



AMTA Newsletter

May 2012

Save the Date! *

May 18, 2012, 10am
Presentation and Master Class
by David Kalhous
Cooper Pianos

**Visit www.atlmta.org for a complete list of dates*

Message from the President

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the last month of the school year! It has been an exciting nine months and I am sure you are all ready for the summer break. Congratulations to all winners and participants in the GMTA Spring Auditions and big thank you to all the teachers who facilitated the event!

Our last meeting/presentation for the year will take place on May 18, starting at 10am with a business meeting. At 10:30am we welcome Dr. David Kalhous from Florida State University who will give a presentation followed by a masterclass to students of AMTA teachers. I will be accepting applications until May 6. Please email me with details regarding your student age and repertoire.

Our dear colleague Shirley Irek will be performing Beethoven's triple concerto on Sunday, May 13 at 4pm at the Peachtree Presbyterian Church in a concert led by director Juan R. Ramírez. I hope you all plan on attending and supporting Shirley!

As this year comes to an end I would like to welcome members who are willing to contribute their time and efforts to the AMTA board. I am celebrating my last month of AMTA's President and feel ready to pass on the baton to another wonderful member. We will discuss nominations for President as well as other positions at our meeting on May 18. Please email me in advance if you would like to become more involved in our community of musicians!

Best,

Elena Cholakova, AMTA President

SENIOR CERTIFICATES WILL BE GIVEN OUT AT OUR MAY MEETING**Lecture and Master Class by Florida State's David Kalhous**

Friday, May 18, 2012, 10:30a

Cooper Pianos



Please join us for our final gathering of the year! David Kalhous will be joining us from Florida State University and offer us a presentation followed by a master class with performances by AMTA students.

David Kalhous is increasingly gaining recognition in the United States and Europe for his wide-ranging repertoire and adventurous programming spanning more than three centuries. He has appeared as a soloist with Prague Symphony Orchestra FOK, Prague Philharmonia, Israel Symphony Orchestra, Moravian Philharmonic, Chamber Philharmonia Pardubice, West-Bohemia Symphony Orchestra, Northwestern New Music Ensemble, and Plzeň Philharmonic, among others. As a recitalist and a chamber musician, he performed at the Prague Spring Festival, Gilmore Keyboard Festival, Czech Philharmonic Chamber Music Series, Czech Radio's Studio Live Rising Stars Series, and at Tel-Aviv, Northwestern and Yale Universities.

He has recorded for Czech Radio and Television, and has written, produced, and hosted programs devoted to piano music for Prague's Classic FM Radio. Czech Television produced and showed a feature film about David Kalhous. His new CD will feature the complete piano works of Leoš Janáček.

David Kalhous' interest in new music has resulted in collaboration with many composers who have dedicated works to him. He gave the debut performance of Ligeti's piano *Études* and Feldman's *For Bunita Marcus* in Prague.

David Kalhous studied at the Prague Conservatory with Jaroslav Čermák. He subsequently attended Hochschule für Musik in Vienna, Rubin Academy of Music at Tel-Aviv University, and Yale University, and studied with Paul Badura Skoda, Emil Leichner, Victor Derevianko, David Northington, and Peter Frankl. He also worked with Jerome Lowenthal at the Music Academy of the West. David Kalhous is completing a DMA at Northwestern University, working with Ursula Oppens. He previously taught at Texas Tech University School of Music.

Submit your AMTA newsletter article to: mary@marywilliamspianostudio.com



Rising Star

Submitted by AMTA member, Shirley Irek

Alice Barbe and Riley Osborn, students of Shirley Irek, won the Rising Star competition. As a result they will perform the 2nd and 3rd movements of the Mozart Two Piano Concerto, K. 365 with the Gwinnett Symphony Orchestra on May 15, 2012.

Upcoming Studio Recitals

Elena Cholakova will be holding her Studio Recital on Saturday, June 2, 3pm at Steinway Gallery in Alpharetta.

Mary Williams Piano Studio's annual Spring Recital will take place at Holy Trinity Parish on Sunday, May 13 at 3pm. The program will include beginners to early advanced students performing standard repertoire, original compositions and arrangements, pop, and piano duets.

Local Auditions : Results

Submitted by AMTA member, Anne Sun

AMTA Local 2012 Auditions had 74 participating students and eleven teachers. Congratulations to the winners listed below:

4th GRADE

Jason Guo	Elena Cholakova
Ilaina Kim	Hwee Bon Ng
Ava Posner	Mary Williams
Kelly Mi	Anne Sun
Julia Chang	Anne Sun
Maggie Xia	Anne Sun
Jessica Pan	Raisa Issacs
Vivia Lung	Frederick Hsiang

5th GRADE

Nathan Tioe	Hwee Bon Ng
Yuy Hsiang	Frederick Hsiang
Angela Cheng	Elena Cholakova
Karen Cheng	Anne Sun
David Zhang	Anne Sun

6th GRADE

Grace Wei	Ping Xu
Angela Zhang	Ping Xu
Dustin Yu	Hwee Bon Ng
Ansley Tiarn	Anne Sun
Brianna Hou	Anne Sun

7th GRADE

Felicia Guo	Elena Cholakova
Julia Xiang	Ping Xu
Bennett Zhu	Ping Xu
Emily Gu	Raisa Issacs
Michael Chen	Frederick Hsiang
Evan Mi	Anne Sun
Anthony Zhang	Anne Sun
Elyna Zhang	Anne Sun

8th GRADE

Ashley Catanzarite	Nancy Elton
Laura Street	Nancy Elton
David Zhao	Elena Cholakova
Vivian Cheng	Elena Cholakova
Richard Pei	Ping Xu

9th GRADE

Luka Marinkovic	Janice Broadhurst
Jewon Hwang	Elena Cholakova
Patricia Lin	Edith Schiff
Catherine Xie	Ping Xu
Matthew Chen	Anne Sun

10th GRADE

Nicolas Perry	Frederick Hsiang
Michelle Zhang	Nancy Elton
Meghna Rao	Raisa Issacs
Nanthan Li	Elena Cholakova
William Yang	Ping Xu

11th GRADE

Jenny Guo	Frederick Hsiang
Annie Wang	Elena Cholakova
Kristina Pavlova	Elena Cholakova
Frank Chen	Elena Cholakova
Jennifer Li	Ping Xu

12th GRADE

Alice Guo	Raisa Issacs
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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:
Highlighted names reflect those AMTA students awarded Concert Recitalist at GMTA Auditions. For a full list of GMTA results, please visit www.georgiamta.org

Revised State Auditions : *A Message From GMTA President, Keith DeFoor*

Dear Colleagues,

Please see the important announcement below regarding the GMTA Auditions. Many thanks are extended to the Ad Hoc Committee on State Auditions for their extensive work for the past year in studying the Auditions and making recommendations regarding how best to structure the Auditions going forward. The members of the Committee are Rebekah Jones (Chair), Jan Adams, Glen Eckman, Kevin Hampton George Mann, Jason Bennett (Theory Advisor), and Dawn McCord (Ex Officio).

Sincerely,

Keith DeFoor, NCTM

Revisions to the GMTA Auditions were unanimously approved by the Executive Board on Saturday, April 21, 2012. The revisions grew out of the growing difficulty of securing available sites for holding Auditions at the state level. Facility requirements for so many students have made it very difficult for institutions to accommodate our needs. The possibility of having no facility in which to hold auditions is evident. In 2012, GMTA members were asked in a survey for suggestions and ideas for addressing concerns while maintaining the procedures that are so important to the success of GMTA Auditions. From survey results, changes were proposed that could better promote the goals of our membership and students, while addressing the critical concern of facility requirements at the state level. The approved revisions provide GMTA with the opportunity to strengthen the auditions event across the state for more students while lowering the impact of an unwieldy event at the state level.

From the state survey, many teachers supported the organizational change of having regionals. They were also supportive of including a theory component. Revisions to be implemented include adding a layer of Regional Auditions between our current levels of Local and State Auditions and implementing a required theory component for pre-college piano students (Grades 4-12 and Piano Concerto only). This theory component will not be instituted until 2013-2014, giving everyone time to prepare. More information on this is shared at the end of this letter.

The purpose of the revision is two-fold. Regional Auditions will provide the opportunity for GMTA to enrich the musical experience for more students beyond their local chapter, while reducing the number of students that would be participating at the State Auditions. By emphasizing the importance of a very basic proficiency in music theory, we are equipping our students with a foundation that will enable them to continue to have music as a part of their lives well into the future, and not just during their performing years. GMTA is very excited to offer our students the challenge of taking their musicianship to a higher level.

Regions (Pre-College Piano Grades 4-11 only) have been designated by geographical location, with an effort made to spread out the population of students when possible. In addition to geographical considerations, the number of students currently participating in Auditions guided the region assignments. A maximum of 10 students per grade level may be sent to Regionals from each local chapter. This will ensure that the maximum number of students participating at a regional event will be 320. This number is not likely to be reached in the near future based on research of the past three years, but this leveled organization will allow room for growth.

Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5
Cherokee	Athens	Columbus	Atlanta	Cobb
Gwinnett	Augusta	Coweta-Fayette	Decatur	Greater Marietta
North DeKalb	Golden Isles	Macon	North Fulton	Rome
Northeast Georgia	Savannah	South Georgia	South Metro	Western Georgia

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

State Auditions will be split back into two weekends. One weekend will be Pre-College Piano Grades 4-12 and Concerto. The other weekend will be College Piano, Voice, Brass/Woodwinds, Strings, and Guitar.

This arrangement allows the same orchestra representative to be involved with the concerto winner selection. This also allows the event to be Saturdays only, which should alleviate the imposition on classes at the facilities hosting the event. If by chance one institution could not host us for both weekends, two different institutions could be scheduled to host the event.

Revised State Auditions : *A Message From GMTA President, Keith Defoor, continued.*

PROPOSED TIMELINE OF EVENTS for 2013 (this is still in development based on facilities):

February Local Auditions (Must happen prior to February 25, 2013)
Postmark Deadline for Regional Auditions would be February 25, 2013

March Regional Auditions (No later than March 16, 2013)
Postmark Deadline for State remains March 18, 2013

April State Auditions (April 13 & 20, 2013)

Local and Regional Auditions are for Pre-College Piano Grades 4-11 only. All other grade levels and events will compete at the State Auditions.

Fees:

- Local fees could remain as they are. Any local fee charged is the decision of local chapters.
- There will be only one fee for Regional/State Auditions. A fee of \$25 will be charged per student. The teacher fee of \$20 will remain the same. Students going to state would not be charged an additional fee.

Georgia Auditions Theory Examination (GATE):

The GATE will have three levels: GATEA, GATEB, GATEC. There will be a \$10.00 fee each time a student takes a test. Although these tests roughly parallel the existing GMTA Theory Tests Levels I, II, and III, the tests will have modifications that focus on basic theory foundations and a shorter test-taking time. GATEs are generally easier. GATEA and GATEB will be multiple-choice to facilitate grading. GATEC will be mostly multiple choice with limited handwritten notation answers. There will be no ear-training component for the GATE, and GATE will not take the place of the GMTA Theory Exams that will still be offered as a separate GMTA event. A variety of procedures are being considered such as developing a web-based test, exemptions, and testing centers.

Feedback will be solicited on procedures prior to implementation.

Important Schedule of GMTA Theory Examination (GATE) Implementation

- 2013 GATE will be in the planning stage. There will be NO GATE during 2013 GMTA Auditions
- 2014 All auditionees will be required to take the appropriate GATE level and they will receive scores but it will not be part of the selection process for promotion to 2014 Regional Events?
- 2015 Full implementation of GATE. To be eligible to progress to the Regional Event, all students must earn a given score on the GATE as well as being selected based on their performance.

This plan has made every attempt to solve current challenges while strengthening what continues to be a wonderful event for our students and profession. The exciting outcome is that this will take a great event and make it shine for even more students. As you make plans this summer to select music for your students to participate in GMTA Auditions, you will continue to do the fine work and preparation you have always done knowing that we will have Regional Winners as well as State Winners in 2013.

2013 Romantic Competition and Festival

Sunday, October 28, 2013, Southern Pianos

It's that time of year to begin prepping your students for our annual **Romantic Competition and Festival**. This year's event is expanding to offer an Impressionistic Music subcategory, and, thanks to the great number of participants in years past, we are offering additional monetary prizes at each level.

There's more info to come! Stay tuned to the website for additional details: www.atlmta.org