



## **GMTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

August 22, 2015  
11:15 a.m.

Music Education Building, Clayton State University, Room 215

President Robin Engleman called the meeting to order.  
The minutes from the April 18, 2015 meeting were approved.

### **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

President: Robin Engleman, NCTM  
President-Elect: Rebekah Healan  
Vice-President, Programs: Joy Poole  
Vice-President, Membership: Jane Lester  
Vice-President, Publicity: Natalie Hardy  
Vice-President, GMTA Auditions: Cathy Thacker, NCTM  
Vice-President, MTNA Competitions: Carol Payne, NCTM  
Secretary: Jackie Reed, NCTM  
Executive Director: Mandy Reynolds

### **REPORTS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Arts Awareness and Advocacy: Debra Murphy  
Certification: Ashley Craig-Diaz, NCTM  
College Faculty: Paua Thomas-Lee, NCTM  
Collegiate Chapters: Soohyun Yun, NCTM  
Finance/Advisory Committee: Susan Andrews, NCTM  
GMTA Awards: Heather Turner, NCTM  
Independent Music Teachers Forum (ITMF): Annette Day, NCTM  
MTNA Foundation: Colette Keogh, NCTM  
GMTA Judges List: Yumi Patterson, NCTM  
Technology: Joe Lozier  
Theory: Jason Bennett

## **PRESIDENT: ROBIN ENGLEMAN, NCTM**

Greetings everyone!

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over and we have entered a new school year. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer break and that you are invigorated as you are back among your students. Best wishes for all of you this year.

While my summer was not one that I would have planned, I have been abundantly blessed with the love and support of my GMTA friends. At the top of list, I wish to thank Susan Andrews and Dawn McCord, who have guided me in so many ways, not just in the past month but from the onset of my presidency. Your counsel and support have been invaluable. Mandy, it is a true joy working with you day in and day out. Thank you for the many, many things you do and have done to make my load easier. Rebekah, Cathy and Joy, the same goes for you. I have just been able to call or send you a request and you've been more than willing to do whatever has been asked of you and more. I could go on and on.

As you plan your school year, I hope that you have included time to attend our GMTA Conference on the beautiful campus of Agnes Scott College in Decatur. The dates are November 5-7. Joy Poole has devoted many hours in preparation for the conference, along with David D'Ambrosio, the local coordinator. Thank you, Joy! Conference highlights include Ian Hobson, a musician of tremendous versatility who has earned an international reputation as a pianist, conductor, and educator, Ingrid Clarfield, most recently named the recipient of the NCKP Lifetime Achievement Award just last month, our MTNA President, Rebecca Johnson and last but not least, our many and varied Georgia's Own clinicians! Be sure to check the website regarding hotel information if you don't plan to commute. The online registration will be ready soon. It is going to be a great conference and I look forward to seeing you all there!

When we last met, Cathy was just a little busy finishing up a successful Auditions season and I look forward to her report later. She and Rebekah have met over the summer to tweak some of the Auditions/GATE issues. Thank you both for all of your work this summer! Many thanks also to your local, regional and state staff, Cathy Thacker and to your committee, Rebekah Healan.

Also back in April, Jonathan had just chaired an ad hoc committee concerning a fee structure for non-member participation in Auditions which was an FTC requirement. Because of his growing experience with all things FTC, I asked him to chair another committee addressing member concerns with Auditions. Thank you, Jonathan, for your wisdom, professionalism and willingness to serve GMTA in so many ways.

Several deadlines are coming up the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in September: GMTA Teacher of the Year, the Steinway Teacher Grant Program (2 of them) and GMTA Grants (4 of them). If that's not enough, MTNA has many grant offerings available on their website. I hope our GMTA members will take advantage of these fantastic opportunities.

One other September deadline is the MTNA Competitions which will be held at Clayton State University from Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you, Carol Payne, for your competent leadership for this important event!

Finally, thank you all for your leadership in GMTA, in your local associations, with your students and in your communities. I count it a privilege to call you friends.

## **PRESIDENT-ELECT: REBEKAH HEALAN**

This year, I have spent most of my time working with the GMTA GATE Committee developing and editing the newest addition to the GMTA Audition process. We were very pleased that everything went as well as it did this year and hope that new improvements that we have made with the test and the process will make it even smoother for this coming school year. I would like to thank the committee for their dedication and hard work over the past year and a half. I want to encourage each of you to review the information regarding GATE on the GMTA Website, especially the Teacher Information.

I look forward to seeing you all at Conference. I am very excited for the year ahead and getting to know each of you more!

## **VICE-PRESIDENT, PROGRAM: JOY POOLE**

We are delighted to feature Conference Recitalist, **Ian Hobson**, in concert on Friday evening and in the High School Master Class on Saturday morning. Pedagogy Headliner, **Ingrid Clarfield**, who recently received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy, will be presenting sessions that will provide our members with new and inspiring ideas for teaching. Ms. Clarfield will also lead a Middle School Master Class on Friday afternoon. The conference will host sessions from over 15 of **Georgia's Master Teachers**. You will not want to miss the exciting sessions from Georgia's Own. Sessions cover a wide variety of topics including the wellness of the teacher and student, your studio, composers, collaborative performances and pedagogy sessions. Below is just a sampling of the sessions:

Stephen Heller: Beyond the Avalanche  
Wisdom Through the Ages  
Piano Wellness for the Advanced Pianist  
Your Student the Pop Star  
Teaching Chopin Etudes  
Taking Care of the Teacher  
The Music of Arvo Part  
Creative Housekeeping for the Studio  
The Right Bait

Kristi Heflen  
Susan Naylor  
Lyn Worcester  
UGA Tonic  
Benjamin Warsaw  
Pam Asberry  
Wayne Gilreath  
Jerico Vasquez  
Jan Adams

Fascination Carmen: Inspired Piano Ensemble Repertoire Tracy Xian and Chenny Gan

Registration will open when the Newsletter is sent out. She encouraged those present to talk up the conference to those in their local associations.

Hotel info can be found at [georgiamta.org](http://georgiamta.org)

Session Presiders are needed. Please spread the word to your members about volunteering. Those interested should contact Joy Poole at [jpoole@burnthickory.com](mailto:jpoole@burnthickory.com).

## **VICE-PRESIDENT, MEMBERSHIP: JANE LESTER**

Member Discount News!!!

We all know how invaluable it is to belong to an organization such as MTNA. Education opportunities for teachers and students alike, the support of your peers, teaching tips, information on legal issues, etc,

Membership with MTNA is also accompanied by invaluable privileges and advantages, including discounts from the following retailers and businesses. Please see below the list of discounts included with your membership.

You can find the links on the Membership page of [MTNA.org](http://MTNA.org).

### **VICE-PRESIDENT, PUBLICITY: NATALIE HARDY**

Send her local newsletters this week. Needs photographer for Saturday at Conference.

### **VICE-PRESIDENT, GMATA AUDITIONS: CATHY THACKER, NCTM**

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

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

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

There were 272 Theory participants.

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

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

### **VICE-PRESIDENT, MTNA COMPETITIONS: CAROL PAYNE, NCTM**

The stage is set for the competitions to be held the weekend of Oct. 29 – Nov. 1. We will be hosted by Clayton State University again this year. We are happy to have secured the use of Spivey Hall by the facilities director, Michael Osment, for the Senior Piano competition, which will take place on Friday the 29<sup>th</sup>. Monitors are needed. Please contact her if you are available.

Our various state coordinators, Junior, Senior, and Young Artist, and Composition have now received the link to access the MTNA competitions website from Linda Stump, MTNA Director of Competitions. I have already secured all the judges; if we have an unusually large number of piano entrants, I may have to hire a second panel of piano judges. There is no way to be sure until after the Sept. 16 deadline.

I have tried to obtain information from all the people who hold similar positions to mine in the other states of the Southern Division to find out how they compensate their MTNA competition judges. However, only two states provided answers. I'll keep trying, and hope to include that information in my report for a future GMATA Board meeting.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: MANDY REYNOLDS**

The 2014-2015 GMATA Financial Summary lists the income and expenses for this fiscal year. The second column lists the actual amounts at the end of June 2015. Our total income was \$79,217.57. Our total expenses were \$70,600.33. This left us with a net surplus of \$8,617.24. The third column lists the budgeted amounts for 2014-2015, and the last column compares our revenues and expenses for the 2014-2015 fiscal year to the 2013-2014 fiscal year. On the second page, there are the explanations for the miscellaneous income and expenses. At the bottom of the page, the balances are listed for our checking account,

savings account, and savings CD. The third page lists the balances for our three award fund CDs.

2014-2015 Financial Statement from Haley & Associates: At the end of each fiscal year, GMTA hires a CPA firm, Haley & Associates, to complete an Accountant's Compilation Report. During July of 2015, GMTA worked with Haley & Associates to provide information for this year's Compilation Report, which has been submitted for your review. This 4-page report consists of a cover page, a letter of agreement, and two financial pages.

The "Comparative Statement of Financial Position" for June 30, 2015 shows GMTA's total assets as \$115,239 and total liabilities of \$12,618. The total liabilities of \$12,618 represent prepaid GMTA dues and a \$300 corporate sponsor for the 2015 conference received prior to July 1, 2015 for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. The last column on this page details last year's assets and liabilities.

The last page of the report titled "Comparative Statements of Activities" details income and expenses for fiscal years ending in 2015 and 2014. This report does detail 'non-cash' items such as depreciation on office equipment. This page also details GMTA's permanently restricted funds, our Student Award Funds. Net assets at the end of the 2015 fiscal year were \$102,621, compared to \$93,173 in 20.

The report as given by Mandy Reynolds was approved.

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

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

During the summer, Lynn Worcester of Shorter University was added to The Georgia's Own list.

Also, there was an inquiry from Adam Clark, who is on the piano faculty at Middle Tennessee State University, and a friend of Jerico Vasquez. Since Mr. Clark lives out of state and is not a GMTA member, his inquiry was referred to the FAC. In an email from Susan Andrews, she advised that the FAC discussed the issue at the August 1, 2015 meeting, and a decision was made to invite someone who lives outside Georgia to become a GMTA member, then they could be included on the GAs Own list. I have informed Mr. Clark of the FAC decision and have invited him to join GMTA and thus be eligible to participate in the GAs Own list.

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

As of June 30, 2015, GMTA had a membership of 732, and of those, 105 are Nationally Certified. We rank 26<sup>th</sup> in the nation for certification with 14.3% of our members holding National Certification.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KENDRA BALL GANNAWAY, who earned her National Certification in March 2015 through administrative verification.

If you are looking for reasons to not become a MTNA Nationally Certified Teacher of Music, check out this article on the [www.MTNACertification.org](http://www.MTNACertification.org) website, "Certification, Who Needs It? Four Reason to Not Certify." To wet your appetite for a great article, I present to you reason Number 1: "I am too busy. It is too much work. I don't have time for it," to which Ms. Turner, NCTM replies, "How many times have you heard that same response from your students and what was your response?"

If you have not yet renewed your National Certification for 2015/2016, you may do so at <https://members.mtna.org/mtnarenewcertificationform/>. It is incredibly easy and takes approximately 5 minutes to complete. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have regarding renewal.

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

**College Faculty: Paula Thomas-Lee**

Not present, no report

**Collegiate Chapters: Soohyun Yun, NCTM**

Not much to report, students just coming back from summer.

**Finance/Advisory Committee: Susan Andrews, NCTM**

**AUDITIONS**

Rebekah Healan presented a detailed update on the GATE testing. The FAC recommended that seniors be required to take the GATE test prior to the local auditions.

Revisions for two of the auditions guidelines in the Procedural Manual were presented by Cathy Thacker and approved by the committee. Those revisions will be presented as action items at the end of this report.

Jonathan Klein presented a report from the Ad Hoc Auditions Concerns Committee. The FAC endorses the recommendations in the Ad Hoc Auditions Concerns Committee report.

The online Auditions Management System proposal by Handmade Designs was reviewed, discussed and approved. It will be presented as an action item at the end of this report.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Mandy Reynolds presented an updated job description for the Executive Director. The FAC approved her revisions.

Mandy is in the process of scanning past conference programs and GMTA newsletters. They will be stored on the Carbonite online backup. After this has been completed, the old newsletters will be discarded. Old directories will be kept in the GMTA office.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Requests to the GMTA office to announce events, scholarships, etc. will be forwarded to the President-elect to disseminate to the LAPs. Requests to publicize job openings will be referred to the presidents of local associations in the vicinity of the openings. There have been no requests for mailing labels, and the FAC will consider discontinuing this practice permanently.

Those out-of-state persons who wish to have their presentations included in the GA's Own listing will be invited to join GMTA.

Efforts are continuing to get the GMTA commissioned works from the last four years located and placed in the Kennesaw State University archives.

The membership campaign and the method for gathering data needed to calculate the results of the campaign were discussed and revised.

Executive Director Mandy Reynolds was recognized for doing an outstanding job keeping the GMTA Website updated. The FAC recommends that the job description of the Technology Chair be expanded to include providing assistance to the Executive Director and the GMTA President in website editing.

**GMTA Awards: Heather Turner, NCTM**

Our totals for 2014-2015 were:

GMTA Award Fund - \$760

Broadhurst Award Fund - \$50

Composition Award Fund - \$150

For 2015-2016, we received a \$250 donation from North Fulton MTAA to the GMTA Award Fund and \$990 in donations to the GMTA Award Fund in memory of Phil Engleman.

**Independent Music Teachers Forum (ITMF): Annette Day, NCTMN**

Not present

**MTNA Foundation: Colette Keogh, NCTM**

Martha Thomas MTNA Fellow Fund – Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Martha Thomas MTNA Fellow Fund. The total amount of donations received in Martha’s honor was \$2,185.00.

First and Second Quarter Contributions (Jan. 1, 2015-June 30, 2015): As of June 30, 29 GMTA members have contributed to the MTNA Foundation in the amount of \$1,361.50. Two local associations, Cherokee MTA (\$50.00) and North Fulton MTA (\$150.00) have also donated to the fund.

Announcements: GMTA State Conference Fundraising Raffle: Local associations are asked to donate an item to be raffled off at the state conference in November. Gift baskets, gift cards, DVDs, books (both music and non-music) are just a few ideas. Don Bennett from Piano Works will donate an adjustable artist piano bench for the fundraising raffle at the state conference. Tickets will be \$10 each.

Contributions can be made to the fund at any time through the MTNA website.

**GMTA Judges List: Yumi Patterson, NCTM**

The GMTA Piano Judges List has been renamed “GMTA Judges List”. Judges of instruments other than piano may apply for inclusion on the list. The applications process will be the same as for the piano judges. Interested persons should apply using the application forms on the GMTA website.

There was one new application completed during last year. There are 40 judges on the GMTA website.

**Technology: Joe Lozier**

No report – he has been working with Mandy getting auditions applications online.

**Theory: Jason Bennett**

**It is critical that each member understand that GMTA has two separate theory testing programs that exist for two different purposes. The programs are 1) the GMTA Theory Tests and 2) the Georgia Auditions Theory Exams (GATEs).** As I continue to speak with various GMTA members, whether in person, on the phone, or via email, it is clear that many people still do not understand the difference. Each Local Association should ask either its President, Auditions Chair, or Theory Chair to explain the two programs and their purposes at your next LA meeting, or if that is a long way off, contact each member via phone or email to be sure their questions are answered. In a nutshell, the GMTA Theory Tests are the ones that have existed for over 30 years, involve both ear training and written questions, are offered in five levels (I, II, III, IV, and V), and are graded and returned to participating members along with achievement certificates. The GATEs are the theory exams that are required of each student participating in either 1) piano or 2) piano concerto in GMTA's Auditions. I have appointed two people to be Administrators over these areas. Diane Boyd is serving as the GMTA Theory Test Administrator, and Colette Keogh has recently taken over from Rebekah Healan as the GATE Administrator. Their contact information can be found either in GMTA's membership directory or on the theory pages on GMTA's website.

For more information, download and read the documents available on GMTA's website regarding each program. In particular, look over the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) documents that will be posted soon. They will be updated with new entries as I answer various questions from members, questions whose answers I think will inform the entire GMTA membership.

**Flow of money.** Please be sure your LA Treasurer, Auditions Chair, and Theory Chair have the following information about the flow of money. It is the same for both of GMTA's theory programs. When members enter students in either GMTA Theory Tests or GATEs, they should fill out the appropriate application (found on GMTA's website) and send them to the appropriate local association officer by the deadline set by the local association. Along with the application, the member should include one check made out to their LA for the total of all the application fees owed (which is currently \$10.00 per test taken). After the fees are collected, the LA Treasurer should then write one check made out to GMTA covering the full amount of all the applications received and mail that check to GMTA's executive director, Mandy Reynolds. The application fees for theory tests should not be included with any other fees. Instead, please write a separate check covering all the application fees received by the LA for theory test applications. You may send more than one check per year since LAs might administer the tests on more than one date. Just be sure to make it clear how many GMTA Theory Test applications and how many GATE applications are supposed to be covered by each check.

**Exemption list for the GATEs.** Students who participate in either the piano or piano concerto areas of GMTA Auditions can become exempt from one or more of the GATEs by earning sufficient grades through the other theory tests offered by GMTA, the long-standing GMTA Theory Tests. On June 30, I uploaded a list of all students who have earned exemptions from one or more levels of the GATEs to GMTA's website, organized by each teacher's last name. Please check this list to see which exemptions your students may have earned, and if you notice any errors, please email me and let me know.

**Calendar.** All the postmark deadlines regarding each area of theory have been published on GMTA's calendar, so please refer to it to learn when tests are mailed to the local associations, when local associations have to return the tests to the appropriate administrator, and when members may expect to receive the graded GMTA Theory Tests and achievement certificates in the mail.



## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Action Items: Finance and Advisory Committee, Susan Andrews, Chair**

1) At the April Executive Board meeting, the EB approved the expansion of “the criteria used in considering candidates for GMTA honorary lifetime membership as follows: In addition to demonstrating exemplary service to the Association and to the music teaching profession, the candidate must meet one of the following requirements: 1) served as an MTNA officer; 2) been designated an MTNA Foundation Fellow. The presentation of honorary lifetime membership must be approved by the FAC and the Executive Board.” The FAC proposes that Honorary Lifetime Membership be granted to a member of GMTA at this fall’s GMTA Conference banquet. This person Aurelia Campbell. FAC moves this be accepted. Passed.

2) The FAC proposes the following two revisions to the Procedural Manual:

*Current wording:*

*2.1.5. Judges will be given guidelines along with their schedule. The guidelines will instruct the judges to select approximately 50% of the students in each grade to receive recognition; of those 50%, 1/3 should receive OP, 1/3 AE and 1/3 HM.*

Proposed Revision:

2.1.5. Judges will be given guidelines along with their schedule. The state guidelines will instruct the judges to select approximately 50% of the students in each grade to receive recognition; of those 50%, 1/3 should receive OP, 1/3 AE and 1/3 HM. These guidelines apply to state Auditions only. At local and regional Auditions, judges may designate as many OP, AE, and HM awards as they deem appropriate, with the following stipulations: only those receiving OP may advance to regional and State Auditions; no more than 10 OP’s per grade level may be awarded at local Auditions, and no more than 6 OP’s per grade level may be awarded at regional Auditions.

*Current wording:*

*2.5.6.2. A maximum of 6 students per grade level will be sent to the State Auditions from every Region. The total number of entries for each grade level will be 30 students based on 5 regions.*

Proposed revision:

2.5.6.2. A maximum of 6 students per grade level will be sent about to the State Auditions from every Region. All students advancing from Regional Auditions to State Auditions must be awarded OP. The total number of entries for each grade level will be 30 students based on 5 regions.

Voting for both proposals at the same time passed with one opposed.

After discussion the Proposal passed.

3) The FAC recommends the acceptance of the Auditions Management System proposal by Handmade Designs. The FAC approved the proposal, acknowledging that there are some questions that must be addressed and several revisions that will have to be made. Despite that, the FAC voted to go forward with the development process. Funds for the 50% down payment and the remainder when the work is complete, up to \$1785, will come from the budget surplus remaining from fiscal year 2014-2015. Additional costs for changes and revisions will be paid from the current fiscal year’s budget. After the Auditions Management System has been developed, a committee will be appointed to test the system before it is implemented. The target date for implementation is the 2017 auditions. Motion to accept.

Mandy handed out explanation. Copy of which is found on page 20 of these minutes. The proposal passed.

- 4) Section 21.2 of the Procedural Manual states that the GMTA President shall, subject to the approval of the GMTA Executive Board, appoint committees as deemed necessary... There has been some discussion concerning the addition of a Collegiate Piano Concerto competition to the GMTA Auditions and there is strong consensus that this will be a positive addition to the Auditions program. Robin Engleman, with the Executive Board's approval, will appoint an ad hoc committee to serve with Cathy Thacker as chair to investigate the feasibility of adding this competition. This proposal passed.
- 5) The MTNA Procedures and Regulations (<http://www.mtna.org/programs/commissioned-composer/rules-regulations/>) require State MTA Board approval of the selection of a composer to be commissioned. The 2016 GMTA Commissioned Composer Selection Committee, Robin Engleman and Soohyun Yun, have narrowed the search from five to three composers (David Peoples, Amy Leventhal and Lawrence Sherr). Since the commissioned composer needs to be approved before the next Executive Board meeting in April so he or she may begin work on their composition, they asked the EB for permission to make the selection from these 3 without further EB approval. The proposal passed.
- 6) Article XIII, Section 1 of the Bylaws of the Georgia Music Teachers Association, Inc., state that "the Local Association governing documents (e.g., Constitution, Bylaws) have been filed with the GMTA Executive Director (Paid Administrator) and they are consistent with those of GMTA." Dawn McCord, GMTA Immediate Past President, has reviewed each Local Associations' Bylaws and the following will be presented to the Executive Board for approval. She has spoken with three associations about wording and is asking for clarification from MTNA on the language in the remaining documents but nothing critical has been noted. This proposal passed to accept the by Bylaws for these fifteen local associations.

**Association**

**Document Submitted**

Atlanta	By-Laws
Augusta	By-laws
Cherokee	By-Laws
Cobb County	Constitution
Columbus	Constitution & By-Laws
Coweta-Fayette	Constitution & By-Laws
Decatur	Constitution
Gwinnett County	By-Laws
Macon	Constitution & By-Laws
North DeKalb	Constitution
North Fulton	Constitution & By-Laws
Northeast Georgia	Constitution & By-Laws
Savannah	By-Laws
South Metro Atlanta	By-Laws
Western Georgia	Constitution & By-Laws

Jonathan Klein, Chair; Cathy Thacker, GMTA Auditions Chair; Joe Chapman; Linda Dorsey; Keiko Ransom; Carol Roach; Rebekah Healan; Susan Andrews, FAC Chair; Robin Engleman, GMTA President

**OBJECTIVE:** The objective of the Ad Hoc Auditions Committee is to look into issues and concerns related to the competitive events of GMTA and its affiliates. Further, because of the FTC antitrust settlement with MTNA, competitive events have become more scrutinized and thus the GMTA Ad Hoc committee is taking the rules for these competitive events into consideration in terms of compliance with established FTC guidelines.

**CONCERNS, IDEAS & FINDINGS:**

These are the concerns, ideas and findings the Ad Hoc committee has gathered from its committee members, GNTA members abroad, and its research into local audition policies.

Concerns in auditions are reported to be happening in the form of:

1. Teachers spreading studio participants out to multiple local association auditions
2. Teachers having students repeat auditions in multiple local associations to foster a winning result
3. Teachers giving false information about teaching address in order to gain membership to local association
  - Some local associations have expressed interest in a mandatory teacher work requirement for auditions
  - Some teachers feel discouraged from participating in the auditions because of the limited opportunity for student acknowledgement or advancement within the auditions events
  - Auditions numbers at some local levels are down. As a whole, state auditions numbers are consistent with participation numbers of years past and do not yet reflect the lower numbers found at some local levels
  - GMTA members expressed interest in seeing more recognition (of various types) at the regional level and state levels
  - Teachers expressed interest in seeing GMTA give more information or “outreach” concerning the local auditions. This could include information that highlights the benefits and boundaries of the GMTA auditions
  - Many associations are still unaware that Non-Members may participate at their local auditions under the guidelines of the FTC-MTNA settlement agreement. Further, several members/associations were unaware of the Non-Member schedule of fees put forth by the GMTA in the spring.

**Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations:**

After looking into the concerns, ideas, and findings reported above, the GMTA Ad Hoc Auditions Concerns Committee has the following recommendations:

1. Local associations should not add additional performance requirements to their auditions as a part of the screening process of selecting students to go on to GMTA regional auditions.
2. Local associations should not tie other teacher requirements such as meeting attendance or committee participation in order to participate in local auditions as this may violate the FTC-MTNA settlement agreement for Non-Member participation.
3. Local associations can adopt a policy requiring all teachers participating in the local auditions to work in person on the day of the audition (or perform some task/job related to the audition day) and be in compliance with the FTC-MTNA settlement agreement. It is recommended that teachers who cannot be present to work on the day of the auditions shall incur a suggested fee of \$75.00. The monies collected from these fees should be kept by the respective local associations and can be used to acquire and hire additional

- help for the audition day. It is NOT recommended that teachers who cannot be present to work on the day of the auditions be disqualified from participating in the audition event.
4. Associations with local scholarships (or local awards) should consider separating those events away from the local auditions day and make them a distinct event not connected with competitive auditions.
  5. Local associations presidents be regularly given the schedule of Fees for Non-Member auditions participants as a way to promote compliance with this element of the FTC-MTNA settlement agreement. Note: The local associations do NOT have to advertise the fee schedule or their competition event to Non-Members.
  6. Local associations include information about the mandatory GATE exam in their audition guidelines (including an explanation of the test, when & where it will be administered, and what students need to make in order to earn a passing score).
  7. That all language referring to Georgia MTA Auditions be listed as “GMTA Auditions” (not “Spring Auditions) in local association guidelines and published materials.
  8. Local associations include the reminder that students shall not perform in more than one annual local audition and to do so results in immediate disqualification.
  9. Local associations should use the same judging rubrics employed at the regional and state level. This includes having each grade judge independently, sending on only the allowed number of students from each grade, and using the rating system of OP (Outstanding Performer), AE (Award of Excellence), HM (Honorable Mention).
  10. Encourage local associations to send on the maximum number of students possible for each grade level to regional auditions. Every adjudicated performance is an opportunity for more feedback and improvement and students should be allowed the chance to become better at the music they are currently studying.
  11. Encourage GMTA to publish information about the value and benefits of the GMTA Auditions either on the GMTA website, GMTA Newsletter, or by sending to local associations.
  12. Encourage each local association and its members to create new opportunities for students or to take advantage of existing local ones from around the state.

**CONCLUSIONS:** GMTA Auditions are one of the most rigorous performing competitions in the state of Georgia and the objective is to declare a top set of student performers from individual grades. Given the objectives and nature of this competition, as well as the elements of the FTC-MTNA antitrust settlement, teachers should realize that this event is geared more towards determining excellence and exceptionalism rather than highlighting individual achievement and personal progress in music

However, despite the stringent nature of these auditions, the GMTA Ad Hoc Committee believes that the auditions also serve as a valuable motivational and goal setting tool for students of all ages and abilities. In short, the GMTA Auditions point to that best is possible in music and as a consequence become an external aspiration that can positively influence all young musicians who participate in them.

In the end, this committee recognized that it is the individual teacher who is ultimately responsible for the result and success of the student and not primarily the external circumstances of auditions and their participants. The Ad Hoc Concerns Committee will continue to look into audition concerns through the upcoming year and any additional findings or recommendations will be reported to the Executive Board.

This committee believes that GMTA is working hard and committed to making the auditions both professional and fair for all its members.

For further questions or concerns about this Ad Hoc Auditions Committee and/or the FTC-MTNA settlement agreement, please contact committee chair Jonathan Klein via email at [jonathanfk@gmail.com](mailto:jonathanfk@gmail.com).

## **FEE STRUCTURE FOR NON-MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN GMTA COMPETITIVE EVENTS**

*(Updated August 2015)*

In order to be fully compliant with the April 3, 2014 Federal Trade Commission (“FTC”) Antitrust settlement with Music Teachers National Association, GMTA is offering access for competitive events to non-members of Georgia Music Teachers Association and its affiliates. The FTC’s rationale for this is the belief that *“for music teachers, the success of students in these competitions can elevate the teachers’ reputations and marketability”* (ATCG, pg. 8).

GMTA and its affiliates sponsoring a competition may charge non-members and their students higher fees than those of its members and still be FTC antitrust compliant. However, *“the fee differential should not be so high that it effectively compels a teacher to join the MTNS, GMTA, or its local affiliates”* (ATCG, pg. 9). The GMTA Executive Board approved on April 2015 a schedule of fees for non-members who wish to participate in GMTA affiliated events. Note: Advertisement of this fee schedule or specific competition events to Non-Members is **NOT** required by GMTA or its local affiliates by the FTC.

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

Current Active Member Dues & Fees:

\$ 114 MTNA/GMTA Dues (Teacher)

\$ 20 GMTA Audition Fee (Teacher)

\$ 0-20 Local Audition Fee (Teacher)

\$ 25 GMTA Audition Fee (Student)

\$15-20 Local Audition Fee (Student)

**Non-Member Fee:**

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

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

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

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

***Note: GMTA teachers participating in a local audition as a non-member of that local association would pay the non-member fees. If their participant advances to the regional/state level, the teacher (and related students) will pay the current active member fees.***

### **PIANO CONCERTO**

Current Active Member Dues & Fees:

\$114 MTNA/GMTA Dues (Teacher)

\$ 20 GMTA Audition Fee (Teacher)

\$ 25 GMTA Audition Fee (Student)

**Non-Member Fee:**

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

### **COLLEGE/ADULT PIANO**

Current Active Member Dues & Fees:

\$114 MTNA/GMTA Dues (Teacher)

\$ 20 GMTA Audition Fee (Teacher)

\$ 25 GMTA Audition Fee (Student)

**Non-Member Fee:**

**\$ 50 State Audition Non-Member (Per Teacher)**  
**\$100 State Audition Non-Member (Per Student)**

### **STRINGS AND CLASSICAL GUITAR**

Current Active Member Dues & Fees:

\$114 MTNA/GMTA Dues (Teacher)  
\$ 20 GMTA Audition Fee (Teacher)  
\$ 25 GMTA Audition Fee (Student)

**Non-Member Fee:**

**\$ 50 State Audition Non-Member (Per Teacher)**  
**\$100 State Audition Non-Member (Per Student)**

### **VOICE**

Current Active Member Dues & Fees:

\$114 MTNA/GMTA Dues (Teacher)  
\$ 20 GMTA Audition Fee (Teacher)  
\$ 25 GMTA Audition Fee (Student)

**Non-Member Fee:**

**\$ 50 State Audition Non-Member (Per Teacher)**  
**\$100 State Audition Non-Member (Per Student)**

### **WOODWINDS & BRASS**

Current Active Member Dues & Fees:

\$114 MTNA/GMTA Dues (Teacher)  
\$ 20 GMTA Audition Fee (Teacher)  
\$ 25 GMTA Audition Fee (Student)

**Non-Member Fee:**

**\$ 50 State Audition Non-Member (Per Teacher)**  
**\$100 State Audition Non-Member (Per Student)**

### **INSTRUMENTAL CONCERTO**

Current Active Member Dues & Fees:

\$114 MTNA/GMTA Dues (Teacher)  
\$ 20 GMTA Audition Fee (Teacher)  
\$ 25 GMTA Audition Fee (Student)

**Non-Member Fee:**

**\$ 50 State Audition Non-Member (Per Teacher)**  
**\$100 State Audition Non-Member (Per Student)**

### **GMTA THEORY TESTS**

Current Active Member Dues & Fees:

\$114 MTNA/GMTA Dues (Teacher)  
\$ 0 GMTA Audition Fee (Teacher)  
\$ 10 GMTA Audition Fee (Student)

**Non-Member Fee:**

**\$ 50 State Audition Non-Member (Per Teacher)**  
**\$ 25 State Audition Non-Member (Per Student)**

### **GATE (Georgia Auditions Theory Exam)**

Current Active Member Dues & Fees:

\$114 MTNA/GMTA Dues (Teacher)  
\$ 0 GMTA Audition Fee (Teacher)  
\$ 10 GMTA Audition Fee (Student)

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**Non-Member Fee:**

**\$ 0 State Audition Non-Member (Per Teacher)**

**\$ 15 State Audition Non-Member (Per Student)**

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**2015 Report from the GMTA GATE Committee**

The GATE (Georgia Auditions Theory Exam) is a requirement for all students who will be participating in the GMTA Pre-College Piano and Piano Concerto Events.

The GATEs include 30 multiple choice questions for Levels A and B.

Level C will have 30 multiple choice questions with an additional 10 questions that will require the students to notate their answers.

Level A is for Grades 4-6

Level B is for Grades 7-9

Level C is Grades 10-12

\*Please note that this includes seniors.

Students will have to pass the GATE in order to advance to Regional and State Auditions.

We have changed the passing grade to actual numbers versus percentage.

**Passing scores for each level is:**

Level A 24/30 or higher

Level B 24/30 or higher

Level C 32/40 or higher

The GATE will continue to be administered at the local level. Local Associations have the flexibility to choose the date and venue for giving the test. The GATE must be taken and graded before any announcements can be made regarding advancement to Regional Auditions. Therefore, the last date to give the test will be on their Local Auditions day.

We will send you master copies of the tests with specific instructions on how to process the tests. An answer key will be provided.

Local associations will be responsible to give the tests, grade them, record the scores and then confirm student eligibility.

Each student will have ONE opportunity to take the test. There can be make up dates scheduled for students to have an alternate testing date due to conflict or illness – BUT NOT FOR RETAKING THE TEST. Again, all students must complete the GATE and have it graded before they can be considered eligible to advance to Regional or State Auditions.

Students can be exempt from taking the GATE. Exemptions are earned through testing scores that students have received on the GMTA Theory Tests, not on how well they do on the GATE. You can find a chart with exemption information located on the GMTA Website GATE Theory Page. You can access this page by going to the GMTA website. Under “Student Activities” you will find “Theory”. Once you have accessed the theory page, you will see the link to GATE. The exemption requirements are listed here as well as the curriculum and practice tests for all levels of the GATE.

It will be the responsibility of the local GATE Administrator to check on exempt status prior to the administration of the GATE by referring to the currently-published list on the website. They will need to mark that in their local records, as well.

Regional coordinators will also double check eligibility by referring to the exemption list on the website and reports that are submitted to the GMTA GATE Administrator as they are verifying each student's eligibility.

There is a GATE registration form that should be completed for each student. This will help you prepare in advance for the number of students taking each level of the GATE.

The fee for the GATE is \$10. Teachers will collect the fee from each student and submit one check with the GATE Registration forms to the local GATE or Theory chair.

Local Associations still need GATE Registration forms, as not all associations will have their GATE on the day of their auditions. The GATE Registration forms will not need to be sent to regional or state.

The local GATE chairs will need to send a report to the GMTA GATE Administrator showing which students took the GATE at their local association along with their scores. The deadline for this report will be **March 15**.

The GMTA Auditions Expense Report that each local association must fill out and send in to our Executive Director will be edited to include a section for GATE fees.

GATE fees will be used to reimburse expenses of the Local Association in regards to copying the tests.

We decided that a separate test should be printed for each student as we did this year. MTNA Office Depot/Max discounts help to cut printing costs!!!

Local GATE Chairs will need to notify the GMTA GATE Administrator of their testing date. The tests will be distributed to the GATE/Theory/Auditions chair two weeks in advance of their testing date by email. The GMTA GATE Administrator will continue to keep track of which test is distributed to each association as we have multiple versions.

Students who are only participating in 12th grade Piano or Piano Concerto events are required to take the GATE prior to GMTA Auditions.

Level C of the GATE has been edited, so that each written question will test only one element with fewer items to draw or label. There will be **no** partial credit. Each question will be graded as completely correct or incorrect. The answers **must** match the answer key.

Below you will find some other frequently asked questions with answers that I have included as additional information.

Please feel free to contact Rebekah Healan with any other questions that you may have regarding the GATE.

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

Do 12<sup>th</sup> grade students have to come to Local Auditions just to take the GATE?

The answer is no, but they may choose to do so. Seniors must take the GATE prior to competing at the GMTA Auditions as arranged by the Local Auditions/Theory/GATE Chairs.



Do students who are only participating in the GMTA Theory Test event have to take the GATE?  
No. Only students who are participating in the GMTA Pre-College Piano and Piano Concerto events have to take the GATE.

Do students participating in the String, Voice or Instrumental categories have to take the GATE?  
No. Only students who are participating in the GMTA Pre-College Piano and Piano Concerto events have to take the GATE.

Do students participating in College Piano have to take the GATE?  
No. Only students who are participating in the GMTA Pre-College Piano and Piano Concerto events have to take the GATE.

Is there a form to fill out to register for the GATE?  
Yes. You can find these forms located on the GATE portion of the Theory page on the GMTA website.

Where can I find the information regarding what is on the test?  
You can find a description of the Curriculum for each grade level, as well as, practice tests on the GATE portion of the Theory page on the GMTA website.

If my student passes the GATE are they exempt from taking it next year?  
No. Exemptions are earned through testing scores that students have received on the GMTA Theory Tests, not on how well they do on this year's GATE. You can find a chart with exemption information located on the GMTA Website Theory Page.

Is there a fee for the students to take the GATE?  
Yes, the fee is \$10. This fee will be used to cover printing costs and for the development of a computerized version of GATE. We hope to move to a computer generated test as soon as possible.

Do we need to have computers to give the GATE?  
No. We hope to have a computer generated test soon. We are still researching software and development ideas. We are studying computer based versus internet based testing options as well.

How many times will my student have to take each level of the GATE once they pass it? For example, if my 4<sup>th</sup> grade student passes level A will he/she need to take the GATE in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade?  
Students must take the GATE every year that they participate in GMTA Auditions unless they receive an exemption by earning the required score or higher on the GMTA Theory Test.

If my student is sick or has a conflict on the day that the GATE is given, can they have another opportunity to take the GATE? Yes. Each local association may schedule a makeup day for students who were unable to take the GATE on the original testing date due to illness or conflict – BUT NOT FOR RETAKING THE TEST.

Can my student take the GATE at another Local Association? No. Students must take the test in the Local Association that they are participating with for Local Auditions.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) If you have not recorded your **Attendance** on the Board Meeting Sign in Sheet, please do so now. This is a separate sign-in sheet from The Council of Local Association Presidents sign-in sheet.
- 2) Please make sure Natalie Hardy receives your articles for the Fall Newsletter before the end of August.
- 3) **Steinway Piano Galleries Educator Grants:** Applications for these grants will be sent out by Steinway Galleries one month prior to the September 14, 2015 deadline.
- 4) **GMTA Teacher of the Year Award 2015:** Postmark deadline is September 14, 2015. For more information, visit the GMTA web site (<http://www.georgiamta.org/memberResources-teacherOfTheYearApp.php>).
- 5) **Local Association of the Year Award:** Information may be found on MTNA web site at <http://www.mtna.org/programs/awards/award-applications/local-association-of-the-year-award/>
- 6) **MTNA Competitions:** The 2015-2016 application deadline is 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time on September 16, 2015. Current active membership dues for MTNA or a nonmember teacher fee must be paid prior to accessing the student competition application. MTNA Competition will be held October 31-November 1, 2015, Clayton State University, Morrow. See <http://www.mtna.org/programs/competitions/> for further information.
- 7) **2016 GMTA Conference:** November 3-5, 2015, Agnes Scott College, Decatur. For more information, visit the GMTA website (<http://www.georgiamta.org/conference.php>).
- 8) Deadline for articles to be included in the Winter Newsletter is December, 2015.
- 9) **The 2016 MTNA National Conference** will be held April 2-6, 2016 in San Antonio, Texas.
- 10) **The next GMTA Council of Local Association Presidents Meeting and GMTA Executive Board Meeting** will be held at The University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia on **Saturday, April 9, 2016.**

## CALENDAR

### 2015

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

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

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

**September 30:** Pre-registration

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

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

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

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

**December 1:** Deadline for articles to be included in the GMTA Winter Newsletter. Local Association Presidents may submit articles to Natalie Hardy at [nsmhardy88@gmail.com](mailto:nsmhardy88@gmail.com)

### 2016

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

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

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

**March 12:** FAC Meeting

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**November:** MTNA Competitions, Location & Dates TBD

**November 3-5:** GMTA State Conference, Mercer University, Macon

## **2017**

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

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

## **2018**

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

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

\*tentative dates

\*\*all but one Regional location have been confirmed

Meeting adjourned.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Jackie Reed, NCTM, GMTA Secretary**

## **Online Auditions Management System**

### **Features:**

- Individual login/profile for each teacher and judge
- Teachers will register students for auditions (and GATE) online
- Teachers may submit fees online or mail a check
- Teachers may view/print student results
- Audition Chairs will be able to schedule audition times and create judges' schedules
- Admins will be able to manage/create schedules for volunteers
- Judges will be able to evaluate students online or on paper (and later add evaluation online if internet was not available)

### **Price:**

- \$1785 (as of June proposal—price may change with additions/changes throughout the process)
- Up to \$1785 will come from 2014-2015 surplus
- Additional costs will come from 2015-2016 website budget

### **Target date for implementation:**

- 2017 Auditions