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BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A COMMENDATION

WHEREAS: Education in music is basic to the development of an individual's sensitivity, aesthetic awareness and intellectual growth; and

WHEREAS: The Georgia Music Teachers Association (GMTA) is a nonprofit organization of nearly 800 independent and collegiate music teachers throughout the state, who are committed to furthering the art of music through programs that encourage and support teaching, performance, composition and scholarly research; and

WHEREAS: The GMTA has supported music teaching and the art of music since 1954, and on November 3-6, 2004, they will celebrate their 50th anniversary at the organization's annual conference at Brenau University; and

WHEREAS: We appreciate the association's contributions to the culture and education of the State of Georgia; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby thank and commend

THE GEORGIA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

and wish them the best for a memorable and successful event.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 9th day of August, 2004.

[Signature]
GOVERNOR

ATTEST
[Signature]
CHIEF OF STAFF
Professional Musicians Educating Professional Musicians

Kennesaw State University
Department of Music

FACULTY

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Mark Hughes, Trumpet
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Edward Eanes, Violin †
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Lisa Morrison, Violin †
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† Cobb Symphony Orchestra
‡ The Atlanta Opera Orchestra

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Michael Walters
David Watkins

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November 2004

Dear GMTA and NATS members,

Welcome to Brenau University! Brenau is delighted to host your conference this year and honored to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of your association together. Think of the thousands of young musicians who have been influenced by your organizations over the past five decades!

Our work as music educators has become increasingly more challenging over the years! In a society that too often does not value the arts, we all are familiar with parents who do not enforce good practice habits, schools that no longer offer arts curricula, the challenge of shrinking budgets and the disappointment of shrinking audiences. Given the dire state of arts education in many of our areas, I encourage all music teachers to explore ways to partner with the schools. If we all work together to advocate the study of music, we know our communities will be better educated and more enlightened.

I hope the next few days will leave you feeling inspired and refreshed. I also hope that the magnificent surroundings of the Burd Center for the Performing Arts, with all of the extraordinary artwork contained within its walls, will nurture your artistic spirit during your stay with us.

Thank you for your commitment to music education, and congratulations on 50 years of excellence! It is a pleasure to have you here as our guests!

Sincerely,

Dr. Michelle Roueché
Director of Music
mrouech@lib.brenau.edu
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WELCOME!

Welcome to Gainesville and the 2004 GMTA Conference! Planning began nearly two years ago for this conference which commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Association. We thank the faculty and staff of Brenau University for making it possible for us to enjoy the outstanding performing venues and beautiful atmosphere of their campus. Natalie Codelli and local conference chair Judy Thomas have done a tremendous job of planning and handling the minute details of this event. We welcome MTNA Executive Director, Dr. Gary Ingle, the Gwinnett County Youth Symphony, and the exceptional headliners and presenters.

Please express your appreciation to Donna Kirkindoll, hospitality coordinator, and to the members of Athens MTA, North DeKalb MTA, and Gwinnett County MTA for providing the hospitality. GMTA is grateful to the advertisers in the 2004-2005 Directory and the Conference Program and to those businesses and individuals who provided gifts for the conference bags, as well as to the local association members who collected them. Much appreciation goes to the Gainesville ProMusica and Jack Howorth, Executive Director, for co-sponsoring Jose Feghali’s concert and graciously providing the concert programs and hosting the reception following the concert. GMTA is indebted to Dr. Gregg Codelli, FJH Music Company, and Steinway Piano Galleries for their generous gifts which helped make this extraordinary conference a reality. A special thank you goes to Donna Trivette for her assistance in preparing for this conference and her service as conference registrar.

May you be inspired and motivated by the exciting concerts, outstanding sessions, interesting exhibits, and opportunities to interact with colleagues that this conference offers. Let us celebrate the Association’s many achievements over the past 50 years and recognize the impact that GMTA continues to make on music teaching in our state.

Susan Andrews  
President  
Georgia Music Teachers Association
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Audition dates:
November 13, 2004   February 12, 2005
January 22, 2005    March 19, 2005

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GMTA Presidents
Not pictured: Walter Westafer 1956-58, Louise Harwell Rogers 1959-60

Michael McDowell
1954-56

William Weaver
1958-59

Elizabeth Buday
1960-62

Despy Karlas
1962-63

Hilda Gervers
1963-64

Troupe Harris, Jr.
1964-66

Nona Randall
1966-67

Jack Broucek
1967-68

Naegeli Von Bergen
1968-69
GMTA Presidents

Eloy Fominaya  
1969-71

Kenneth Baumgardner  
1971-72

John Anderson  
1972-74

James Galloway  
1974-76

L. Rexford Whiddon  
1976-78

Betty Nolting  
1978-80

Janet R. Robinson  
1982-84

Dr. R. Wayne Gibson  
1982-84

Aurelia Campbell  
1984-86
GMTA Presidents

Dr. Tommy Joe Anderson
1986-88

Fran Thrailkill
1988-90

Joe Chapman
1990-92

Julie Kirksey
1992-94

David Watkins
1994-96

Betty White
1996-98

Joseph Hokayem
1998-2000

Susan Naylor
2000-02

Susan Andrews
2002-04
2004 GMTA Conference Program
Brenau University, Gainesville, GA

Thursday, November 4, 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 12:00 - 4:30 pm | Registration & Exhibits  
Donna Trivette, Registrar                                     | Lobby, Pearce Auditorium          |
| 2:00 - 4:30 pm  | Hospitality                                                      | Presidents Gallery (2nd floor)    |
| 1:00 - 2:30 pm  | How to Practice as Little as Possible  
(and Get Big Results)  
Suzanne Guy                          | Pearce Auditorium                |
| 2:45 - 4:15 pm  | The Expressive Elements in Interpretation  
Suzanne Guy                           | Pearce Auditorium                |
| 4:30-6:00 pm    | GMTA/MTNA Winners’ Recital and  
Presentation of 2004 Steinway Grant Recipients  
                                | Pearce Auditorium                |
| 8:15 pm         | Conference Opening Concert  
Gwinnett County Youth Symphony Orchestra  
Catherine Hudnall and Carl Rieke, conductors  
Jennifer Huang, pianist               | Pearce Auditorium                |

Friday, November 5, 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 am - 4:30 pm</td>
<td>Registration &amp; Exhibits</td>
<td>Lobby, Pearce Auditorium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 - 11:30 am</td>
<td>Hospitality</td>
<td>Presidents Gallery (2nd floor)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 9:00 - 9:50 am  | Teaching Piano Technique to the  
Advancing Student  
Dr. Richard Mercier                       | Pearce Auditorium                |
| 10:00 - 10:50 am | Theodor Leschetizky: Pedagogue and Composer  
Dr. Clara Park                      | Pearce Auditorium                |
| 10:00 - 10:50 am | The Music of John Robert Poe: a Tribute  
presented by members of Columbus MTA  
Jean Wright and Kathy Morris, presiding | Thurmond-McRae Lecture Hall       |
| 11:00 - 11:50 am | Behind the Scenes: The Anatomy of  
a Successful Performance  
Dr. William DeVan                     | Pearce Auditorium                |
| 1:00 - 3:00 pm  | NATS Master Class  
William Fred Scott, Clinician                                | Thurmond-McRae Lecture Hall       |
<p>| 2:00 - 4:30 pm  | Hospitality                                                      | Presidents Gallery                |</p>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2:00 - 3:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>GMTA General Session and Annual Business Meeting</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Susan Andrews, GMTA President, presiding</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Honorable George Wagemann, Mayor of Gainesville</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Michelle Roueché, Director of Music, Brenau University</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annual Business Meeting and President's Report</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Greetings from MTNA - Dr. Gary Ingle, MTNA Executive Director</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Performance of Commissioned Composition</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Secret Music</em> for viola and percussion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nick Demos, Composer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tania Maxwell-Clements, viola</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Stuart Gerber, percussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:15 - 3:45 pm</td>
<td><strong>Organ Recital</strong></td>
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<td>Dr. Pierce Dickens</td>
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<td>3:30 - 5:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>NATS</strong></td>
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<td>William Fred Scott, Clinician</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 - 5:15 pm</td>
<td><strong>GMTA Auditions Recital</strong>, College Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>50th Anniversary Celebration Banquet</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Susan Andrews, GMTA President, presiding</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Introduction of Guests</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Recognition of GMTA Past Presidents and 50 Year Members</td>
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<td>Presentation of 2004 GMTA Teacher of the Year by Tom Pearsall</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Introduction of Gary Ingle by Wayne Gibson</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Keynote Address, Dr. Gary Ingle, Executive Director of MTNA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Installation of 2004-06 GMTA Officers</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:15 pm</td>
<td><strong>GMTA Conference Recital</strong></td>
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<td>José Feghali, Guest Artist</td>
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**Saturday, November 6, 2004**

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<td>Registration &amp; Exhibits</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 am - 12:15 pm</td>
<td>Hospitality</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 - 11:00 am</td>
<td><strong>GMTA Master Class</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>José Feghali, Clinician</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 - 11:15 am</td>
<td><strong>NATS Master Class</strong></td>
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<td>Dr. Rachel Lebon, Clinician</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15 am - 12:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>GMTA Auditions Recital #1 - Pre-college Level</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 am - 1:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>NATS Master Class</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dr. Rachel Lebon, Clinician</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15 - 1:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>GMTA Auditions Recital #2 - Pre-college Level</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>GMTA Awards &amp; MTNA Foundation Drawings</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Closing Remarks &amp; Adjournment</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:15 pm</td>
<td><strong>GMTA Executive Board Meeting</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Certification Testing</strong></td>
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November 2004
José Feghali, the gold medal winner at the Seventh Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, is the guest artist for GMTA's 50th Anniversary Celebration. Mr. Feghali, a native of Brazil, made his concert recital debut at age five and his concerto debut three years later with the Brazilian Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Feghali has emerged as a major presence on the concert stage, having appeared in over 800 performances worldwide. These include concerts with such renowned orchestras as the Berlin Philharmonic, the Chicago, Saint Louis, and National Symphony Orchestras among others throughout Europe and the United States. Mr. Feghali is Artist-in-Residence at Texas Christian University and is a Steinway Artist. He will be performing works by Debussy, Mozart, Schumann, and Villa-Lobos for GMTA's anniversary conference.

Suzanne Guy will present two pedagogy sessions on Thursday. “How to Practice as Little as Possible (and Get Big Results)” will discuss the time crunches of teachers, students and parents in the 21st century. Handouts include a page for Instant Improvement, a practice outline and a worksheet for students. “The Expressive Elements in Interpretation” is a creative and fascinating exploration of expression in 12 steps and deals with teaching students to play with feeling based on much more than instinct. Ms. Guy holds MTNA master teacher certification, and her studio is located in Norfolk, Virginia. She has authored or co-authored two dozen books about music and music teaching, including the popular series published by FJH, Expressive Etudes and Focus on Melody (co-authored by Victoria McArthur). A graduate of Agnes Scott College, she has taught piano pedagogy at Peabody Conservatory and George Mason University. She has also written a regular column in Clavier magazine for 16 years. In 2003, Agnes Scott College honored Ms. Guy with their Outstanding Career Award given for 40 years of excellence.

Dr. Richard Mercier will present “Teaching Piano Technique to the Advancing Student”. Dr. Mercier states that “one of the greatest challenges we face as piano teachers concerns technique. How do we safely and systematically move our students from beginning level through intermediate and on to advanced literature without injury?” In his presentation he will examine some basic concepts which can lead to a better understanding of musical freedom at the piano without the unnecessary consequences that result from a less informed approach.

Dr. Richard Mercier has earned a reputation for his beautiful piano tone, dynamic flexibility, and fluid technique. He is regularly asked to conduct master classes, adjudicate, and recommend literature for students. Each year at GC&SU in Milledgeville he serves as coordinator of the Central Georgia Junior Piano Olympics, a competition for middle and high school pianists. Before joining the faculty at GC&SU, Mercier taught at California State University, Hayward and at the Hartt School of Music. Author of “The Songs of Hans Pfitzner” (Greenwood Press, 1998), Dr. Mercier is currently preparing “The Songs of Max Reger.”
Dr. Clara Park will present "Theodor Leschetizky: Pedagogue and Composer". This session will discuss the impact of Theodor Leschetizky as a legendary piano pedagogue and musician at the turn of the twentieth century. His teaching philosophy and the famous "Leschetizky Method" will be examined through writings and recordings of his remarkable pupils. Leschetizky's reputation as a composer of dozens of piano miniatures is less known, and several of his compositions will be performed and reviewed for both their unique effectiveness as concert works and their pedagogic value.

Dr. Park has received international acclaim as both soloist and chamber musician. With the release of her solo compact disc "Piano Music of Theodor Leschetizky", she has received critical praise for her artistry and commitment to undiscovered piano repertoire. Dr. Park has performed most recently a recital at the Dame Myra Hess Recital Series in Chicago. Presently, she is on the faculty at Augusta State University where she teaches piano, theory, and humanities.

Dr. William DeVan will present "Behind the Scenes: The Anatomy of a Successful Performance". He will discuss the effect of tempo on mental activity and development of the proper sense of alertness during a public performance as well as musical, aesthetic, technical and psychological issues that are factored into playing before an audience. Dr. DeVan received his Bachelors and Masters degrees from The Juilliard School, where he studied with Ania Dorfmann. DeVan won first prize in the international piano competition "Vianna da Motta" in Lisbon, Portugal in 1975. He has appeared in numerous concerts in the U.S., Europe, and elsewhere abroad.

Dr. DeVan has been head of the piano faculty at Birmingham-Southern College since 1980. In 2000, he began a series of concerts titled "Classics for Children" in Birmingham, Alabama. Also in 2000, he was named Artist-in-Residence at Birmingham-Southern College. In June 2004 he was named "Teacher of the Year" by the Alabama Music Teachers Association at their annual convention and is a Steinway Artist.

Members of the Columbus MTA will present a "Tribute to Composer John Robert Poe", a longtime member who recently passed away in February 2004. Mr. Poe composed many pedagogical collections for young students who have enjoyed his pieces throughout the years. In addition to private teaching, Mr. Poe taught piano and theory at Muscogee Music Conservatory, and held positions as choir director and organist for several churches in Georgia. In addition to being active in the Columbus MTA, Mr. Poe served as an adjudicator for student festivals and competitions throughout the United States. Members Kathy Morris and Jean Wright, co-chairs of the session, with Barbara Korzan, Sandra Kinsaul, Luis May, and Cherry Kersey, will present this session featuring the life's work and insights of their friend and colleague. Marjorie Poe, the wife of the late composer, also assisted in the presentation.
The commissioned work for GMTA’s 50th anniversary conference is entitled “Secret Music” for viola and vibraphone by Dr. Nickitas J. Demos. The inspiration for the piece comes from Dr. Demos’ six-year old daughter, Eleni. After her first encounter with opera, Eleni soon began singing in her own secret language which Demos suspects was her attempt to imitate Italian. The piece is based upon the rhythms generated by her secret language which inspired the title, “Secret Music.” Dr. Demos believes the subject matter is appropriate for performance at the GMTA Conference because it demonstrates the great power of music over children and the great joy (and responsibility) we as educators have in guiding them so that they always retain the exuberance of their early years. The performers are Stuart Gerber, Coordinator of Percussion Studies and Tania Maxwell-Clements, Viola Instructor, both from the School of Music at Georgia State University. Demos holds a DMA in Composition from the Cleveland Institute of Music and Case Western Reserve University, a MM from Indiana University and BM from North Carolina in Chapel Hill. His music has received performances by the Cleveland and Philadelphia Orchestras in addition to symphonies and music ensembles around the U.S. He currently is the Coordinator of Composition Studies at Georgia State University.

Dr. Pierce Dickens, Assistant Professor of Music at Brewton-Parker College, will perform an organ recital featuring works by J.S. Bach, Mendelssohn, and Marcel Dupré. He received his BA in Music Education from Brewton-Parker College, an MM in Piano Performance from Georgia State University, and his DMA in Organ Performance from the University of Alabama.

Now in his eighteenth year as a member of the music faculty of Brewton-Parker College, he teaches Piano, Organ, and Music Theory, accompanies the College Choral Society, and coordinates the Dennis and Quinelle Sikes Fine Arts Series. He is active as a church musician, clinician and an accompanist and also serves as organist for the First Baptist Church of Augusta, Georgia. He has a collection of hymn arrangements for organ, Praise To The Lord, The Almighty, published by Lillenas and was honored as Brewton-Parker College’s Teacher of the Year in 2003.

William Fred Scott will serve as NATS clinician on Friday during the conference. Over the past three decades the professional career of Mr. Scott has become as known for its vitality and variety as for his own personal commitment to the arts and the community. Scott came to The Atlanta Opera in 1985, and under his artistic direction the company became one of the fastest-growing opera companies in the United States. As Richard Dyer, esteemed music critic of The Boston Globe has written, “In Scott’s hands, The Atlanta Opera has prospered – an annual budget has grown from $350,000 to $5.2 million.” After he graduated cum laude from Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service, Maestro Scott moved to Boston to become associate conductor and artistic administrator of the Opera Company of Boston. He remained with the company from 1975 to 1981. During his tenure in Boston, Mr. Scott was invited by Robert Shaw to serve as associate conductor of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.
Dr. Rachel L. Lebon received BM and MME degrees from North Texas State University and a PhD from the University of Miami. Lebon was previously on the faculty of Belmont College, Nashville, Tennessee and is currently Professor of Music (Jazz Voice) at the University of Miami.

Performance tours include worldwide with the Air Force "Tops in Blue," as well as in an official U.S. State Department Tour of the U.S.S.R. Her professional activities include club engagements, industrial shows, television specials, studio recording and back-up vocals in the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex, Nashville, and Miami.

Additionally, Dr. Lebon has also performed as a classical vocalist, performing oratorio and choral works, as well as with the Nashville Opera Quartet. She has also premiered music by contemporary composers, including Kevin Hiatt and Richard Landry. Dr. Lebon is an active clinician worldwide and is a member of the Professional Voice Institute, an interdisciplinary team devoted to the treatment of vocal disorders. Her articles have been published in the Journal of the National Association of Teachers of Singing. She is the author of the book entitled The Professional Vocalist: A Handbook for Commercial Singers and Teachers published by Scarecrow Press. Her jazz CD entitled Voicings has just been released.

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A Short History of the Georgia Music Teachers Association
written by Michael McDowell
on September 28, 1978

The history of the Georgia Music Teachers Association actually began with a letter from Duane Haskell, Chairman of the States and Divisions for Music Teachers National Association, to Michael McDowell, Chairman of the Department of Music, Agnes Scott College. The letter was a request that Mr. McDowell accept the responsibility of organizing a Georgia Music Teachers Association which would be affiliated with the national association. According to the letter, this was not the first attempt to organize such a group. After the responsibility was accepted, there were a number of letters exchanged to explain the work and to offer suggestions about how to begin. Since Mr. McDowell was not a member of MTNA and had no knowledge of its workings there was much to be learned. Mr. Hugh Hodgson, Head of the Department of Music at the University of Georgia and a member of MTNA already, was helpful also. Between them, it was agreed that Mr. McDowell would send out letters to a large group of teachers to generate some publicity and that Mr. Hodgson would provide a constitution for the association.

The organizational meeting took place at a dinner held at the Georgian Hotel in Athens on April 9, 1954, with Mr. McDowell presiding as chairman of the group. There were thirty-five teachers present.

The first subject to be dealt with was the adoption of a constitution. The constitution presented was the actual work of Dr. Barrett Stoup, of Louisiana State University, who was also a past president of MTNA. With a number of changes, duly voted upon, the constitution was adopted. The report of the nominating committee announced Mr. Hodgson as the choice for president. Mr. Hodgson, however, refused to allow his name to be placed in nomination. Nominations from the floor followed, and Mr. Michael McDowell was elected as GMTA's first state president.

The constitution provided that at least one business meeting must be held each year, either as a part of the conference or held separately, and plans were immediately begun to organize a conference. The first annual conference was held in January of 1955 at Agnes Scott College. Without much knowledge and experience for guidance, it is significant that the format of activity was something of a model for later conferences. Registration began on Sunday, January 23 in the lobby of Presser Hall, followed by a reception sponsored by the Decatur Music Teachers Association. The activity for the day ended with a program of music performed by the
Agnes Scott Music Department faculty and the Agnes Scott Glee Club. On Monday, January 24, the opening session in Maclean Auditorium included a welcome address by Dr. Wallace Alston, president of Agnes Scott College. Guest artists included Dr. Edwin Gerschefski, Beverly Wolff Dwiggin, and Robert Harrison. The conference came to a close with a banquet at the Candler Hotel in Decatur, with the Atlanta Music Teachers Association as sponsors and the Atlanta Symphony String Quartet providing a musical program.

At the MTNA conference held in St. Louis, Missouri, during March of 1955, the Southern Division of MTNA was organized. Michael McDowell was elected president and plans were immediately begun for a conference in Atlanta. The conference was actually held in January of 1956 at the Atlanta Biltmore Hotel. Every effort was made to get GMTA members to attend. At the January 1956 meeting of GMTA, the first of many constitutional amendments was made. Instead of having one vice-president, the amendment called for three vice-presidents: Vice-President of Program, Vice-President of Membership, and Vice-President of Publicity. It was understood from the beginning that the Vice-President of Program was next in succession to the presidency and for many years it was so considered, until the 1970's when the office of president-elect was instituted. It was also decided at this meeting that a November conference date was preferable to a January date. This decision has been followed to the present day.

The third conference was held in Columbus in November of 1956, with headquarters at the Ralston Hotel. The fact that two conferences occurred in 1956 was the result of the decision to have annual meetings in November. GMTA immediately began to see the advantage of holding conferences on college campuses where better facilities, especially pianos, were available and where costs were less. Under the leadership of the new president, William Weaver, Agnes Scott College was chosen as the conference location for 1958, and Wesleyan College was chosen for 1959. It was here that, for the first time, the Georgia Association of Teachers of Singing was invited to hold their annual meetings with GMTA, a custom that has prevailed many times in the intervening years.
Louise Harwell had been elected president at the Wesleyan conference but, because she had moved out of state, was unable to serve as president. Her unexpired term was filled by Elizabeth Buday.

The idea of certification of music teachers had been creating a lot of interest in the music field. The subject took concrete form by the joint action of GMTA and GMEA. Those instrumental in drawing up the details of organization were: Jack Broucek, Troupe Harris, Michael McDowell, Despy Karlas and Timothy Miller. The program was known as "Recognition of Merit". The first year of awards was 1963, and a large number of applications were received. Forty-eight Certificates of Merit were awarded that year and thirty the following year.

The tenth anniversary conference was held at the University of Georgia in November of 1963 with Despy Karlas presiding. An interesting part of the program was a lecture-demonstration of Electronic Music by Otto Luening, one of the world-renowned figures in this field. The twelfth conference was held as a part of the Southern Division conference at the Dinkler-Plaza Hotel in Atlanta in March 1966. Again, GMTA held a second conference in one year and in 1966, the thirteenth conference took place at Wesleyan College, with Troupe Harris as president. A constitutional amendment was passed at this conference which included all Local Association presidents on the Executive Board.

The newly-elected president was Nona Randall, who presided at our fourteenth conference at Brenau College in November of 1967. Mrs. Randall noted in her remarks at the general session that GMTA had passed the 300-member mark. As early as the GMTA conference in 1957, pre-conference programs were presented by student performers. These provided talented students with a chance to perform before a critical audience and to demonstrate the quality of piano instruction in the state. From these beginnings have come the elaborate and comprehensive student performances which have been going on for many years. Preliminary auditions are held earlier in the year and a selected group is presented at the conference.

Mrs. Naegeli von Bergen Metcalf was the GMTA State President when the sixteenth conference was held at Augusta College in November of 1969. It
was at an Executive Board meeting in May of 1969 that GMTA authorized a $50 commission, to be matched by an equal amount from MTNA, and it has become a part of most conference programs, known as the GMTA/MTNA Commissioned Composition. At this time there were eleven Local Associations in GMTA: Athens, Atlanta, Cobb County, Columbus, Decatur, Rome, Southwest, Statesboro, North DeKalb, Valdosta and the newly formed Northeast Georgia chapter. A constitutional amendment had been passed which made the auditions chairman a member of the Executive Board.

The seventeenth conference in 1970 was held at Valdosta State College with President Eloy Fominaya presiding. The membership at this time stood at 405 regular members and 37 student members. Dr. Fominaya announced that GMTA was now incorporated as an Association. During Dr. Fominaya’s second term in office, a constitutional amendment was passed which extended the terms of president, president-elect, secretary and treasurer to two years. The three vice-president offices remained at one year.

Because of elaborate preparations for the MTNA conference in Atlanta in 1977, GMTA held no conference in 1976. The great efforts for the national conference, however, were worthwhile. The MTNA conference was very well attended, and the program and lecturer were excellent. Local chairman, Anna Margaret Baxter, did a very skillful job of seeing that the complex activity of a national conference worked smoothly.

During GMTA’s twenty-third conference, President Rexford Whiddon paid tribute to past presidents of GMTA, many of whom were present. Each was given a plaque with name and date of presidency. The twenty-fourth conference was again at Columbus College in November of 1977. President Whiddon announced that the certification program had been enlarged to include certification in nearly all fields of music, very much in the manner of MTNA. With many accomplishments, GMTA was in a good position to face its 25th Anniversary and to begin its march toward its 50th.

Because it has never been afraid to try new ideas or to discard old ones which are no longer useful, because it has held its eyes in the direction of improving music-teaching and stimulating the minds of music teachers, GMTA has survived its first quarter-century in healthy condition. It has not tried to impose goals that were unattainable, and it has never aspired to be exclusive. The association of teachers with each other, helping each other in solving problems which are common to us all and drawing strength from united efforts, all of this is what gives GMTA a promising future.

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