



## **GMTA Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

Friday, November 8, 2024, 3:40 PM

GMTA State Conference

Cole Auditorium – Georgia State University – Perimeter College

Clarkston, Georgia

**ROLL:** Cathy Thacker, Kristi Helfen, Jeri-Mae Astolfi, Amy Neal, Vicente Della Tonia, Mandy Reynolds, Jan Adams, Portia Hawkins, Diane Boyd, Fernando Ramos, Yingzhou Hu, many GMTA members

### **WELCOME**

The Executive Board of Georgia Music Teachers Association met during the Annual State Conference at Georgia State University—Perimeter College. President Cathy Thacker called the meeting to order at 3:40pm.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the 2023 Annual Business Meeting were approved to stand as emailed.

### **APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Financial Report was approved to stand as emailed.

### **PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Cathy Thacker, NCTM**

I represented Georgia MTA at the MTNA Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, in March, 2024. It was wonderful to have so many GMTA members in attendance! Every Master Class performer was the student of a GMTA teacher, and the performances were exceptional. The next MTNA conference will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on March 15-19, 2025.

Our GMTA membership is currently at 537 members, with 77 nationally certified teachers, and 40 collegiate members. 25 of these are new members, including 8 collegiate members and three transfers from other state associations. Please be sure to welcome new members to our conference. We have eight collegiate chapters and seventeen local associations. Georgia boasts the highest number of collegiate chapters in the Southern Division.

GMTA State Auditions were held at Piedmont University on April 6-7. We had 383 students represented by 145 teachers in this event. The GATE Theory Exam is required for all pre-college piano entrants, and students must be registered by the deadline of January 15, 2025. For the 2025 Auditions, passing the GATE will not be required to proceed to the next level.

On October 25-26, the first round of the 2024-25 MTNA Competitions were held at Piedmont University. We had 79 students and 25 teachers participating in this event. Several of the winners performed yesterday at the MTNA Competitions Recital. All winners are listed on the GMTA website. Congratulations to both students and teachers!

Our 2024-25 Georgia Local Association is Savannah MTA. Our 2024-25 Collegiate Chapter is TONIC, from the University of Georgia. Congratulations to both chapters!

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**


Kristi Helfen – President  
 Jeri-Mae G. Astolfi – President-Elect  
 Josh Pifer – VP of Programs  
 Yingzhou Hu – VP of Membership  
 Fernando Ramos – VP of Newsletters  
 Vicente Della Tonia – VP of GMTA Auditions  
 Esther Park – VP of MTNA Competitions  
 Kimber Kwiatkowski – Secretary  
 Joe Chapman – Member-at-Large  
 Susan Andrews – Member-at-Large  
 Cathy Thacker – Immediate Past President  
 Mandy Reynolds – Executive Director

## **PRESENTATION OF GMTA MUSIC TEACHER GRANTS:**

Mary Ann McTier– Student Scholarship – Betty White Award Fund  
 Gloria Cha-Gardiner – Teacher Professional Development  
 Tiffany Kyoka Yin – Collegiate Grant  
 Yingzhou Hu – Collegiate Grant

Meeting was adjourned at 3:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Fernando Ramos  
 GMTA Secretary