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STATE CONFERENCE
November 2-4, 2023
Shorter University





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Georgia Music Teachers Association

Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association

Welcome to the 2023 GMTA Conference at Shorter University! Jeri-Mae Astolfi, Vice-President of Programs, and her committee have done a marvelous job putting together the perfect combination of headliners and sessions for us. We always look forward to presentations from Georgia's Own as well as from the collegiate chapters. There is indeed something for everyone.

Jerico Vasquez and Amy Neal from Shorter University have both served as valuable liaisons with us in preparation for the conference, and I thank them wholeheartedly for being generous with their time and assistance. Thank you as well to Rome MTA for providing hospitality throughout the conference.

Our Pedagogy Headliner this year is **Noa Kageyama**, who is on faculty at Julliard and is the performance psychology coach for the New World Symphony. Kageyama has been featured in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Musical America*, and other national periodicals. He maintains a private coaching practice and writes a performance psychology blog, "The Bulletproof Musician," with more than 100,000 monthly readers.

Simone Dinnerstein is our Conference Recitalist, and we look forward to hearing her performance. She has played with orchestras ranging from the New York Philharmonic to the Melbourne Symphony and has performed in venues from Carnegie Hall to the Seoul Arts Center. Her thirteen albums have all topped the Billboard classical charts. We also look forward to hearing her interactions with the master class participants.

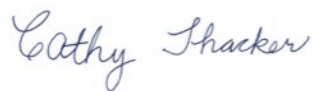
The **Annual Business Meeting** will take place on Friday at 3:00pm. During this meeting we will present the **GMTA Teacher Grants**. Following the meeting will be the premiere of the 2023 Commissioned Composition by **Brandon Walker**. Walker lives in Savannah, Georgia, where he performs solo piano regularly and plays saxophone collaboratively. His compositions have been played on many radio stations, and his classical and cinematic works have premiered with orchestras throughout North America.

The live performances by our MTNA and GMTA winners in three recitals are always a highlight of the conference. The Auditions concerto winners will be featured on Thursday night.

One more thing for your to-do list while at the conference: support the **GMTA Awards Fund** and **MTNA Foundation Fund** by buying raffle tickets. Best of luck in the drawings! Be sure to visit all of the exhibitors in the Art Gallery. **PianoWorks**, who supplies the hydraulic bench for the raffle, has music and a piano on display. **Steinway & Sons**, who provides two student grants, is another piano exhibitor to check out while you are here. We thank both for their generosity to GMTA!

Special thanks are extended to GMTA's Executive Board along with our Executive Director, Mandy Reynolds. A conference takes many hours of careful planning, e-mails, and calls to get every detail coordinated so that you can enjoy your experience. Please be sure to express your appreciation to Mandy and the GMTA officers and committee chairs that you see.

GMTA is thriving, and I am honored and proud to serve as your president. I hope that you enjoy the conference and make some new friends while here.



Cathy Thacker, NCTM
GMTA President

August 30, 2023

Georgia Music Teachers Association Members and Guests,

Welcome to Shorter University! The School of Fine and Performing Arts is so excited to be hosting this year's GMTA annual conference. Our students, faculty, staff, and administration are eager to take advantage of all the opportunities this meeting provides: learning from lectures and exhibits, improving our practice routines and performances through masterclasses, and even just enjoying wonderful music in the concerts, all within the span of a few days shared together.

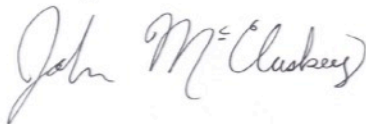
Shorter's School of Fine and Performing Arts has a legacy of excellence in the arts, and we are honored to carry that legacy forward, educating future generations of performers, music educators, artists, and academics. Students come to our programs from all over the world to study in these areas from a distinctly Christian perspective. While we may be one of the smaller schools in GMTA's membership, our programs are central to Shorter University's identity. Our students choose from eight degree options, BA-Music, BA-Theatre, BFA-Musical Theatre, BFA-Theatre, BM-Music Education, BM-Piano, BM-Piano Pedagogy, and BM-Voice. We stage six productions per year between our Theatre, Musical Theatre, and Opera programs, and we feature numerous performances from guest artists, ensembles, faculty, and students. There's almost always music happening on our hill!

Of note for GMTA, this academic year Shorter is celebrating the completion of our Piano Program Project. Under the leadership of Dr. Jerico Vasquez, the Chair of our Music Department and Keyboard Area Coordinator, and Prof. Amy Neal, Assistant Professor of Piano Pedagogy, we have raised over \$60,000 towards improvements of our keyboard instruments. We've updated our practice rooms, conducted critical maintenance on the Shigeru Kawai concert grand that you'll hear in Brookes Chapel, and we are in the process of a full rebuild of the Steinway concert grand that is *usually* also on our chapel stage. (You'll have to come back in the Spring semester to enjoy that "new" instrument!) These fundraising efforts speak both to Shorter's tradition of excellence in keyboard performance and pedagogy, and to our continued commitment to the arts in the twenty-first century.

Now, more than ever, the arts and humanities are central to understanding the crises of our modern era. If we are to find solutions to the problems facing humanity, we must understand what it means to be human. To create. To feel. To understand. **Thank you** for the critical work that you do towards this end. It is certainly not an easy time to pursue a career in the arts, but it has never been more important.

May this conference be a wonderful time of community, music, and learning for all of us. Make yourselves at home and thank you for being here!

Gratefully,



John Michael McCluskey, Ph.D.
Interim Dean, School of Fine and Performing Arts
Associate Professor of Music

GMTA Conference Parking

Shorter University will provide on-campus transportation for the Friday meals for those who prefer not to walk.

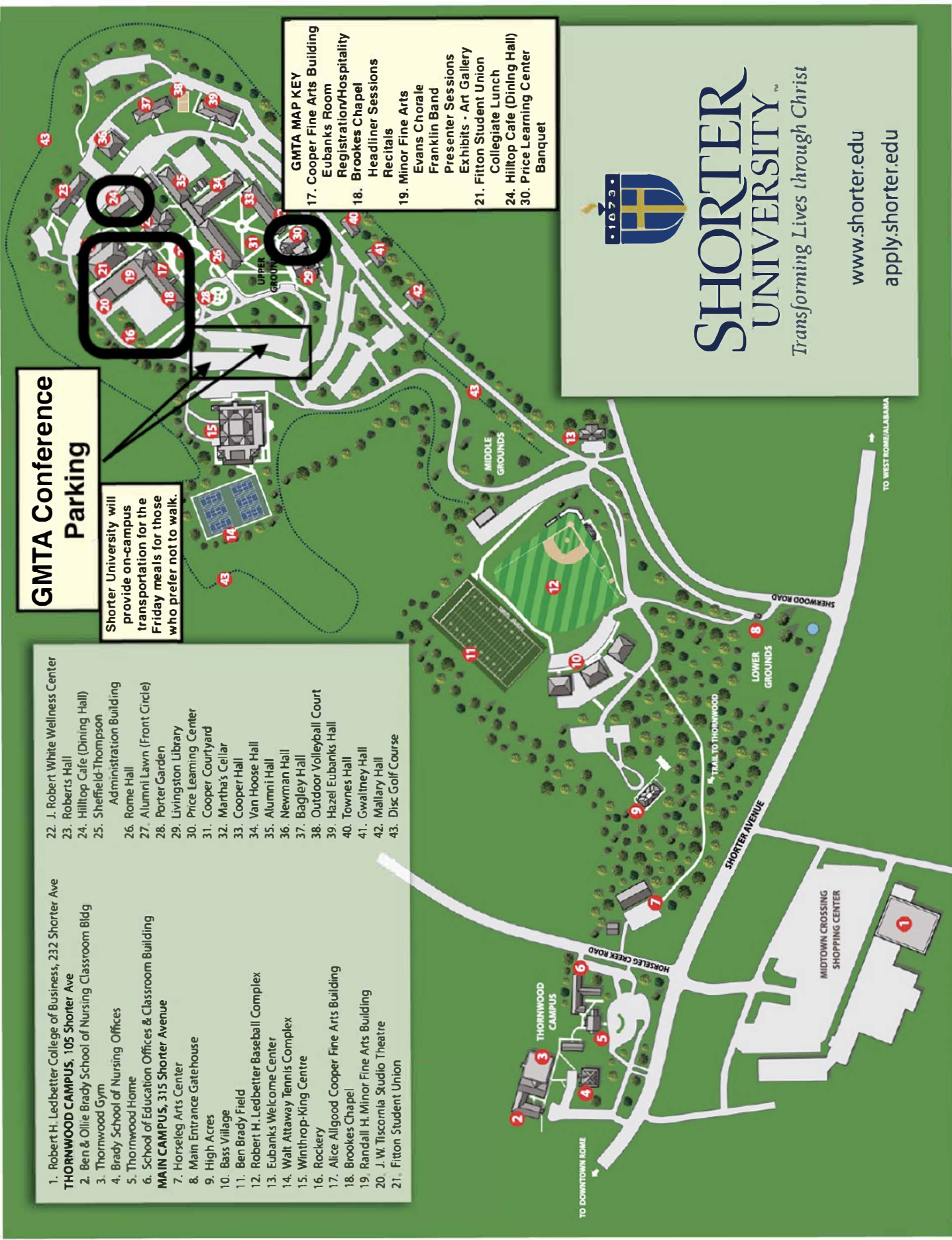
- 1. Robert H. Ledbetter College of Business, 232 Shorter Ave
- THORNWOOD CAMPUS, 105 Shorter Ave**
- 2. Ben & Ollie Brady School of Nursing Classroom Bldg
- 3. Thornwood Gym
- 4. Brady School of Nursing Offices
- 5. Thornwood Home
- 6. School of Education Offices & Classroom Building
- MAIN CAMPUS, 315 Shorter Avenue**
- 7. Horseleg Arts Center
- 8. Main Entrance Gatehouse
- 9. High Acres
- 10. Bass Village
- 11. Ben Brady Field
- 12. Robert H. Ledbetter Baseball Complex
- 13. Eubanks Welcome Center
- 14. Walt Attaway Tennis Complex
- 15. Winthrop-King Centre
- 16. Rockery
- 17. Alice Allgood Cooper Fine Arts Building
- 18. Brookes Chapel
- 19. Randall H. Minor Fine Arts Building
- 20. J.W. Tiscornia Studio Theatre
- 21. Fitton Student Union
- 22. J. Robert White Wellness Center
- 23. Roberts Hall
- 24. Hilltop Cafe (Dining Hall)
- 25. Sheffield-Thompson Administration Building
- 26. Rome Hall
- 27. Alumni Lawn (Front Circle)
- 28. Porter Garden
- 29. Livingston Library
- 30. Price Learning Center
- 31. Cooper Courtyard
- 32. Martha's Cellar
- 33. Cooper Hall
- 34. Van Hoose Hall
- 35. Alumni Hall
- 36. Newman Hall
- 37. Bagley Hall
- 38. Outdoor Volleyball Court
- 39. Hazel Eubanks Hall
- 40. Townes Hall
- 41. Gwaltney Hall
- 42. Mallary Hall
- 43. Disc Golf Course

- ### GMTA MAP KEY
- 17. Cooper Fine Arts Building
Eubanks Room
Registration/Hospitality
 - 18. Brookes Chapel
Headliner Sessions
Recitals
 - 19. Minor Fine Arts
Evans Chorale
Franklin Band
Presenter Sessions
Exhibits - Art Gallery
Collegiate Lunch
 - 21. Fitton Student Union
 - 24. Hilltop Cafe (Dining Hall)
 - 30. Price Learning Center
Banquet



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MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

November 2, 2023

Dear Georgia MTA Members:

On behalf of your MTNA colleagues across the country, we want to add our welcome to the Georgia State Conference. Gathering with your friends and colleagues from around the state is a very special benefit of membership—a benefit that offers multiple educational and social opportunities for you to grow as a music teaching professional.

At conferences like this, you, the music teacher, become the music student. And as you participate in professional development, new information and techniques are learned, which ultimately become the basis for new ways to teach your students. This enriching relationship, of constantly receiving and giving away, is vital to your success as a music teacher as well as to the success of your students.

As you consider additional opportunities for professional development and networking, you are invited to attend the upcoming MTNA National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, March 16–20, 2024. During this event, you will be able to attend more than 100 informative sessions, inspiring master classes, and an exhibit hall with the latest music, products and innovations. Entrepreneur and music teacher Tim Topham will provide the keynote address. The 2024 MTNA National Conference will be an unforgettable time to learn and share, so visit the MTNA website for more details!

Again, welcome to the Georgia state conference. Please enjoy every moment of it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Mack".

Peter Mack, NCTM
President

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary L. Ingle".

Dr. Gary L. Ingle
*Executive Director &
Chief Executive Officer*



Music Teachers National Association

Dear Colleagues,

As the MTNA Southern Division Director, I welcome you to the Georgia Music Teachers Association 2023 State Conference at Shorter University! Conferences like this are a fantastic time to reconnect with esteemed colleagues, meet new ones, and be inspired as musicians and educators. As professionals, we take pride in continuing our career development and networking through conferences like this. I send an extra special welcome to attendees who are here for their very first GMTA conference.

Be sure to take a moment to thank Jeri-Mae Astolfi and the other organizers of this conference. As someone who has planned several state conferences, I know all about the infinite number of details and planning steps that take place behind the scenes for these events to occur.

Your conference looks both exciting and busy! I have been following Noa Kageyama for many years, reading his perceptions of research, and learning tips for myself and my students. Simone Dinnerstein's recital is sure to be spellbinding. In addition, there will be many presentations, recitals by engaged students, premieres, a master class, and more to enrich your minds and souls.

In closing, it's not too early to begin making plans to attend the MTNA National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia (March 16-20, 2024)—our own division. Where else can you meet, and learn from, so many esteemed leaders, educators, thinkers, composers, and entrepreneurs? If you've never attended one of these national conferences, prepare to be completely astounded! I look forward to seeing you throughout that conference. And please plan to attend the Southern Division meeting and reception (we had a great time in Reno, Nevada!). I am humbled to serve each of you as MTNA Southern Division Director. Feel free to reach out to me with any ideas or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "THOMAS SWENSON". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent, sweeping initial "T".

Thomas Swenson, PhD, NCTM
MTNA Southern Division Director

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2023 Georgia Music Teachers Association Conference

Shorter University, Rome, Georgia

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023

12:00-5:30 Registration, GMTA/MTNA Raffles, Hospitality: Eubanks Room
Exhibits: Art Gallery

12:30-1:05 Conference Split Session

Respect the Fermata!

Cathy Thacker, NCTM, Presenter

Dr. Owen Lovell, NCTM, Presider

Evans Chorale

The fermata is an important musical symbol, yet students often ignore it. We will explore the history and meaning of the fermata, its usage in instrumental and vocal music, and some humorous instances. There is more than one kind of fermata, and the performer's stylistic interpretation influences the application of the symbol.

Preschool Pedagogy within a Private Studio Environment

Julie Groom, Presenter

Karen Zgonc, Presider

Franklin Band

A Concordia University study has shown that learning the piano before the age of seven has a significant effect on the development of the brain and can help boost the normal maturation of connections between motor and sensory regions of the brain. I teach preschool-aged children (ages 3-5) piano instruction, and the discoveries I have made as to whether teaching at this age is beneficial have been quite remarkable.

1:05-1:20 Visit Exhibits, Hospitality, Awards and Foundation Tables
Art Gallery and Eubanks Room

1:20-1:55 Conference Split Session

Transposition Through Reading and Ear Development

Dr. Geoffrey Haydon, Presenter

Cathy Thacker, NCTM, Presider

Evans Chorale

Students generally spend little time working on transposition skills. Time is devoted mostly to learning repertoire excluding other important aspects of musicianship. Therefore, many students achieve high levels of technique without acquiring basic skills that would support their repertoire even more. Transposition, reading and ear development were integral to learning and pre-requisites to becoming an accomplished musician in the 19th century and before. These skills can easily be incorporated into today's typical piano lesson content.

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Practice Makes Perfect? Exploring Perfectionism and Its Effects in Practice, Performance, and Pedagogy

Heather Hancock, Presenter

Julie Groom, Presider

Franklin Band

This lecture delves into the latest research on Perfectionism and MPA (music performance anxiety) among music students and the wider culture of Classical music; we will investigate the myth of perfectionism, its impact on musicians, and pathways for avoiding its perils, while also exploring healthy artistic practices that nurture and sustain musical excellence.

1:55–2:10

Visit Exhibits, Hospitality, Awards and Foundation Tables

Art Gallery and Eubanks Room

2:10-2:45

Conference Split Session

Rare and Beautiful Gems from the Exalted Russian Romantic “Silver” Age and Avant-Garde Piano Music

Dr. Elena Dorozhkina, NCTM, Presenter

Dr. Geoffrey Haydon, Presider

Evans Chorale

Some of the rarely heard piano pieces from the Russian "Silver" Age and Avant-Garde style, such as by A. Scriabin and A. Mosolov, will be presented and performed.

“If Music Be the Food of Love, Play On!” (A Theatrical Approach to Learning Music)

Amy Neal, NCTM, and Susan Gaukel, Presenters

Heather Hancock, Presider

Franklin Band

Why do so many students prepare the notes and rhythm of a composition before they ever consider the musical expression or meaning in the piece? And why does it take so long to memorize music? What if we approached our musical goals in the same way an actor prepares a character for the stage? Music and Musical Theatre faculty combine to apply theatrical teaching concepts to the process of understanding, learning and memorizing music.

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- Internationally acclaimed faculty; world-class guest artists via UGA Performing Arts Center and Chamber Music Athens
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- Undergraduate programs in performance, music education and therapy, jazz/commercial music, and more
- Graduate programs in performance, pedagogy, collaborative piano
- New course offerings with jazz piano faculty
- Student ensembles in jazz, Asian music, chamber music, and more
- MTNA collegiate chapter, teaching opportunities
- UGA Summer Music Camp & Music Institute (for music students grades 6-12)

For details on UGA piano programs and audition info, scan the QR code below.



Hugh Hodgson
School of Music
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



2:45-3:00 Visit Exhibits, Hospitality, Awards and Foundation Tables
Art Gallery and Eubanks Room

3:00-3:35 Conference Split Session

Falling in Love with Schubert's Piano Music

Dr. Owen Lovell, NCTM, Presenter

Dr. Elena Dorozhkina, NCTM, Presider

Evans Chorale

With his tuneful, songlike melodies and a gift for radical harmonies that barely made sense in his time, we'll explore Schubert's piano works in graded fashion. From early intermediate through advanced levels, Dr. Lovell brings us on a pedagogical journey, focusing on specific Schubert works that could be substituted in place of great teaching pieces we've probably overused.

Building a Preschool Music Program

Karen Zgonc, Presenter

Amy Neal, NCTM, Presider

Franklin Band

As music instructors, we are all asked, what is the best age to start lessons? Most teachers will say somewhere between 5-7, but we can reach a new community if you're willing to build a preschool toolbox. Often available during the day for lessons, preschoolers can achieve a strong musical foundation at a very young age. If you haven't started yet, now is the time to build a preschool music program at your studio.

3:35-4:00 Visit Exhibits, Hospitality, Awards and Foundation Tables
Art Gallery and Eubanks Room

4:00-5:15 Conference Headliner

Practice That Sticks

Dr. Noa Kageyama, Presenter

Dr. Jeri-Mae Astolfi, NCTM, Presider

Brookes Chapel

Olympic diving coach Jeff Huber once remarked that his job is not just to teach his athletes how to dive better, but also how to dive better in competition. Indeed, playing at a high level in practice, and being able to perform at that same level on stage are very different challenges, requiring unique methods of preparation. In this session, we will explore the research on practice that "sticks," and experiment with practice techniques that elite performers use to improve more quickly and become more confident in their ability to play their best on the very first try - rather than on the second or third attempt.

5:15-5:30 Visit Exhibits, Hospitality, Awards and Foundation Tables
Art Gallery and Eubanks Room

5:30-6:00 **Presentation of GMTA Broadhurst Awards, GMTA Nolting Composition Awards, and GMTA Student Awards for MTNA Competitions**
GMTA/MTNA Competition Winners Recital

Dr. Yanni Chan, Presider

Brookes Chapel

6:00-8:00 Dinner on Your Own

8:00 **2023 GMTA Auditions Pre-College Concerto Winners
Shorter University Performance**
Cathy Thacker, NCTM, Presider
Brookes Chapel

PROGRAM

Histoire du Tango
Cafe, 1930

Astor Piazzolla
(1921-1992)

**Ronda Benson Ford, flute
Heather Frost, piano**

Mountain (산아)

Dong-Su Shin
(b. 1956)

Psalm 23 (여호와와 나의 목자시니)

Un-Young La
(1922-1993)

**Dr. Yuman Lee, baritone
Dr. Jerico Vasquez, piano**

3 Preludes
II. Andante con moto e poco rubato
III. Allegro ben ritmato e deciso

George Gershwin
(1898-1937)

**Lauren Denney Wright, clarinet
Amy Neal, NCTM, piano**

Avant de quitter ces lieux
from Faust

Charles Gounod
(1818–1893)

**Timothy Renner, baritone
Amy Neal, NCTM, piano**

Suddenly, Seymour
from Little Shop of Horrors

Alan Menken
(b. 1949)
Howard Ashman
(1950-1991)

**Susan Gaukel, mezzo-soprano
Drew Davidson, baritone
Heather Frost, piano**

Cello Concerto in B minor, Op. 104, I. Allegro

Antonín Dvořák
(1841-1904)

Jayden Lee, cello
Dr. Amanda Kim, piano
From the studio of Dr. Martin Gueorguiev

Piano Concerto No. 1 in D-flat Major, Op. 10

Sergei S. Prokofiev
(1891-1953)

Dahyun Yang, piano
Jihye Song, piano
From the studio of Dr. Jee Eun Wada

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2023

8:30-5:00 Registration, GMTA/MTNA Raffles, Hospitality: Eubanks Room
Exhibits: Art Gallery

9:00-10:30 Conference Headliner

Becoming More Pressure - Proof

Dr. Noa Kageyama, Presenter

Dr. Jeri-Mae Astolfi, NCTM, Presider

Brookes Chapel

It's easy to enjoy yourself and play freely in the practice room or rehearsals. But on stage, why is it that our inner critic gets louder and makes us doubt and second-guess ourselves - leading to tentative, tight, and cautious playing? In this session, we'll explore the two causes of "choking" under pressure, and two ways to quiet your inner chatter and more consistently get into flow states instead.

10:30-10:50 Visit Exhibits, Hospitality, Awards and Foundation Tables
Art Gallery and Eubanks Room

10:50-11:50 Conference Headliner

Beating Performance Anxiety

Dr. Noa Kageyama, Presenter

Dr. Jeri-Mae Astolfi, NCTM, Presider

Brookes Chapel

Elite athletes and coaches have known for decades that physical preparation alone is not enough to perform optimally under pressure. And increasingly, musicians, too, are engaging in mental skills training and ways of practicing and preparing which can lead to more consistent, inspired, and engaged performances. In this session, we'll explore the two components of performance anxiety and experiment with a 3-part strategy designed to help your students perform up to their full abilities when it counts.

11:50-1:10 Lunch

Dining Hall Lunch

Hilltop Café, Austin Moses Room

Collegiate Chapter Members will have an informal lunch meeting at 12:00.

Fitton Student Union

Preparing Music Students for Festivals and Auditions

Pam Asberry, Presenter

Huu Mai, NCTM, Presider

Evans Chorale

After many years of participating in festivals and auditions – as a student, as a teacher, and as an adjudicator – I have learned many important lessons about preparation. One of the most interesting is the importance of details that have absolutely nothing to do with the performance itself. In this workshop we will explore ways to prepare students of any instrument physically and mentally, suggest practice timelines, and discuss ways to get parents involved.

Imprinting Intervals: An Off-Center Approach to Sight-Reading Pedagogy

Jennifer Lohmann, Presenter

Dr. Owen Lovell, NCTM, Presider

Franklin Band

Many piano students struggle with music reading/sight-reading, reverting to familiar fallbacks– a good ear and muscle memory. Developed in response, Imprinting Intervals is a method of teaching musical notation that involves visualizing the keyboard as a set of lines and spaces. By using such tools as a twelve line staff, vertical lines/spaces, and movable clefs, this unique approach is for teachers of all experience levels to help their students become crazy confident sight-readers.

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Exams and assessments in our graded exam system and diploma program are offered for all instruments, including singing. Over 650,000 students in 93 countries test themselves every year against our internationally recognized standards. There are currently 22 exam centers in the U.S. for in-person “Practical Grade Exam” with ABRSM examiners from the UK. The ABRSM Georgia Exam Center was established in 1996.

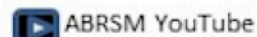
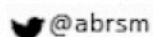
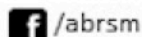
The *NEW* addition of the “Performance Grade Exam” with video submission has become very popular since its launch in January 2021, as well as the online music theory exam which started in May 2021.

In partnership with the Royal Schools of Music in UK:



Margaret Liu, ABRSM Representative, Georgia, Florida & South Carolina, USA
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1:45-2:00 Visit Exhibits, Hospitality, Awards and Foundation Tables
Art Gallery and Eubanks Room

2:00-2:35 Conference Split Session

One Piano, Eight Hands, Controlled Chaos!

Dr. Chenny Gan and Wesleyan College Students, Presenters

Pam Asberry, Presider

Evans Chorale

Dr. Chenny Gan and students from Wesleyan College will present and perform a diverse selection of repertoire for one piano, eight hands. Pieces will range from intermediate to advanced level, accompanied by interesting background information and pedagogical tips for learning the music and collaborating successfully.

What Works and What Doesn't: What I Have Learned from Teaching Students on the Autism Spectrum and Other Learning Disabilities

Dr. Joshua Pifer, Presenter

Jennifer Lohmann, Presider

Franklin Band

I would like to share with you my experiences of teaching and working with music students on the Autism Spectrum and other learning disabilities over the past 20 years. Through trial and error, research, consulting with physicians and child development specialists, and working closely with parents, I have been fortunate to observe many failures and triumphs, and fill my bag full of tricks and ideas that have led to student success.

2:35-2:50 Visit Exhibits, Hospitality, Awards and Foundation Tables
Art Gallery and Eubanks Room

2:50-3:25 Conference Split Session

Unveiling Beethoven's Soul: Romantic Correspondences, the Heiligenstadt Testament, and the Musical Journey Within

Huu Mai, NCTM, Presenter

Dr. Chenny Gan, Presider

Evans Chorale

"Unveiling Beethoven's Soul" is a captivating journey into the composer's personal life, exploring his romantic letters and the Heiligenstadt Testament. Interspersed with live piano performances, this presentation provides valuable insights for piano educators to deeply engage their students with Beethoven's music. By unveiling the emotions and experiences that shaped his genius, educators can foster a profound appreciation, enabling students to connect with Beethoven on a more personal and meaningful level.

Jazzifying Classical Music: Implementing Jazz Idiom into Classical Repertoire

Kevin Juarez and Oscar Suy-Perez, Presenters

Dr. Joshua Pifer, Presider

Franklin Band

This presentation explores the fusion of jazz techniques into intermediate piano repertoire. We will discuss the incorporation of improvisation and jazz arranging of pedagogical materials with a step-by-step process that can be incorporated into your teaching. Examples in this presentation will include jazz arrangements of a Minuet by Bach and a movement of a Clementi Sonatina, concluding with a four-hand improvisation based on a Brahms Waltz.

3:25-3:40 Visit Exhibits, Hospitality, Awards and Foundation Tables
Art Gallery and Eubanks Room

3:40-4:00 General Session

Annual Business Meeting and the President's Report Presentation of GMTA Music Teacher Grants

Cathy Thacker, NCTM, GMTA President

Brookes Chapel

4:00-4:30 Commissioned Work Performance
Dr. David Peoples, NCTM, Presider
Brookes Chapel

STAGES, A STUDENT'S JOURNEY

Brandon Walker, composer and soprano saxophone

Ben Cork, violin

Amanda Zhang, viola

Fayha Polite, cello

During this session, we will present the premiere of "Stages, A Student's Journey," a new composition by Brandon Walker, the commissioned composer for GMTA 2023. The premiere is a suite for soprano saxophone and strings comprising four movements. The composer and a string trio will perform the piece.

This session also includes a round table dialogue with the artists and opportunities for question and answer from the audience. The 2023 commissioned work is funded by Music Teachers National Association and Georgia MTA.

Program:

Stages, A Student's Journey

I. The Discovery

II. The Exploration

III. The Mastery

IV. The Celebration

4:30-4:45 Visit Exhibits, Hospitality, Awards and Foundation Tables
Art Gallery and Eubanks Room

4:45-5:15

GMTA Auditions Winners' Recital - College Level

Dr. Vicente Della Tonia, Jr., NCTM, Presider
Brookes Chapel

PROGRAM

Prelude in A-flat Major, Op. 23, No. 8

Sergei Rachmaninov
(1873-1943)

Prelude in G-sharp minor, Op. 32, No. 12

Shirley Chen, piano, Lower College
From the studio of Dr. Alan Woo, University of Georgia

Hungarian Rhapsody in A minor, No.11

Franz Liszt
(1811-1886)

Tallulah Schaumann, piano, Middle College
From the studio of Dr. Martin David Jones, Augusta University

Reflections

Borys M. Lyatoshynsky

I. Maestoso e con fermezza, II. Velutato assai, III. Tempestoso (1895-1968)

Anastasiia Zakharchenko, piano, Upper College
From the studio of Dr. Esther Park, Columbus State University

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Amy VanderLugt, NCTM
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1st VP Programs
Nancy Elton, DMA
nancyelton@yahoo.com

6:00-7:30 **GMTA Conference Banquet**
Price Learning Center

8:00 **GMTA Conference Recital**
Simone Dinnerstein
Brookes Chapel

PROGRAM

Les Barricades Mystérieuses	François Couperin (1668-1733)
Arabeske in C Major, Op. 18	Robert Schumann (1810-1856)
Mad Rush	Phillip Glass (b. 1937)
Le Tic-Toc-Choc ou Les Maillotins from 5 Pièces de Clavecin	François Couperin (1668-1733)

Intermission

Gnossienne No. 3	Erik Satie (1866-1925)
Kreisleriana, Op. 16	Robert Schumann (1810-1856)



NORTH DEKALB MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023

8:30-12:30 Registration, GMTA/MTNA Raffles, Hospitality: Eubanks Room
Exhibits: Art Gallery

9:10-9:45 Conference Split Session

Its Exploring the Piano Repertoire of African-American Women Composers and Implications for Pedagogy

Dr. Yingzhou Hu, NCTM, and Dr. Vicente Della Tonia Jr., NCTM, Presenters

Dr. Owen Lovell, NCTM, Presider

Evans Chorale

This presentation explores the pedagogical distinctive features of piano works by African-American women composers Florence Price, Margaret Bonds, and Undine Smith Moore, and their implications for diversifying and enriching piano pedagogy.

Unlocked: Instilling Confidence and Inspiring Creativity in Music

Hannah Mullinex, Natalie Wallace, and Theo Vilamitjana, Presenters

Huu Mai, NCTM, Presider

Franklin Band

Why is it that in a day and age where there is more diversity and accessibility than ever before, we still struggle to tap into our own musical potential? How do we open ourselves up to think beyond the notes on the page, and how do we encourage and set our students up for success to do the same? Join us as we “unlock” the freedom to creativity and confidence in music!

9:45-10:00 Visit Exhibits, Hospitality, Awards and Foundation Tables
Art Gallery and Eubanks Room

GMTA Piano Master Class with Simone Dinnerstein

Dr. Vicente Della Tonia, Jr., NCTM, Presider

Brookes Chapel

PROGRAM

Piano Sonata in D Major, Op. 28, I. Allegro Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

Michelle Feng, piano, Grade 9

From the studio of Dr. Alexander Wasserman, Cobb County MTA

Piano Sonata in D Major, Op. 10, No. 3, I. Presto Ludwig van Beethoven

Dahyun Yang, piano, Grade 9

From the studio of Dr. Jee Eun Wada, North Fulton MTA

Scherzo No. 2 in B-flat minor, Op. 31

Frederic Chopin
(1810-1849)

Lauren Kim, piano, Grade 10
From the studio of Anne Sun, Atlanta MTA

Partita in C minor, BWV 826, I. Sinfonia

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Luke Xu, piano, Grade 10
From the studio of Dr. Alexander Wasserman, Cobb County MTA

Sonata No. 3 in A minor, Op. 28

Sergei Prokofiev
(1891-1953)

Eric Xu, piano, Grade 11
From the studio of Lois Finlay, NCTM, North Dekalb MTA

Grande Sonata in F minor, Op. 77, I. Allegro Moderato ma Energico

Jan L. Dussek
(1760-1812)

Alison Wang, piano, Grade 11
From the studio of Hwee Boon Ng, Atlanta MTA

12:00-12:15 Visit Exhibits, Hospitality, Awards and Foundation Tables
Art Gallery and Eubanks Room

12:15-1:30 **Prize Drawings for GMTA Award Fund and MTNA Foundation Raffle**
GMTA Auditions Pre-College Winners' Recital
Dr. Vicente Della Tonia, Jr., NCTM, Presider
Brookes Chapel

PROGRAM

Violin Concerto No. 9 in A Major, Op. 104
I. Allegro Maestoso

Charles Auguste de Bériot
(1802-1870)

Chloe Jung, violin, Grades 2/3
Sonny Yu, piano
From the studio of William Pu

Cello Sonata in C Major, Op. 43, No. 2, I. Allegro

Bernhard Romberg
(1767-1841)

Brent Lee, cello, Grades 4/5
Cho Hee Kim, piano
From the studio of Dr. Heejung Jung

Grandes étude de Paganini in E Major, No. 4, S.141

Franz Liszt
(1811-1886)

Blair Zhu, piano, Grade 4

From the studio of Anne Sun, Atlanta MTA

Prelude No. 5, Book II - 'Bruyeres'

Claude Debussy
(1862-1918)

Heidi Hu, piano, Grade 5

From the studio of Anne Sun, Atlanta MTA

Stücke im Volkston, Op. 102, IV. 'Nicht Zu Rasch'

Robert Schumann
(1810-1856)

Abigail Kim, cello, Grades 6/7

Hyun Hwa Jang, piano

From the studio of Elaine Shin

Liebeslied (Widmung) from Myrthen, Op. 25

Robert Schumann/Arr. Liszt

Aiden Lu, piano, Grade 6

From the studio of Dr. Alexander Wasserman, Cobb County MTA

Piano Sonata in D Major, Hob. XVI: 42, L. 56, I. Andante con espressione

Joseph Haydn
(1732-1809)

Chengyi Shao, piano, Grade 7

From the studio of Ping Xu, Atlanta MTA

Cello Concerto No.1 in E-flat Major, Op.107 I. Allegretto

Dmitri Shostakovich
(1906-1975)

Seunghoon (Ryan) Pi, cello, Grades 8/9

In Sook Jung, piano

From the studio of Elaine Shin

Piano Sonata No. 2 in B-flat minor, Op. 35, I. Grave-Doppio Movimento

Frédéric Chopin
(1810-1849)

Mitchell Kuang, piano, Grade 8

From the studio of Dr. Alexander Wasserman, Cobb County MTA

'Le Cygne'

Camille Saint-Saëns
(1835-1921)

Michelle Zhou and Chengyi Shao, piano, Lower Division
From the studio of Ping Xu

'Il mio bel foco'

Benedetto Marcello
(1686–1739)

Nishevitha Suresh, voice, Grade 9
Margaret Liu, piano
From the studio of Margaret Liu

Fantaisie-Impromptu in C-sharp minor, Op. Posth. 66

Frédéric Chopin

TongTong Liu, piano, Grade 9
From the studio of Dr. Yien Wang, Columbus MTA

Caprice No. 9 in E Major, Op. 1

Nicolò Paganini
(1782-1840)

Kate Sunny Kim, violin, Grades 10/11
From the studio of Nadir Khashimov

Prelude in C-sharp minor, BWV 849

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Sophia Li, piano, Grade 10
From the studio of Ping Xu, Atlanta MTA

'Reflets dans l'eau'

Claude Debussy

Julia Lee, piano, Grade 11
From the studio of Anne Sun, Atlanta MTA

The Swan and Finale, from Carnival of the Animals

Camille Saint-Saëns

Jerry Lu and Harry Zhou, piano, Upper Division
From the studio of Dr. Clara Park

SIMONE DINNERSTEIN

Conference Recitalist

SIMONE DINNERSTEIN is an American pianist. She lives in Brooklyn, New York with her husband and dog, less than a mile from the hospital in which she was born.

Simone has a distinctive musical voice. The Washington Post has called her “an artist of strikingly original ideas and irrefutable integrity.” She first came to wider public attention in 2007 through her recording of Bach’s Goldberg Variations, reflecting an aesthetic that was both deeply rooted in the score and profoundly idiosyncratic. She is, wrote The New York Times, “a unique voice in the forest of Bach interpretation.”

Since that recording, she has had a busy performing career. She has played with orchestras ranging from the New York Philharmonic and the Montreal Symphony Orchestra to the London Symphony Orchestra and the Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale Rai. She has performed in venues from Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center to the Berlin Philharmonie, the Vienna Konzerthaus, the Seoul Arts Center and the Sydney Opera House. She has made thirteen albums, all of which topped the Billboard classical charts, with repertoire ranging from Couperin to Glass.

This season, Simone takes on a number of new artistic challenges. She gives the world premiere of *The Eye Is the First Circle* at Montclair State University, the first multi-media production she has conceived, created, and directed, which uses as source materials her father Simon Dinnerstein’s painting *The Fulbright Triptych* and Charles Ives’s *Piano Sonata*

No. 2 (*Concord*). In addition, she premieres Richard Danielpour’s *An American Mosaic*, a tribute to those affected by the pandemic, in a performance on multiple pianos placed throughout Brooklyn’s Green-Wood Cemetery. She also joins Renée Fleming, the Emerson String Quartet, and Uma Thurman for performances of André Previn and Tom Stoppard’s *Penelope* at both Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

From 2020 to 2022, Simone releases a trilogy of albums recorded at her home in Brooklyn during the pandemic. *A Character of Quiet* (Orange Mountain Music, 2020), featuring the music of Philip Glass and Schubert, was described by NPR as, “music that speaks to a sense of the world slowing down,” and by *The New Yorker* as, “a reminder that quiet can contain multitudes.” Richard Danielpour’s *An American Mosaic* (Supertrain Records, 2021), surpassed two million streams on Apple Music and was nominated for a 2021 Grammy Award in the category of Best Classical Instrumental Solo. The final installment in the trilogy, *Undersong*, was released in January 2022 on Orange Mountain Music.

In recent years, Simone has created projects that express her broad musical interests. Following her recording of Mozart in Havana, she brought the Havana Lyceum Orchestra from Cuba to the United States for the very first time, raising the funding, booking the concerts, and organizing their housing and transport. Together, Simone and the orchestra played eleven concerts from Miami to Boston. Philip Glass composed his *Piano Concerto No. 3* for Simone, co-commissioned by twelve American and Canadian orchestras. She collaborated with choreographer Pam Tanowitz to create *New Work for Goldberg Variations*, which was met with widespread critical acclaim. Working with Renée Fleming and the Emerson String Quartet, she premiered André Previn and Tom Stoppard’s *Penelope* at the Tanglewood, Ravinia and Aspen music festivals. Most recently, she created her own string ensemble, *Baroklyn*, which she directs from the keyboard. Their performance of Bach’s cantata *Ich Habe Genug* in March 2020 was the last concert she gave before New York City shut down.

Simone is committed to giving concerts in non-traditional venues and to audiences who don’t often hear classical music. For the last three decades, she has played concerts throughout the United States for the Piatigorsky Foundation, an organization dedicated to the widespread dissemination of classical music. It was for the Piatigorsky Foundation that she gave the first piano recital in the Louisiana state prison system at the Avoyelles Correctional Center. She has also performed at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women in a concert organized by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. Simone founded *Neighborhood Classics* in 2009, a concert series open to the public and hosted by New York City Public Schools to raise funds for their music education programs. She also created a program called *Bachpacking* during which she takes a digital keyboard to elementary school classrooms, helping young children get close to the music she loves. She is a committed supporter and proud alumna of Philadelphia’s *Astral Artists*, which supports young performers.

Simone counts herself fortunate to have studied with three unique artists: Solomon Mikowsky, Maria Curcio and Peter Serkin, very different musicians who shared the belief that playing the piano is a means to something greater. The Washington Post comments that “ultimately, it is Dinnerstein’s unreserved identification with every note she plays that makes her performance so spellbinding.” In a world where music is everywhere, she hopes that it can still be transformative.



NOA KAGEYAMA

Pedagogy Headliner

Born in Marysville, Ohio, performance psychologist **DR. NOA KAGEYAMA** is on the faculty at Juilliard and is the performance psychology coach for the New World Symphony. Kageyama has degrees from Oberlin (BA, psychology) and Juilliard (MM, violin performance) and studied with Stephen Clapp, Ronald Copes, Franco Gulli, Paul Kantor, Masao Kawasaki, Roland and Almita Vamos, and Donald Weilerstein before making the leap to psychology. He received his MS and PhD in counseling and counseling psychology from Indiana University. Kageyama specializes in teaching performing artists how to utilize sports psychology principles to more consistently demonstrate their full abilities under pressure. He has conducted workshops at institutions workshops at institutions including Northwestern University, New England Conservatory, Peabody, Eastman, and the U.S. Armed Forces School of Music. He has taught at programs such as the Starling-DeLay Symposium, the Perlman Music Program, and the National Orchestral Institute, and for organizations like the Music Teachers' National Association and the National Association of Teachers of Singing.



Kageyama has been featured in The Wall Street Journal, Musical America, Strings Magazine, Strad, and Lifehacker. He maintains a private coaching practice and writes a performance psychology blog, The Bulletproof Musician, which has more than 100,000 monthly readers.

The logo for the Athens Music Teachers Association (AMTA) features a laurel wreath with a lyre in the center. The letters "AMTA" are prominently displayed within the wreath. The background of the logo area includes a faint image of a piano keyboard and musical notation.

Athens Music Teachers Association

Est. 1962

athensmta.org

President:
Amanda Sacchitello
amanda@keyspiano.com

BRANDON WALKER

Commissioned Composer

"Stages, A Student's Journey" is a suite for soprano saxophone and string trio, composed of four movements. The use of the number four is common in educational frameworks, such as the four learning types, four high school grades, and four levels of competence. This piece depicts four stages of a student's musical journey, with each movement representing a different stage of learning.

The first movement - "The Discovery" - portrays the initial excitement and inspiration to learn music. The second movement - "The Exploration" - describes the growing curiosity and challenges of learning to play music. The third movement - "The Mastery" - is more complex and represents the student's increasing musical skill and proficiency. The fourth movement - "The Celebration" - is a triumphant and joyful piece that represents the student's achievement of their musical goals. Here, the soprano saxophone embodies "the student," while the string trio (violin, viola, and cello) supports, challenges, and engages this voice.

The composition takes inspiration from the impressionistic modal works of Maurice Ravel, Claude Debussy, and Nadia Boulanger, combined with harmonic elements of jazz. The piece has a duration of approximately seven minutes."

BRANDON WALKER is a versatile, award-winning composer and musician whose music takes you on a visual journey. His classical and cinematic compositions have premiered with orchestras across North America, including the Reno Pops, Brazosport, Scarborough, and Brantford Symphony Orchestras.

Brandon's passion is crafting music and engaging listeners by utilizing the many vivid colors of the modern-day symphonic orchestra. His background in jazz and classical composition, as well as his experience with film and music audio production, are significant influences. He performs solo piano regularly in the Savannah, Georgia, area. In addition, he has played saxophone for the Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra, the Fabulous Equinox Orchestra, the Jazz Connection Big Band, Bohemian Swing, and many other groups at venues and festivals.

In 2020, Brandon won "Producer of the Year" at The Niagara Music Awards, recognizing his work with The Jimmy Stahl Big Band. Other career highlights include eight Golden Reel Award Nominations and winning a Gemini and two Directors Guild of Canada Awards. Additionally, as a writer and a publisher with ASCAP, his compositions have been played on National Public Radio, KUSC, JazzFM, WUCF, and many other radio stations across North America. Brandon enjoys spending time with his family and enjoying the culture, waterfront scenes, and history of the Savannah, Georgia, area.



COMMISSIONED COMPOSER PERFORMERS

BENJAMIN CORK is a violinist originally from Atlanta, Georgia, and an alumnus of Georgia Southern University, having studied violin performance. Having begun playing the violin at 11 years old, he instantly fell in love with the instrument. During his tenure, Ben was the concertmaster of the Georgia Southern Symphony and the first violinist of the Honors Magnolia String Quartet. He also had the honor of winning the University Concerto Competition in 2017 and performed the virtuosic first movement of the Tchaikovsky violin concerto later that year. Throughout his early career so far, he has also been performing various events around Southeast Georgia, as well as the South Carolina and Florida areas; these include numerous weddings, church services, operas, musicals, cantatas, house events, etc. When he is not performing, he teaches the art of playing the violin to students of all ages in Brunswick and Savannah, Georgia. Recently, Ben has been performing with the well-known Savannah Philharmonic and has joined both Augusta Symphony and Alpharetta Symphony; he holds the Principal Second Violin position with the Alpharetta Symphony.



AMANDA ZHANG graduated with a BM in Viola Performance from the Fred and Dinah Gretsch School of Music. She also studied at the Manhattan School of Music before completing a dual degree in music and a BS in Biology at Georgia Southern University. Originally from Savannah, GA, she began playing viola at 11. She has also attended festivals such as the Boston University Tanglewood Institute for String Quartet and Orchestra, the Castleman Quartet Program, the Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival, and the Governor's Honors Program. Amanda has studied under Larisa Elisha, Patinka Kopec, Lizhou Liu, Daniel Sweaney, the Muir String Quartet, and Wolfram Koessel from the American String Quartet. In addition, she has received masterclasses from Michael Zaretsky of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Jan Grüning of the Ariel String Quartet, Norman Fischer, and Paul Watkins from the Emerson String Quartet.

FAHYA POLITE is from Savannah, Georgia. She is a junior at Kennesaw State University, and is a music education major. She hopes to be a strings teacher in the future and has been playing cello since she was 10. Last December, she was blessed with the opportunity to play along with the Savannah Philharmonic for Andrea Bocelli. Music is her passion, and she hopes to share her love of music with her students in the future.



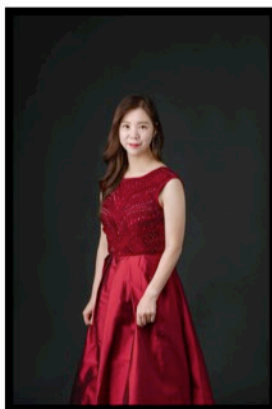
THURSDAY NIGHT PERFORMERS

DAHYUN KATIE YANG, a 15-year-old, began her piano journey at the age of 5 in San Jose, CA. At just 6 years old, she achieved 1st place in her debut competition. She then went on to win numerous prizes at the US Open Competition and multiple first places at the US International Competition, participated at the Bach Jr. Festival and performed as the finalist at the San Jose International Piano Competition. After moving to Georgia, her dedication to music continued with Dr. Jee Eun Wada. She placed 2nd and 3rd at the GMTA State auditions in consecutive years and performed at the Romantic Impressionistic Piano Competition winner's recital as a 1st place winner. Katie served as a pianist at EYSO for the 2022-2023 season and is also an alternate pianist at AYSO for both the 2022-23 and 23-24 seasons. She also collaboratively develops her musical skills as a member of the Emory Chamber Youth Program. In addition to her musical endeavors, she enjoys coding, which led her to participate in the MIT Beaver Works program and pre-college summer coding program with U Michigan. She also enjoys reading, crocheting, and baking.



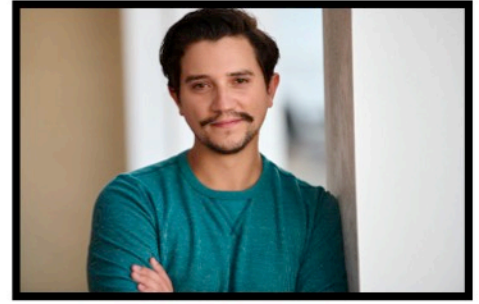
JIHYE SONG received her Bachelor's and Masters' degrees in Piano from Ewha Womans University in Korea. After graduation, she studied in Germany for Diploma of Art Song Accompaniment at Mannheim university. She also earned Master degree of Opera Coach in Stuttgart Germany. She has been working at Kennesaw State University as a collaborative pianist since 2019.

JAYDEN LEE embarked on his musical journey at the age of 6 and is now approaching his eleventh year as a cellist. Having studied under Dr. Martin Gueorguiev for the past nine years, Jayden has showcased his talents in a plethora of musical competitions and esteemed organizations. Noteworthy among these are the Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra, Emory Youth Chamber Program, and the Georgia Allstate Orchestra. Jayden has also made significant musical contributions at his school, leading the Mastery Chamber Orchestra as the principal cellist, and actively participating in the Tri-M Music Honors Society. From the third grade onward, Jayden has consistently demonstrated his musical prowess in the Georgia Music Teachers' Association competitions, garnering various awards over the years. It is with immense pleasure and excitement that Jayden performs tonight as the concert recitalist of the GMTA Instrumental Concerto division.



DR. AMANDA KIM is a collaborative pianist and lyric soprano and is a proficient musician with classically trained in both singing and piano. Amanda has performed as a soloist in various concerts and recitals throughout Europe and the United State, and as a collaborative pianist. Amanda received her Bachelor of Music degree from Shorter University, and she earned her Master of Music degree in vocal performance from Boston Conservatory at Berklee, as well as her minors in piano and organ. This degree included extensive research of vocal and piano techniques, and she attended Arizona State University where she studied a Doctoral of Musical Arts degree in vocal performance.

DREW DAVIDSON is a multifaceted artist and educator deeply rooted in the world of performing arts. Holding an MFA in Theatre Performance from the University of Southern Mississippi, Drew has an extensive background in theatre education, directing, and performance. As an Assistant Professor of Theatre at Shorter University, he shares his wealth of knowledge, instructing courses in Foundational Acting, Voice, Dialects, Shakespeare, and more. Drew's commitment to nurturing the next generation of performers extends beyond the classroom, as he conducts workshops and mentors aspiring talents nationwide. Notably, Drew serves as the Artistic Director of the Rome Shakespeare Festival, where he infuses classical plays with innovative approaches, showcasing his prowess in reimagining timeless stories. His directing portfolio ranges from timeless classics like 'Hamlet' to cutting-edge works such as 'Mr. Burns and the Post Electric Play.'



DR. RONDA BENSON FORD is currently instructor of flute at Shorter University, the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and the Cadec Conservatory of Music. She is the principal flutist with the UTC Orchestra and previously performed with the Topeka Symphony and many other orchestras. She has toured with the International Flute Orchestra to Japan, Italy, and Hungary. Ford has had articles published in the peer reviewed Flutist Quarterly journal and Flute Talk magazine. Dr. Ford has performed at National Flute Association Conventions, Regional Flute Festivals, and College Music Society regional conferences. Her teachers have included Dr. John Bailey, Dr. Danilo Mezzadri, Kyril Magg, Alexander Murray, Max Schoenfeld, and Dr. Carolyn Brown.

HEATHER DANIEL FROST is the full-time staff accompanist at Shorter University. She received her B.M. in Piano Performance from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro where she studied with Dr. Joseph DiPiazza. As a student, she accompanied the Women's Choir, played for several of the university's productions including West Side Story and The Threepenny Opera, and served as an audition accompanist. After graduation, Ms. Frost played for several theatre companies in West Palm Beach, Nantucket, Callaway Gardens, Winter Park, Grand Lake, and Wichita. Later she toured with the Continental Singers and Brass which took her across the Southeastern United States, the Fiji Islands, and Australia. Most recently, before coming to Shorter, Ms. Frost served in full-time church ministry as an accompanist and worship and arts assistant. Heather and her husband, Tom, live in Dunwoody and are the parents of four wonderful sons.



SUSAN GAUKEL is Associate Professor of Musical Theatre at Shorter University, and she has been a professional performer, teacher, director and vocal/theatre coach for over 25 years. She earned her BS in Music Education at West Chester University of Pennsylvania, and her MFA in Musical Theatre Performance from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Susan has performed professionally in various cities such as New York City (Carnegie Hall), Washington DC (Kennedy Center), Philadelphia, Atlanta (Spivey Hall), Cincinnati, St. Louis, and Tacoma WA. Her favorite roles include Mother in Ragtime, Roxanne in Cyrano the Musical, Florence Vassy in Chess, Eva Peron in Evita and Audrey in Little Shop of Horrors. She has directed and music directed numerous shows in Cincinnati, Tacoma, Seattle and in the Atlanta area. Susan was awarded the Kennedy Center's ACTF award for Excellence in Directing for her production of "The Apple Tree" at Shorter University. Susan's very favorite roles however, are being the wife of her wonderful husband and mother to her amazing daughter.



DR. TIMOTHY RENNER serves as Director of Opera and Associate Professor of Voice at Shorter University in Rome, GA. An active international performing artist, Timothy is a graduate of the prestigious Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia, PA. His recent professional engagements include Escamillo in *Carmen* at the New National Theatre Tokyo, Zurga in *Les pêcheurs de perles* with Opera Tampa, and Marcello in *La Bohème* with the Lyric Opera of Kansas City. Concert repertoire includes *Carmina Burana* and Fauré's *Requiem* with the Eastern Symphony Orchestra, *Ein Deutches Requiem* and *Messiah* with the New Jersey Master Chorale, and *St. Matthew Passion* with Sinfonia da Camera. A native of Virginia, Timothy earned his Doctor of Musical Arts in Voice Performance and Literature from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He has studied voice with Jean Greer, Stan Eby, Jerold Siena, and most recently, Bill Schuman.

AMY MEPPEN NEAL, NCTM, (BM, Baylor University; MM, University of Oklahoma) serves as Assistant Professor of Piano Pedagogy, Class Piano, and Secondary Piano at Shorter University. In addition to her university teaching, she is active as an independent piano teacher, adjudicator, and accompanist. She is also GMATA's VP of Newsletters.



Baritone **YUMAN LEE** serves as Associate Professor of Music, Coordinator of Vocal Studies, and an Academic Advisor for Vocal Arts Major at Shorter University. He teaches voice pedagogy, art song literature, diction for singers, voice seminar, and applied voice lessons. Dr. Lee is a member of Pi Kappa Lambda, the music honor society (Eta Chapter, University of Southern California), and an active National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) member. Lee published his first book, *It Is Enough!: Singing Oratorio Aria for Baritone: Handel and Mendelssohn*, in 2018. He also released a live performance of Schubert's *Winterreise* with Dr. Jerico Vasquez at the piano, available on Spotify, Amazon Music, YouTube Music, and all other major music streaming platforms. He is also an active soloist, performing in the United States,

Hailed for his “formidable and effortless playing” and “intelligent ardor and exceptionally clear and bright technique,” pianist **JERICO VASQUEZ** is Artist-in-Residence / Professor of Music and Chair of the Music Department at Shorter University in Rome, GA, as well as Instructor of Piano for the Georgia Governor's Honors Program. Recipient of the 2021 and 2022 *Top Teacher Award* from Steinway and Sons, he is also a *Shigeru Kawai Artist*. He has performed in Canada, Europe, the Philippines, and the United States. An avid chamber musician and accompanist, he has worked with the Balkan String Quartet and the Expedition Winds, singers Joseph Legaspi, Indra Thomas, Ann Cravero, Cynthia Wohlschlager, Deborah Popham, Eric McCluskey, Rianne Marcum, Chuck Chandler, and most recently with Yuman Lee performing Schubert's *Winterreise* on a tour of Georgia, Oklahoma, and Texas. A CD of this collaboration was released in October 2020.



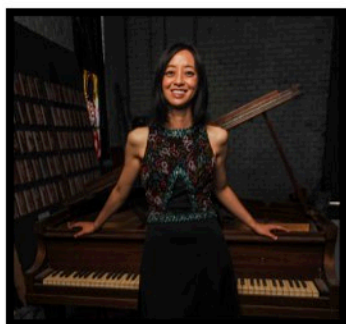
PRESENTERS

PAM ASBERRY, M.M., has over forty years of professional experience as a music educator, adjudicator, performer, speaker, author, composer, and arranger. A BMI recording artist, she has released nine solo piano albums to date and her music is available for streaming everywhere. To learn more, visit www.pamasberry.com.



DR. VICENTE DELLA TONIA, JR., NCTM, has performed in concert halls throughout the United States, Europe and South America. He currently teaches and coordinates the Keyboard Studies at Georgia State University/ Perimeter in Clarkston, GA. He is currently serving as the VP of Auditions for GMTA.

Russian-American pianist, **DR. ELENA DOROZHKINA, NCTM** has performed recitals in the US, Germany, Czech Republic, Russia, and Ukraine. A graduate from the renowned Saint-Petersburg State Conservatory (Russia) and University of North Texas, currently Elena teaches at Agnes Scott College (Decatur) and her private studio (Avondale Estates). More information is at: elenadorozhkina.com.



An internationally active performer and teacher, **DR. CHENNY GAN'S** professional engagements have brought her to over a dozen countries on three continents, from the inner city neighborhoods of Los Angeles to New York's iconic Carnegie Hall. Dr. Gan is an Associate Professor and Director of Music Graduate Programs at Wesleyan College.

SUSAN GAUKEL (BS Music Education, West Chester University of Pennsylvania, MFA Musical Theatre, Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music) is Associate Professor of Musical Theatre at Shorter University, Vice President of the Board of Directors for the Rome Shakespeare Festival, and Projection Designer for National Concerts' Choral Carnegie Hall series.





JULIE GROOM graduated with a Bachelor's of Music in Piano Performance and Pedagogy and has taught piano and voice for over 20 years. She owns Bella G Studio where she teaches piano, voice, guitar, ukulele, preschool programming and Piano intensive workshops. She is a member of GMTA and NATS.

As a Performing Artist, Pedagogue and Activist, **HEATHER HANCOCK** is passionate about the intersection of artistry and social justice. Currently, Heather is a DMA candidate (Piano Performance) at The University of Georgia where she is a Teaching Assistant. Her research explores piano works that directly engage social justice issues.



DR. GEOFFREY HAYDON is a highly acclaimed classical and jazz artist who has given solo, concerto, and chamber performances and workshops throughout the USA, in Europe, Russia, China, Japan, South and Central America. He has published articles, books and arrangements. He is currently Coordinator of the Piano at Georgia State University.

DR. YINGZHOU HU, NCTM, has performed throughout the United States and abroad in Asia, Europe, and Africa. He currently teaches and coordinates Keyboard Studies at Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, GA.



KEVIN JUAREZ, born in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, began his studies on piano at age fourteen at the National School of Music in Honduras. He has performed in masterclasses for Kumi Miyagawa, Richard Steinbach, Javier Negrin, and Awadagin Pratt. He is currently a student of Dr. Beibei Lin at Valdosta State University.



JENNIFER LOHMANN teaches a large independent music studio in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and also teaches class piano at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. She holds degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and Marshall University. As a freelance keyboardist, Jennifer is equally in demand as a pianist, harpsichordist, and vocal coach.

DR. OWEN LOVELL, NCTM, is Associate Professor of Music and keyboard coordinator at Georgia College, Georgia's public liberal arts university in historic Milledgeville. He's also a piano technician and Piano Review Editor for the Acoustic & Digital Piano Buyer consumer publication. More information and recordings at www.owenlovell.com, www.youtube.com/@classical_pianist, and www.pianobuyer.com.

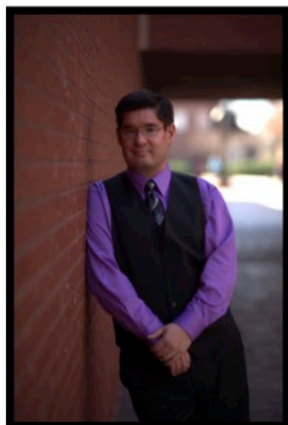


HUU MAI, NCTM champions music education through innovative pedagogy. As GMTA's 2019 "Teacher of the Year," he lectures at conferences, serves as Music Director at North Decatur Presbyterian Church, and holds positions as Artist-in-Residence at Kennesaw State University and Assistant Director of the Atlanta Boy Choir, cultivating versatile, imaginative musicians. He also currently serves as the GMTA Collegiate Chapters Chair.

HANNAH MULLINEX is currently a junior pursuing both a BA in Music with an Applied Studies concentration in piano and a BM in Vocal Performance with plans to graduate in 2025. She has previously served as president of the MTNA collegiate chapter at KSU and now serves as Vice President.



AMY MEPPEN NEAL, NCTM, (BM, Baylor University; MM, University of Oklahoma) serves as Assistant Professor of Piano Pedagogy, Class Piano, and Secondary Piano at Shorter University. In addition to her university teaching, she is active as an independent piano teacher, adjudicator, and accompanist. She is also GMTA's VP of Newsletters.



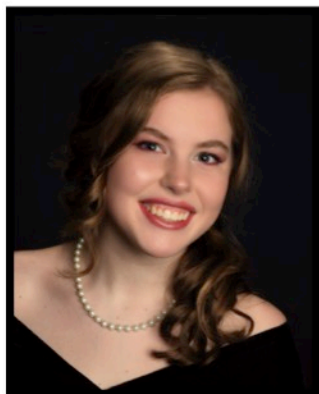
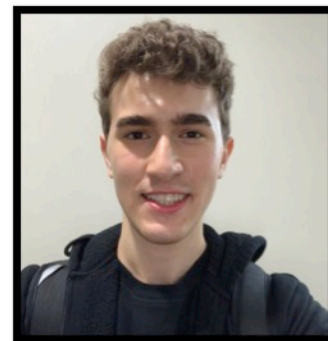
JOSHUA PIFER is Keyboard Area Head and Associate Professor of Piano at Valdosta State University. Praised for his “sensitivity,” “color,” and “depth” in performance, Joshua has concertized on three continents. Joshua believes that music is a tool for inspiration and actively advocates for increasing professional activities for collegiate students.

OSCAR SUY-PEREZ, from Madison, Florida, began playing piano at the age of fourteen. At first, he taught himself the basics of piano playing. In 2022, he began his formal studies at Valdosta State University pursuing a Bachelors in Jazz Music Performance as a student of Mr. David Springfield.



CATHY THACKER, NCTM, is the GMTA President, the immediate past President of Gwinnett County MTA and their 2018 Teacher of the Year. Cathy's private studio in Snellville has 40+ students who participate in recitals, festivals, competitions, and master classes. She enjoys accompanying at church and adjudicating piano events throughout Georgia.

THEO VILAMITJANA is currently a junior pursuing a BM in Piano Performance with plans to graduate in 2025. In addition to performing, Theo enjoys composing and finding ways to integrate music with other disciplines.



NATALIE WALLACE is currently a junior pursuing both a BM in Music Education and a BM in Viola Performance with plans to graduate in 2025. She has previously served as Secretary and Vice President of the MTNA collegiate chapter at KSU and now serves as President.

KAREN ZGONC has performed and taught throughout the US, Mexico, and Canada. She followed her passion to bring a community of high-quality music making by founding Ztunes Music in 2016. Outside of Ztunes, Karen serves on the Board of the Atlanta Youth Wind Symphony and is secretary for DMTA.



Wesleyan College presenters for this conference include **PENNY ZEHAO LI** (junior, music major), **NIJAH HARRIS** (senior, music and education double major), **SUKUN ZHANG** (graduate student in organ, piano and choral conducting) and **REBECCA MCCLAIN** (graduate student in organ and piano). The group is organized and led by Dr. Chenny Gan, Associate Professor of Music and Director of Graduate Programs. We are so excited to be a part of this year's GMTA conference!



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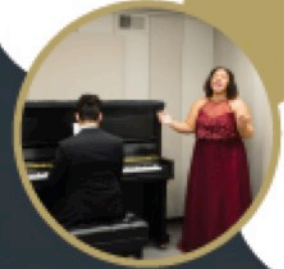
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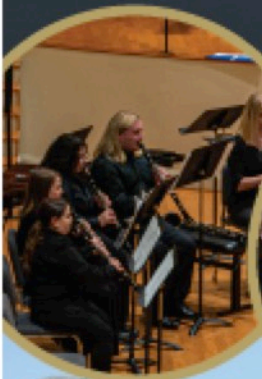
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