



GEORGIA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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Winter Newsletter 2013

Inside this issue:

President's Report	3
Conference Review	4
Commissioned Composition	7
Conference Survey	8
GMTA Auditions	9
MTNA Competitions	10
Steinway Grants	12
Conference Photo Showcase	13
Local Association Reports	16
Certification	18
Membership	19
Arts Awareness & Advocacy	20
MTNA Foundation	21
MTNA Fellow	22
Conference Presenter Form	24
Calendar	25
Business Meeting Minutes	26

2012 Teacher of the Year Martha Thomas

by Dawn McCord



Dr. Martha Thomas, NCTM, is the Georgia Teacher of the Year and the GMTA nominee for the 2013 MTNA Teacher of the Year Award. Her exceptionality is evident in her commitment to teaching, performing, service and professional activities. Evidence of her stellar professional endeavors are easy to document. Her leadership as a Past President of Georgia Music Teachers and as MTNA Southern Division Chair demonstrates her stalwart presence in meeting goals of the MTNA. Having joined MTNA while first teaching in Wisconsin, she helped found the Stevens Point Area MTA. She is certified through MTNA and holds degrees through the Universities of Texas and

Wisconsin and is piano professor at the University of Georgia.

Student Jan Ritchie affirms Thomas in describing her piano lessons with Dr. Thomas.

Dr. Thomas "hooked me as soon as I had a lesson" with the teaching ability to "masterfully construct imagery in" using "story telling, colors, and a vast array of adjectives to communicate that intangible spark that music entails."

Thomas models performance technique by being a frequent performer. Dr. Tom Pearsall, Georgia Southern Professor of Piano, says that Thomas is a, "first rate pianist... whose recording of piano works by George Rochberg... is nothing less than stunning."

Dr. Zimdars, University of Georgia Professor of piano, says that Thomas has successfully filled roles as teacher, administrator, performer, recording artist, and as advocate extraordinaire for MTNA at all levels of MTNA's organizational structure. Martha's conference presentations demonstrate her understanding of critical

pedagogy trends and topics.

Dr. Thomas continues to serve our profession and lift up her students. GMTA is proud to award her this honor.

"Teaching Tips" by Martha Thomas

I have dedicated my life to furthering the cause of music. As a performer and teacher, I believe that music is essential for everyone's life and wish to pass on this love of music to the next generation. Below are some of my thoughts on teaching.

From the first lesson with a new freshman to coaching with doctoral students, I emphasize independent thinking. The musicians' art is nothing if not creative, and to be a great artist, one must be an independent thinker. From asking simple questions such as the order of pieces to be played in the lesson, to discussing the meaning of music with advanced students, I spend much time cultivating my students' thought processes. My goal is that my students learn to think for themselves, not that they become good imitators.

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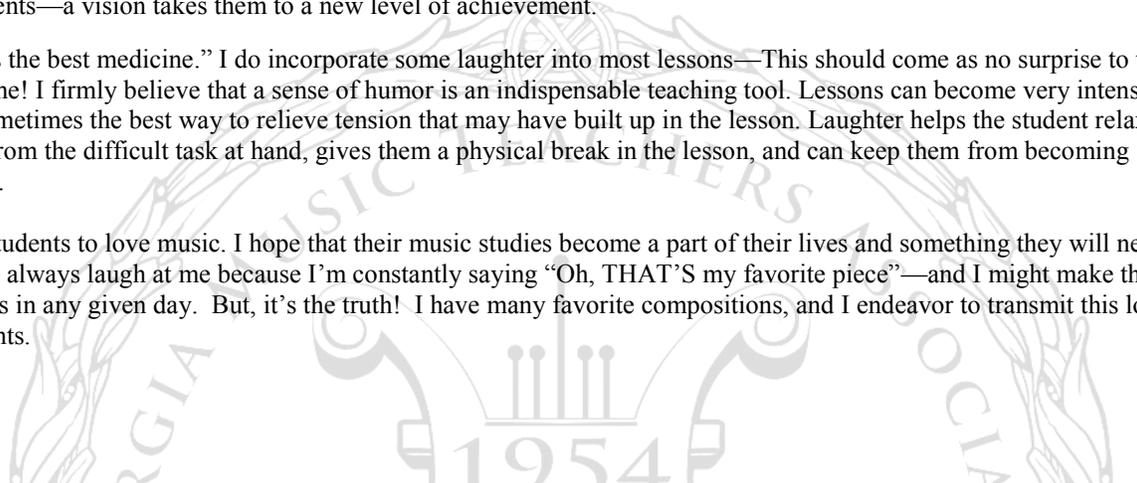
Respect for students is crucial. I still remember meeting my graduate piano professor, Howard Karp, for the first time at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He mentioned that he had been looking forward to our meeting ever since hearing my audition recording. His attitude set the tone for our teacher/student relationship that has endured to this day. I've never forgotten his genuine enthusiasm at that first meeting, and I try to let my students know how much I enjoy working with them.

Students need to be aware of their individual learning styles in order to practice and learn more effectively. A student with a short attention span might need several short practice sessions throughout the day. One student might prefer to work on several pieces at once, while another might function more effectively by tackling one piece at a time. Helping students discover their learning style in regards to piano study can positively impact their practicing and music making in general.

I challenge my students by constantly pushing them to strive for a higher level of expertise and achievement. I help students set short-term and long-term goals and encourage them to set very high standards for themselves. As teachers, we must have a vision for our students—a vision takes them to a new level of achievement.

“Laughter is the best medicine.” I do incorporate some laughter into most lessons—This should come as no surprise to those of you who know me! I firmly believe that a sense of humor is an indispensable teaching tool. Lessons can become very intense, and humor is sometimes the best way to relieve tension that may have built up in the lesson. Laughter helps the student relax, diverts their mind from the difficult task at hand, gives them a physical break in the lesson, and can keep them from becoming discouraged.

I want my students to love music. I hope that their music studies become a part of their lives and something they will never lose. My students always laugh at me because I'm constantly saying “Oh, THAT'S my favorite piece”—and I might make that statement several times in any given day. But, it's the truth! I have many favorite compositions, and I endeavor to transmit this love of music to my students.



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Young Harris College salutes Dr. Keith DeFoor, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, on his term as the GMTA President.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

DAWN MCCORD, GMTA PRESIDENT

3

Welcome to 2013 and another year full of potential and possibility. Isn't it great to be part of such a boundless organization—GMTA.

Our annual conference in November at Young Harris College was a tremendous success due to the efforts of many people. Thank you to David D'Ambrosio and Keith DeFoor for their hard work and vision. Executive Director Donna Trivette is to be thanked for so many details that had to be done behind the scenes in preparation and the subsequent smooth sailing at the registration table. Young Harris College was a very gracious host and if you missed this conference, experience it through the great reports in this newsletter along with Natalie Hardy's fabulous pictures.

Reports by Keith DeFoor, Susan Tusing, and Rwei Hao include many thoughts of gratitude. It is amazing how many people join their time and energy together to create this wonderful event. There is a link to a short 5-minute survey on page 8 of this newsletter. Whether you attended or not, please help us maintain this high level of excellence by completing the survey.

Session presentations by our colleagues are always a treasure at the conference and I hope that you will share your wisdom and experience at next year's conference to be held at the University of West Georgia in Carrollton. The form for session proposals is in this newsletter.

Great things are happening with our **Auditions** this year. With the continued growth of the GMTA Auditions, it became obvious that changes needed to be made to the Auditions to ensure their continued success. A committee was formed to consider the reorganization of the event. In 2012 we had a total of 527 students and 161 teachers participating. The state event had become too large for locations to host us. With input from teachers across the state and subsequent approval by the Executive Board, a Regional level has been implemented for 2013 between the Local and State levels of the GMTA Auditions. This will strengthen both the quality of the event and increase the number of students that get to advance beyond the Local level while making the logistics manageable. Based on responses on a statewide survey, we will pilot a new required theory component for Pre-College Piano Students in 2014. This theory component will be the most basic knowledge every student should know to understand the wonderful world of music.

This test will be called The GMTA Audition Theory Examination (GATE) and does not replace the more advanced Theory Test. Stay tuned for updates. A big thank you goes to Rebekah Jones for her many years serving as V. P. of Auditions and chairing the ad hoc revision committee. The committee included Glen Eckman, Kevin Hampton, Jan Adams, Rebekah Jones, George Mann, and Dawn McCord.

GMTA/MTNA **Competitions**, held in November at Young Harris College, had 67 solo entrants, 2 Senior Piano duet entrants and 5 chamber ensembles in the Performance Competitions. There were 6 entrants in the Composition Competitions. Lyle Indergaard is to be thanked for organizing and executing a successful competition event.

I was able to attend the MTNA **Summit** in Cincinnati. The reinstatement of the MTNA Summit for MTNA Leadership as a weekend event in Cincinnati occurred September 21-23. It was a productive meeting for everyone who attended. All of the presentations about MTNA programs, the financial review, the meetings by size, Association 101, SPAC, and the incredible performance by the Miami University singers were informative, motivational, as well as entertaining.

I do hope that you can join me in Anaheim for the MTNA Conference. Here are some highlights to entice you:

Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim, California, March 9-13

The Ahn Trio will perform following the Opening Session

The Anderson & Roe, piano duo, confirmed for a master class and evening concert

Author of the Greatest Music Stories Never Told, Rick Beyer, keynote speaker

Pedagogy Saturday will have five tracks this year 1) Students with special needs 2) Jazz/popular piano 3) Advanced piano teaching/teaching artistry 4) Recreational Music Making, and 5) Young professional/collegiate track

Peter Mack will present an advanced piano master class and Ingrid Clarfield will present an intermediate piano master class.

A fleet of ships can only go as fast as it's slowest ships. I am happy to be a part of this fleet of fast moving ships and hope you will join me and your colleagues in keeping those ships going full steam ahead. We make such a difference in the lives of our students and in turn we make this a better world to be in. Joe Lewis, a comedian and singer, once said "You only live once - but if you work it right, once is enough." You are part of a team that is working it right. 2013—a year of potential and possibility.



2012 CONFERENCE REVIEW

DAVID D'AMBROSIO PAST VP PROGRAMS, GMTA

2012 GMTA CONFERENCE | YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE

The 2012 GMTA Conference was held on the beautiful campus of Young Harris College amid the backdrop of the surrounding mountains November 1-3. There were 147 members who registered and attended the conference.

Following the Friday evening banquet, Alexander Kobrin, our conference recitalist, offered a varied program of works by Beethoven, Brahms and Schumann. He played beautifully and the brilliance of his technique was noteworthy. The interpretations he offered in all three works on the program were inspiring and uplifting. At the conclusion of the recital the audience responded resoundingly with a standing ovation. The Saturday morning master class was beneficial for



both the student performers and the audience. Mr. Kobrin strived for a convincing interpretation in the students' repertoire. This was accomplished with a series of questions regarding matters of technique, sound quality and the characterization and mood appropriate for each piece. His questions and explanations were designed to lead the student toward a more satisfying performance. Mr. Kobrin also emphasized the importance of being a thoughtful musician and the responsibility of every pianist to adhere to details in the score.

Sam Holland, our Conference Pedagogy Headliner, presented two informative lectures; the first one, **"What Makes a Good Lesson"** explored the common elements of



efficient, joyful and enduring lessons. Attendees learned how to evaluate a lesson by watching for certain qualities which can enhance the lesson experience. Videotaped examples from many teachers provided precisely guided observation. In the second session, **"iPods, iPads, and YouTube. Oh My!"**, Mr. Holland explored simple solutions for using the technology in students' pockets to teach, motivate, and inspire music-making. Suggestions for the use of electronic media were discussed such as the benefit of iPad games/Garage Band.



Numerous topics from **"Georgia's Own"** Presenters resulted in a varied range of topics to choose from. Lois Finlay and Kathryn Dawal, lectured on and performed the piano duet cycle **"From the Bohemian Forest"** by Antonin Dvorak. Background of the composer, the motivation behind this work, interpretive considerations and performance challenges were discussed.

In **"You want me to do what?"** presenter Dr. Mark Laughlin addressed how piano teachers can incorporate improvisation techniques in piano lessons utilizing any method. Teachers were also shown how to improvise accompaniment patterns over chord progressions.

Presenter Dr. Geoff Haydon introduced the **"Piano Repertoire of George Gershwin"** with an emphasis on his Preludes and 18 Hit Song Arrangements. There was a demonstration of how to create an arrangement of a song from the Gershwin Songbook.



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Continued from page 4.... A session on the importance of developing strong sight-reading skills, **Strategies for Teaching Sight-Reading**, was presented by Soojung Jeon. She identified the skills necessary for becoming a good sight-reader, and suggested strategies for achieving this goal.



Our GMTA music theory chair, Jason Bennett, introduced attendees to the **“Keys to the GATE: Preparing Students for the Georgia Auditions Theory Exam”**. This exam is gradually being phased in over the next several years and Jason explained how the phases would be implemented at the regional and state level. Starting in 2014, pre-college piano and piano concerto participants will be required to pass this exam before they can compete at the regional or state level of Auditions.

“The Forgotten Romantic: A Survey of Max Reger’s Intermediate and Advanced Piano Pieces” was presented by Dr. Martha Thomas. Intermediate and advanced level piano pieces by Reger that deserve to be staples in the repertoire were introduced. Another very informative presentation



“Music, Memory Theory and Mapping: Teaching Students to Remember” was presented by May Lauren Dirksen. Structural analysis, retrieval strategies (cues), encoding and memory mapping were discussed in detail and an example of how to utilize these techniques was demonstrated at the piano.



Another session, **“Practicing to Perform: Techniques to Help Performers Battle the Performance Anxiety Plague”** was presented by Dr. Rebekah Jordan-Miller. The benefits of a mental skills training program adapts techniques for the performer which can promote a stronger, more focused, and more fulfilling performance experience.

Raisa Isaacs gave a presentation, **“Dance in Bach’s Music: Phrasing and Articulation in Correlation with the Steps and Step-Units.”** Dr. Isaacs’s session introduced performers and music educators to Baroque dances used in Bach’s music: literal and stylized dance movements; interaction and counteraction of the steps and accompaniment.



David Watkins’ presentation, **“Improvisations and Sonatas: A Look at the Piano Works of David Burge”** an American pianist and composer, discussed the four Piano Sonatas, Improvisations, and Sonatina. Concluding the lecture portion of the session was a performance of Sonata No. 2 by David Burge.



In the session, **“Why Wait to Teach Your Young Piano Students to Play Concertos”**, Dr. Carol W. Payne introduced conference attendees to attractive student concertos by respected composers of elementary and intermediate piano literature. These pieces fill the niche for younger students to play as a soloist and “lead an orchestra” (keyboard accompanist).



On Thursday evening in Glenn Auditorium, GMTA members were treated to a wonderful performance by the Dekalb Symphony Orchestra and the GMTA 2012 Concerto Winners. Yen Hsiang, violin, and Alexander Claussen, piano were the featured soloists with the orchestra under the fine direction and collaborative support of the orchestra’s Music Director and Conductor, Fyodor Cherniavsky.

At the Friday afternoon General Session audience members heard a splendid performance of the GMTA commissioned work, **“An American Suite for Duo-Organ”** by Melinda Lee Clark. This beautiful work in four movements was brilliantly performed by the Organ Duo team of Raymond and Elizabeth Chenault.

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To ensure that the events and presentations ran smoothly, 13 Presiders introduced the various sessions and lent support to each of the Presenters. Once again, the conference afforded those in attendance the opportunity to visit with fellow teachers and friends during which time the presentations provided a reminder of the importance of attending invigorating, well-presented topics which provide the inspiration we require for our ongoing careers as music educators.

Proposals for the 2013 GMTA Conference to be held at the University of West Georgia, November 7-9, 2013 will be on the Website in January.

ALEXANDER KOBRIN IN RECITAL BY DAVID D'AMBROSIO: PAST VICE PRESIDENT PROGRAMS



The Brahms Variations on a Theme by Schumann began with introspection and poignancy. In one variation, Kobrin played a passage with a legato right hand and staccato left hand—both hands were perfectly balanced. In the more virtuosic variations wide-ranging dynamics were present, and in the quieter variations the listener was aware of sensitive voicing. Along the way were carefully conceived crescendos and diminuendos and delicately punctuated staccati notes.

The final work on the program, Carnival, is a collection of character pieces by Robert Schumann. The opening 'Préambule' was played with a deep forte sound. In the quirky 'Harlequin', mood shifts were accomplished through sudden dynamic changes. Spacious in concept, the 'Valse Noble' was never allowed to hurry or feel rushed. 'Eusebius' demonstrated affectionate expressivity and a delicate tonal palette while the contrasting personality of 'Florestan' exhibited a dash of bravura. In the 'Coquette' and 'Réplique', Kobrin used an elfin-like touch, in 'Chiarina', phrasing with long lines. 'Chopin' was lyrical and graceful, 'Pantelon et Columbine' and 'Paganini' were virtuosic. 'Valse Allemande' alternated between lilting phrases and strong octaves. 'Aveu' was characterized by a pleading mood and occasionally with lingering phrases. The final 'March of the Davidsbündler' was played with a thunderous, energetic sound and finished with a triumphant series of final chords, bringing the piece to its conclusion.

The audience showed their appreciation of Alexander Kobrin's recital with a rousing standing ovation and Mr. Kobrin graciously acknowledged the applause with two encore pieces by Chopin and Debussy.



2012 GMTA COMMISSIONED COMPOSITION

BY KEITH DEFOOR, GMTA PAST PRESIDENT

7

The 2012 GMTA Commissioned Composition is *An American Suite for Duo-Organ* by Melinda Lee Clark, Organist and Director of Music and the Arts at North Avenue Presbyterian Church in Atlanta. *An American Suite for Duo-Organ* was premiered at the 2012 GMTA Conference General Session on Friday, November 2 in Glenn Auditorium at Young Harris College by Elizabeth and Raymond Chenault.

Ms. Clark studied at the University of Georgia and the Westminster Choir College and has studied orchestral conducting with Gunther Schuller. Ms. Clark has been commissioned to write musical works for churches, cabarets, storytellers, and the music track for a video produced by Atlanta-based *Storytime Inc.*

Elizabeth and Raymond Chenault's frequent performances throughout the United States and Europe, their bestselling recordings, and sizeable contribution to the organ duet literature through their commissions have made "organ four hand, four feet" virtually synonymous with "the Chenaults." Since 1975, the Chenaults have been Organists and Choirmasters of All Saints' Episcopal Church in Atlanta. After 31 years, the Chenaults retired in 2007 from the Lovett School where they taught choral music.

Ms. Clark wrote the following regarding *An American Suite for Duo-Organ*. "I began thinking what musical styles I would like to consider. What about exploring our own great and vast country with its immense musical variety over the last two and a quarter centuries? My musical heroes are not only from our great European heritage, but also those wonderful 20th century American giants – Leonard Bernstein, Aaron Copland, George Gershwin, as well as all our treasury of American folk music.

Picture yourself travelling in America – Where would you go? How would you get there? What are some of the sights and experiences you might enjoy along the way? Hence: *An American Suite*, A piece in Four Movements for Duo-Organ."

The four movements of *An American Suite for Duo-Organ* provide a wide range of musical landscapes that together form a cohesive, 17-minute musical experience. The first movement, "On the Road," includes a heroic main theme and a beautifully lyrical second theme. The second movement, "Appalachian Air," is serene and wistful with very colorful registrations. The third movement, "Two to Tango," is playful and flirtatious and includes wonderful interplays of melodies. The very rhythmic finale, "Carnival Toccata," with constant meter changes, ends the work in a most exciting manner.

The Chenaults' performance of *An American Suite for Duo-Organ* was wonderful in every way: precise, musical, highly nuanced, and full of color. Also, watching the Chenaults performing together--four hands, four feet on one organ--was a like watching a highly choreographed dance!

Ms. Clark will be considered for the MTNA 2013 Distinguished Composer of the Year Award, which will be presented at the MTNA Conference in Anaheim this March.



Tell us your thoughts about the 2012 GMTA Conference at Young Harris. 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. Use this link to complete the survey. Simply copy it and paste it into your browser URL field:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/96JM8DX>



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GMTA AUDITIONS

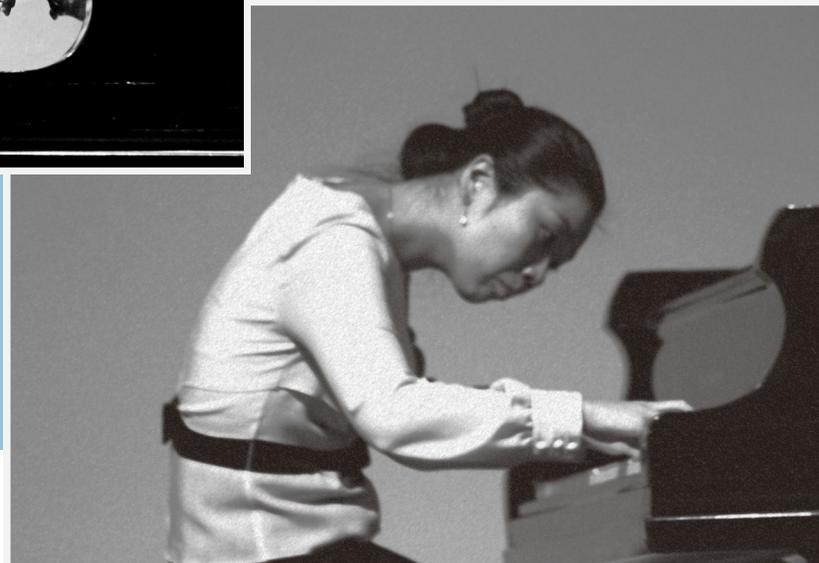
REBEKAH JONES PAST VICE PRESIDENT, GMTA AUDITIONS



We were thrilled to have nineteen pre-college and five college students to perform on the 2012 GMTA Conference recitals at Columbus State University. The very talented young musicians reminded us of the high level of musical achievement that Georgia has come to be known for. A special thank you goes to each of them and to their teachers for taking the time to come and share with us at the conference. Also, a special thank you to each one of you who stayed through the entirety of the lengthy program!

Six students performed on the Master Class with Mr. Alexander Kobrin. This was truly insightful for all students and teachers that were there. We would like to especially thank him for the time that he took with each student, and for sharing with them valuable musical and technical advice.

The 2013 GMTA Auditions will see many new and exciting changes. Please read over the details on the website very carefully. All regional and state locations are listed there, as well as, deadlines and applications.





MTNA Competitions

LYLE INDERGAARD, PAST VICE PRESIDENT MNTA AUDITIONS

The 2012 GMTA/MTNA Performance Competitions were held October 30-31 at Young Harris College under the supervision of Lyle Indergaard, VP for GMTA/MTNA Competitions. There were 67 solo entrants, 2 senior piano duets and 5 chamber ensembles in the Performance Competitions. State Coordinators were Glen Eckman - Junior Coordinator, Kristi Helfen - Senior Coordinator, Martin David Jones - Young Artist Coordinator, and David Murray - Chamber Music Coordinator. Russell Brown was the State Composition Coordinator.

The results of the Performance and Composition Competitions are as follows:

Chamber Music String - 1 entry

Representative Magnolia String Quartet, students of Larisa Elisha

Chamber Music Wind - 4 entries

Winner UGA Tuba Quartet, students of David Zerkel

Alternate The Enotah Brass, students of Mary Land

Elementary Composition - 1 entry

Representative Yash Kadadi, student of Nancy Elton

Junior Performance Piano - 8 entries

Winner Mia Patillo, student of Robert Henry

Alternate Judy Li, student of Lois Finlay

Honorable mention Ethan Shen, student of Keli Xu

Laura Street, student of Nancy Elton

Laura Zhang, student of Ping-Yun Hsu

Junior Performance String - 3 entries

Winner Alexander Ambartsumian, student of Levon Ambartsumian

Alternate Melodie Spencer, student of Sonja Foster

Honorable mention Phoebe Liu, student of Sonja Foster

Senior Composition - 2 entries

Winner Jae Lee, student of David Peoples

Senior Performance Piano - 15 entries

Winner Anna Vertypolokh, student of Alexander Kobrin

Alternate Hyeri Bae, student of Anatoly Sheludyakov

Honorable mention Brandon Hou, student of David Watkins

Geneva Stonecipher, student of Martha Thomas

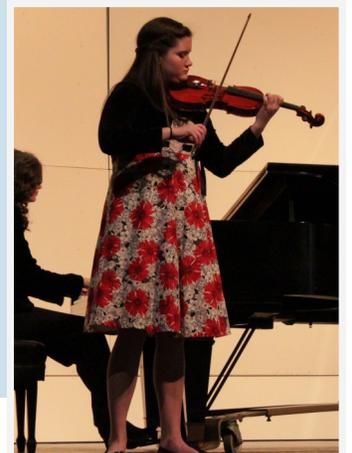
Senior Performance String - 4 entries

Winner Likai He, student of Sergiu Schwartz

Alternate Esther Holliday, student of Wendy Warner

Honorable mention Yen Hsiang, student of Sonja Foster

Justin Lee, student of William Pu



continued on page 11...

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Senior Performance Voice - 1 entry

Representative Gabby Aku, student of Pia Ugarte

Senior Performance Woodwind - 2 entries

Winner Caroline Halleck, student of Connie Frigo

Alternate Leslie Thomas, student of Amy Griffiths

Senior Piano Duet - 2 entries

Winner Ingrid Cai,
Catherine Xie, students of Ping Xu

Alternate Sabrina Chin
Timothy Shu, students of William Ransom

Young Artist Composition - 3 entries

Winner Jonathan Smith, student of Fred Cohen

Young Artist Performance Brass - 3 entries

Winner Mark Spradley, student of Bradley Palmer
Alternate James English, III, student of Bradley Palmer
Honorable mention John Avila, student of David Zerkel

Young Artist Performance Piano - 13 entries

Winner Kaisaer Ainiwaer, student of Richard Mercier
Alternate Ksenia Kurenyshva, student of Alexander Kobrin
Honorable mention Wenqing Ouyang, student of Yien Wang
Tyler Walker, student of Lyle Indergaard

Young Artist Performance String - 8 entries

Winner Branson Yeast, student of Wendy Warner
Alternate Jing Yang, student of Sergiu Schwartz
Honorable mention Tian Xu, student of Sergiu Schwartz
Martha Gardner, student of Levon Ambartsumian

Young Artist Performance Voice - 8 entries

Winner Megan Gillis, student of Stephanie Tingler
Alternate Jonathan Parham, student of Yuell Chandler
Honorable mention Joseph Sokohl, student of Yuell Chandler
Tareva Moore, student of Yuell Chandler

Young Artist Performance Woodwind - 2 entries

Winner Gabriel Pique, student of Connie Frigo
Alternate Manuel Ramos, student of Lisa Oberlander



STEINWAY PIANO GALLERIES MUSIC EDUCATOR GRANTS

12

GMTA MUSIC EDUCATOR GRANTS BY KEITH DEFOOR

For the 12th consecutive year, Steinway Piano Galleries of Atlanta has graciously sponsored the Steinway Piano Galleries Music Educator Grant program, and, for the second consecutive year, GMTA has sponsored the GMTA Music Teachers Grant program to complement the long established Steinway program. In 2012-2013, 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 two of the four Steinway Piano Galleries Music Educator Grants and GMTA Music Teachers Grants by submitting an application to the Steinway/GMTA Grant Selection Committee. Although, three GMTA Music Teacher Grants were offered, only one application was received this year.

Thank you to committee members Dawn McCord, Robin Engleman, and Joey Hokayem for their work on the selection of the following recipients of this year's grants:



- Steinway Piano Galleries Music Educator Grants
- Andrew Joel, Student Scholarship, student of Debra Hughes
- Julie Soh Harbin, Teacher Education Grant
- GMTA Music Teacher Grant
- Caroline Own, student of Jody Smith Parrish



A Steinway Piano Galleries Music Educator Grant was given to the GMTA/MTNA Young Artist Piano Performance Winner, Kaisaer Ainiwear, student of Richard Mercier.

The final Steinway Piano Galleries Music Educator grant will be awarded to the High School Senior Piano Winner of the 2013 GMTA Auditions.

Steinway Piano Galleries President Chris Syllaba and GMTA President Keith DeFoor presented the grants to the recipients during the 2012 GMTA Conference held at Young Harris College.



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17



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 2012 Conference and encourage those who have not attended before to give it a try!

1. GMTA 2012 Concerto Winner, Alexander Claussen, piano; performing with the DeKalb Symphony Orchestra
2. GMTA Conference luncheon at Enotah Hall
3. A member of the DeKalb Symphony Orchestra getting ready to perform
4. Three percussionists of the DSO focusing on the music
5. A gathering of friends at the luncheon at Enotah Hall
6. A presentation by May Lauren Dirksen
7. GMTA 2012 Concerto Winner, Yen Hsiang, violin; performing with the DeKalb Symphony Orchestra
8. Some of the Gwinnett County members at the GMTA Conference
9. GMTA College-level winner, Matthew Marshall, saxophone
10. Our new GMTA President, Dawn McCord
11. GMTA Conference Banquet, Recreation Center
12. Ray and Beth Chenault at the organ after their performance
13. "The Three Fellas" as they call themselves: Betty White, Aurelia Campbell and Susan Andrews: MTNA Fellows
14. Keith DeFoor, our President at his home college: Young Harris
15. Mary Anne Knight getting ready to hear Alexander Kobrin
16. Members of the Executive Board seated at the head table at the banquet.
17. The Chenaults with their composer, Melinda Clark, and GMTA President Keith DeFoor after the performance
18. Betty White caught in surprise as her Fellowship was announced



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Athens MTA: Joey Hokavem, President

Athens MTA kicked off its fall with our 50th Year Celebration. The celebration included a wonderful catered meal and concert. Keith Defoor was the keynote speaker along with three of our charter members. In honor of AMTA's 50th Anniversary, we awarded \$500 scholarships to Sarah Abushakra and May Lauren Dirksen, two deserving UGA students and future professional piano teachers. In October, Jason Bennett, presented an informative program entitled "Through the GATE: How to prepare Your Students for the New Auditions Theory Exams". Our fall Sonatina and Sonata Festival involved 140 students performing in a recital setting. AMTA will close out its fall with the All-Level Recital and teachers' holiday luncheon.

At our winter business meeting, Dr. George Mann will present a program entitled "Some Thoughts on Teaching Chopin". Dr. Richard Zimdars, will serve as clinician at our winter Master Class. UGA will host the "Eastern European Piano Repertoire Symposium" on February 23. In late February and March, AMTA will hold the AMTA Festival, Local Auditions and GMTA Theory Tests, as well as our annual Honors Recital. Our spring ends with a program entitled "UGA Presents! Recital featuring performances of UGA undergraduate and graduate students".

Atlanta MTA: Fred Hsiang, President

Atlanta MTA had more teachers participating in meetings and the December luncheon than last semester. Our meeting is still set on the second Friday of each month, but the meeting location has changed to the show room at Steinway Piano Galleries Atlanta.

The Romantic Competition, affiliated with Atlanta MTA, was held in late fall and had 139 participants. 18 students out of the 139 received monetary prizes and medals. The competition received a lot more participants than previous years. Our own Musicfest is going to take place at Southern Pianos in February, as usual as in past years.

Our program chair has arranged excellent programs. In the early fall of 2012, we had Dr. Rebekah Jordon Miller from Shorter College, who gave us a very inspiring presentation. And upcoming, we have Dr. Marina Lomazov, a Steinway pianist, and Ning An, an international renowned concert pianist; they will present Master classes and recitals at the Steinway piano Galleries. Atlanta MTA members are going to enjoy the programs set for the future meetings of this school year.

Augusta MTA: Colette Keogh, President

The Augusta Music Teachers Association kicked off the 2012-2013 year in September. We passed out yearbooks to all the members and discussed the many activities we have planned for the year.

October began with a "Q & A" meeting for new and prospective members. Members shared tips and ideas in a round table discussion. We also held a Community Outreach Recital at a local assisted living residence. Students of three AMTA teachers presented a Fall/Halloween themed recital for the residents.

Don Macey, an AMTA member presented a program on Jazz Improvisation in November at Augusta State University. The program was well attended by ASU students and AMTA members.

Another Community Outreach Recital is scheduled in December. Students of all ages and levels from several AMTA teachers will present a holiday themed performance for the residents of Washington Commons in Evans, GA.

The spring is busy with our annual Piano Festival and GMTA Local Auditions in March. Augusta will also be hosting the GMTA Regional Auditions. Students who receive an OP rating in the Local Audition will perform in a "Winner's Recital".

Cherokee MTA: Linda Lokey, President

The Cherokee Music Teachers chapter began its year with a potluck dinner meeting. We were delighted to have Lois Finlay present her program on student motivation at our November meeting, giving lots of excellent tips to keep students playing successfully. The Pianothon fundraiser will give students the opportunity to play Christmas music at Town Center Mall in December.

...continued on page 17

continued from page 16...

January will bring a program on Building Technique with Jerico Vasquez of Shorter College. Auditions and Solo Festival will occur in February, and our annual masterclass will be March 9th, with clinician Dan Steenson. Our Twenty-Second Annual Awards Ceremony in late April will conclude our year with a guest artist recital by Willilam Ransom.

Cobb County MTA: Huu Mai, President

Cobb County Music Teachers Association is off to another exciting year of programs and events. CCMTA's own Dr. Robert Henry presented an informative and insightful program on "Effective Tools for Effective Practice" during our September meeting. In October, Joseph Camillo, also a CCMTA member, presented a program on "Incorporating Composition into Piano Lessons" that was both educational and entertaining. During the GMTA State Conference, David Watkins delivered a presentation on the piano works of David Burge.

In December, we will be hosting our annual Pianothon at Town Center Mall as well as our December Luncheon, and in February, we will be holding our Solo Festival and Local Auditions. During our February meeting, we look forward to Dr. Geoffrey Haydon's presentation entitled "Incorporating Jazz and Improvisation into the Piano Student's Diet." Kennesaw State University student recipients of CCMTA scholarships will perform in recital in March, and we will close our year in April with our Spring Luncheon.

Columbus MTA: Martha Aguirre, President

Columbus Music Teacher's Association celebrates 80 years of service to the community this year. CMTA began this season with a Student Recital held on October 19 at St. Thomas Church with about 18 students participating. A simple reception followed with finger foods provided by the parents. Participants were students of several of our local teachers.

Three of our members enjoyed the GMTA conference in Young Harris the first weekend in November. The weather and scenery were beautiful. The music was awesome, and they especially enjoyed Columbus State's own master pianist, Alexander Kobrin. As always, it was good to interact with our teacher friends from around the state and get a chance to see new and old music on exhibit. We took a delightful side trip when we got delicious apples from the region.

Members of CMTA were asked by Columbus High School to collaborate in re-defining the parameters for Senior Projects that involved music, and in particular, piano lessons. Some members have taught students in the past who were working on their Senior Project, so we were excited to be able to create a more meaningful experience for the students.

CMTA is currently preparing for our GMTA Theory Test to be administered on February 16, and for our Festival to be held March 2, 2013.

Gwinnett MTA: Cathy Thacker, President

2011-12 was a banner year for GCMTA, and the highlight was winning the Local Association of the Year Award from GMTA. Many of our teachers contributed recital, performance, and volunteer information from their studios to help win this award. 2012-13 promises to be another great year, full of wonderful programs and competitive events.

April 28, 2012, was the date of our 15th Ensemble Concert. Our theme was American music, and the audience enjoyed the presentation of both patriotic music and regional favorites by American composers, such as Stephen Foster and Scott Joplin.

One point of pride for GCMTA is our generous distribution of prize money and scholarships to our students. In November we held our annual Fall Festival, and give \$1,560 to 52 students. In February, approximately 900 students participate in our district Federated Festivals; over \$3,000 is awarded to the top contestants. In March, we hold our annual Jr./Sr. Scholarship Auditions and confer \$2,000 to the 1st-4th place winners.

Programs for this year have included "Overcoming Technical Difficulties" by Dr. Alex Wassermann; "A Fresh Approach to Technical Exercises" by Dr. Jerico Vasquez; and "Teaching Composition to Piano Students" by Gayle Vann. In January we will have our annual brunch meeting, and learn about "How to Compete with Video Games"; in February our own Pam Asberry will reprise her 2011 State Conference presentation on "Teaching the Transfer Student"; in March David Watkins, 2011 GMTA Teacher of the Year, will conduct our annual Master Class. The Executive Board meets in April, and we will close out our year with a luncheon in May, with the installation of the new officers.



CERTIFICATION

ROBIN ENGLEMAN, PAST VICE PRESIDENT CERTIFICATION

CONGRATULATIONS to newly Nationally Certified Teacher of Music **Donna Dasher, NCTM**, of Richmond Hill, GA!

Additional congratulations are in order to the following NCTMs who were recognized recently at our GMTA Conference Banquet in Young Harris. **Ipek Brooks, NCTM, Patricia Callaway, NCTM, Renee Holliman, NCTM and Dawn McCord, NCTM** each received \$50 from GMTA.

As of the end of November, GMTA has a membership of 718 and of those, 111 are nationally certified. My goal as your state certification chair has been to see the number of certified music teachers in our state increase. Over the last five years the percentage of GMTA NCTMs has increased from 13.5% (approximately 100 NCTMs) to 15.5% and our national ranking of certified teachers has gone from the low 30's to 25!

It is my pleasure to introduce your newly appointed **GMTA Certification Chair, Ashley Craig-Diaz, NCTM**. The following by Ashley was in our GMTA Newsletter about five years ago and it describes the process she went through to become nationally certified.

During the summer and fall of 2005, I completed an apprenticeship with Dr. Paula Thomas-Lee, NCTM. Upon the completion of this apprenticeship, I was strongly encouraged to pursue my National Certification from Music Teachers National Association. I chose to compile a teaching portfolio, which contained all of my past teaching experiences, eight lesson plans, my teaching philosophy, various business documents, and studio policies. I was given three months from the time I received the letter stating that I had met the requirements of the first standard (proof that I had been teaching piano for at least two years, three letters of recommendation, and a transcript showing I had completed certain music classes) to complete the portfolio. It took every bit of those three months!

The certification board approved my portfolio and I now have the title of "Nationally Certified Teacher of Music." Being a young teacher, I sometimes feel as though I have to try extra hard to prove myself to other teachers. Compiling this portfolio was very beneficial for me, not only as a professional, but also as a teacher. Since becoming a Nationally Certified teacher, I now have the Music Teachers National Association to "back me up" on the high standards I hold at my studio. As a teacher, the process of assembling the portfolio really made me look at how I was teaching and how I could be a more effective teacher. Parts of it were tedious (reference: 8 lesson plans!), but I have the portfolio to show all potential new students as part of the new students audition. Every time a parent looks at it, their faith in my teaching is reinforced.

Whether you seek certification thru the Teacher Profile Projects or Administrative Verification, you will not regret your decision to continued excellence in your profession.



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MEMBERSHIP

JULIE SOH HARBIN, VICE PRESIDENT, GMTA MEMBERSHIP

19

As of November 30, 2012 the Georgia Music Teachers Association has a total membership of 719. This is a decrease of 34 members since the fall quarter report.

GMTA has many thriving and trendsetting collegiate chapters. Does the college or university in your area have a collegiate MTNA chapter?

If not, consider having your local chapter help support the start up of a collegiate chapter or include college students in your local meetings and events. The importance of being a part of a professional organization begins at the college level. If students are introduced to the many benefits then they are more likely to continue in MTNA after graduation.

Hugh Hodgson School of Music
THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



Eastern European Piano Repertoire

SAVE THE DATE: Sat, February 23, 2013
UGA Campus, Athens, GA

Join us for this all-day piano pedagogy symposium featuring lectures, master classes, performances, and a closing Q/A session. Repertoire will range from beginning to early advanced.

Presenters: Steven Spooner, University of Kansas; Victoria Fischer Faw, Elon University; Peter Jutras, Evgeny Rivkin, Martha Thomas, and Richard Zimdars, University of Georgia

For more information, contact Dr. Richard Zimdars at rzimdars@uga.edu
This symposium is sponsored by the Willson Center for Humanities and Arts, the Hugh Hodgson School of Music and the Despy Karlas Professorship Fund.

KEYBOARD FACULTY

David Burton-Brown	<i>Organ/Harpsichord</i>
Nancy Elton	<i>Piano</i>
Peter Jutras	<i>Piano Pedagogy/Group Piano</i>
Evgeny Rivkin	<i>Piano/Chamber Music/Area Chair</i>
Martha Thomas	<i>Piano/Chamber Music</i>
Kathryn Wright	<i>Opera and Art Song Accompanying/Vocal Diction</i>
Richard Zimdars	<i>Piano/Piano Literature/Chamber Music</i>

INFORMATION

Degrees: Bachelors through Doctorate
Entrance, Scholarship and Assistantship Auditions: January 12, February 8, 9 and 22, 2013
Graduate Assistantship Stipends: \$10,800/MM; \$11,600/DMA

For information on undergraduate admissions, contact Ms Suzanne Caruso at scaruso@uga.edu. For information on auditions and assistantships for UGA's graduate degrees in performance, piano pedagogy, and collaborative piano, contact Mrs Susan LeCroy at: shlecroy@uga.edu.



ARTS AWARENESS & ADVOCACY

TOM PEARSALL, AA&A CHAIR

20

Greetings from your new Chair for Arts Awareness and Advocacy! As chair, I am charged with keeping the *Georgia's Own* list updated. This list is posted on the GMTA website under the "Member Resources" link. *Georgia's Own* is a listing of GMTA members who are willing to present topics through workshops and programs to the various GMTA local associations. Individuals included in this listing must be GMTA members in good standing with paid dues for each membership year and must keep their contact information updated through Donna Trivette, GMTA Executive Director, at donnatrivett@bellsouth.net.

For those who would like to remain on, or be added to, the list I will need from you the following: name, local affiliation, workshop title, length, and a brief description of the workshop. I would also like to add to the list the following: equipment needs, very brief bios (2-5 sentences should suffice), and photos of the presenters. I would appreciate receiving these via email by March 1. Please submit as a word document to tompearsall@georgiasouthern.edu and attach with it a photo in jpg format. I look forward to receiving these and thanks in advance for your participation in this important resource for GMTA members!



GMTA AWARD FUND

SUSAN TUSING, PAST VICE PRESIDENT GMTA AWARDS

The GMTA Awards Fund raised \$460 through our raffle at the 2012 GMTA Conference in Young Harris, significantly more than in 2011. The following members purchased raffle tickets or made donations to the Fund: Dawn McCord, Martha Thomas, Kathy Stanley, Edith Sweatman, Pam Martin, Ruth Mantooth, Diane Boyd, Donna Dasher, Cynthia and Keith DeFoor, Ashley Craig-Diaz, Kristi Helfen, Robin Engleman, Paula Thomas-Lee, Barbara Korzan, Linda Lokey, Grace Caudle, Julie Harbin, Susan Naylor, and Jackie Reed. Prizes raffled off included two \$50 J.W. Pepper gift cards (won by Jackie Reed and Donna Dasher), a \$100 Hutchins and Rea gift certificate (won by Jackie Reed), and two tickets to a Spivey Hall event (won by Grace Caudle).

I would like to offer my thanks to all those who supported the GMTA Awards Fund this year and to acknowledge our generous donors. I have enjoyed serving as chair of the Awards Fund for the past two years and offer Diane Boyd my best wishes during her reign as GMTA Awards Fund chair for the next two years.



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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 Second and Third Quarters.

- South Georgia MTA*
- South Metro Atlanta MTA*
- Patti Bennett
- Aurelia Campbell
- Shirley Irek
- Jeannine Morrison
- Susan Naylor
- Tom Pearsall
- Martha Thomas
- Frances Thrailkill
- Paula Wamsley
- Martha Wright
- Margaret Schuler

The total amount of Georgia contribution up to the Third Quarter is \$2,387.50.



During 2012 GMTA Fall Conference, the following members made a total contribution of \$545.00.

- Diane Boyd
- Donna Dasher
- Cynthia DeFoor
- Robin Engleman
- Jackie Reed
- Martha Thomas
- Susan Andrews
- Lydia Culpepper
- Debbie Dickensheets
- Susan Naylor
- Colette Keogh
- Grace T. Caudle
- Ashley Craig-Diaz
- David D'ambosio
- Kathy Dawal
- Valencia Giles
- Ruth Mantooth
- Pam Martin
- Debbie Murphy
- Carol Payne
- Julie Smith
- Edith Sweatman
- Julie Soh-Harbin
- Kathy Stanley
- Aurelia Campbell
- Ruth Harris
- Kristi Helfen
- Deb Hughes
- Barbara Korzan
- Linda Lokey
- Julie Smith
- Paula Thomas-Lee

Our sincere thanks goes to Sam and Don Bennett of Piano Works for their continued donations of Artist Benches. This year the winner is Ashley Craig-Diaz.

www.gcmta.org

Cathy Thacker President 770-978-3708	Lois Simon Membership 770-277-6659
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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"

BETTY H. WHITE NAMED A 2013 MTNA FELLOW

BY SUSAN ANDREWS, GMTA MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Betty H. White, NCTM, will be named a Foundation Fellow during the 2013 MTNA Conference in Anaheim, California. The presentation will be made at the MTNA Gala on Monday evening, March 11, 2013, at which time Fellows from other states will receive this prestigious award for distinguished service to the music teaching profession. Fellows receive an attractive MTNA Fellow certificate and pin. New Fellows are prominently recognized on the Foundation Fund website and their names are added to a plaque located at the MTNA National Headquarters.

It was announced at the Georgia Music Teachers Association conference that Betty would receive this award after the members of GMTA joined together to raise the required minimum amount of \$1000.00 needed to designate her for this honor. Within six weeks of the nomination the full amount was raised, and by the banquet the amount had increased to \$1,500.00.

The announcement was made at the GMTA banquet on Friday evening, November 2, as a surprise to Betty.

Betty is well deserving of this honor and has served GMTA and MTNA in many capacities. She was president of Georgia Music Teachers Association, 1996-98. Prior to that time she served as GMTA Secretary, Vice President of Membership, Vice President of Auditions, State Piano Chair, and Certification Secretary. Betty is an independent music teacher, but her career has included teaching music in the public schools and serving as a church musician. In her local association of GMTA Betty has held many offices, including serving twice as its president. She also served as president of Metro Atlanta Music Teachers Association and was a member of the MTNA Local Association of the Year Committee. She has served several times as a monitor for the MTNA Southern Division competitions.

In her last year as GMTA president, Betty appointed a committee to study the finances of our state association. That committee eventually became the Finance/Advisory Committee, which has been an invaluable assistance to every President and Executive Board since then. Betty holds a BM in Music Education, with emphasis in piano from the University of Georgia, operates a private piano studio, serves as a church pianist, and adjudicates frequently.



My GMTA Friends:

On Friday evening, November 2, 2012, at GMTA Conference banquet at beautiful Young Harris College, I learned that I was to be named a 2013 MTNA Foundation Fellow. What a surprise!!!! As I listened to Susan Andrews make the introduction of this person, it became clear that it was "me"! I am extremely honored and overwhelmed to receive this wonderful award from my peers. It is so gratifying to know that donations made in my honor will benefit such a worthwhile cause as the MTNA Foundation. I am very proud to be included with the previous MTNA Fellows from Georgia: Dr. Rexford Whiddon, Dr. Wayne Gibson, Ms. Aurelia Campbell, and Mrs. Susan Andrews. This special award program was begun in 2000, and Georgia can be proud of their five Fellows representing this generous donation toward the MTNA Foundation Fund.

My 38 years of membership in MTNA, GMTA, and SMAMTA have brought me many reasons to be grateful for my active participation in this organization. I have met so many lifetime friends who have motivated and inspired me as well as helped me to grow as a teacher, musician and person. Many thanks for this opportunity to be recognized as an MTNA Foundation Fellow. Any contributions I have made through my services and involvement with the Association cannot compare to this meaningful award. This is truly one of the highlights of my life.

Sincerely yours,

Betty H. White



TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2013

DAWN MCCORD, GMTA PRESIDENT

23

The GMTA Teacher of the Year Award is presented to the candidate who most clearly demonstrates a strong commitment to the music teaching profession. Local Associations are encouraged to nominate teachers that meet this commitment to teaching. The state winner will be the GMTA nomination for the MTNA award. Deadlines and procedures will be forthcoming but in the meantime, begin your selection process and know that you will need the following information/documents:

The online submission form will require the following information/documents:

- Teaching/professional achievement
- Number of years of teaching experience
- Evidence of teaching excellence (i.e. students' successes)
- Accomplishments/contributions to MTNA
- Participation in Local, State and/or National MTNA programs
- Community involvement
- Former student or parent letter of support (upload document)
- Professional colleague letter of support (upload document)
- Nominating letter from the state organization (upload document)

The winner will be acknowledged at the 2013 Banquet. With so many fine teachers in Georgia, consider sending in one of your favorites. For a list of past winners go to [GMTA Teacher of the Year](#)



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GMTA CONFERENCE PRESENTER PROPOSAL FORM
GMTA CONFERENCE, UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA—CARROLLTON
NOVEMBER 7-9, 2013

Proposals must arrive by March 1, 2013

Please submit this form by March 1, 2013 to be considered for the 2013 GMTA Conference to be held at The University of West Georgia—Carrollton on Thursday through Saturday, November 7-9.

Questions? Contact Susan Tusing at susantusing@clayton.edu.

NAME: (as you wish it to appear in the program) _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL _____ **FAX** _____

TYPE OF SESSION (Check one)

Presto Presentation (Maximum of 8 minutes) _____ Regular Session (schedule may dictate 30 or 45 minutes) _____

TITLE OF PERFORMANCE/SESSION (This is the title that will appear in the program.)

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PERFORMANCE/SESSION (This is the description that will appear in the program and should not exceed 75 words.)

January 18-21, 2013	MTNA Southern Division Meeting and Competitions, University of North Carolina-Greensboro, Greensboro, North Carolina										
March 1, 2013	Postmark Deadline for GMTA Conference Session Proposals										
March 4, 2013	Postmark Deadline for GMTA Regional Auditions Applications										
March 9-13, 2013	MTNA Conference, Disneyland Hotel, Anaheim, California										
March 23, 2013	GMTA Regional Auditions										
	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Region I</td> <td>Brenau University</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Region II</td> <td>Augusta State University</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Region II</td> <td>Mercer University</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Region IV</td> <td>Perimeter College</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Region V</td> <td>University of West Georgia</td> </tr> </table>	Region I	Brenau University	Region II	Augusta State University	Region II	Mercer University	Region IV	Perimeter College	Region V	University of West Georgia
Region I	Brenau University										
Region II	Augusta State University										
Region II	Mercer University										
Region IV	Perimeter College										
Region V	University of West Georgia										
March 25, 2013	Postmark Deadline for GMTA State Auditions Applications										
April 13, 2013	GMTA State Auditions for College, Instrumental, and Voice, Columbus State University, Columbus, Georgia										
April 20, 2013	GMTA State Auditions for Pre-College Piano and Concerto, Columbus State University, Columbus, Georgia										
April 20, 2013	GMTA Executive Board Meeting/GMTA Council of Local Association Presidents Meeting, Columbus State University, Columbus, Georgia										
May 1, 2013	Deadline for articles to be included in the GMTA Summer Newsletter										
Summer, 2013	Postmark deadline for GMTA Teacher of the Year (TOY) Applications (MTNA has changed the date of their deadline. The GMTA TOY deadline will be announced in upcoming months.)										
August 1, 2013	Deadline for articles to be included in the GMTA Winter Newsletter										
August 17, 2013	GMTA Council of Local Association Presidents Meeting and GMTA Executive Board Meeting, Clayton State University, Morrow, Georgia										
September 11, 2013	Online Application Deadline (3:00 p.m. Eastern Time) for MTNA Competitions										
October 15, 2013	Postmark Deadline for GMTA Local Association of the Year Award applications										
November 5-7, 2013	GMTA/MTNA Competitions, University of West Georgia, Carrollton, Georgia										
November 7-9, 2013	GMTA Conference, University of West Georgia, Carrollton, Georgia										
November 30, 2013	Deadline for articles to be included in the GMTA Winter Newsletter										



2012 GMTA Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Friday, November 2, 2012
3:00 p.m.
Glenn Auditorium
Clegg Fine Arts Building
Young Harris College
Young Harris, Georgia

- I. **Call to Order: Keith DeFoor, GMTA President**
- II. **Greetings from MTNA Southern Division Director Martha Thomas**
- III. **Annual Business Meeting of the Association:** Keith DeFoor, presiding
 - A. Approval of Minutes of 2011 Annual Business Meeting
motion: G. Cagle, 2nd: M. Thomas
 - B. Approval of Financial Report
motion: S. Tusing, 2nd: R. Engleman
 - C. President's Report: Keith DeFoor

The past year has been very productive for the Georgia Music Teachers Association.

In January, GMTA was represented terrifically at the MTNA Southern Division Meeting and Competitions at Mississippi College in Clinton, Mississippi. At the Southern Division Competition, GMTA had four winners, one alternate, and four honorable mentions. Lauren Goldfuss, student of Dian Lawler-Johnson, was the winner in the Senior Voice Performance Competition. Richard Wan and Eric Wan, students of Lois Finlay, were the winners in the Senior Piano Duet Performance Competition. David McLemore, student of David Zerkel, was the winner in the Young Artist Brass Performance Competition. Richard Smagur III, student of Yuell Chandler, was the winner of the Young Artist Voice Performance Competition. The winners traveled to New York in March to compete in the MTNA Performance Competition Finals, which were held in conjunction with the MTNA Conference. GMTA had two national winners! David McLemore was the winner of the MTNA Young Artist Brass Competition, and Richard Smagur III was the winner of the MTNA Young Artist Voice Competition.

In March, the 2012 MTNA Conference in New York was attended by many GMTA members. It was a wonderful conference which featured great sessions and recitals. The 2013 MTNA Conference will be at the Disneyland Hotel at the Disneyland Resort in Anaheim, California. I hope many of our GMTA members will attend this wonderful opportunity for professional growth and personal enrichment.

The GMTA Auditions were held April 20 and 21 at Columbus State University under the supervision of Vice President for GMTA Auditions Rebekah Jones. There were a total of 527 students and 161 teachers participating in the Auditions. Participants included 461 students and 131 teachers in Pre-College Piano, 11 students and 7 teachers in High School Piano Concerto, 23 students and 8 teachers in College Piano, 8 students and 2 teachers in High School and College Voice, 16 students and 7 teachers in K-College Strings, 3 students and 1 teacher in Brass and Woodwinds, and 5 students and 5 teachers in Instrumental Concerto. GMTA Theory Achievement Testing continues to grow under the leadership of Jason Bennett. In 2011-2012, 299 students took theory tests, an increase of 17% from the previous year. Also, 71 teachers entered students in the GMTA Achievement Testing Program, an increase of 20% from the previous year. GMTA thanks Ron Wirt and Schwob School of Music at Columbus State University for hosting our 2012 GMTA Auditions.

During the past year, the Ad Hoc Committee on GMTA Auditions continued its work to consider our growing GMTA Auditions and make recommendations regarding the structure of this GMTA program, which is the face of GMTA to so many students and families. The members of the Ad Hoc Committee on GMTA Auditions were Rebekah Jones (Chair), Jan Adams, Glen Eckman, Kevin Hampton, George Mann, Jason Bennett (Theory Advisor), and Dawn McCord (Ex Officio). In March, the Committee presented to the Finance/Advisory Committee a proposal to implement a Regional level between the Local and State levels of the GMTA Auditions and to implement a required theory component for Pre-College Piano Students. The Finance/Advisory Committee approved this proposal. Subsequently, this proposal was approved by the GMTA Executive Board at its April meeting. Tremendous amounts of thought, discussion, reflection, and work have been invested into this most important initiative by the members of the Committee and many other Association members. Thank you to Rebekah Jones and her Committee for leading this restructuring of the GMTA Auditions in such a productive manner. Students and families will be served well for years to come as a result of this endeavor.

The GMTA/MTNA Performance Competitions were held this week at Young Harris College under the supervision of Lyle Indergaard, VP/Competitions. There were 67 solo entrants, 2 Senior Piano duet entrants and 5 chamber ensembles in the Performance Competitions.

The GMTA/MTNA Composition Competitions were administered by Russell Brown. This year, Georgia had 6 entrants in the Composition Competitions.

From the GMTA/MTNA Competitions, 10 solo winners, 1 piano duet, and 2 chamber ensemble, and 3 composition winners will represent GMTA in the MTNA Southern Division Competitions in January 2013 at University of North Carolina at Greensboro in Greensboro, North Carolina.

The GMTA Facebook page, published in April 2011, continues to be an important social media presence for our Association. Our Facebook page has 165 "likes", generates a large amount of traffic, and remains a very healthy manner to promote GMTA.

Our refreshed GMTA logo, accomplished in 2011, continues to receive rave reviews. In addition to the clearer more precise lines of the refreshed logo, the color, black and white, and monochromatic silver versions of the logo make it adaptable for all manners of usage.

The updated GMTA web site, which was also accomplished in 2011, continues to be extremely well received. Our Association benefits from the web site's updated look to all the pages and menus, the reorganization of content that

makes accessibility easier, the Paypal feature for GMTA donations, advertisements, and conference registration, the new photos for the homepage slideshow, and the link to our Facebook page.

As of October 15, 2012, GMTA has 683 members; the number of professional and senior members is 661; number of student members is 22; number of certified members is 111. The number of registrants for our 2012 conference is 147.

As of October 15, 2012, GMTA's bank balance is \$28,055.56; the amount in GMTA's reserve fund is \$54,466.86; the amount in our Composition Award Fund is \$7,613.71; the amount in the Broadhurst Award Fund is \$12,418.13; and the amount in the GMTA Award Fund is \$10,508.97.

Again, I hope you are enjoying your time at the 2012 GMTA Conference. We have 147 registrations this year. An undertaking such as a state conference requires the effort of many individuals. Thank you to the following people for making the 2012 GMTA Conference a success.

- Young Harris College President Cathy Cox, and the President's Leadership Council--Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration David Leopard, Vice President for Academic Affairs Gary Myers, Vice President for Advancement Jay Stroman, Vice President for Technology Kenneth Faneuff, and Vice President for Enrollment Management Clint Hobbs-, Vice President for Student Development Angi Smith, Director of Athletics Randy Dunn, Vice President for Business and Controller Wade Benson, and Vice President for Planning and Assessment Rosemary Royston--for their tremendous support of our conference*
- The Young Harris Dean of the Division of Fine Arts Ted Whisenhunt, Chair of the Department of Music Sandy Calloway, and Chair of the Department of Theatre Chris Crawford for facilitating our conference*
- The faculty members of the Young Harris College Departments of Music and Theatre for the accommodations they have made for our conference*
- Jim Rauski and the Sodexo Maintenance, Grounds, and Housekeeping Staff for providing pristine grounds and facilities*
- Stuart Miller and the Young Harris College Residence Life Staff for hosting our lunch today in Enotah Hall*
- Sharon Stanton and the Young Harris College Recreation Center Staff for hosting our banquet tonight*
- Cortnie Turnberger and the catering staff of the Young Harris College Dining Hall for providing breakfast, lunch, and dinner for us today*
- The Young Harris College Police for assisting us with parking, taxiing service, and keeping us safe*
- Jonathan Brock and the Young Harris College Bookstore for providing us with a 15% discount and for even being open tomorrow morning for us*
- Young Harris College Administrative Assistant to the Office of Academic Affairs Karen Williams and Young Harris College Administrative Assistant to the Division of Fine Arts Denise Murphy for their tireless efforts in support of our conference*
- Our conference headliners, pedagogue Sam Holland, pianist Alexander Kobrin, commissioned composer Melinda Clark, and duo-organists Ray and Beth Chenault for elevating our conference with their magnificent contributions*
- Maestro Fyodor Cherniavsky, Executive Director Richard Rogers, and the DeKalb Symphony Orchestra for an outstanding concert with our GMTA Student Concerto Winners*
- Cindy DeFoor and the Young Harris College MTNA/GMTA Collegiate Chapter for providing hospitality for the GMTA/MTNA Competitions and the Conference*
- Opus Music for providing our goody bags*

- *Mercier Orchards for donating 28 gallons of apple cider and 250 apples for our conference hospitality and goody bags*
- *The Holiday Inn Express--Hiawassee for serving as our host hotel*
- *David D'Ambrosio, VP/Conference Program, for the many, many hours he has spent in planning and implementing this conference*
- *Donna Trivette, our GMTA Executive Director and conference registrar, for her usual strong service in managing a myriad of details and tasks regarding our conference*
- *Natalie Hardy, Conference Photographer, for visually documenting our conference*
- *The many "Georgia's Own" members who presented at our conference sessions and to the many members who served as presidors during these sessions*
- *Chris Syllaba and Steinway Piano Galleries for providing the Steinway Piano Galleries Educator Grants*
- *Don Bennett of Piano Works for contributing an artist bench/European-style hydraulics bench for the MTNA Foundation Fund drawing*
- *Lyle Indergaard, VP/MTNA Competitions and Rebekah Jones, VP/GMTA Auditions for their untiring service this week*
- *Ashley Craig-Diaz, MTNA Foundation Chair, and Susan Tusing, GMTA Awards Funds Chair, for organizing and implementing outstanding raffles*
- *The students, faculty, and staff of Young Harris College for giving up 99 parking spaces during our conference*

Thank you for all you do to make GMTA the outstanding organization it is. I am proud to be a member of such an outstanding Association, and it has been one of the great honors and privileges of my life to have served as president for the past two years. Thank you for the enormously strong encouragement and support you have given me. I am particularly indebted to the outstanding GMTA officers, chairs, and local association presidents with whom I have served. Their work and sacrifice have made all the difference in moving our association forward. Our Association is very strong, and I look forward to the future as we together continue to advance our beloved Georgia Music Teachers Association.

D. Election of 2012-2014 GMTA Officers
motion: B. White, unanimous approval

E. Announcements

IV. 2012 GMTA Commissioned Composition

Commissioned Work Performance
Melinda Lee Clark, Composer
Raymond and Elizabeth Chenault, Organ Duo

An American Suite for Duo-Organ
(Two Performers, One Console)

Melinda Lee Clark

- I. "On the Road"
- II. "Appalachian Air"
- III. "Two to Tango"
- IV. "Carnival Toccata"

V. Adjournment

motion: C. Hutton, 2nd: J. Klein

President: Dawn McCord dmccord@westga.edu
President-Elect: Robin Engleman englemanr@bellsouth.net
Vice President of Conference: Susan Tusing smtusing@hotmail.com
Vice President of Membership: Julie Soh-Harbin juliesohharbin@yahoo.com
Vice President of Newsletters: Natalie Hardy nataliemhardy88@clear.net
Vice President of GMTA Auditions: Jan Adams jadams9800@bellsouth.net
Vice President of MTNA Competitions: David George dgeorge@white.k12.ga.us
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Member-at-Large: Susan Andrews pianosusan@comcast.net
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Chair-Arts Awareness & Advocacy: Tom Pearsall tompson@georgiasouthern.edu
Chair-Certification: Ashley Craig-Diaz acraigdiaz@aol.com
Chair-College Faculty: Paula Thomas-Lee paulathomas-lee@comcast.net ptl@reinhardt.edu
Chair-Collegiate Chapters: Susan Naylor sen@reinhardt.edu
Chair-Finance/Advisory : Keith DeFoor kdefoor@yhc.edu
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Chair-Independent Music Teachers Forum: Annette Day daystudio@bellsouth.net
Chair-Member Concerns: Betty White bettypiano@comcast.net bettylouw@mindspring.com
Chair-MTNA Foundation: Rwei Hao rhao@bellsouth.net hao8888@mindspring.com
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: Rebekah Jones rebekahhealan@yahoo.com
Auditions Chair Voice [Grades 9-12, College/Adult]: Pat Callaway pat_callaway@bellsouth.net drpat@healthyvoicestudio.com
Auditions Chair Piano 4 & 5: Trudi Norman jwtnorman@att.net
Auditions Chair Piano 6 & 7: Ruth Ann Clark cfracclark@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 jlpiano@aol.com jlpiano@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: Jean Mann
Auditions Organizer Region I Piano Grades 6 & 7: Patti Bennett
Auditions Organizer Region I Piano Grades 8 & 9: Glen Eckman
Auditions Organizer Region I Piano Grades 10 & 11: Priscilla Jefcoat
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: Youmi Nanamori
Auditions Organizer Region II Piano Grades 8 & 9: Edith Sweatman
Auditions Organizer Region II Piano Grades 10 & 11: Diane Boyd
Auditions Coordinator Region III (Columbus, Coweta-Fayette, Macon, South Georgia): Carol Goff goff_cs@mercer.edu
Auditions Organizer Region III Piano Grades 4 & 5: Connie Davis
Auditions Organizer Region III Piano Grades 6 & 7: Ruth Powell
Auditions Organizer Region III Piano Grades 8 & 9: Marie Woodall
Auditions Organizer Region III Piano Grades 10 & 11: Susan McDuffie
Auditions Coordinator Region IV (Decatur, North Fulton, Atlanta, South Metro) : Nancy Dunn ncdunn@bellsouth.net
Auditions Organizer Region IV Piano Grades 4 & 5: Robin Engleman
Auditions Organizer Region IV Piano Grades 6 & 7: Jackie Reed
Auditions Organizer Region IV Piano Grades 8 & 9: Ellen Feibish
Auditions Organizer Region IV Piano Grades 10 & 11: Keiko Ranson

Continued...

Auditions Coordinator Region V (Cobb, Greater Marietta, Rome, Western Georgia): Sandy Yeargan syeargan@shorter.edu
Auditions Organizer Region V Piano Grades 4 & 5: Wayne Gilreath
Auditions Organizer Region V Piano Grades 6 & 7: Bobbie Satterwhite
Auditions Organizer Region V Piano Grades 8 & 9: Joy Poole
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



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Audition dates for Fall Semester 2013:
February 2, March 2
Audition for Instrumental programs:
February 2, February 16 & March 16