher)

\$0 GMTA Test Fee (Teacher)  
\$10 GMTA Test Fee (Student)  
**Proposed Non-Member Fee:**  
**\$50 State Testing Non-Member (Per-Teacher)**  
**\$25 State Testing Non-Member (Per-Student)**  
GATE (Georgia Auditions Theory Exam)  
Current Active Member Dues & Fees:  
\$114 MTNA/GMTA Dues (Teacher)  
\$0 GATE Fee (Teacher)  
\$10 GATE Fee (Student)  
**Proposed Non-Member Fee:**  
**\$0 State Exam Non-Member (Per-Teacher)**  
**\$15 State Exam Non-Member (Per-Student)**

This new fee structure passed.

The FAC proposes the purchase of the following office equipment: Quickbooks software program at a cost of \$379.99; a one-year subscription renewal of Microsoft Office (\$99.99); and a new printer/scanner not to exceed \$500.00. These funds will come from the Office Supply portion of the current budget. This passed.

The FAC proposes a \$500 bonus for Executive Director Mandy Reynolds. This passed.

The FAC proposes the 2015-2016 GMTA budget. The budget was approved and is attached to these minutes. This passed.

#### **GMTA Awards: Heather Turner**

These are the donations that were made to GMTA since the beginning of the school year.  
8/29/14 - Cherokee MTA (\$50) & Women's Club in honor of Aurelia Campbell (\$25)  
9/10/14 - Gwinnett MTA (\$150) - \$50 to each of the three award funds  
11/10/14 - Conference donations (\$460)  
12/13/14 - Betty Nolting (\$100) - composition fund  
3/20/15 - Savannah MTA (\$100) in memory of Roger Byrd

#### **Independent Music Teachers Forum: Annette Day**

No Report

#### **MTNA Foundation: Colette Keogh**

85 Individuals from GMTA made a contribution to the MTNA Foundation Fund in 2015 for a total of \$3,537.00. Three Local Associations made contributions to the Foundation Fund, Augusta MTA \$100, Cherokee MTA \$50 and Macon MTA \$100.

Total contributions from GA: \$3787.00

Congratulations to Martha Thomas, who was recognized as a new Fellow at the MTNA National Conference in Las Vegas in March 2015. Final contributions to the Foundation Fund in Martha's honor have not yet been received from the National office.

#### **Piano Judges List: Yumi Patterson**

There are 43 judges listed currently on the GMTA Piano Judges List. The possibility of making a new list for the judges of the other area has been discussed and now is added to the FAC agenda. If approved the list will be renamed "GMTA Judge's List and opened up to any instrument. The application process will be the same process as with piano judges. It will be announced in the GMTA Newsletter as soon as it's approved.

#### **Technology: Joe Lozier.**

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Putting the GATE Theory Test online is being evaluated. It would really help to have the applications on line. Cobb County Association has their application process online and stated that it could easily be applied on the state level.

## **Theory: Jason Bennett**

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Over the years, numerous members have emailed me with questions about the theory tests, ranging from page layout to staff size to diminished triads, etc. For every person who asked, I assume there are others who would benefit from knowing the answer to those questions. I have figured out a way to make that happen. Starting now, you can submit questions about either the GMTA Theory Tests or the Georgia Auditions Theory Exams (GATEs) using a special email address for each, and answers to those questions will be published on GMTA's website in an FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) document on each areas' webpage. These FAQs will be continually updated as new questions are received and answered.

GMTA Theory Tests [gmta.theory.questions@gmail.com](mailto:gmta.theory.questions@gmail.com)

GATEs (for Auditions) [gate.theory.questions@gmail.com](mailto:gate.theory.questions@gmail.com)

NOTE: As with any area in GMTA, the theory area is constantly reviewing and revising its policies, procedures, and content. Any changes that affect participation in the theory programs will be announced and published well in advance of the changes taking effect. As with all areas in GMTA, it is imperative that each member ensure that they watch for, make note of, and retain the information that GMTA makes available each year so that they can incorporate those changes as they prepare students to participate in various GMTA events, including the GMTA Theory Tests and the GATEs.

### **GMTA THEORY TESTS**

Administrator Diane Boyd

Committee Dr. Susan Thompson (Georgia Southern Univ.)

Donna Dasher

The tests that were administered in 2014-2015 are almost finished being graded & are on schedule to be mailed, along with certificates, by the published postmark deadline of 5/1/15.

Total tests taken this year (2014-2015) = 272

Goals for 2015-2016:

1. Update/revise curriculum

2. Publish a guide with examples of correct handwritten answers

Send any questions you have about the GMTA Theory Tests, including specific questions about music theory, to [gmta.theory.questions@gmail.com](mailto:gmta.theory.questions@gmail.com). Answers will periodically be added to an FAQ on the GMTA Theory Test webpage.

### **GEORGIA AUDITIONS THEORY EXAMS (GATEs)**

Administrator Rebekah Healan

Committee Lois Finlay

Rene Holloman

Collette Keogh

Joe Lozier

The committee is still processing and analyzing the tests & results and will publish a report for all GMTA members to read in an upcoming GMTA newsletter.

The graded tests from Spring 2015 will be returned to the Local Associations to distribute to the individual teachers.

Preliminary observations:

q☐ A few test questions were problematic and were invalidated. They would not have counted against any student's grade.

o Response: The committee will strive to craft questions that are as clear and focused as possible.

q☐ Levels A & B were largely OK and will only need minor edits for next year.

q☐ Level C is under heavier review & will be revised based on what the committee is learning from the trial run this past spring.

q☐ Overall, between 25-29% of students did NOT score at least an 80 on their exam and would not have qualified to advance to regional auditions. The committee believes there are several reasons for this:

o Not taking the test seriously. This is evidenced in part by many students leaving multiple-choice questions blank rather than at least guessing.

- Not being sufficiently prepared.

q□ Several Local Associations disregarded instructions from the committee, including how to grade the tests. A few even recalculated the points on the tests, making up their own values for how many points each question was worth.

- NOTE: Had the GATEs not been given as a trial-run, those decisions would have had a drastically negative impact on those LAs' auditions results, most likely invalidating their test results and disqualifying all of their students from Auditions.

- In response, the GATE committee will establish qualifications for graders and will provide training and certification so that a consistent and uniform result can be assured across all the LAs.

q□ Next year's GATEs (2015-2016)

- Will again be paper-and-pencil and will be graded by each LA.
- Will be made available in both the fall and spring so that LAs can choose a date that works best in their schedules. To ensure fairness, different versions of the tests will be created and distributed. Mailing dates TBA.
- Exemptions will be enforced. Details are being finalized and will be published on GMTA's website by 6/30/15, including a list of all students who have earned exemptions for each GATE level.
- ALL GATEs must have been administered and graded for each grade level BEFORE the results of that grade level are announced at Local Auditions. If your LA plans to administer the GATEs on the day of its Auditions, you will need to plan accordingly.
- All 12<sup>th</sup> grade piano and piano concerto Auditions participants must take their GATEs by the date of their LA's Auditions. GATEs will not be administered at either Regional or State Auditions.

Send any questions you have about the Georgia Auditions Theory Exams (GATEs), including specific questions about music theory, to [gate.theory.questions@gmail.com](mailto:gate.theory.questions@gmail.com). Answers will periodically be added to an FAQ on the GATE webpage.

**Website: Jonathan Klein** No Report

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**1) Action Item:** The FAC proposes that the Website Chair position be eliminated. Web editing and updates are now being done by the Executive Director, with oversight provided by the GMTA President. This item passed.

**2) Action Item:** The GMTA Procedural Manual states that any GMTA Teacher of the Year who is declared MTNA Teacher of the Year will receive honorary lifetime membership in GMTA. The FAC proposes to expand the criteria used in considering candidates for GMTA honorary lifetime membership as follows: In addition to demonstrating exemplary service to the Association and to the music teaching profession, the candidate must meet one of the following requirements: 1) served as an MTNA officer; 2) designated an MTNA Foundation Fellow. The presentation of honorary lifetime membership must be approved by the FAC and the Executive Board. The bios of current Honorary Lifetime Members will be posted on the Member Honors page of the GMTA website. This item passed.

**3) Action Item:** The FAC proposes that a statement regarding the Code of Ethics be placed on the GMTA Website. It will include a link to the MTNA Code of Ethics and/or the actual MTNA Code of Ethics wording. Local Associations are encouraged to make the same statement on their websites and in their bylaws, procedural manuals and/or directories. Recommended wording: Name of Local Association members shall abide by the current Music Teachers National Association Code of Ethics. This item passed.

**4) Action Item:** The Finance and Advisory Committee proposes the fee structure for non-member participation in GMTA Auditions. Addendum to the proposal: The teacher must be a member by the application deadline or the non-member fee will be assessed. (Need new wording.) This item passed.

**5) Action Item:** The FAC proposes the purchase of the following office equipment: Quickbooks software program at a cost of \$379.99; a one-year subscription renewal of Microsoft Office (\$99.99); and a new color

printer/scanner not to exceed \$500.00. These funds will come from the Office Supply portion of the current budget. This item passed.

**6) Action Item:** The FAC proposes a \$500 bonus for Executive Director, Mandy Reynolds. This item passed.

**7) Action Item:** The FAC proposes the 2015-2016 GMTA Budget. This is attached to these minutes, The budget was approved as presented.

**8)** President Engleman proposed that the revised constitution and bylaws for Gwinett County be approved. This passed with two opposed.

Two copies of each local association's constitution and bylaws need to be sent to the GMTA Office.

Any changes in constitution and bylaws need to be presented in writing to the Executive Committee in the future.

**9)** A motion was made that the Executive Committee grant Past President Dawn McCord the authority to read through the Constitution and Bylaws of each local association and present her recommendations to the Executive Committee at the August 2015 meeting. The motion was made by Susan Andrews and seconded by Jane Lester. This motion passed.

**10)** A motion was made by Susan Andrews that an Ad Hoc Committee be established to deal with audition challenges and issues. This committee would be made up of Jonathan Klein, Chair, Linda Dorsey, Keiko Ransom, Carol Roach, Cathy Thacker, Rebekah Healan, and Robin Engleman. Joy Poole seconded this motion. This motion was passed.

President Engleman read a letter from Susan Naylor of Reinhardt College apologizing for withdrawing from hosting the 2016 GMTA Conference.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Reed, Secretary

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**(1) LAPs, Please let us know** (beside your name on the sign-in sheet) names of any upcoming, new Presidents, Presidents-elect, Local Auditions Chair, Theory Chair, GATE Chair and Membership Chair for your association and when his/her term begins. Would also like to know website address and Face Book page if you have one.

**(2) Senior Certificates:** Get today from Mandy Reynolds.

**(3) Recommended Code of Ethics** wording: Name of Local Association members shall abide by the current Music Teachers National Association Code of Ethics.

**(4) Steinway Piano Galleries Educator Grants:** Applications for these grants will be sent out by Steinway Galleries this summer and the deadline is September 14, 2015.

**5) GMTA Teacher of the Year Award 2012:** Postmark deadline is September 14, 2015. For more information, visit the GMTA web site (<http://www.georgiamta.org/memberResources-teacherOfTheYearApp.php>).

**(6) Local Association of the Year Award:** Information may be found on MTNA web site at <http://www.mtna.org/programs/awards/award-applications/local-association-of-the-year-award/>

#### **(7) MTNA Competitions**

a. 2015-2016 application deadline is 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time on September 16, 2015.

b. Current active membership dues for MTNA or a nonmember teacher fee must be paid prior to accessing the student competition application.

**(8) The 2016 MTNA National Conference** will be held April 2-6, 2016 in San Antonio, Texas.

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**(9) The next GMTA Council of Local Association Presidents Meeting and GMTA Executive Board Meeting** will be August 22 2015 at Clayton State University.

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## **FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

**2015:**

\*Tentative

\*\*Dates approved by FAC, but not yet confirmed with Regional host facilities

**May 1:** Graded GMTA Theory Achievement Tests (not GATE) & certificates mailed to participating teachers

**May 1:** Deadline for articles to be included in the GMTA Summer Newsletter

Local association presidents may submit articles to Natalie Hardy at nsmhardy88@gmail.com

**June 30:** Individual Membership Renewal Deadline. Individual membership year runs from July 1 thru June 30

**August 1:** Deadline for articles to be included in the GMTA Fall Newsletter

Local association presidents may submit articles to Natalie Hardy at nsmhardy88@gmail.com

**August 18:** Officer reports due to Secretary for upcoming Board meeting

**August 22:** GMTA Council of Local Association Presidents Meeting and GMTA Executive Board Meeting, Clayton State University, Morrow, Georgia

**September 14:** Application deadline for GMTA Teacher of the Year, Steinway Teacher Awards, GMTA Teacher Grants (Deadline always on second Monday of September)

**September 16:** Online application deadline (3:00 p.m. Eastern Time) for MTNA Competitions

**September 30:** Student Membership Renewal Deadline. Student membership year runs from October 1 thru September 30

**September 30:** Pre-registration Deadline for GMTA Conference

**October 1:** GMTA Theory Achievement Tests (not GATE) mailed to Local Associations

**October 29-November 1:** MTNA Competitions, Clayton State University, Morrow, Georgia

**November 5-7 :** GMTA State Conference, Agnes Scott College, Decatur, Georgia

**November 30:** Deadline for articles to be included in the GMTA Winter Newsletter

Local association presidents may submit articles to Natalie Hardy at nsmhardy88@gmail.com

**2016**

**January 19-21:** Southern Division Meetings and Competitions, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida

**February 29:** Postmark Deadline for GMTA Regional Auditions Applications

**February 29:** Deadline for Regional Coordinators to submit Judge information to VP of Auditions

**March 12:** FAC Meeting

\***March 15:** Postmark Deadline for completed GMTA Theory Tests to be mailed to Diane Boyd

\***March 15:** Postmark Deadline for completed GATE Tests to be mailed to Rebekah Healan

\*\***March 19:** GMTA Regional Auditions

**March 21:** Postmark Deadline for GMTA Auditions Applications

**April 3-6:** MTNA Conference, San Antonio, Texas

**April 9:** GMTA Council of Local Association Presidents Meeting and GMTA Executive Board Meeting, University of Georgia, Athens

**April 9:** GMTA State Auditions for College Piano, Instrumental, Voice and Instrumental Concerto, University of Georgia, Athens

**April 16:** GMTA State Auditions for Pre-College Piano and Piano Concerto, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia

\***May 1:** Graded GMTA Theory Achievement Tests (not GATE) & certificates mailed to participating teachers

**June 30:** Individual Membership Renewal Deadline. Individual membership year runs from July 1 thru June 30

**August TBD:** Officer reports due to Secretary for upcoming Board meeting

**August TBD:** GMTA Council of Local Association Presidents Meeting and GMTA Executive Board Meeting, Clayton State University, Morrow, Georgia

**September 12:** Application deadline for GMTA Teacher of the Year, Steinway Teacher Awards, GMTA Teacher Grants (Deadline always on second Monday of September)

**September TBD:** Online application deadline (3:00 p.m. Eastern Time) for MTNA Competitions

**September 30:** Student Membership Renewal Deadline. Student membership year runs from October 1 thru September 30

**September 30:** Pre-registration Deadline for GMTA Conference

**October 1:** GMTA Theory Achievement Tests (not GATE) mailed to Local Associations

**November:** MTNA Competitions and GMTA State Conference, Location TBA

**2017**

**January:** Southern Division Meetings and Competitions, South Carolina

**March 18-22:** MTNA Conference, Baltimore, Maryland

**2018**

**January:** Southern Division Meetings and Competitions, Virginia

**March 17-21:** MTNA Conference, Orlando, Florida

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