



GMTA 2021 Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Saturday, April 24, 2021 11:00 a.m.

Zoom

ROLL: Joy Poole, Cathy Thacker, Diane Boyd, Robin Engleman, Debra Hughes, Mandy Reynolds, Fernando Ramos, Susan Andrews, Mason Conklin, Jeri-Mae Astolfi, Amy Phillips, Christina Toole, Dawn McCord, Beibei Lin, Charles Hutton, Kristi Helfen, Tracy Xian, Huu Mai, Pam Asberry, Arlene Martinides

WELCOME

The Executive Board of Georgia Music Teachers Association met via Zoom. Joy Poole called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT: Jan Adams, NCTM

Welcome to our Zoom GMTA Executive Board Meeting. My thanks to Joy Poole for filling in for me today. I double booked this meeting with a Ladies' Day at church where my daughter is the guest speaker! And Mimi needs to keep the new grandson.

2020 has been a year filled with changes but GMTA has excelled through the Covid crisis. The 2020 Spring Auditions were immediately switched to virtual under the expert leadership of Past President, Joy Poole. She and Mandy Reynolds worked tirelessly to provide GMTA members with the opportunity for their students to continue the Audition process through video recordings of the

Region and State Auditions. GMTA led the way for other states, and even MTNA, to model their competitions and auditions using Georgia's process. As a result, Georgia was chosen to be MTNA's 2021 State Affiliate of the Year. I think this is a first for GMTA!

Another first was Dr. Peter van Zandt Lane being chosen as MTNA Distinguished Composer of the Year. Congratulations to Dr. Lane! His presentation at the MTNA Conference was outstanding.

I attended the 2021 MTNA Virtual Conference. One of the nice things about being virtual is that we can continue watching sessions until August. You can also see many more sessions than you would have if it had been live. I am looking forward to attending the 2022 MTNA Conference in Minneapolis, MN on March 26-30, 2022.

As of March 11, 2021, GMTA has 557 members; 92 certified teachers. Our membership in 2020 was 634 members and our membership in 2019 was 677 members. We have 7 Collegiate Chapters.

Our conference is scheduled for November 4-6, 2021 at Piedmont College in Demorest, Ga. Kristi Heflen and Jeri-Mae Astolfi have been working to make the 2021 Conference a memorable one in the N. Georgia mountains. Kristi has scheduled Jasmin Arakawa of University of Florida and Martha Hilley, MTNA President as headliners. We are excited to be together in 2021.

We held our 2020 MTNA Auditions in October with 108 entrants which was up from 2019 with 76 entrants. GMTA was represented with 16 winners from the state MTNA Competitions at the MTNA Southern Division Competitions. At the Southern Division GMTA had 2 winners and 3 alternates including:

Vocal Performance Young Artist Category Winner
Thai Johnson Joshua May, Teacher

Woodwind Performance Junior Category Winner
Grant Peng Angela Jones-Reus, Teacher

Piano Performance Senior Category Alternate

Charles Li Elena Cholakova, Teacher

Vocal Performance Senior Category Alternate

Andrew Boyacigiller Huu Mai, Teacher

Brass Performance Young Artist Category Alternate

Arturo Galvan Alex Avila, Teacher

For our Spring Auditions we anticipate 376 participants for the State Auditions. As a comparison in 2019 we had 393 participants at the State Auditions and in 2020 with the Covid Pandemic we had 338 participants. You can see our numbers are growing using the virtual auditions format. GMTA members are adjusting to the changes and doing well.

Newsletter and/or Communication:

<http://www.georgimta.org/newsletters.php>

Monthly Constant Contact

GroupMe messaging app

Local Association Information:

GMTA has 20 Local Associations:

- Athens – <http://www.athensmta.org/>
- Atlanta – <http://www.atlmta.org/>
- Augusta – <http://www.augustamusicteachers.com>
- Cherokee – <http://cherokeemta.org/>
- Cobb County – <http://www.ccmta.com/>
- Columbus - <http://www.cmtaga.com>
- Coweta-Fayette
- Decatur – <http://www.decaturmusicteachers.com/>
- Golden Isles
- Greater Marietta – <http://www.gmmta.us/>
- Gwinnett County – <http://www.gcmta.org/>
- Macon – <http://maconmusicteachers.com/>
- North DeKalb – <http://www.ndmta.net/>

- North Fulton – <http://nfmta.com/>
- Northeast Georgia
- Rome – <http://www.romemta.org/>
- Savannah

Issues/Concerns:

Would members want to continue Executive Board meetings via Zoom?

PRESIDENT-ELECT: Cathy Thacker, NCTM

I look forward to meeting and working with the local association presidents over the upcoming months. Please be sure to copy me on your local association newsletters at presidentelect.georgiamta@gmail.com or csbt88@gmail.com. If you have events that you would like to broadcast to other associations, let me know about them and I will email all of the local association presidents.

Many teachers are receiving their vaccinations, which makes for a better outlook for associations to start gathering in person again for 2021-22. I'm hopeful that GMTA membership numbers will increase as we start to hold meetings again. Try to be more involved in your local association, and help out in any way that you can.

VICE-PRESIDENT, PROGRAMS: Kristi Helfen, NCTM

Piedmont University (the name changed from "College" to "University" just this spring) will serve as our host for 2021 Conference on November 4-6. Our headliners have been confirmed, and they are: Conference Recitalist - Dr. Jasmin Arakawa from the University of Florida and Pedagogy Headliner - Martha Hilley from the University of Texas and Immediate Past President of MTNA. Georgia's Own proposals are being submitted with a deadline of May 1, 2021. 25 rooms have been reserved at the Hampton Inn in Cornelia at the rate of \$107 per night (plus taxes). A link to a web page will be available to make reservations. The deadline to reserve a room is October 21. This hotel still serves a hot breakfast, with the stipulation of wearing masks and gloves at this present time.

VICE-PRESIDENT, MEMBERSHIP: Beibei Lin

Total membership (4/1/2020-3/31/2021): 557

Compared to last year's membership (4/1/2019-3/31/2020): 627

New members: 53

New proposal to bolster membership connections and recruit new members:

Starting in May 2021, the VP of Membership will reach out to current members in GMTA requesting a 30-minute interview that will be released in video and podcast form on a weekly-basis. The release of these interviews is expected to start at the beginning of the Fall 2021 semester. These interviews aim to showcase individual teachers' journeys, struggles and triumphs, and advice for young pianists and teachers. It is the hope of the interviewer that these episodes will create a deeper connection within the GMTA community and allow members to find common ground to further professional and personal collaborations.

VICE-PRESIDENT, PUBLICITY: Amy Neal

If I have asked you to submit an article for the summer newsletter, please get those to me as close to May 1 as possible. Thanks to everyone who has already emailed me!

VICE-PRESIDENT, GMTA AUDITIONS: Huu Mai, NCTM

The 2021 GMTA In-State Auditions were held virtually this year. A huge thank you to Mandy Reynolds for her exemplary work in assisting with the online registrations, distribution of certificates, and so much more. Also a huge thanks to Joy Poole for coordinating the Regional Auditions including compiling, organizing, and distributing comment sheets, rating forms, and so much more. Joy's work last year laid the foundation that made this process so much smoother and allowed us to focus on refining that process. Lastly, thank you to those who served as regional auditions coordinators and state auditions chairs.

Regional Auditions Coordinators:

Region I: Ping Xu

Region II: Colette Keogh

Region III: Huu Mai

Region IV: Anne Sun

Region V: Jan Adams

State-Level Auditions Chairs:

State Auditions Coordinator: Joy Poole

Piano Grades 4-5: Ping-Yun Hsu

Piano Grades 6-7: Robin Engleman

Piano Grades 8-9: Anne Sun

Piano Grades 10-11: Diane Boyd

Piano Grade 12/Piano Concerto: Huu Mai

Instrumental Concerto, Strings, Guitar: Huu Mai

Voice, Woodwinds & Brass: Huu Mai

GMTA State Auditions Participation Statistics:

Collegiate Piano Concerto: 3

Collegiate Piano: 23

Instrumental Concerto: 26

Pre-College Piano Concerto: 10

Pre-College Piano Grade 12: 20

Pre-College Piano Grades 4-11: 233

Strings: 55

Voice: 15

Woodwinds and Brass: 4

Total Participants: 389

GMTA State Auditions Judges List:

Grade 4: Dr. Sara Ernst

Grade 5: Dr. Stijn De Cock

Grade 6: Mrs. Erika Tazawa Jenkins

Grade 7: Ms. Julie Coucheron

Grade 8: Dr. Scott Price
Grade 9: Dr. Read Gainsford
Grade 10: Dr. Alex Wasserman
Grade 11: Dr. Joseph Rackers
Grade 12: Dr. Kevin Chance
Pre-College Piano Concerto: Mr. David Watkins
Strings: Mr. Ryan Gregory
Strings: Ms. Charae Krueger
Instrumental Concerto/Brass and Woodwinds: Dr. Douglas Lindsey
Voice: Ms. Jana Young
College Piano/College Piano Concerto: Mr. Terry Lowry

VICE-PRESIDENT, MTNA COMPETITIONS: Cristina Toole

The 2020-2021 MTNA National Competitions were held by video round, as were the Southern Division auditions.

Congratulations to all our Southern Division winners and alternates this year!

Winners:

Grant Peng, student of Angela Jones-Reus, won the Junior Woodwind Performance category.

Thai Johnson, student of Joshua May, won the Yount Artist Vocal Performance Category.

Alternates:

Charles Li, student of Elena Cholakova, was chosen as Alternate in the Senior Piano Performance category.

Andrew Boyacigiller, student of Huu Mai, was chosen as Alternate in the Senior Vocal Performance category

Arturo Galvan, Student of Alex Avila, was chosen as Alternate in the Young Artist Brass Performance category.

Our upcoming state-level MTNA Competition is tentatively scheduled for October 22nd and 23rd, with a registration deadline of September 15th.

Today, we will be voting on whether to hold a video submission round this year due to ongoing Covid concerns.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Mandy Reynolds

(March 31, 2021 Financial Summary) The 2020-2021 GMTA Financial Summary lists the income and expenses for this fiscal year as of March 31, 2021. The second column lists the actual amounts on March 31. Our total income so far is \$62,638.80. Our total expenses so far this year are \$47,244.23. The third column lists the budgeted amounts for 2020-2021, and the last column compares our revenues and expenses as of March 31, 2021 to March 31, 2020. On the second page, there are the explanations for the miscellaneous income and expenses. At the bottom of the page, the balances are listed for our checking account and savings account. The savings account also includes our four named award funds. The balance for each award fund is also listed.

(2021-2022 Budget) The Proposed 2021-2022 Budget lists the income and expenses anticipated for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. The second column lists the budgeted amounts for this fiscal year, the third column lists the projected amounts for this fiscal year, and the fourth column lists the proposed amounts for 2021-2022. Please take a minute to look over the proposed budget and let me know if you have any questions."

MEMBER AT LARGE: Mason Conklin

No report

MEMBER AT LARGE: Dawn McCord

No report

REPORTS of COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

ART AWARENESS & ADVOCACY: Debra Hughes, NCTM

ADVOCACY: Advocacy is about educating and informing elected officials, the public, and the media about the importance of the performing arts. Here are some ideas that MTNA suggests:

**Performance in a public venue, especially in unexpected or informal venues: street performances in a downtown shopping area; outdoor park concert; performance at a prison, community center, hospital lobby, senior citizen residence, museum or art gallery; or faith-based venue.

**Festival or competition, such as a Bach festival for students of any instrument that features an afternoon of music games and activities organized by university students.

**A fundraising or charity-based event, such as a studio team for Relay for Life or donation of music lessons to a silent auction.

**Participation in city-based events, such as a studio entry in a local parade or a booth at a city festival that promotes the benefits of arts education.

**Projects with community partners or association in the local Chamber of Commerce or civic group events.

I had mini-recitals - 30minutes long - and invited my entire neighborhood. I drew circles on the driveway for social distancing and outfitted my garage as a concert venue. Every 45 minutes I had a handful of students perform their Festival music in the open-air forum. The audience, some of whom were seated while others were walking by, was very pleased. Everyone said how important that day of music was to them. It was positive and public. It was Arts Advocacy in Action.

If every GMTA teacher EACH would commit to just one public positive performance/project a year, it too would strengthen our Arts Advocacy in GA. Can we think of one way we each can do something and do it!?

Question? Is there some way GMTA could actively promote a "Each teacher for one advocacy act per year" idea?

AWARENESS: Book recommendation: "ARTS AWARENESS" by Patricia Hoy. (performer, conductor) who shares real life stories that uncover the power that can come from making music and art. "Arts Awareness" offers a fresh perspective and new ways for everyone to reach out and interact with the world. Music advocacy organizations along with teachers and parents will discover new ways to promote the value of the arts.

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 GEORGIA'S OWN listing online was updated in November 2020. No new teachers were added but some updated their information. We currently have 18 GMTA teachers who are willing to present 58 different topics. GMTA encourages all of their MTA chapters to utilize their expertise at local meetings.

CERTIFICATION: Robin Engleman, NCTM

As of March 31, 2021, GMTA has a membership of 560 and of those, 89 are nationally certified. I am aware of one teacher who is currently working toward MTNA Certification through the Teacher Profile Projects. I encourage you, if you are not nationally certified, to explore the possibility of becoming certified, either by doing the Teacher Profile Projects or through Administrative Verification.

I have three degrees in piano performance and am tenured at a public university, but I chose to become certified because I wanted the credential granted by one of this country's oldest and foremost teaching organizations. Obtaining MTNA Professional Certification publicly acknowledges my years of training and experience and demonstrates my commitment to continued excellence in teaching.

- Erin Bennett, NCTM
 Certification Board Chair, Florida State MTA

Here's the link to get you started:

<https://certification.mtna.org>
 then click on "Apply"

COLLABORATIVE PERFORMANCES: Donna Bailey

Due to the pandemic, most live performances have been very limited. At this time, there have not been any collaborative performances through MTNA that have been forwarded to us.

For teachers that would enjoy performing, and collaborative performances with other teachers in Ga, they might consider joining Ga. Musicale Group. Their information can be found at their website:<https://www.mygmg.org/>

As we begin to have restrictions lifted, we can look for a brighter future for the arts.

COLLEGE FACULTY: Tracy Xian

Ten Colleges and Universities participated in our Faculty Exchange program last year. Faculty from Alabama, Tennessee and Florida Music Teachers Associations continue to express interest in the exchange for the academic year 2021-2022. Responses have already been received from a few universities, but because of the current situation with the Covid-19 pandemic, we expect delays on reservations of concert dates and venues. I am optimistic that the number of participants will increase.

GMTA initiated this exchange program five years ago and thanks to Owen Lovell for his original idea and encouragement for the program to continue. It has been my privilege to get to know and work with each of these colleagues to secure their recital dates and venues.

COLLEGIATE CHAPTERS: Jerico Vasquez

No report

COMMISSIONING: Jeri-Mae Astolfi, NCTM

The 2020 GMTA Commissioned Composer, Dr. Peter Van Zandt Lane, was selected as the 2020 MTNA Distinguished Composer of the Year. Dr. Lane and his composition, *nodes.branches.loops* (written for and performed by the Fuego [Saxophone] Quartet), were honored during the MTNA 2021 Virtual Conference.

The 2021 GMTA Commissioned Composer Award was granted to Garrison Gerard, a native of Georgia who is currently pursuing graduate studies at the University of North Texas. Mr. Gerard proposed to write a 12-minute acoustic work for Flute, Clarinet, Violin, Cello, and Piano. The style will build on contemporary developments such as minimalism, spectralism, and nature music, while exploring new areas and creating an innovative composition. He proposes to carry out field recordings specifically for this project in Georgia's distinct ecosystems, including the Appalachian foothills, downtown Atlanta, and the barrier islands. These sounds will form the basis of the piece. The piece will be fully acoustic; the recordings will inform the piece through carrying out spectral analysis on the recordings and as a general inspiration.

The 2020-2022 Commissioned Composer Award Committee members are:

Jan Adams, GMTA President

Debra Hughes, GMTA Member-at-Large

David Peoples, GMTA non-Board Member

Jeri-Mae Astolfi, GMTA Commissioning Chair (non-voting)

A call for applications for the 2022 GMTA Commissioned Composer Award will be issued by the end of May to all GMTA members, state-wide colleges/universities, and various regional and national composer organizations. The application deadline is September 1.

FINANCES/ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Joy Poole

The FAC met on March 20th with all members attending. A conference update was given by Kristi Helfen and the committee completed the 2021-22 budget, discussed upcoming Auditions and Competitions, reviewed board job descriptions, and discussed the best use of the 2019 budget surplus. Discussions were also held about membership retainment and recruitment. FAC proposals will be presented today for a vote by the Executive Board.

FAC Members

Jan Adams, President

Cathy Thacker, President-Elect

Kristi Helfen

Joy Poole, FAC Chair

Mandy Reynolds, Executive Director

GMTA AWARDS: Mary Ann McTier

We have had 1 donation since the last newsletter was published. That was made to the GMTA Broadhurst Award Fund by Arlene Martinides.

INDEPENDENT MUSIC TEACHERS FORUM: Eric Clay

No Report

MTNA FOUNDATION:

No Report

PIANO JUDGES LIST: Susan Andrews, NCTM

No additions to the judges list

THEORY: Diane Boyd

Big changes were made to the GMTA Theory testing area this year. I (Diane Boyd) assumed the job of Theory Chairman and Trudi Norman assumed the job of GMTA Theory administrator. Trudi did a great job of getting the tests ready for testing in the fall and for the first time the tests were e-mailed to the LA Theory Chairmen.

The GATE tests were not given this year due to the inability to find safe testing areas during the pandemic. Decision on the 2021-2022 GATE tests will be made later this year.

My vision is to increase the number of GMTA tests in the coming years so that it makes it easier for students to learn more gradually and so teachers don't have to present so much new material from one test to another. Many teachers have expressed dissatisfaction with the GATE tests because the same level test is given to students in three different years. I am forming a committee to study what can be done to correct these issues. I ask that anyone who is interested in joining the committee, or in making comments or suggestions to it, contact me:

Diane Boyd, NCTM at dianelboyd@comcast.net or (912) 414-5972.

WELLNESS: Debra Dickensheets

COVID – 19 UPDATE: COVID – 19 illness hit Georgia in March 2020 and remains a serious health problem now in the spring and summer of 2021. Fortunately, the high peaks of illness seen previously, especially in January 2021, are not present now. Cases have decreased to levels summer 2020 although there remain hotspots in other parts of the country. However, case numbers remain elevated in younger people (our students!) so we need to remain vigilant. We have learned that COVID-19 spreads between people who are in close contact, through respiratory droplets or small particles produced when an infected person coughs, talks or breathes. Indoor environments with poor ventilation increase the risk of transmission.

So, prevention guidelines have focused on the following:

- Handwashing with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub, and do it often
- Masking of both nose and mouth
- Maintaining at least a 6-foot distance from a person coughing or sneezing
- Maximizing ventilation
- Allowing fresh air to enter the room, if possible
- Minimize close contact
- Clean high touch areas daily or more often as needed
- Monitor your health and be alert for symptoms

Studies have shown that utilizing these prevention measures decreases the spread of COVID – 19. In addition, vaccine usage has decreased the spread of the virus. Transmission is greatly decreased in people who have received the vaccine. The CDC has relaxed some of the guidelines of prevention for vaccinated people as more information becomes available. There are now three COVID – 19 vaccines in the US that have received Emergency Use Authorization and are in usage. As more safety information becomes available, younger age groups will be able to receive the vaccine. We are hopeful that as more of the population is vaccinated and, over time, COVID – 19 cases decrease to low levels, precautions can be relaxed further and we can return to normal teacher-student relations.

David Dickensheets, MD., Infectious Disease Specialist

NEW BUSINESS

FAC ACTION ITEMS FOR THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

- 1. The FAC recommends that the 2021 MTNA Competitions be held as a video submission round due to current policies of event locations. Motion passed.**
- 2. Starting in 2022, the FAC recommends that the Region round for GMTA Auditions will move to a video submission round. Motion passed.**

3. The FAC recommends that the 2021 Budget be approved as presented. Motion passed.
4. The FAC recommends that the updated Job Descriptions be approved. Motion passed.
5. The FAC recommends that the budget surplus of \$6,500 be used to encourage the GMTA membership, college recruitment and Executive Director. Motion passed

GMTA Calendar:

Upcoming Dates: Complete Calendar can be found on the GMTA Website

Newsletter

Deadline: May 1, 2021 - Send reports to Amy Neal

Officer Reports

Due: April 16, 2021 Send reports to Amy Phillips amyvthomas79@hotmail.com

Upcoming Board Meetings

August ?, 2021

Award Deadlines

September 15, 2021 Application Deadline for GMTA Teacher of the Year, Steinway Teacher Awards, GMTA Teacher Grants

2021 MTNA Competitions

Applications will be available on the MTNA website in August.

The deadline to apply is Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 3:00 PM

Complete Updated Info:

<https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/MTNA/Engage/Competitions/Competitions.aspx>

Conferences

**November 4-6, 2021 GMTA State Conference: Piedmont College –
Demorest, GA**

March 26-30, 2022 MTNA National Conference: Minneapolis, Minnesota

Announcements:

- 1. Local Association President/Audition/Theory Chairs – Please update with any new local association officers**
- 2. Upcoming Deadlines: GMTA Grants/Teacher of the Year/MTNA Competitions**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:31 by Joy Poole

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Phillips
GMTA Secretary