

# GMTA STATE CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 7-9, 2024



**GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY -  
PERIMETER COLLEGE**

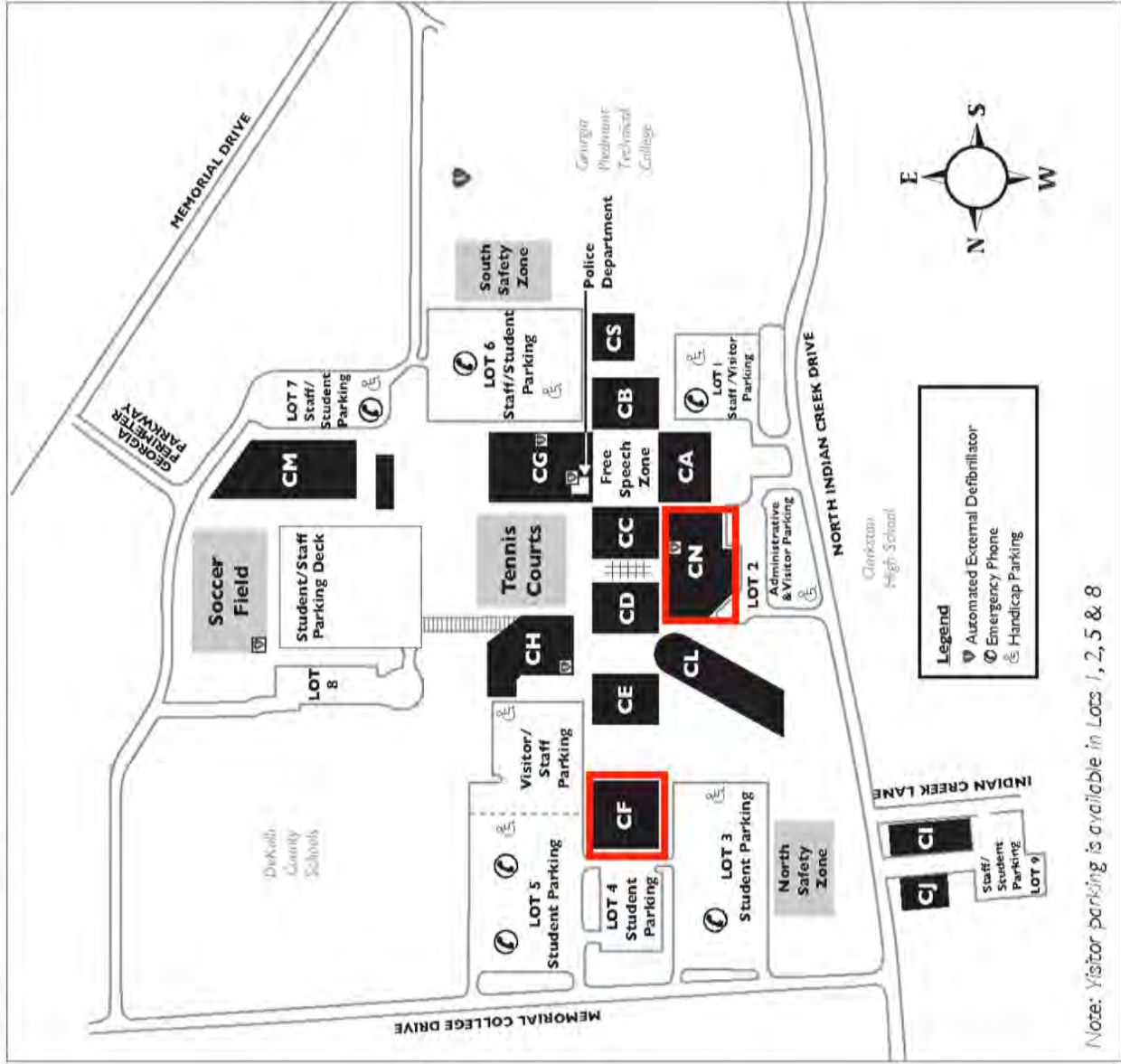
CLARKSTON, GA



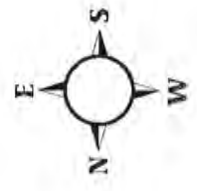
Welcome to the

# CLARKSTON CAMPUS

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- CL** MESA
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- CL** Nursing
- CL** Student Health Center
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- CI** Nursing
- CJ** Police Department Communications
- CL** CAT (Creation and Technology) Lab/Computer Lab
- CL** JCLRC - Jim Cherry Auditorium
- CL** Library
- CL** PC Online
- CM** Facilities Operations
- CM** Facilities Planning & Projects
- CM** Surplus Warehouse
- CN - Dining Hall** Admissions
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- CE** English
- CE** Honors College
- CE** Humanities
- CF** Fine Arts and Humanities
- CF** Marvin Cole Auditorium (Use south entrance.)
- CF** Media Design Lab
- CF** Performance Studio (Use north entrance.)
- CG** Gymnasium
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Note: Visitor parking is available in Lots 1, 2, 5 & 8

# Georgia Music Teachers Association

Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association

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Welcome to the 2024 GMTA Conference at Georgia State University-Perimeter College Department of Fine Arts, Clarkston, Georgia! This conference promises to be informative and enjoyable. Thank you to our VP of Programs Dr. Jeri-Mae Astolfi and her committee for their outstanding job putting together this year's headliners and sessions. We always look forward to presentations from Georgia's Own, our collegiate chapters, and others.

Dr. Brian Bonin, Assistant Chair of the Fine Arts Department, and Dr. Vicente Della Tonia, Jr., NCTM, from GSU 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 to the Atlanta, Decatur, and Gwinnett local associations for providing hospitality throughout the conference.

Our Pedagogy Headliner this year is **Dr. Victor Labenske**, who is on faculty at Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, California. Dr. Labenske has written nearly 800 published compositions and arrangements, and he remains active as a concert artist both as a soloist and a collaborative performer. It has been my pleasure to hear his programs at several MTNA conferences, and he always brings tremendous energy to his presentations.

**Michelle Cann** is our Conference Recitalist, and we look forward to hearing her performance Friday evening. Ms. Cann was the recipient of the 2022 Sphinx Medal of Excellence, the highest honor bestowed by the Sphinx Organization. Her debut solo album "Revival," featuring music by Florence Price and Margaret Bonds, was released in May 2023. She will also be the clinician for the Master Class on Saturday morning.

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 2024 Commissioned Composition by **James A. Devor**. Devor's music has been performed across the globe, including at the Contemporary Composition Conference at the University of North Georgia.

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.

While at the conference, support the **GMTA Awards Fund** and **MTNA Foundation Fund** by buying raffle tickets, and be sure to visit all the exhibitors. **PianoWorks**, who supplies the hydraulic bench for the raffle, has music and pianos on display. **Steinway & Sons**, who provides two student grants, has pianos to discover. We thank both for their ongoing 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 and follow up to manage every detail 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.

It is hard to believe that my term as president is ending. It has been my honor to serve as your president, and I wish all the best to GMTA in the future. I hope that you enjoy the conference!



Cathy Thacker, NCTM  
GMTA President



Hugh Hodgson  
School of Music  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

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September 12, 2024

Dear GMTA Members and Guests,

Welcome to Perimeter College at Georgia State University! In preparing for your visit, we discovered that Perimeter College (formerly DeKalb College) hosted the GMTA state convention in 1987. It is our pleasure to welcome you again for an overdue visit to our Clarkston campus.

This fall, Perimeter College is celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary as metro Atlanta's gateway to higher education. Throughout the history of our music program, our students have excelled under the guidance of our skilled and dedicated faculty. As a result, our music program enjoys a long list of alumni who are working in the world as educators, performers, composers, and music therapists. A good example is Kendall Simpson, a Perimeter College alum (1977-79) whom we commissioned to compose the work "Finding a Path" for the college's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In addition to serving as the music director for the Emory University Dance Department for twenty-five years, he has composed extensively for productions at the Alliance Theatre and Georgia Shakespeare here in Atlanta, as well as writing works for the Atlanta Symphony, the Vega String Quartet, and even Sesame Street. Kendall, like many of our alums, credits his Perimeter College education for providing him a strong musical foundation that allowed him to successfully transfer to and then thrive at the University of Georgia School of Music.

One of the special aspects of our Fine Arts department is our history of associations with professional and community partners. We see great value in facilitating the efforts of groups such as GMTA – our communities thrive when served by private music teachers who themselves are pedagogically refreshed and artistically nourished. If we can do anything to make your conference experience even more fulfilling, please let me know.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Bonin". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Brian Bonin, D.M.A.  
Assistant Chair, Department of Fine Arts  
Associate Professor of Music (Voice)



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November 7, 2024

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 next MTNA National Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 15-19, 2025. 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. You'll be treated to the artistry of *Michelle Cann*, keynote speaker *Libby Larsen* and insightful master classes with *Lynda Lybeck-Robinson* (elementary piano), *Jennifer Linn* (intermediate piano), *Michelle Cann* (advanced piano), and *John Bloomfield* (piano technique). The 2025 MTNA National Conference will be an unforgettable time to learn and share, so visit the MTNA website later this year 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" followed by a horizontal line.

Peter Mack, NCTM  
*President*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Shepard" in a cursive style.

Brian Shepard  
*Chief Executive Officer*

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**GMTA Theory Test**  
**January 15, 2025** Registration Deadline

**GATE**  
**January 15, 2025** Registration Deadline

**Local Auditions**  
**January 15, 2025** Registration Deadline - Grades 4-11 Piano

**Regional Auditions**  
**February 26, 2025** Student and Teacher Fees Due  
**March 7, 2025** Region Video Submission Deadline

**State Auditions**  
**January 15, 2025** Registration Deadline - Grade 12 Piano, Piano Duet, Pre-College Piano Concerto  
**March 3, 2025** Registration Deadline - College Piano, Voice, Strings, Woodwinds/Brass, Instrumental Concerto

**April 4-5, 2025** GMTA State Auditions, Piedmont University

# 2025 GMTA Auditions





**Music Teachers National Association**

Welcome to the 2024 Georgia Music Teachers Association Conference. I am pleased to bring you greetings as the Southern Division Director, and I am proud that Georgia is my state affiliate. Serving with each of you in Georgia has not only been a pleasure but also very encouraging as you continue to be a thriving affiliate of MTNA.

Georgia MTA can be very proud of your legacy of excellence in music and leadership. Each of you, as members of Georgia MTA and MTNA, makes a lasting and important contribution through your support at the local, state and national level. I encourage you to use all the resources available to you as a MTNA member to continually strive to improve your teaching. What an opportunity we have to leave a lasting impact on those we are fortunate enough to teach.

GMTA has been under exceptional leadership with Cathy Thacker serving as President. Cathy has been an outstanding example of service in MTNA both at the local and state level. Thank you, Cathy, for your dedication and excellent service. I would also like to thank Jeri-Mae Astolfi, Vice President of Programs, for her expertise in planning the 2024 GMTA Conference. Your time and attention to each detail is greatly appreciated. I look forward to all the conference has to offer everyone.

Your time here will be well spent as you reconnect with colleagues and attend the inspiring sessions and concerts. Looking forward to March, I hope you will make plans to attend the MTNA National Conference which will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The conference is another great opportunity for professional development and connecting with colleagues.

I am honored to serve as your Southern Division Director on the MTNA National Board. If I can help you in any way, please reach out to me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy B. Poole".

Joy B. Poole  
Southern Division Director

# 2024 Georgia Music Teachers Association Conference

## Georgia State University - Perimeter College, Clarkston, Georgia

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024

12:00-5:30 Registration, GMTA/MTNA Raffles: Cole Auditorium Lobby  
Exhibits: CF 1180 and CF 1190  
Hospitality: CF 1170

12:30-1:05 Conference Split Session

**“Nuts and Bolts” of Expressive Artistic Piano Playing**

Elena Dorozhkina, NCTM, Presenter

Min-Chen Lee, Presider

*Cole Auditorium*

A pianist’s fingertips may convey a music idea and “speak” with a unique voice during a performance: tenderly or angrily, humorously or harshly, lovingly and warmly or coldly and indifferently, transmitting all of these emotions through piano sounds with varying intensity and tone. By focusing on important music elements and piano technique tips, pianists can enhance their sound production, legato technique, and phrasing, leading to more expressive and professional performances.

**A Music Teacher’s Toy Box**

Karen Zgonc, Presenter

Adam Cole, Presider

*Performance Studio*

Looking for off the bench activities? Get ready for attention-grabbers, ways to encourage variable practice, and more. With games, new instruments, and technology, students of all ages will love your musical “toy box!” Let's have fun and explore ways to create engaging lessons for all instruments and levels.

1:05-1:20 Visit Exhibits, Hospitality, Awards and Foundation Tables  
*Awards and Foundation Tables: Cole Auditorium Lobby*  
*Exhibits and Hospitality: CF 1170, 1180, 1190*

1:20-1:55 Conference Split Session

**Elementary Piano Music by Latin American Composers**

Angela Holguin-Veras, Presenter

Sidney Johnson, Presider

*Cole Auditorium*

This presentation focuses on discovering, analyzing, and understanding elementary-level piano repertoire by Latin American composers. Works from Brazil, Cuba, Peru, and Mexico will be featured with works by De Blanck, Botet, Fernandez, Vieira, Hernandez and Canelo. By learning and playing music from cultures different than our own, we expose students to a wider cultural reality. This research allows inclusion at early ages creating multicultural consciousness and encouraging acceptance in an ever-growing diverse world.

## **The Power of WHY: Organizing Scale Fingerings for the Piano Student**

Amy Neal, NCTM, Presenter

Shorter University Collegiate Chapter, Presiders

*Performance Studio*

As piano teachers, we know the traditional scale fingerings, but do we consider why these finger patterns work? As we seek to promote independent thinkers among our piano students, how do we demonstrate the reasons for each scale pattern? And how do we consolidate those patterns into as few concepts as possible for easier memorization? This session examines how and why we group the scales as we teach our students.

1:55–2:10

Visit Exhibits, Hospitality, Awards and Foundation Tables

*Awards and Foundation Tables: Cole Auditorium Lobby*

*Exhibits and Hospitality: CF 1170, 1180, 1190*

2:10-2:45

Conference Split Session

## **The Taubman Technique: Building a Stronger and Healthier Foundation**

Min-Chen Lee, Presenter

Elena Dorozhkina, NCTM, Presider

*Cole Auditorium*

Preventing injury is an important concern for pianists, as many experience pain and tension during practice or performance. This presentation will introduce the Taubman Approach, a technique that follows the natural posture to play piano healthily and assist students in establishing a stronger foundation. We will discuss some common bad habits that occur in practice, plus six crucial Taubman principles that address these habits.

## **The Seven Problems Music Teachers Can Solve**

Adam Cole, Presenter

Karen Zgonc, Presider

*Performance Studio*

Marketing is the art of solving problems for clients. The good news is that musicians solve many more problems than they realize. In this presentation, Adam describes seven creative ways for musicians to describe what they do in ways that will attract clients.

2:45-3:00

Visit Exhibits, Hospitality, Awards and Foundation Tables

*Awards and Foundation Tables: Cole Auditorium Lobby*

*Exhibits and Hospitality: CF 1170, 1180, 1190*

3:00-3:35

Conference Split Session

**Debussy's Innovative Piano Pedagogical Techniques**

Sidney Johnson, Presenter

Valdosta State University Collegiate Chapter, Presiders

*Cole Auditorium*

This presentation analyzes Debussy's masterful ideas of interpretation, technique, and "coming to terms" with the music, as described by one of his most respected pupils, Marguerite Long. Such ideas include approaching the keyboard with appropriate touch and tone, the art of pedaling, and musical expression through dynamics and colors, applicable from beginner to advanced piano students. In addition, these specific topics discussed are applied to performing and teaching of the famous "Suite Bergamasque: Prelude."

**I Was Going to Do Something, But Then I Forgot: Teaching the Distracted Student**

Shorter University Collegiate Chapter, Presenters

Angela Holquin-Veras, Presider

*Performance Studio*

Teachers consistently report that students are more distracted. Perhaps you have students who only want to talk, some who forget the instruction you just gave them, and even those who can only play a few measures before they stop. This presentation - given by Gen Z students themselves - will offer suggestions for capturing and holding the attention of your distracted students, as well as how to address this challenge in their weekly practice time at home.

3:35-4:00

Visit Exhibits, Hospitality, Awards and Foundation Tables

*Awards and Foundation Tables: Cole Auditorium Lobby*

*Exhibits and Hospitality: CF 1170, 1180, 1190*

4:00-5:15

Conference Headliner

**Performance Practice in Contemporary Stylings: Strategies for Playing Celtic, Jazz, Gospel, Pop and Latin Music with Confidence**

Victor Labenske, Presenter

Cathy Thacker, NCTM, Presider

*Cole Auditorium*

Many piano teachers have extensive classical training both in performance and pedagogy but don't feel comfortable improvising in popular styles. This session provides an overview of several popular styles, first examining style characteristics and then looking at passages from educational and sacred pieces in each style.

5:15-5:30

Visit Exhibits, Hospitality, Awards and Foundation Tables

*Awards and Foundation Tables: Cole Auditorium Lobby*

*Exhibits and Hospitality: CF 1170, 1180, 1190*

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**

Yanni Chan, Presider

*Cole Auditorium*

6:00-8:00

Dinner on Your Own

8:00

**2024 GMTA Auditions Pre-College Concerto Winners  
Georgia State University (Perimeter College) Faculty Showcase**

Cathy Thacker, NCTM, Presider

*Cole Auditorium*

**PROGRAM**

Piano Concerto No.2, I. Moderato

Sergei Rachmaninoff  
(1873-1943)

**Ian Du, piano**

Yoonkyung Jang, piano

From the studio of Yoonkyung Jang

Pezzo Capriccioso Op. 62

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky  
(1840-1893)

**Ethan Goh, cello**

Grace Tian Meng Fowler, piano

From the studio of Martin Gueorguiev

Sonata for Piano (2024) \*premiere

Greg McLean  
(b. 1956)

I. *Contagiate*

II. *Verme do Cérebro*

III. *Estar Bem*

**Vicente Della Tonia, Jr., NCTM, piano**

Nocturne

Alphonse Catherine  
(1868-1927)

Romance Op. 37

Camille Saint-Saëns  
(1835-1921)

**Slava Prudchenko, flute**

**Vicente Della Tonia, Jr., NCTM, piano**

Foursquare Cathedral (2018)

Matt Boehler

I. Ruin

II. My House Is Small and Almost

III. The Wallpaper

IV. What Yesterday Appeared a Scar

V. Another Hand

**Brian Bonin, bass-baritone**

**Vicente Della Tonia, Jr., NCTM, piano**

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2024

8:30-5:00 Registration, GMTA/MTNA Raffles: Cole Auditorium Lobby  
Exhibits and Hospitality: CF 1170, 1180, 1190

9:00-10:30 Conference Headliner

### **Hidden Motives: Quotes, Symbols, and Other Compositional Techniques Found in the Works of Pedagogical Composers**

Victor Labenske, Presenter

Cathy Thacker, NCTM, Presider

*Cole Auditorium*

Pedagogical composers incorporate symbolism through techniques that master composers have used for centuries to communicate extra-musical ideas. These symbolic devices include quotation of a pre-existing composition, pictorial writing, cultural references and *soggetto cavato*.

10:30-10:50 Visit Exhibits, Hospitality, Awards and Foundation Tables  
*Awards and Foundation Tables: Cole Auditorium Lobby*  
*Exhibits and Hospitality: CF 1170, 1180, 1190*

10:50-11:50 Conference Headliner

### **Showcase of Music Composed by Victor Labenske**

Victor Labenske, Presenter

Cathy Thacker, NCTM, Presider

*Cole Auditorium*

This showcase provides the opportunity to gain familiarity with the wide variety of music at different levels and in various styles written by Victor Labenske.

11:50-1:10 Lunch

### **Box Lunch (preregistered order required)**

*Dining Hall*

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

*Dining Hall*



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1:10-1:45

Conference Split Session

**Preparing Students for a Successful College Music Audition**

Grace Huang, NCTM, Presenter

Kristi Helfen, NCTM, Presider

*Cole Auditorium*

Hearing a student say “I want to be a music major” often elicits both elation and trepidation in teachers’ minds. What are the next steps? How do we best help them prepare? This session offers a practical blueprint for helping teachers and students navigate the college audition process, from building a solid foundation in technique, practice strategies, and self-directed learning, to programming and preparing vibrant, diverse repertoire that highlights the student’s strengths.

**The Business Side of Building a Music Business**

Melissa Slocum, Presenter

Diane Boyd, NCTM, Presider

*Performance Studio*

Especially for collegiate members just starting out, or people aspiring to be more professional in the industry, this presentation explores essential business topics: business models, business licensing, professional payment platforms, contracts, business insurance, policies, marketing, growth, networking, leadership, and professionalism. Learn vital business practices for success as an independent contractor, an employee, or a business owner (or all of the above). Unlock resources and ideas for a thriving and profitable career!

1:45-2:00

Visit Exhibits, Hospitality, Awards and Foundation Tables

*Awards and Foundation Tables: Cole Auditorium Lobby*

*Exhibits and Hospitality: CF 1170, 1180, 1190*



2:00-2:35

Conference Split Session

**Dance, Magic, and Nature: Exploring the Repertoire by lesser-known Latin-American Composers**

Valdosta State University Collegiate Chapter, Presenter

Yingzhou Hu, NCTM, Presider

*Cole Auditorium*

Latin America is a region consisting of thirty-three countries of the Americas full of culture and diversity, and music yet to be discovered and performed in recital halls. In this session, we will explore the music of lesser-known Latin-American Composers for intermediate and advanced students. The presentation includes performances of music by composers from Mexico, Argentina, Costa Rica, Brazil, and the world premiere of “Preludio #2” by Honduran composer Tony Sierra.

**Strategies for the Self-Taught Student: Common Topics in Reading and Techniques**

Alan Woo, Presenter

Amy Neal, NCTM, Presider

*Performance Studio*

Wider accessibility to internet resources like YouTube has led to a rise in self-taught pianists among today’s generation. While this musical exposure certainly deserves much recognition, self-taught transfer students present a unique set of challenges to address when experiencing their first formal lessons—in reading, fingering, and technique, for example. This session discusses how teachers can approach these common topics with students who are not beginners pianistically but otherwise lack a more methodical musical foundation.

2:35-2:50

Visit Exhibits, Hospitality, Awards and Foundation Tables

*Awards and Foundation Tables: Cole Auditorium Lobby*

*Exhibits and Hospitality: CF 1170, 1180, 1190*

2:50-3:25

**The NEW GMTA Theory Tests - What You Need to Know**

Diane Boyd, NCTM, Presenter

Grace Huang, NCTM, Presider

*Cole Auditorium*

The new GMTA Theory program debuts this fall. The GMTA Theory tests will expand from 5 to 12 levels and the GATE Theory tests will expand from 3 to 4 levels. Participants will learn how to find information about the curriculum and how to determine which test their students need to take. They will also learn what tests their students need to take to be eligible to participate in GMTA Auditions.

3:25-3:40

Visit Exhibits, Hospitality, Awards and Foundation Tables

*Awards and Foundation Tables: Cole Auditorium Lobby*

*Exhibits and Hospitality: CF 1170, 1180, 1190*

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

*Cole Auditorium*



4:00-4:30 Commissioned Work Performance  
David Peoples, NCTM, Presider  
*Performance Studio*

**dear delightful hollow square**

James Devor, composer and bass clarinet  
Paige Amramson, clarinet

The 2024 commissioned work is funded by Music Teachers National Association and Georgia MTA.

Inspired by traditional shape-note or Sacred Harp singing, dear delightful hollow square gets its title from physical set-up of the four vocal parts: trebles, altos, tenors, and basses. The piece places the audience inside the middle of the hollow square, with the four encircling speakers passing off live modulation of prerecorded vocals, spoken text, and instrumental textures. The Sacred Harp tradition, originating in New England, became increasingly more popular with the 1844 publication of the tunebook, *The Sacred Harp*, collected and edited by Benjamin Franklin White and Elisha J. King, who both lived in Georgia at the time. I combined traditional hymn texts, implied shape-note melodies, and the imitative contrapuntal style of the tunes with contemporary compositional techniques to create my own modern interpretation and representation of the experience of being within the hallowed hollow square.

4:30-4:45 Visit Exhibits, Hospitality, Awards and Foundation Tables  
*Awards and Foundation Tables: Cole Auditorium Lobby*  
*Exhibits and Hospitality: CF 1170, 1180, 1190*

4:45-5:15 **GMTA Auditions Winners' Recital - College Level**  
Vicente Della Tonia, Jr., NCTM, Presider  
*Performance Studio*

**PROGRAM**

*La Soirée dans Grenade and Jardins sous la pluie*, from *Estampes* Claude Debussy  
(1862-1918)

**Caroline Malcom, piano, Lower College**  
From the studio of Liza Stepanova, University of Georgia

*Fantasia in F Minor, Op. 49* Frédéric François Chopin  
(1810-1849)

**Jinyue Gu, piano, Upper College**  
From the studio of Liza Stepanova, University of Georgia

6:00-7:30 **GMTA Conference Banquet**  
*Dining Hall*

8:00 **GMTA Conference Recital**  
Michelle Cann  
*Cole Auditorium*

**PROGRAM**

Ballade No. 3 in A-flat major, Op. 47 Frédéric Chopin  
(1810-1849)

My Dungeon Shook, Three American Preludes Joel Thompson  
(b. 1988)

Piano Sonata No. 1 Alberto Ginastera  
(1916-1983)

Intermission

Piano Sonata in E minor Florence Price  
(1887-1953)

Mephisto Waltz No. 1, S. 514 Franz Liszt  
(1811-1886)



**NORTH DEKALB MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

Miao-Fen Lin, President  
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Derek Vann, VP of Membership  
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[www.ndmta.net](http://www.ndmta.net)

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2024

8:30-12:30 Registration, GMTA/MTNA Raffles: Cole Auditorium Lobby  
Exhibits and Hospitality: CF 1170, 1180, 1190

8:30-9:00 **Executive Board Meeting**  
Kristi Helfen, NCTM, Presider  
*CF 0110*

9:10-9:45 Conference Split Session

### **From Baroque to Classical: The Evolution of Ornamentation in Sonatas and Sonatinas**

Yingzhou Hu, NCTM, and Vicente Della Tonia Jr., NCTM, Presenters  
Alan Woo, Presider  
*Cole Auditorium*

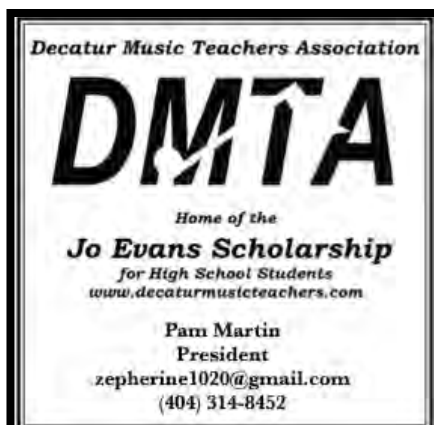
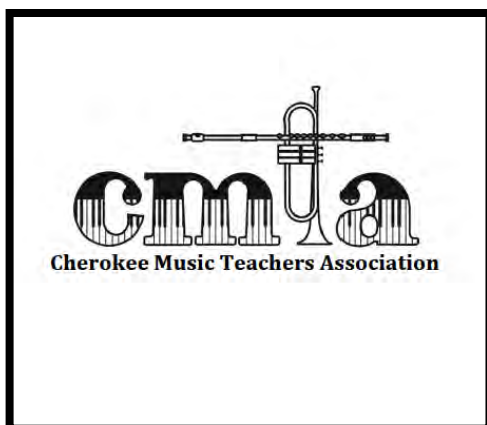
Curious about ornamentation in the Classical era? This session will demystify how composers used ornaments as a means of expression and will offer practical tips on how to teach/perform works from this dramatic period.

### **Developing Musical Intuition Through Piano Duets**

Hue Jang, Presenter  
Jan Adams, NCTM, Presider  
*Performance Studio*

To best interpret music, students need to utilize elements of musicianship, such as harmony, form, and style. Consistent challenges for students are steady tempos, sense of form, style, and phrasing. To students, many of these aspects are not obvious in the scores. However, playing piano duets with students is highly effective in helping them to learn natural playing. This session will share Dr. Jang's teaching experience and demonstrate how to meet these challenges.

9:45-10:00 Visit Exhibits, Hospitality, Awards and Foundation Tables  
*Awards and Foundation Tables: Cole Auditorium Lobby*  
*Exhibits and Hospitality: CF 1170, 1180, 1190*



10:00-12:00 **GMTA Piano Master Class with Michelle Cann**  
Vicente Della Tonia, Jr., NCTM, Presider  
*Cole Auditorium*

**PROGRAM**

*Feux d'artifice* from Preludes Book II Claude Debussy  
(1862-1918)

**Hannah Sundar, piano, Grade 9**  
From the studio of Anne Sun, Atlanta MTA

Desperate Measures Robert Muczinski  
(1929-2010)

**Raleigh Wiebers, piano, Grade 9**  
From the studio of Jerico Vasquez, Rome MTA

"Echo" from "French Overture" Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

**Michelle Feng, piano, Grade 10**  
From the studio of Alexander Wasserman, Cobb County MTA

Étude Op. 10, No. 4 in C-sharp Minor Frédéric Chopin  
(1810-1849)

**TongTong Liu, piano, Grade 10**  
From the studio of Yien Wang, Columbus MTA

Fire-Flies from Four Sketches, Op. 15 No. 4 Amy Beach  
(1867-1944)

**Abigail Marley, piano, Grade 11**  
From the studio of Gloria Park, Gwinnett County MTA

Sonata No. 3 in B Minor, Op. 58, I. Allegro maestoso Chopin

**Austin Wu, piano, Grade 11**  
From the studio of Huu Mai, NCTM, Cobb County MTA

12:00-12:15 Visit Exhibits, Hospitality, Awards and Foundation Tables  
*Awards and Foundation Tables: Cole Auditorium Lobby*  
*Exhibits and Hospitality: CF 1170, 1180, 1190*

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

**PROGRAM**

Cello Concertino No. 1 in C Major, I. Allegro Julius Klengel  
(1859-1933)

**Injae Hwang, cello, Grades K/1**  
Sonny Yoo, piano  
From the studio of Heejung Jung

Cello Concerto No. 1 in C Major, I. Moderato Joseph Haydn  
(1732-1809)

**Inha Hwang, cello, Grades 2/3**  
Sonny Yoo, piano  
From the studio of Heejung Jung

Cello Concerto No. 3, I. Allegro molto moderato Georg Eduard Goltermann  
(1824-1898)

**Brent Lee, cello, Grades 4/5**  
Sonny Yoo, piano  
From the studio of Heejung Jung

Paganini Etude No. 5 Franz Liszt  
(1811-1886)

**Shuhan Wen, piano, Grade 4**  
From the studio of Anne Sun, Atlanta MTA

Piano Sonata in F Major, K. 280, I. Allegro assai Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
(1756-1791)

**Ken Hu, piano, Grade 5**  
From the studio of Alan Woo, Athens MTA

*Zigeunerweisen* Pablo de Sarasate  
(1844-1908)

**Hamin You, violin, Grades 6/7**  
Sonny Yoo, piano  
From the studio of William Pu

Étude Op.10 No.4

Frédéric Chopin  
(1810-1849)

**Evelyn Chi, Piano, Grade 6**

From the studio of Sanghie Lee, North Fulton MTA

Toccatina Op.36

Nikolai Kapustin  
(1937-2020)

**Houyin (Victor) Wang, piano, Grade 7**

From the studio of Meng Grace Tian, North Fulton MTA

Scherzo Tarantella, Op. 16

Henryk Wieniawski  
(1835-1880)

**Ellie Kim, violin, Grade 8**

Sung Kyung Chang, piano  
From the studio of William Pu

Scriabin No. 2 in G-Sharp Minor, Op. 19, II. Presto

Alexander Scriabin  
(1872-1915)

**Ryan Eugene Lee, piano, Grade 8**

From the studio of Gina Myung, North DeKalb MTA

Violin Concerto No. 3, I. Allegro non troppo

Camille Saint-Saëns  
(1835-1921)

**Alexandra Cozmuta, violin, Grade 9**

From the studio of Nadir Khashimov

*Études d'exécution transcendante, S. 139, XII. Chasse-neige*

Liszt

**Melvin Xu, piano, Grade 9**

From the studio of Anne Sun, Atlanta MTA

*Die Nacht*

Richard Strauss  
(1864-1949)

**Chloe Bremer, voice, Grade 9**

Yurim Mi Choi, piano  
From the studio of Yurim Mi Choi

Violin Concerto in D minor, I. Allegro moderato

Jean Sibelius  
(1865-1957)

**Lucas Liu, violin, Grades 10/11**

Sonny Yoo, piano

From the studio of William Pu

*Se Florindo è fedele*

Alessandro Scarlatti  
(1659-1725)

**Nishevitha Suresh, voice, Grade 10**

Margaret Liu, piano

From the studio of Margaret Liu

*Soirée dans Grenade* from "Estampes

Claude Debussy  
(1862-1918)

**Luke Xu, piano, Grade 11**

From the studio of Alexander Wasserman, Cobb County MTA

Saber Dance

Aram Khachaturian (1903- 1978)  
(arr. Greg Anderson)

**Yilan Cheng and Rayna Xiao, piano, Upper Division**

From the studio of Jonathan Klein



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**Portia Hawkins**

**[portiashawkins@gmail.com](mailto:portiashawkins@gmail.com)**

# MICHELLE CANN

## Conference Recitalist

Lauded as “exquisite” by *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and “a pianist of sterling artistry” by *Gramophone*, **MICHELLE CANN** is one of the most sought-after pianists of her generation. Recent engagements include appearances with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, The Cleveland Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Her honors include the Sphinx Medal of Excellence and the Andrew Wolf Chamber Music Award. In 2024, she was named the inaugural Christel DeHaan Artistic Partner of the American Pianists Association, responsible for artistic oversight of the American Pianists Awards.



Highlights of Cann’s 2024-25 season include appearances with the San Francisco Symphony, the Cincinnati Symphony, and London’s Philharmonia Orchestra. She performs solo and collaborative recitals on prominent series such as the 92nd Street Y, New York; Duke University; the Royal Conservatory of Music; and Shriver Hall Concert Series. She also performs a recital as the headline artist at the National Conference of the Music Teachers National Association.

Recognized as a leading interpreter of the piano music of Florence Price, Cann performed the New York City premiere of Price’s *Piano Concerto in One Movement* with The Dream Unfinished Orchestra in 2016. Her recording of the concerto with the New York Youth Symphony won a Grammy Award in 2023 for Best Orchestral Performance. Her acclaimed debut solo album *Revival*, featuring music by Price and Margaret Bonds, was released in 2023.

Cann holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in piano performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music and an Artist’s Diploma from the Curtis Institute of Music. She joined the Curtis piano faculty in 2020 as the inaugural Eleanor Sokoloff Chair in Piano Studies. She is also on the piano faculty of the Manhattan School of Music.

Listen now to Michelle Cann’s solo album *Revival*, Music of Price and Bonds, by scanning the QR code below using the camera on your mobile phone. More information at [curtis.edu/revival](http://curtis.edu/revival).



Follow Michelle Cann on Instagram:

@michelleacann

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The advertisement features a photograph of two children sitting on a sofa in a bright room, looking at a large sheet of paper on the floor. The text is overlaid on the image.



# VICTOR LABENSKE


## Pedagogy Headliner

**VICTOR LABENSKE** is professor of music at Point Loma Nazarene University where he has been on the faculty for over 35 years. He teaches courses in piano and composition. A summa cum laude graduate of PLNU, he earned his master's degree in piano performance at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, Conservatory of Music where he studied with Joanne Baker. He also earned the Doctor of Musical Arts in piano performance at the University of Southern California where he studied with Stewart Gordon.

He has been honored with such distinctions as playing in the opening ceremonies of the 1984 Olympic Games and being named an Academic All-American Scholar. His compositional output, nearly 800 published compositions and arrangements, includes sacred piano collections, educational piano music, and also chamber, vocal and handbell works. Dr. Labenske remains active as a concert artist both as soloist and as a collaborative performer.



More information at: [www.labenske.com](http://www.labenske.com)



### A Life with Music

For more information  
Contact  
Margaret Liu  
ABRSM Representative  
Georgia, Florida &  
South Carolina USA  
  
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# JAMES A. DEVOR

## Commissioned Composer

**JAMES A. DEVOR** is an American composer, sound artist and double bassist whose music searches to implement an array of experimental sounds while grappling with human emotions. He recently completed his MM in music composition at The Hart School – University of Hartford in 2023 and has received BMs in music theory/composition and music education from West Chester University of Pennsylvania. James’ private instructors include Libby Larsen, Robert Carl, Ken Steen, Daron Hagen, Robert Maggio, and Gilda Lyons and he has been a participant at Song Source – MNSong, New Music on the Point, Wintergreen Composer’s Retreat, Sō Percussion Workshop, Sewanee Winterfest, and the European American Musical Alliance.



Most renown for his lyrical yet modern approach to American art song, James has had his music performed across the globe. Most recently, his work has been heard at NACUSA National Conference, the Annual Research on Contemporary Composition Conference at University of North Georgia, and the Contemporary Music Lab at the European University of Cyprus.

Above all, James’ music finds manners to implement a vast set of experimental sounds, timbres, and colors, all the while being solidly focused on collaborating with performers and audience engagement. His recent work has delved into how live electronics can enhance and supplement the sound of musicians in real time.

Find more at: [www.jdevormusic.com](http://www.jdevormusic.com)

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## COMMISSIONED COMPOSER PERFORMER



**PAIGE ABRAMSON** is a senior Music Performance major at West Chester University of PA studying the clarinet. She currently performs with the WCU Wind Ensemble, WCU Symphony Orchestra, WCU Chamber Winds, and student wind quintet. Since beginning her studies at WCU, Paige specializes in woodwind doubling: performing on clarinet, bass clarinet, Eb clarinet, flute, piccolo, alto saxophone, and bassoon. Paige was selected and took part in the Summer Institute for Contemporary Performance Practice at New England Conservatory, Wintergreen Summer Music Academy, and Sewanee WinterFest. Her love for performing on and studying new instruments has only ever grown since starting clarinet lessons when she was nine years old, and continues to do so through teaching woodwind instruments.

## THURSDAY NIGHT PERFORMERS



**IAN DU** is now a senior at Lambert High School and has been passionate about music his entire life. He began learning piano in 2012 at the age of 6 while living in California. After moving to Georgia in late 2019, Ian started learning string instruments, beginning with the viola in 2020 and then the violin in 2021. Since 2022, he has been studying piano with Dr. YoonKyung Jang. Ian has achieved significant recognition in his musical pursuits. He is the Conference Recitalist for the 2024 GMTA Pre-college Piano Concerto and the 2024 GMTA Piano Grade 11. In 2023, he won the Rachel Howard Sonata/Sonatina late advanced category and was named an Outstanding Performer at the GMTA Piano Grade 10. He also received the Outstanding Performer award at the 2022 NDMTA Piano Bach Competition. In addition to his piano accomplishments, Ian has distinguished himself as an excellent string player. He was awarded 2nd alternate at the 2023 GMTA Instrumental

Concerto, has served as a violinist in the Georgia All-State Orchestras for four years and is currently a member of the Atlanta Youth Symphony Orchestra. He is also a dedicated leader in the Lambert High School Chamber Orchestra.

**YOON KYUNG JANG** Yoon Kyung Jang is a pianist from Seoul, South Korea. She started playing piano at the age of seven. She attended a Korea National University of Arts pre-college program. At the age of thirteen, she was selected by the 'Talented Arts Program' organized by the Seoul National Education Center where she studied. When she was fourteen, she was accepted by the Sunhwa Arts School. Since then, she attended the Sunhwa Arts Music School, the Sunhwa Arts High School, and Yonsei University in Seoul, where she studied under Mun-Jung Kim, Ma-ri Kwon, and Professor Young-Ran Han respectively. She won an achievement award at the Sunhwa Arts School allowing her to graduate from Yonsei University in 2013 with a 4-year full scholarship. She continued her studies in Germany, completing her master's course at the Hochschule für Musik "Hanns Eisler" Berlin with Professor Gabriele Kupfernagel from 2013 to 2015, and her Konzertexamen at the Hochschule für Musik Detmold with Professor Jacob Leuschner from April 2016 to February 2018. Before moving to the United States in 2019, Yoon Kyung was an instructor at Yonsei University and Sunhwa Arts School. Under her tutelage, many students were admitted to prestigious universities in South Korea.



**ETHAN GOH**, a fifteen year-old, began his musical studies with piano at age 6 and is nearing his fourth year as a cellist. He has performed as a member of various youth orchestras, notably as the principal cellist of the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra, the assistant principal of the All-state GMEA Orchestra for two years, and the Emory Youth Symphony Orchestra. Recently, Ethan auditioned for the Georgia Music Teachers Association, placing as Conference Recitalist for both the string concerto and 9th grade divisions. He has also won first prize at the Charleston International Music Competition in the 19th Century Music division. He currently studies under Dr. Martin Gueorguiev.



**DR. GRACE MENG TIAN**, is an active piano soloist, chamber musician, and piano teacher, based out of Atlanta, Georgia. She received a Bachelor of Music from Renmin University of China, a Master of Music Performance and Artist Certificate from Georgia State University, and a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Piano Performance and Chamber Music from the University of Georgia. She has won many awards for her solo playing, including first prize at the Concours International de Piano Son Altesse Royale La Princesse Lalla Meryem at the Paris Conservatory, as well as first prize at the Kawai Asia Piano Competition and Toyama Piano Competition, among others. Dr. Tian was hired as Music Director at the Beijing Dance Academy at age 20 and held the position from 2005-2009. She also held a position as vocal and instrumental coach at Renmin University School of Music from 2007-2010. Dr. Tian teaches and coaches in the

North Atlanta area where her students have won many competitions and awards nationally and internationally. She was also invited to coach and teach at Interlochen Arts Academy's 2024 Summer Camp.

**DR. BRIAN BONIN**, Assistant Chair in Fine Arts at Perimeter College - Georgia State University, has benefitted from a sustained relationship with the touring company Peach State Opera. He most recently sang Count Almaviva in the company's production of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* (2022) and has also performed the other Mozart/DaPonte operas with the company - the title role in *Don Giovanni* (2016), and Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte* (2014). He is a champion of the vocal music of Chris DeBlasio; his two editions of DeBlasio's settings of poetry of Howard Moss are published by Classical Vocal Reprints. Brian earned the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in vocal performance from Louisiana State University and is a past President of the Georgia chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing.

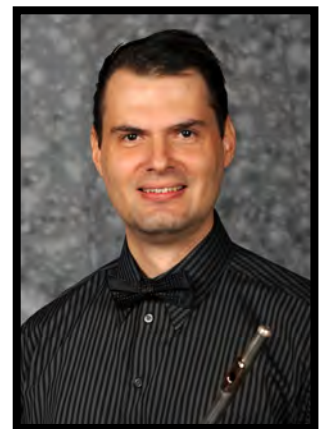


Praised for his “highly refined technique, imagination and musical taste” (Jornal da Cidade Bauru, Brazil), pianist **VICENTE DELLA TONIA, NCTM** has performed in concert halls throughout Asia, Europe, North and South America. Earlier in his career, he received top prize awards in numerous competitions, including the XXI *Concurso Latino-Americano de Piano Rosa Mística*. Recently, Vicente was featured as a guest artist in the WFMT and WXVS/Wabe public radio stations, and the prestigious Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series (Chicago, IL). Two-time recipient of the *Steinway & Sons’s Top Teacher Award of the Year* (2017 and 2020), Dr. Della Tonia is Coordinator of Keyboard Studies and Associate Professor of Piano at Georgia State University/Perimeter at Clarkston, where he is the founder and director of the Perimeter PianoFest. Vicente is VP of Auditions for the Georgia Music Teachers Association. [www.vicentedellatonia.com](http://www.vicentedellatonia.com)



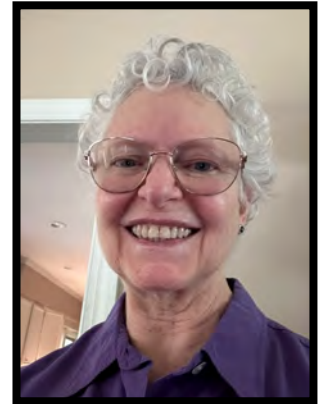
**GREG MCLEAN** (b.1956), trumpeter, composer and arranger, received a Bachelors Degree in Music Education (1979), Georgia State University, Masters of Music (1982), major in *music composition*, Florida State University, additional post-graduate work at the University of North Texas, composition and jazz (1985-86). Currently Associate Professor of Music at Perimeter College (GSU), McLean directs the PC Jazz Ensemble and teaches music theory and jazz history. As trumpeter he performs in many styles with ensembles of all types. He has backed up artists like The Four Freshmen, The Temptations, Frankie Valli, Little Anthony, Roger Williams, toured with the *Stan Kenton Legacy Orchestra.*, and toured Europe six times with *Hotlanta Dixieland Jazz*. McLean has composed for the *Atlanta Symphony Brass Quintet* and trumpet players Marvin Stamm, Jens Lindemann and James Thompson. His works have also been featured at the International Trumpet Guild Conference, National Trumpet Competition, and Trumpet Festival of the Southeast.

**SLAVA MICHAEL PRUDCHENKO** received his Master’s degree from the National Music Academy of Ukraine in Kyiv. He currently works as an Associate Professor of Music and Community Wind Ensemble Conductor at Georgia State University Perimeter College. Before moving to the USA in 2000, he worked as a principal flutist of the Kiev Symphony Orchestra & Chorus, flutist of the Symphony Orchestra of the National Opera House of Ukraine and at the National Philharmonic Society of Ukraine. Slava has performed many recitals, and has taken part in various festivals, performances, and recitals across the USA and Europe. Mr. Prudchenko won two International Music Competitions and has been recognized by the NISOD as an Excellence Award Winner for his online music course design. He was also nominated for Regents’ Teaching Excellence Awards for Online Teaching, Perimeter College teaching Excellence Award, as well as Perimeter College Civic Engagement Award.



## PRESENTERS

**DIANE BOYD, NCTM** graduated from East Carolina University and has worked for many years as a church organist and/or choir director in addition to maintaining a private piano studio. Diane is currently chairman of the GMTA theory committee and is excited to see the new theory tests debut this fall.



A jazz and classical pianist, **ADAM COLE** is a performance and confidence coach and the Director of Willow Music in Atlanta, GA. Adam received his BA from Oberlin College, and his BM and MM from Georgia State School of Music. Adam is also the producer of the YouTube channel “TruerMU”.

**DR. VICENTE DELLA TONIA, JR., NCTM**, has performed in concert halls throughout the Americas, Europe, and Asia. He currently teaches and coordinates the Keyboard Studies at Georgia State University/ Perimeter in Clarkston, GA.



A graduate of the renowned Saint-Petersburg Conservatory, Russia and University of North Texas, **DR. ELENA DOROZHKINA, NCTM**, has performed recitals in the US and abroad. Dorozhkina’s debut album *Russian Piano Gems: Romantic to Avant-Garde* recently released on Parma/Navona label has received high critical acclaim. Elena teaches at Agnes Scott College. [elenadorozhkina.com](http://elenadorozhkina.com)



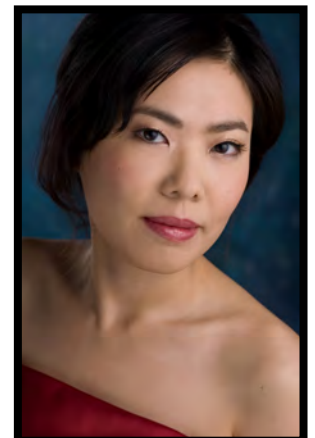
**ANGELA HOLGUIN-VERAS** is currently finishing her DMA at UGA. She teaches in the Atlanta area. A native of the Dominican Republic, she established her country's first Suzuki program, and founded Fundación Gisela-Dominicana, which provided lessons and concert opportunities for underprivileged children.

**DR. YINGZHOU HU, NCTM**, is assistant professor and coordinator of piano studies at Clark Atlanta University. He is an active pianist, presenter, and adjudicator throughout the United States and abroad in Asia, Europe, and Africa.



**GRACE HUANG, NCTM**, is Lecturer in Piano and Piano Pedagogy at the University of Georgia. A dedicated and sought-after teacher, her students have earned honors and acceptances to music programs across the country. She is also active as a pianist, presenter, adjudicator, and arts advocate.

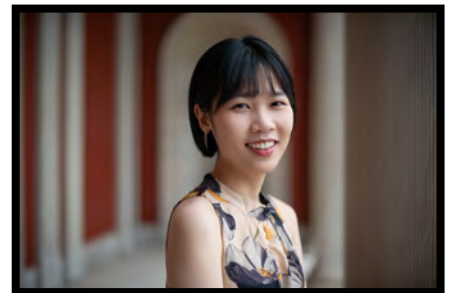
**Dr. HUE JANG** is currently teaching and accompanying at Georgia College and State University. She previously taught at Valdosta State University in Georgia, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) and Millikin University in Illinois. She received a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance and Literature from UIUC.





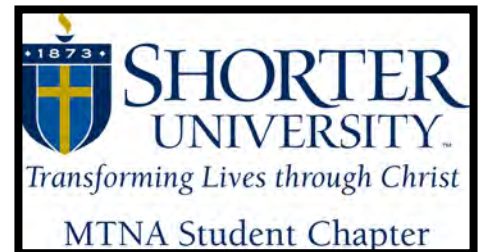
**SIDNEY JOHNSON** (MT-BC) graduated from Georgia College in 2022 with a Bachelor of Music Therapy. Currently, Sidney is a graduate student at Georgia State University and is earning a Master of Music in Piano Pedagogy. Sidney teaches piano at Ztunes Music in Atlanta, and teaches at her private studio in Douglasville.

A native of Taiwan, **MIN-CHEN LEE** is completing a DMA in performance at the University of Georgia under the tutelage of Dr. Evgeny Rivkin. She is a piano instructor at UGA's Community Music School, has taught class piano to music majors, and has performed throughout the U.S. and Taiwan.



**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.

Established in 2010, members of the **SHORTER UNIVERSITY MTNA COLLEGIATE CHAPTER** regularly attend both GMTA and MTNA conferences. The chapter includes piano performance and pedagogy majors, as well as music education and worship majors. This is their fifth presentation at a GMTA conference.





**MELISSA SLOCUM** has been teaching for 32 years, the past 16 from her own successful private studio. She has a Certification in Piano Pedagogy from Valley City State University, and did her undergraduate work in Organizational Communication at the University of Wisconsin. She is also a small business coach.



The **VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY MTNA COLLEGIATE CHAPTER** is a student organization passionate about performing and teaching music. Founded in Spring 2022, the chapter has been involved with the South Georgia Region community, giving public performances, and organizing the first Piano Competition at Valdosta State University for young students.

Currently an assistant professor of piano at the University of Georgia, **DR. ALAN WOO** previously held positions at Elizabeth City State University and the Peabody Institute. Dr. Woo is a graduate of The Juilliard School and Peabody Conservatory. Active as a performer, he has appeared internationally as soloist and chamber musician.



**KAREN ZGONC** is the Director of Ztunes Music - serving 350+ students in Atlanta and Decatur. She has special interests in engaging community through music. Karen serves as secretary for the Decatur Music Teachers Association and on the board of the Atlanta Youth Wind Symphony.

**NOTES**

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