



GEORGIA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GEORGIA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION AN AFFILIATE OF MTNA

Winter Newsletter 2014

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TEACHER OF THE YEAR LANELLE NASH

This award is presented annually to a member of GMTA in recognition of lifetime achievement as a music teacher, with excellence in teaching, musicianship, professional activity, and service to the community and/or state. Any GMTA member may nominate any other GMTA member for the Teacher of the Year. The GMTA Teacher of the Year is selected from nominated applicants and entered in the MTNA Teacher of the Year competition.

If children are not brought up to love music and want to pursue it as a career, the trainers of professionals have no one to teach, so I personally feel that instilling a love of music in children is an important first cause in the chain of influence. The importance of the work of the music teacher cannot be overestimated in our culture.

David Watkins, 2011 GMTA Teacher of the Year

The recipient of the 2013 GMTA Teacher of the Year



Award is LaNelle Nash. LaNelle earned a bachelor of music education degree from Mississippi State University with an emphasis in piano. She did graduate work at North Texas State University and pursued jazz studies at Georgia State University and the University of North Texas. After college, she taught general music at schools in Mississippi and in the Dallas, Texas Independent School District before moving to Roswell in 1977.

Along the way LaNelle has received certification from MTNA and the American

College of Musicians. She is a member of the Piano Guild Hall of Fame and a consultant with the National Piano Foundation where she studied with Robert Pace.

The first thing she and her husband, Tom, bought as newly-weds was a piano – even before they bought furniture. Eventually she added her parents' piano, which she had played in high school. After moving to Roswell, she added pianos until her studio came to its current size: 3 uprights and two grands.

One former parent of three, all of whom took piano for at least nine years each, recalled a cute story about his youngest son, "a most rascally child" and Tom, LaNelle's husband. At the older daughter's first recital, this four-year-old proceeded to put his hand under his armpit and make some rather disruptive and vulgar noises, to the dismay of everyone, especially LaNelle. Tom intervened and held Mark in his arms for the remainder of the recital feeding him

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hors d'oeuvres at appropriate intervals to keep him occupied. A few years later that child began piano lessons and the father is convinced that he only agreed to take piano because Tom fed him lemonade and donuts when he came for lessons!

LaNelle is hesitant to talk of herself or her student's successes. With fifty-four years of students, well over 1000, it becomes impossible to prioritize their achievements. However, you do not have to look far to notice the impact she had on the career of her son, David.

LaNelle is more eager to discuss her legacy to the community – growing a generation of music consumers and families who stay in her studio year after year, sibling after sibling.

She lights up a room when you get her talking about the many piano teachers she has mentored.

Whether she is at a GMTA Conference or a North Fulton or North DeKalb MTA meeting, LaNelle has been a quiet leader, always willing to give advice and share wisdom when asked. Whether it was as GAMA (Greater Atlanta Music Alliance) President back in the early 90's, or President of North DeKalb MTA, Chair of the North DeKalb Bach Competition or Publicity or Certification Chair or GMTA Photographer, LaNelle's impact has not been made by grand gestures or control. She has genuinely affected people to be more connected and dedicated to our profession.

LaNelle has been entered into the running for the 2014 MTNA Teacher of the Year and that decision will be announced mid-December.

Special thanks:

Lois Finlay, NCTM, 2010 GMTA Teacher of the Year

David Watkins, NCTM, 2011 GMTA Teacher of the Year

Martha Thomas, NCTM, 2012 GMTA Teacher of the Year

2013 GMTA Teacher of the Year Selection Committee

Contributing to LaNelle's nomination and this article:

Lawrence Abernathy (parent of former students)

Paula Bothwell (present and former students)

Robin Engleman, NCTM

Nancy Moeller (present and former students)

Jana Ritchie, NCTM

Julie Soh-Harbin, NCTM

Paula Wamsley





TEACHING TIPS FROM LANELLE NASH

The 15 Commandments

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1. Be business like. I never accept a student without interviewing the parent and giving the child a short aptitude test. (This is disguised as playing some musical games. I still use the Robert Pace Musical Background test.) If the parent decides to enroll the student in my studio, I require a registration fee which is used for buying music and to pay for events during the year. At the end of the year we settle our books. If the student has exceeded the registration, they pay the balance owed. If they haven't used the entire amount, I give them a refund or it can be applied to next year's registration.
2. Make each child a winner! Some will be very good readers, others excellent at memorization, improvisation, perhaps good at remembering facts from the periods of music or of composers' lives. Each has the ability of being outstanding in his own field.
3. Each student should have a goal. Will it be playing for the talent show at school! Working on a scout music badge? Playing for a piano party? Entering Fall Festival? The Bach Competition? Whatever it is, a goal helps the student to achieve this.
4. Build repertoire through Guild auditions, Associated Board Royal Schools of Music, etc. My students frequently ask, "May I play this for the Guild?" "Will this be acceptable for the Baroque category?" etc.
5. Consider the student's personality when selecting repertoire. If they like the music, they will practice. At one of the workshops I attended, the clinician said, "One piece should be for Daddy (or Mommy), one for the child and one for the teacher!"
6. Work that is less than the student's best effort is unacceptable. It is better to have 8 measures prepared beautifully than 32 sloppily done.
7. Teach your students to appreciate good music. Use YouTube. Attend concerts. Many local concerts are very accessible and reasonably priced. If possible, give your students a ride to a concert you are planning or attending. Use classical CDs as prizes.
8. Teach your students proper concert manners-how to bow, how to end a piece properly, when to clap, etc.
9. Each month I have a "Piano Party" for elementary, middle and high school students. Everyone plays a selection. It may be memorized or played with the music. It may be a duet or an original composition. For middle and high school students, an assignment is given in addition to the repertoire performed. It may be a report on the composer of the piece they are performing, information on the periods of music, an original composition, as assignment in modes, preparation of an ensemble number (which we will put together at the party), analyzing the number they are performing for keys, chord, sequences, repetitions, upper and lower neighbors, etc. Of course we have refreshments and needless to say, everyone looks forward to that! The students enjoy getting to know and support each other.
10. If a student or parent "drains" you so that you are unable to do your best for the next student or your family, dismiss them.
11. Take advantage of every opportunity available to better yourself as a teacher. Attend your local association meetings and actively participate. Go to workshops, attend the state and national conferences, the Pedagogy Conference in Chicago. NFMTA sponsored a marvelous workshop just this past August. Everyone who attended got a marvelous "shot in the arm."
12. Include your family in your professional life. My students look forward to seeing my husband at their performances and are disappointed when he isn't there.
13. Be willing to share your knowledge with other teachers. Give a helping hand whenever possible. Be willing to search for a teacher if you have an inquiry that you are unable to fill.
14. When the time comes that you think you are unable to help a student progress, pass him to a teacher that can take him to the next level.
15. Remember what a precious gift you have been given-a child that you may influence for the rest of his life! To take those squiggly little fingers and train them to play a Beethoven sonata, play in the school jazz band, or play for church or Sunday School. The opportunity is yours! "Carpe Diem."



FROM THE PRESIDENT

DAWN McCORD, GMTA PRESIDENT

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The year 2013 was a year of so many stellar events and these events provide evidence of the good work being done by members of the Georgia Music Teachers Association. I have every reason to believe that 2014 will be another year of exceptional activity.

The GMTA/MTNA Performance **Competitions** were at the University of West Georgia under the supervision of David George, VP of Competitions. His report in this newsletter will reveal what a good response we had. We are so appreciative of the work that David and his staff did to make this a success. Thanks to David George, Renee Holliman, Carol Payne, Emma Pettyjohn, Cynthia DeFoor, and Jane M. Lester. The GMTA/MTNA Competition winners and state representatives will represent GMTA in the MTNA Southern Division Competitions in January 17-20, 2014, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky.

The GMTA **website** continues to have upgrades and receives loving attention from Jonathan Klein and the membership. You can now download an up-to-date directory directly from the website. If you haven't done so lately, check this out. I think you will find it easy to use and ever so useful in your professional work.

As of November 8, 2013, GMTA has 728 **members** with an increase of 45 members over that time in 2012. Of this 728 total, 45 are student members and 110 certified members. We have 11 newly certified members with more on the way. Remember... "Each One, Bring One."

The **Conference** at the University of West Georgia (UWG) upheld the tradition of providing great sessions, headliners, and recitals as well as fellowship with our friends of many years and new friends. We had a total of 138 registrants. I would like to again thank the following people for making the 2013 GMTA Conference a success.

At the University of West Georgia

Administration jumped in early and provided support of many resources and ideas.

The Music Department Faculty with their willingness to do whatever was deemed necessary. They moved the band to a high school, the choir to a church, and classes moved asunder. Dr. Hibbard provided immeasurable access support and time for the success of this event.

Townsend Center for their support in operations and headliner engagement

Students making everything click with a smile and a laugh. Their intensity of purpose inspired many people attending our event.

Wayne Gilreath who was the private chauffeur for Anderson & Roe

Staff and Services including technology, parking, auxiliary Services, Dining, Facilities, Printing and Publishing, Bookstore for gifts and discounts

Businesses, Community and Arts Organizations who contributed grants, advertising, gifts of money and time including:

Carroll Symphony Orchestra

Atlanta by Six

Chris Syllaba, President, Steinway Piano Galleries for his continued support of GMTA members and students through grants, opportunities and inclusion in their business goals.

Don Bennett of Piano Works for contributing an artist bench/European-style hydraulics bench for the MTNA Foundation Fund drawing.

Headliners are always expected to shine but this group went over the top. Thanks go to: Marvin Blickenstaff for sharing his knowledge and experience, Curtis Bryant for creating the MTNA commissioned work and The UWG Chamber Singers under the direction of Kevin Hibbard for realizing the Curtis creation; Anderson & Roe at the keyboards with extraordinary musicianship.

The Georgia Music Teachers community

Susan Tusing, VP of Conference, who gave immeasurable time to selecting and planning sessions of very high quality

Donna Lee who uses her experience and history with GMTA to make so many details seem effortless.

Anita DeGier and her hospitality staff, Coweta-Fayette, Greater Marietta, and Western Georgia

David George, VP of Competitions, and Jan Adams, VP of Auditions, who spent all year working to get us to the conference recitals

Susan Naylor, Collegiate Chapter Chair, who helped bring a greater focus to those students who are the future of our organization

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Georgia's Own Presenters who brought such a high level of expertise and knowledge to our conference. The GMTA membership was truly blessed with their contribution. The presiders are so important to our success and keeping our schedules on the clock.

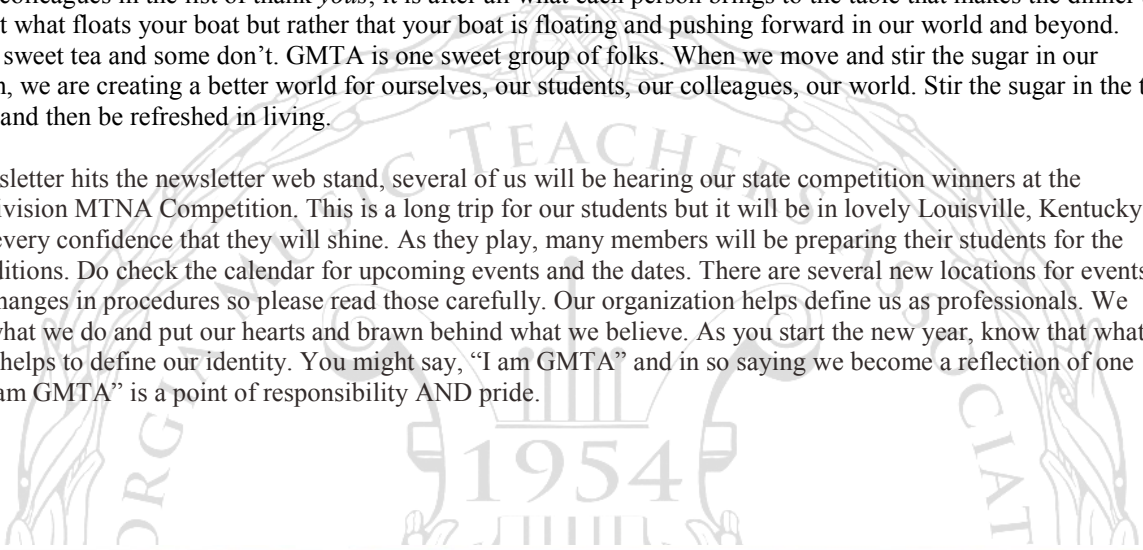
All of the Local Associations who believe in the mission of our awards by committing to the prizes for the Awards Drawing.

Natalie Hardy, Conference Photographer, for visually documenting our conference. Her newsletter work is without equal.

Rwei Hao, MTNA Foundation Chair, and Diane Boyd, GMTA Awards Funds Chair, for organizing our raffles

It amazes me how we pack so much into just a few days. We all come together with our unique personalities, our varied experiences, our youthful hearts, and desires to make a difference in the lives of our students. We shouldn't forget our friends and colleagues in the list of thank *yous*; it is after all what each person brings to the table that makes the dinner a feast. It isn't what floats your boat but rather that your boat is floating and pushing forward in our world and beyond. Some drink sweet tea and some don't. GMTA is one sweet group of folks. When we move and stir the sugar in our organization, we are creating a better world for ourselves, our students, our colleagues, our world. Stir the sugar in the tea around you and then be refreshed in living.

As this newsletter hits the newsletter web stand, several of us will be hearing our state competition winners at the Southern Division MTNA Competition. This is a long trip for our students but it will be in lovely Louisville, Kentucky and I have every confidence that they will shine. As they play, many members will be preparing their students for the GMTA Auditions. Do check the calendar for upcoming events and the dates. There are several new locations for events and a few changes in procedures so please read those carefully. Our organization helps define us as professionals. We believe in what we do and put our hearts and brawn behind what we believe. As you start the new year, know that what we each do helps to define our identity. You might say, "I am GMTA" and in so saying we become a reflection of one another. "I am GMTA" is a point of responsibility AND pride.



UNIVERSITY of
West Georgia

MUSIC
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

AUDITIONS

Monday, February 17, 2014

Destination: Music – a day in the life of a Music major

Sunday, March 9, 2014

- last day for scholarship consideration

Saturday, April 6, 2014

- late auditions for admission only

Sunday, April 27, 2014

- final auditions for admission only

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2013 CONFERENCE

SUSAN TUSING VP PROGRAMS, GMTA

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I want to extend a big thank you to everyone who offered such positive feedback about the 2013 GMTA Conference at the University of West Georgia in Carrollton. I was very proud of this year's program, and I am very happy that it was so well-received by the membership, as evidence by your comments both during and after the conference. Our pedagogy headliner, Marvin Blickenstaff, was enthusiastically received, and his sessions exhibited the same insight, practicality, and grace that have long characterized his distinguished teaching career. It was a privilege to have him join us for our conference. Of course, my biggest thank you goes to all of you who personally contributed to such a fantastic program. I am honored to have as my GMTA friends and colleagues an impressive group of presenters who gave sessions that were high-quality, thought-provoking, and inspiring. The astonishing breadth of interests and expertise among our membership is evident, and I congratulate YOU for helping to make this a successful conference!

I also appreciate those of you who assisted by presiding at our sessions. Your participation not only made our presenters feel welcome but also kept us organized and on schedule throughout the conference. I apologize that I did not finalize the list of presiders before the printing of the conference program. I will change how and when I ask for presiders for 2014 in an effort to have everyone recognized in the program for their participation. (And it's not too early for you to volunteer to preside for 2014!)

It will come as no surprise to you when I say that our President, Dawn McCord, was a terrific partner in planning the 2013 Conference. Dawn's attention to detail made the conference smooth-running and delightful in so many ways, and it is thanks to her ingenuity and vision that we were able to include Anderson and Roe and Atlanta by Six on our program, and to make possible in the schedule the generous offer by Diamond Piano Method to host a special reception after Thursday's concert.

Plans are already underway for the 2014 GMTA Conference, which will be held at Clayton State University in Morrow on November 6-8, 2014. As I announced in Carrollton, [Jennifer Linn](#) will be our pedagogy headliner, and our recitalist and master class artist will be [Richard Goode](#). We will post the presenter application on the GMTA website soon (the application deadline is March 1), so start making plans if you would like to be considered as a conference presenter for 2014. In the post-conference survey, potential topics of interest for conference sessions (that were not covered during the 2013 conference) include studio management, use of social media in the music studio, teaching young children, and teaching students with special needs. If you are interested in presenting (alone, in partnership with a colleague, or as part of a panel) a session on one of these topics—or, of course, on other topics—I encourage you to submit an application. I do not think that topics that have not been presented in the past are being intentionally neglected; rather, I think it is usually the case that no one had thought to turn that particular area of experience or expertise into a conference session. So, this may be your chance! If you have any questions or want to run an idea by me, please feel free to contact me at susantusing@clayton.edu.

I am looking forward to the 2014 Conference as being our latest "best conference ever." I will keep you informed of our plans on the GMTA website and newsletters.

Here's to a happy, healthy, and productive 2014!



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to encourage and build*

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ANDERSON & ROE IN CONCERT

BY JONATHAN KLEIN

*The Townsend Center for the Performing Arts
University of West Georgia, Carrollton GA
November 8, 2013*

The world of classical music has a wonderful problem at times – it tends to be a crowded one, especially at the top of the game. With so many professionals and students playing at such high artistic levels it becomes a challenge for young pianists to distinguish themselves and carve out a viable career in this landscape of abundant talent. However, the piano duo Anderson & Roe have done just that – found a platform for their artistic endeavors that stays true to classical music’s wants yet delivers a modern approach that the musical world sometimes needs.

At the 2013 GMTA Conference, the teachers and attendees were treated to the virtuosity, artistry, and creativity of the Anderson & Roe piano duo. Former students of the Juilliard School of music, Greg Anderson and Elizabeth Roe are taking stages across the globe by storm with their youthful enthusiasm and high energy for performing and classical piano music. Having recorded several studio albums, their most recent recording *When Words Fade* just spent nearly 12 weeks at the top of the Billboard Classical Charts, while their self produced video-films to their recordings have garnered millions of view on YouTube and the like.

This GMTA conference concert was no exception in showcasing the duo’s talents. The program began with sparkling nod to Mozart with a work titled *Grand Scherzo* (based on the Act 1 Finale from *Così fan tutte*, K. 588). This four movement work gave the audience quite a treat as we traveled through the selections *Poison*, *The “Doctor”*, *Goddesses*, and *A Kiss*. The set was filled with dramatic flair, nuanced shading, comical timing (reminiscent of opera buffa), and even an onstage kiss worthy of Mozart’s dramatic personification. The ensemble of two were more than capable of creating a sound ranging from a single unified voice to that of an entire orchestra of strings, woodwinds, brass, and beyond.

The second composer of the night was Sergei Rachmaninoff and his *Suite No. 1 for two pianos (Op. 5)*. This four movement work was well executed with a reserved approach that seemed to let the music speak on it’s own with less dramatic infusion from it’s handlers. Some of the musical gems included spritely birdcalls during *The Night...The Love*, triumphant bell tower sounds within the *Easter* movement (made even more hearty due to the extra low notes of the Bösendorfer Imperial Grand), and the melting, yet sublime endings to cadences within the slower passages. All and all the romantic elements were well contained and enjoyably portrayed.

The last selections before the intermissions were the fun and upbeat *Billie Jean* (M. Jackson) and fiery *Libertango* (A. Piazzolla). Both selections were masterfully arranged by Greg Anderson and each featured smart, precise rhythmic elements at their core. The Piazzolla was especially noteworthy with the charismatic interplay between the two performers sharing a single bench and its effective prepared piano techniques (Anderson played inside the piano and also muted strings for Roe’s part too).

The second half of the evening’s program kicked off with a Max Reger composition of *J. S. Bach’s Brandenburg Concerto No. 3* (BWV 1048). This rendition of Bach’s famous work played into the strengths of Anderson and Roe with the use of a full dynamic range of sound and less conservative portrayals of motives and counterpoint textures. Both performers successfully spun seamless transitions that unified all three movements and infused this dense, rich composition with the kind of sustained energy needed to pull off such a monument of music. The end result was true to the dance DNA of its Baroque roots.

The duo concluded the concert set with three original and virtuosic arrangements: *The Cat’s Fugue* (based on a theme by Scarlatti), *Flight of the Bumblebee* (Rimsky-Korsakov), and *Carmen Fantasy for Two Pianos* (Bizet). The triptych of music delivered high energy with yet again lock-tight ensemble performing. Anderson and Roe’s ability to spin long lines of phrasing in their music were a delight to the ear and a testament to the duo’s dedication to not only entertain their audience but to leaving everyone fulfilled and deeply satisfied.

As though issuing a surprise dessert, the audience was further treated to three encore numbers. The highlight of the three included a perky piece titled *Ragtime Alla Turca* – thus bringing the concert full circle back to Mozart for the duo, making an evening of conveying a deep love for creating, performing, and sharing music with the audience around them. GMTA was very fortunate to have Anderson & Roe as their 2013 Conference headliner.



2013 GMTA COMMISSIONED COMPOSITION

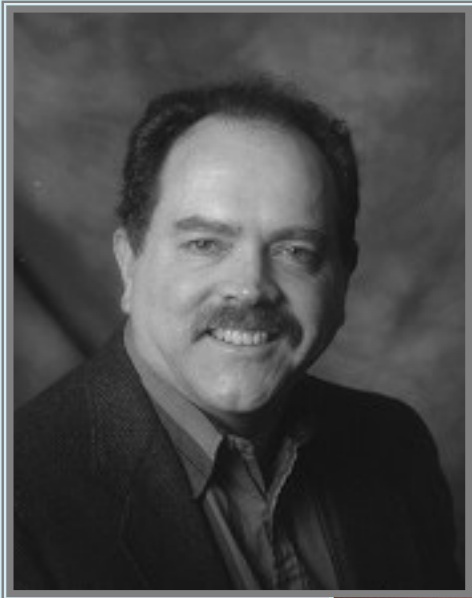
BY DAWN McCORD, GMTA PRESIDENT

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A PSALM TO DAVID, TO DAVID A PSALM is the 2013 MTNA—GMTA Commissioned Composition premiered at the 2013 GMTA Conference. Commissioned Composer Curtis Bryant engages many styles into his works including symphonic music, jazz, electronic music, folk, rock, swing and gospel. Most recently, Bryant's opera *The Secret Agent*, set to a libretto by forensic psychiatrist Allen Reichman, was premiered in 2013 by the Capitol City Opera Company of Atlanta, directed by Michael Nutter. Bryant is an Atlanta native whose music is heard around the world and heard on radio and television broadcasts, including National Public Radio's Performance Today. His works are published by several publishers including Neil A. Kjos Music Publications, Lux Nova Press, and Transcontinental Music Publications. He is a member of ASCAP, the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS), the Georgia Game Developers Association (GGDA), and Opera America.

The 2013 MTNA—GMTA commissioned work by Curtis Bryant is a choral setting of a poem by Stephen Bluestone. Bluestone's poem is prefaced with the following quote by Abraham Joshua Herschel in *Quest for God*:

In the Book of Psalms some chapters begin with the words, *To David, a Psalm*, while others begin, *A Psalm to David*. The Talmud explains: when David began to sing and then the inspiration came to him it was *To David, a Psalm*; when first the inspiration came to him and then he sang, it was *A Psalm to David*.



The setting is mystical in places and exclamatory in others. Bryant juxtaposes the inspiration of sound with silence.

The premier performance was performed by the University of West Georgia Chamber Singers under the direction of Dr. Kevin Hibbard in Cashen Recital Hall, University of West Georgia. The performance was alluring, beautifully expressive, and well received by the audience. Comments following the conference listed this performance as one of the highlights of the conference. Bryant's work has been submitted for the MTNA 2014 Distinguished Composer of the Year Award, which will be presented at the MTNA Conference in Chicago this March.





CONFERENCE REVIEW

By SUSAN TUSING, VICE PRESIDENT, PROGRAMS

The 2013 GMTA Conference was held November 7-9 on the campus of the University of West Georgia in Carrollton. The UWG music faculty were fantastic hosts, and the facilities provided a welcoming setting to a wonderful conference.



Our conference recitalists, duo pianists **Anderson and Roe** (Greg Anderson and Elizabeth Joy Roe) gave a spectacular recital Friday evening in the Townsend Center following our banquet. Anderson and Roe gave an exhilarating performance of original works and transcriptions (many that they wrote), showcasing repertoire ranging from Rachmaninoff to Michael Jackson. The duo provided interesting commentary before every work, and their comments as well as their performances demonstrated exuberance and an amazingly high level of technique and musicianship. Their master class on Saturday emphasized these same qualities, as they worked with our student pianists to free their technique in order to explore a broad range of emotions.

Following the Anderson and Roe recital, we were treated with a reception in honor of our collegiate members, highlighted by a performance by **Atlanta by Six**, a chamber ensemble based in Atlanta. The reception was held in a black box theatre in the Townsend Center, giving the event something of a cabaret feel. It was a perfect ending of our full day of events.



Our Pedagogy Headliner, the renowned teacher **Marvin Blickenstaff**, presented two sessions that received tremendous reviews by conference attendees. In his first session, "Performance Practice Made Easy: Rules of Thumb for the Student," Mr. Blickenstaff offered a number of rules of thumb for musical interpretation that should be included in every music teacher's "tool box." His second session, "The Case of the Potential Drop-Out: What Do You Do When the Magic Stops?," presented several ideas about music teaching and music study that that we can re-examine to help encourage students to continue their music study, even amid students' other interests and distractions. In both of his sessions, Mr. Blickenstaff offered common sense advice that was pedagogically well-grounded and simply stated.



Numerous sessions were held by "Georgia's Own." These sessions were rich in variety and displayed, as always, the wealth of expertise and talent among our GMTA membership.

Cynthia DeFoor presented "Ernst von Dohnányi's Sight-Reading Philosophy and Technique," a look at the place of sight reading in the composer's career and teaching.

"The Music of Carlos Guastavino" by **Kris Carlisle** investigated the piano works of this largely overlooked composer.

Yu-Yin Wang presented "Approaching Edward MacDowell and his *Woodland Sketches*, Op.51, for Early-Advanced-Level Students," in which she discussed these works as an important resource for early-advanced piano repertoire.

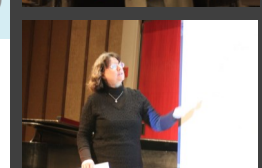
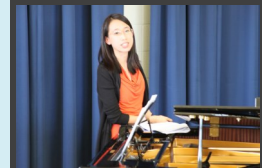
Hyorim Lee introduced another lesser-known composer in her session, "Musical Toys: Intermediate Solo Piano Collection by Sofia Gubaidulina. These fourteen pieces were described for their musical and technical qualities as well as their value in developing storytelling through music.

The Reinhardt University Collegiate Chapter (**Naturally Sharp**) presented a delightful short comedy skit as a "Presto!" session between longer sessions.

David Peoples investigated strategies for using streaming internet radio into our teaching studios in his session "Opening Pandora's Box: Streaming Radio for the Modern Studio."

In "Keys to Improvisation," **Kathy Morris** demonstrated a harmonic formula to serve as a backdrop in teaching improvisation in the piano studio.

The **Shorter University Collegiate Chapter** presented "Piano Student CPR: Innovative Repertoire to Rejuvenate Your Pianist's Playing," in which they introduced "pupil saving" repertoire and activities to motivate even the most challenging students.



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Pete Jutras presented an informative and entertaining session, “Tips and Ideas from the World of Research” in which he highlighted recent music education research and its applications in our studios.

Julie Mitchell Smith’s session, “Thanks for the Memory: Memory-Building Activities for Elementary- and Intermediate-Level Piano Students,” looked at activities for the lesson and in practice to encourage effective music memorization.

“Pedaling in Piano Music of Classical Period,” presented by **Soo Hyun Yun**, looked at historical pedal notation and early pedal devices as a means of interpreting pedaling in piano music of the Classical period.

Terry Lowry gave a presentation on “Musical Overture™: An Online Community of Aspiring Musicians,” a social media outlet for aspiring musicians.

Nancy Elton and **Geoff Haydon** presented “Exploring the ‘Great American Songbook,’” a performance of American songs of the early 20th century, including works by Gershwin, Berlin, Kern, and others.

In “The Language of Music: Facts and Fiction about Dr. Suzuki’s Talent Education,” a session by **Pam Smith** and **Robin Blankenship**, Dr. Suzuki’s theory of relating music learning to language learning was discussed.

Charles Hutton presented “For Your Studio: The Rare and Beautiful Miniatures of Charles-Valentin Alkan,” an introduction to the music of a close friend of Chopin and pianistic rival of Liszt whose music is now mostly forgotten.

Pamela Martin explored elements common among music, visual art, and sculpture in her session, “See With Your Ears, Hear With Your Eyes.”

On Thursday evening, the **Carroll Symphony Orchestra** presented a concert that featured our GMTA concerto winners—**Joshua Shue** (Saint-Saëns, Piano Concerto No. 2) and **Justin Lee** (Sibelius, Violin Concerto)—as well as the 2013 winners of CSO’s Young Composers Competition. The **Diamond Piano Method**, which also was among our conference exhibitors, hosted a reception following the concert.

At Friday’s General Session, our 2013 commissioned composition was premiered. The work, “A Psalm to David, To David a Psalm,” a choral piece composed by Atlanta composer **Curtis Bryant** to a text by Stephen Bluestone, was performed by the University of West Georgia Chamber Singers, under the direction of Dr. Kevin Hibbard. The composition was haunting and thought-provoking and make masterful use of complex harmonies, and it was very well-received by the audience.

As always, a highlight of the conference was our student performances held throughout the three days. The student winners who performed during the conference exhibited a high level of talent, musicianship, and hard work, and they and their teachers are to be commended for their commitment to excellence.

Many people—presenters, presidors, GMTA leadership, and UWG faculty, staff, and administration—ensured that the conference ran smoothly. Attendees were offered a rich array of sessions that were well presented and that challenged us to reach to greater heights of musical and instructional success. As always, the opportunity to reconnect with longtime friends and to make new acquaintances at our conferences is an invaluable source of support and encouragement.

The 2014 GMTA Conference will be held at Clayton State University, November 6-8, 2014. A session proposal form will be available on the GMTA website in January.



The Post –Conference Survey response has been good but we would like to hear from more of as we continue our plans for next year. Tell us your thoughts about the 2013 GMTA Conference at The University of West Georgia. Even if you did not attend the conference, we want to hear from you. The survey will take 2-5 minutes to complete and will be a great help in planning future events.

PLEASE VISIT THIS WEBSITE TO PROVIDE CONFERENCE FEEDBACK!

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2013_Conference_S



Cobb County Music Teachers
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President Huu Mai huutmai@gmail.com	Membership Elinor Boyer boyer_e_t@yahoo.com
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GMTA AUDITIONS

JAN ADAMS, VICE PRESIDENT, GMTA AUDITIONS



I hope many of you are preparing students for the 2014 GMTA Auditions. Our Regional Auditions will be held on Saturday, March 29, 2014 at the 5 locations throughout our state. The State Auditions: College Piano, Voice, Instrumental and Instrumental Concerto will be held on April 12, 2014 at the University of Georgia in Athens. The State Auditions for Pre-College will also be held at the University of Georgia on April 26, 2014. **Please note the change in location for the State Auditions!**

I have e-mailed all Local Auditions Chairs their packet of information concerning local Auditions. If you have not received this, please e-mail ASAP and I will send you this information.

Last year we had a great increase in the Instrumental division which was very encouraging. We made a few changes this year with our regions to make each region more equally divided.

I want to thank the GMTA staff for their tireless work with little praise. They do a tremendous job and help make the entire Audition process a smooth operation. Don't forget to thank all of these teachers who volunteer much of their time for our students.

Be sure to check our website for applications, information about the Auditions and other questions you might have. Do not hesitate to e-mail me or one of the GMTA Staff, if you are uncertain about the process.

Let's make this a great year!

Here are some highlights from the Winners' Recitals at the 2013 GMTA Conference





MTNA COMPETITIONS

DAVID GEORGE, VICE PRESIDENT MNTA AUDITIONS

The 2013 GMTA/MTNA Performance Competitions were held on November 4-7 at the University of West Georgia under the supervision of David George, VP for GMTA/MTNA Competitions. There were 94 total entrants participating. There were 81 solo entrants, 1 piano duet, and 9 chamber ensembles in the Performance Competitions. There were 3 entrants in the composition category. According to state checklists, Georgia had more entrants registered than any other state. State Coordinators were Cynthia DeFoor, Junior Coordinator, Renee Holliman, Senior Coordinator, Carol Payne, Young Artist Coordinator, and Emma Pettyjohn, Chamber Music Coordinator. Jane Lester was the State Composition Coordinator.

The results of the Competitions are as follows:

STUDENT

TEACHER

Junior Composition – 1 entry

Representative Ava Posner Mary Williams

Young Artist Composition – 2 entries

Winner Matthew Reed Martin Jones

Alternate Jonathan Smith Fred Cohen

Chamber Music String – 3 entries

Winner Selah Piano Trio Levon Ambartsumian

Alternate Triology Richard Zimdars

Honorable mention Amaranth Quartet M Brent Williams

Chamber Music Wind – 6 entries

Winner UGA Graduate Tuba-Euphonium David Zerkel

Alternate Bulldog Brass Society Josh Bynum

Honorable mention Ares Saxophone Quartet Connie Frigo

Junior Performance Piano -16 entries

Winner Yannie Tan Anne Sun

Alternate Anthony Zhang Anne Sun

Honorable mention Joshua Anderson Davide Palmer

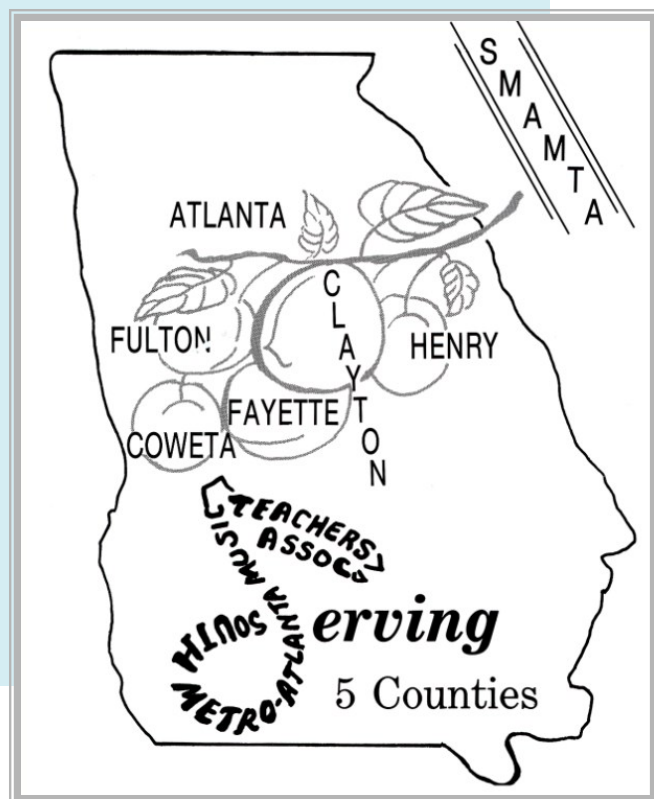
Joshua Li Ping Xu

Laura Zhang Ping-Yun Hsu

Junior Performance String – 3 entries

Winner Alexander Ambartsumian Levon Ambartsumian

Alternate Phoebe Liu Sonja Foster



Senior Performance Piano -13 entries

Winner	Jessica Ahn	Helen Ramsaur
Alternate	Hye Ri Bae	Anatoly Sheludyakov
Honorable mention	Nathan Wu	Robert Henry
	Sam Kim	Vicki Allen
	Mia Pattilo	Elena Cholakova



Senior Performance String –6 entries

Winner	Sophie Wang	Sergiu Schwartz
Alternate	Colin Fruit	Sergiu Schwartz
Honorable Mention	Justin Lee	William Pu
	Andrew Fu	Que Yang



Senior Performance Brass – 1 entry

Representative	Olivia Davis	Bernard Flythe
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Senior Piano Duet – 1 entry

Representative	Dain Song, Justin Lee	Lois Finlay
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Young Artist Performance Brass – 9 entries

Winner	Christopher Leslie	David Zerkel
Alternate	Joel Ockerman	Jean Martin-Williams
	Robert Hjelmstad	
Honorable Mention	Michael Waddell	Adam Frey



Young Artist Piano – 6 entries

Winner	Manuel Vizurraga	George Mann
Alternate	Elizabeth Ake	Robert Henry
Honorable Mention	Steven Bicknell	Soohyun Yun



Young Artist String – 6 entries

Winner	Jessica Fellows	Amy Schwartz Moretti
Alternate	Valeriya Nedviga	Sergiu Schwartz

Young Artist Performance Voice 4 entries

Winner	Alexander Brousseau	C Earl Coleman
Alternate	Amanda Church	Rebecca Salter

Young Artist Woodwind – 15 - entries

Winner	Gabriel Piqué	Connie Frigo
Alternate	Kristen Ubanski	Susan Tomkiewicz
Honorable Mention	Alexander Clay	Andree Martin
	Andre Turner	Connie Frigo



STEINWAY PIANO GALLERIES MUSIC EDUCATOR GRANTS

GMTA MUSIC EDUCATOR GRANTS

BY DAWN MCCORD

15

For the 13th consecutive year, Steinway Piano Galleries of Atlanta has kindly sponsored the Steinway Piano Galleries Music Educator Grant program, and, for the third consecutive year, GMTA has sponsored the GMTA Music Teachers Grant program to complement the long established Steinway program. For 2013- 2014, four \$400 Steinway Piano Galleries Music Educator Grants and three \$400 GMTA Music Teacher Grants are offered to enable deserving GMTA teachers and students to further their study of music and provide incentive for the continued pursuit of excellence. GMTA members applied for the two of the four Steinway Piano Galleries Music Educator Grants and the GMTA Grants by submitting an application to the Steinway/GMTA Grant Selection Committee.

Thank you to selection committee members Robin Engleman, Edith Sweatman, and Betty White for their service. The awards are as follows:



Steinway Piano Galleries Educator Grants (\$400)

Roger Byrd, Teacher Education Grant
Sandy Yeargan, Teacher Education Grant
Manuel Vizurraga, GMTA/MTNA Young Artist Piano Performance Winner
High School Senior Piano 2014 GMTA Auditions (To awarded following 2014 Auditions)



GMTA Music Teacher Grants (\$400)

Presenter: Dawn McCord
Pamela Martin, Teacher Grant
Cathy Thacker, Teacher Grant
Paula Thomas-Lee, Teacher Grant



Steinway Piano Galleries President Chris Syllaba and GMTA President Dawn McCord presented the grants to the recipients during the 2013 GMTA Conference held at the University of West Georgia. Congratulations to all winners.



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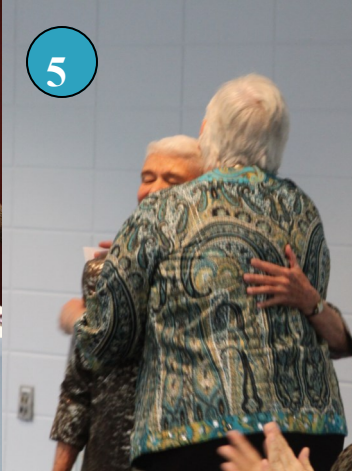
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armstrong.edu/music_auditions

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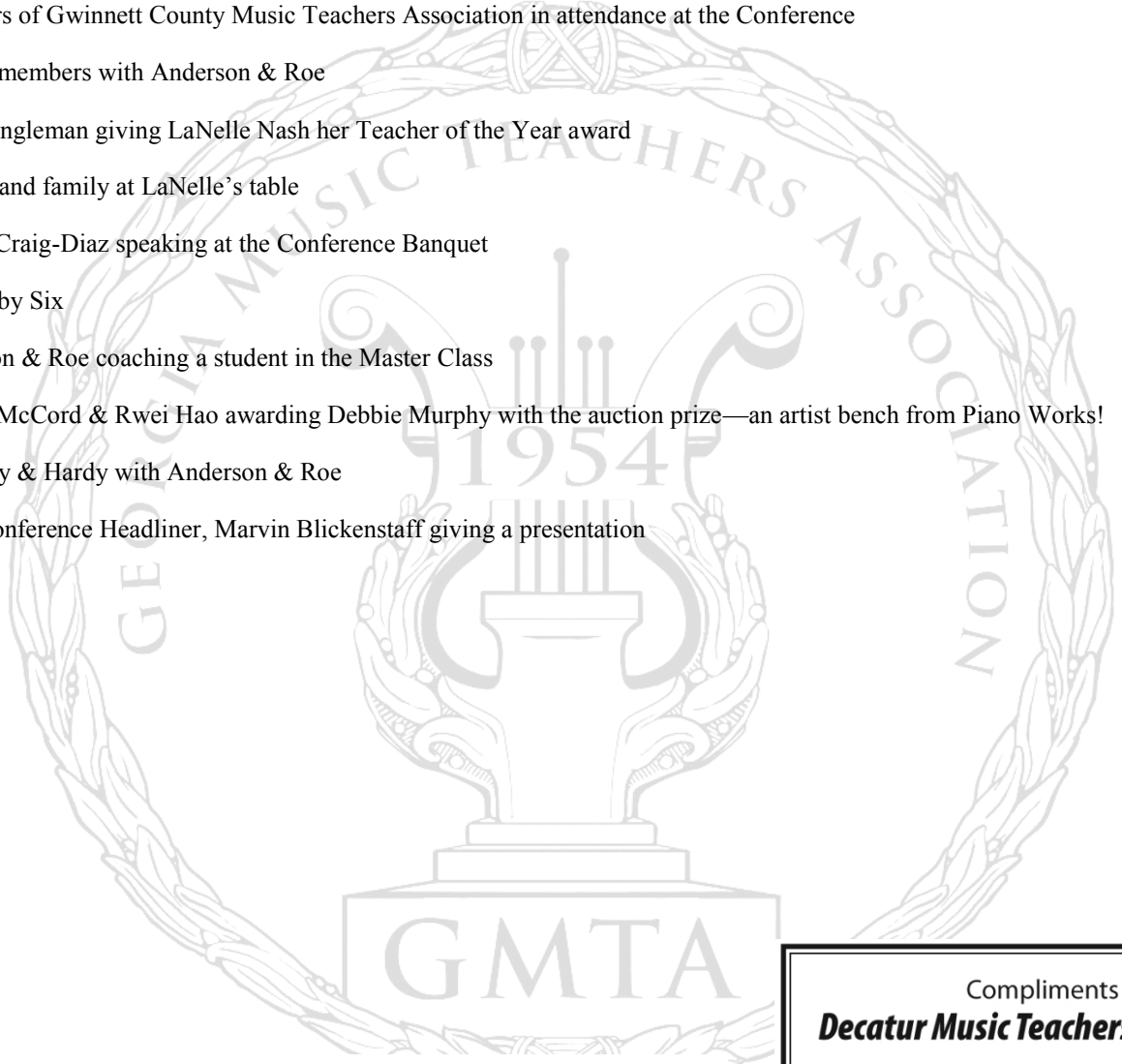
CONFERENCE PHOTO SHOWCASE ON PAGE 16

PHOTOS BY NATALIE HARDY, VICE PRESIDENT NEWSLETTERS

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As your Conference Photographer, I thoroughly enjoyed photographing all of the amazing students and other performers, as well as the presenters and officers. I hope these photos will give you a glimpse into the 2013 Conference and encourage those who have not attended before to give it a try!

1. The Carroll Symphony Orchestra, Terry Lowry, Conductor, Townsend Center for the Performing Arts
2. GMTA Conference Banquet
3. Members of Gwinnett County Music Teachers Association in attendance at the Conference
4. GMTA members with Anderson & Roe
5. Robin Engleman giving LaNelle Nash her Teacher of the Year award
6. Friends and family at LaNelle's table
7. Ashley Craig-Diaz speaking at the Conference Banquet
8. Atlanta by Six
9. Anderson & Roe coaching a student in the Master Class
10. Dawn McCord & Rwei Hao awarding Debbie Murphy with the auction prize—an artist bench from Piano Works!
11. Asberry & Hardy with Anderson & Roe
12. The Conference Headliner, Marvin Blickenstaff giving a presentation



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CERTIFICATION

ASHLEY CRAIG-DIAZ VICE PRESIDENT CERTIFICATION

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It is with great pride that I was able to present \$500 worth of stipends to Georgia Music Teachers this past fall! Teachers who completed their National Certification between November 2012 and November 2013 each received a \$50 check from GMTA. These teachers were **Robert Henry, NCTM, You Ju Lee, NCTM, Heather Turner, NCTM, Dawn Dalangin, NCTM, Julie Bearden Carver, NCTM, Amy Wilson, NCTM, Colette Keogh, NCTM, David Peeples, NCTM, Joanna Doyle, NCTM, and Donna Dasher, NCTM.** I once again congratulate you on this highly esteemed honor and title!

You, too, can earn a stipend to help defray the cost of becoming a Nationally Certified Teacher of music! Contact me to find out how!

As of December 2013, GMTA had a membership of 722, and of those, 109 are Nationally Certified. We rank 26th in the nation for certification with 15.1% of our members holding National Certification.

It is time to renew your National Certification for 2014!

You may do so at <https://members.mtna.org/mtnarenewcertificationform/>. It is incredibly easy and takes approximately 5 minutes to complete. The cost for renewal is \$15 and renewals are due by July 1, 2014. After July 1, a late fee will be assessed. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have regarding renewal.

I would love to answer any questions you may have about becoming a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music! Please feel free to contact myself or your local association certification chair for more information about becoming a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music. Another great resource to check out is www.mtnacertification.org/resources.

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verasuh@juno.com



MEMBERSHIP

JULIE SOH HARBIN, VICE PRESIDENT, GMTA MEMBERSHIP

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Six-month pro-rated memberships start January 2014 and are available to any individual who meets active membership criteria and is joining MTNA for the first time. This 50 percent reduction in the membership fee runs through June 30. In addition, many states also offer six-month memberships. Consult the MTNA website for details.

One might ask, "Why join, especially in the middle of the school year?" MTNA consistently provides ongoing professional development to members; publications and journals; unique networking opportunities at the local, national and international levels; access to group insurance services; legal consultation and leadership resources. Additionally, opportunities abound for students to participate in recitals, competitive and non-competitive events, theory testing and musicianship/achievement awards programs.

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GMTA AWARD FUND

DIANE BOYD, VICE PRESIDENT GMTA AWARDS

The three first-place student winners of the GMTA Composition Competition were Jonathan Smith, Jae Lee and Yash Kadadi. Mia Patillo, the MTNA Junior Piano Performance Competition Winner, was awarded \$200 from the GMTA Broadhurst Fund. The Young Artist Composition winner, Matthew Reed, and the Junior Composition State Representative, Ava Posner were each awarded \$100.

MANY THANKS go to ALL those who contributed to our student awards funds. These include the chapters that generously provided the many gifts and gift certificates and also those that purchased raffle tickets at the conference. The total collected was \$455.

Contributors included:

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 Columbus MTA
 Coweta-Fayette MTA
 Decatur MTA
 Gwinnett Co. MTA
 Northeast GA MTA
 Rome MTA
 Savannah MTA
 South Metro Atlanta MTA
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Cindy Defoor
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Inna Satunovsky
 Misty Simmons
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MTNA FOUNDATION

RWEI HAO, MTNA FOUNDATION CHAIR

Thank you to the following local chapters and members for their contributions to the MTNA Foundation Fund during the Third Quarter.

Atlanta MTA

Cobb County MTA

Laura Gordy

Arietha Lockhart

Joann Relf

Mary Williams

The total amount of Georgia contribution up to the Third Quarter is \$2,185.50.

We sincerely thank Sam and Don Bennett of PianoWorks for their continued donations of piano benches. This year the winner of HM bench was Debra Murphy.

Members can make a donation to the MTNA Foundation Fund at any time through the following steps:

- Go to www.mtna.org
- Click on "MTNA Foundation Fund"
- Click on "Make a Contribution Online"
- Fill out the online Donation Form
- Click on "Submit Form"

During 2013 GMTA Fall Conference, the following members made a total contribution of \$750.00.

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Jane Adams | Kristi Helfen |
| Susan Andrews | Renee Holliman |
| Pam Asberry | Debra Hughes |
| Jane Bahr | Colette Keogh |
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| Cindy Feagin | Fran Thrailkill |
| Myrna Feigenbaum | Gayle Vann |
| Lois Finlay | Mary TL Williams |
| Rwei Hao | Suzanne Woodrum |
| Natalie Hardy | |

CALL FOR 2014 CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

Georgia's Own are a huge part of what makes the conference such a success year after year. The wealth of knowledge and experience is shared and our membership is edified, enriched, and inspired. Although the conference survey is still open, members have affirmed the types of sessions and performances shared. We hope that similar sessions will be presented. We also hope to explore and expand the opportunities. Types of presentations enjoyed and requested include pedagogy, studio management, performance practice, technology, comparison of methods, digital and acoustic considerations, teaching online, social media applications, panel discussions, Georgia's own recitals, musicality and creative engagement, teaching the special needs child, performance health maintenance, historical issues, performance anxiety, and repertoire selections. This list summarizes more specific requests and should pique your areas of interest and should inspire you to share your interests and experience. The deadline to submit your proposal is March 1, 2014. Go now to our website to start preparing your session proposal:

[2014 GMTA Conference Proposal](#)

When selecting topics, every effort is made to have variety in the schedule. If you have submitted in the past and the topic has not been accepted, please submit again. The excitement grows for the 2014 Conference.

Georgia Music Teachers Association Calendar

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2014

January	17-20	MTNA Southern Division Meeting and Competitions, University of Louisville—Louisville, Kentucky
March	1	Deadline for Conference Session Proposals
	10	Postmark Deadline for GMTA Regional Auditions Applications
	15	Postmark deadline to mail Theory Examinations (not GATE) to Theory Chair for grading
	22-26	MTNA Conference, Marriott Hotel, Chicago, Illinois
	29	GMTA Regional Auditions Region I Brenau University Region II Augusta State University Region II Mercer University Region IV Georgia Perimeter College Region V University of West Georgia
	31	Postmark Deadline for State Auditions Applications
April	12	GMTA State Auditions for College Piano, Instrumental, Voice, & Instrumental Concerto, University of Georgia, Athens
	22	Officer Reports due for upcoming Board meeting
	26	GMTA Council of Local Association Presidents Meeting and GMTA Executive Board Meeting, University of Georgia, Athens.
	26	GMTA State Auditions for Pre-College Piano & Piano Concerto, University of Georgia, Athens.
May	1	Deadline for articles to be included in the GMTA Summer Newsletter—Local association presidents may submit articles up to 200 words for any newsletter issue
	1	Graded Theory Examination (not GATE) & certificates mailed to participating teachers
June	30	Membership Renewal; active membership year runs from July 1 through June 30

Georgia Music Teachers Association Calendar

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2014

August	1	Deadline for articles to be included in the GMTA Winter Newsletter—Local association presidents may submit articles up to 200 words for any newsletter issue
	19	Officer Reports due to Secretary for upcoming Board Meeting
	23	GMTA Council of Local Association Presidents Meeting and GMTA Executive Board Meeting, Clayton State University, Morrow, Georgia
September	9	Application deadline for GMTA Teacher of the Year, Steinway Teacher Awards, GMTA Teacher Grants (Deadline always on second Monday of September)
	TBA	Online Application Deadline (3:00 p.m. Eastern Time) for MTNA Competitions
	TBA	Summit for MTNA Leadership, Cincinnati, OH
November	3-6	MTNA-GA Competitions, Clayton State College and University, Morrow, Georgia
	6-8	GMTA Conference, Clayton State College and University, Morrow, Georgia
	30	Deadline for articles to be included in the GMTA Winter Newsletter—Local association presidents may submit articles up to 200 words for any newsletter issue

2015

January	16-19	MTNA Southern Division Meeting and Competitions, Tennessee
March	21-25	MTNA Conference, Rio Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada
June	30	Membership Renewal; active membership year runs from July 1 through June 30
August	1	Deadline for articles to be included in the GMTA Winter Newsletter—Local association presidents may submit articles up to 200 words for any newsletter issue
	19	Officer Reports due to Secretary for upcoming Board Meeting
	22	GMTA Council of Local Association Presidents Meeting and GMTA Executive Board Meeting, Location TBA
September	TBA	Application deadline for GMTA Teacher of the Year, Steinway Teacher Awards, GMTA Teacher Grants (Deadline always on second Monday of September)
	TBA	Online Application Deadline (3:00 p.m. Eastern Time) for MTNA Competitions
	TBA	Summit for MTNA Leadership, Cincinnati, OH

President: Dawn McCord dmccord@westga.edu
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Chair-Piano Judges List: Yumi Patterson yumisan2k@bellsouth.net
Chair-Technology: Joe Lozier joe@lozierstudio.com
Chair-Theory: Jason Bennett BennettMusicStudio@gmail.com
Chair-Website: Jonathan Klein jonathanfk@gmail.com jonathanfk@mindspring.com
Auditions Chair College/Adult: George Mann Georgemannga@aol.com
Auditions Chair Instrumental Strings, Woodwinds, Guitar, & Brass: Debra Hughes bndhughes@comcast.net
Auditions Chair Voice [Grades 9-12, College/Adult]: Pat Callaway drpat@healthyvoicestudio.com
Auditions Chair Piano 4 & 5: Grades 4-5 Elena Cholakova info@youngmusicartists.com
Auditions Chair Piano 6 & 7: Ruth Ann Clark cfrac@earthlink.net
Auditions Chair Piano 8 & 9: Susan Andrews pianosusan@comcast.net
Auditions Chair Piano 10 & 11: Diane Boyd dianelboyd@comcast.net
Auditions Chair Piano 12, Concerto (Instrumental 6-11, Piano 9-11): Jane Lester jlpliano@aol.com jlpliano@bellsouth.net
Auditions Coordinator Region I (Cherokee, Gwinnett, North DeKalb, Northeast Georgia):
 Cathy Thacker cbt88@bellsouth.net

Auditions Organizer Region I Piano Grades 4 & 5:
Auditions Organizer Region I Piano Grades 6 & 7: Glen Eckman
Auditions Organizer Region I Piano Grades 8 & 9: Elena Cholakova
Auditions Organizer Region I Piano Grades 10 & 11: Ping Xu
Auditions Coordinator Region II (Athens, Augusta, Golden Isles, Savannah): Rebekah Jones rebekahhealan@yahoo.com
Auditions Organizer Region II Piano Grades 4 & 5: Colette Keogh
Auditions Organizer Region II Piano Grades 6 & 7: Clara Park
Auditions Organizer Region II Piano Grades 8 & 9: Robyn Macey
Auditions Organizer Region II Piano Grades 10 & 11: Diane Boyd
Auditions Coordinator Region III (Columbus, Coweta-Fayette, Macon, South Georgia): Cindy Feagin
Auditions Organizer Region III Piano Grades 4 & 5: Marie Woodall
Auditions Organizer Region III Piano Grades 6 & 7: Marie Woodall
Auditions Organizer Region III Piano Grades 8 & 9: Ruth Powell
Auditions Organizer Region III Piano Grades 10 & 11: Ruth Powell
Auditions Coordinator Region IV (Decatur, North Fulton, Atlanta, South Metro) : Robin Engleman
Auditions Organizer Region IV Piano Grades 4 & 5: Hwee Boon Ng
Auditions Organizer Region IV Piano Grades 6 & 7: Jackie Reed
Auditions Organizer Region IV Piano Grades 8 & 9: Krisit Helfen
Auditions Organizer Region IV Piano Grades 10 & 11: Keiko Ransom

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Auditions Coordinator Region V (Cobb, Greater Marietta, Rome, Western Georgia): Joy Poole

Auditions Organizer Region V Piano Grades 4 & 5: Wayne Gilreath

Auditions Organizer Region V Piano Grades 6 & 7: Rebecca West

Auditions Organizer Region V Piano Grades 8 & 9: Linda Lokey

Auditions Organizer Region V Piano Grades 10 & 11: Rebekah Jordan Miller

Competitions-Junior: Cindy DeFoor cdefoor@yhc.edu

Competitions-Senior: Renee Holliman hollidolli@comcast.net

Competitions-Young Artist: Carol Payne canticle80@aol.com

Competitions-Chamber Music: Emma Pettyjohn emmakpj@bellsouth.net epettyjohn@ec.edu

Competitions-Composition: Jane Lester jlpliano@aol.com jlpliano@bellsouth.net

Membership

The Georgia Music Teachers Association (GMTA) is a member of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) and memberships are jointly held in both organizations. Members receive subscriptions to The American Music Teacher, GMTA newsletter and the GMTA Directory. Membership is open to individuals professionally engaged in any field of musical activity and dues should be sent to MTNA, 441 Vine Street, Suite 3100, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-3004. MTNA is available toll-free at 1-888-512-5278 to answer your questions regarding membership dues or on the web at www.mtna.org

Notice

The GMTA Newsletter is an information journal focusing on matters directly related to MTNA, GMTA and local associations only. It does not promote the studios of individual teachers or institutions by publishing articles regarding the accomplishments of teachers, students, or an institutions' activities. Paid advertising is available for this purpose. GMTA expressly reserves the right to refuse publication of any article photograph, or advertisement contrary to the objectives of MTNA or the Associations. All articles are subject to editing due to size or content.

Advertising

Limited advertising space is available for firms or individuals who have a product or service of specific interest or benefit to GMTA members. All correspondence regarding advertising should be sent to the Executive Director Donna Trivette by fax (770) 945-7504 or by email georgiamta@gmail.com

Submittals

GMTA publishes its online newsletter three times per year. Publication dates and their respective deadlines are as follows:

January 15th (Deadline: November 30th)

June 15th (Deadline: May 1st)

September 15th (Deadline August 1st)

Editors

Natalie Hardy, VP Newsletters nataliemhardy88@clear.net

Dawn McCord, President dmccord@westga.edu

