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Michigan Music Teachers Association

Founded in 1885

Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association

134th State Conference



October 6-8, 2019

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Michigan Music Teachers Association

AFFILIATED WITH THE MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOUNDED IN 1885

October 6, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings and welcome to the 134th Michigan Music Teachers State Conference! I am so pleased that we can all be together here in Lansing to experience the professional development opportunities presented this year. This conference has been planned and organized with you in mind, and I am confident that we will leave on Tuesday afternoon with new ideas, new friendships, and renewed energy for our teaching year.

MMTA is here for you, and has been for over 134 years! A full itinerary has been planned for our short time together so please read through the program and plan to attend as many events as possible. This conference also serves as the site for our annual fall meeting, thus we value your participation and hope that you will attend the two short business meetings.

A big thank you to our Vice President, Béatrice Ellis, for pulling together this Conference. She, along with many hard-working members, Lester Castellana, Gaye Thomas, Elena Tsai, Cynthia Dahlgren as well as Alix Jenkins, have worked diligently to make this Conference the best one yet! Also, I would like to extend a special thanks to the membership of the Capital Area Music Teachers Association for hosting our state Conference — it is no small task.

Lastly, we hope you can enjoy, relax, and catch up with your colleagues and meet new people during the Conference. Thank you for your continued membership and support of the Michigan Music Teachers Association.

Best,

Lia Jensen-Abbott

Lia Jensen-Abbott
President

Alternate: Sappirus Quartet Teacher, Timothy McAllister
Chad Lilley, Soprano
Andrew Hasher, Alto
Connor O'Toole, Tenor
Matthew Koester, Baritone

Honorable Mention: Kynetik Teacher, Joseph Lulloff
Jeffery Leung, Baritone
Connor Mikula, Soprano
Evan Harris, Tenor
Tyler Young, Alto

Honorable Mention: Conviviality Trio Teacher, Kenneth Kroesche
Amy Ige, Piano
Brendan Ige, Tuba
James Long, Euphonium

Mary Ann Anschutz, Composition Coordinator

Karen Feilla, Junior Division Coordinator

Steven Mastrogiocomo, Senior Division Coordinator

Ruth Goveia, Young Artist Division Coordinator

Matthew Younglove, Chamber Ensemble Coordinator

Woodwind:

Winner: Dylan Taipalus, Saxophone Teacher, Matthew Younglove
Allternate, Jacob Feldman, Saxophone Teacher, Joseph Lulloff

Young Artist Division

Brass:

Winner: Brandon Thibault, Tuba Teacher, Kenneth Kroesche
Alternate: Austin DeDalis, Trombone Teacher, Kenneth Kroesche
Honorable Mention: John Anderson Teacher, Kenneth Kroesche

Piano:

Winner: Xiaoya Liu Teacher, Christopher Harding
Alternate: Jingjing Wan Teacher, Christopher Harding
Honorable Mention: Robert Levinger Teacher, Logan Skelton
Honorable Mention: Rong Sui Teacher, Christopher Harding

String:

Winner: Andrew Gagi, Cello Teacher, Bruce Uchimura
Alternate: Xinyu Zhu, Violin Teacher, Fangye Sun

Woodwind:

Winner: Connor O’Toole, Saxophone Teacher, Timothy McAllister
Alternate: Andrei Mazanko, Clarinet Teacher, Arthur Campbell
Honorable Mention: Benjamin MacDonald, Saxophone
Teacher, John Nichol
Honorable Mention: Evan Harris, Saxophone
Teacher, Joseph Lulloff
Honorable Mention: Matthew Koester, Saxophone
Teacher, Timothy McAllister
Honorable Mention: Robert Stine III, Saxophone
Teacher, Timothy McAllister

Chamber Ensemble Wind:

Winner: Kariros Saxophone Quartet Teacher, John Nichol
Kaylee Bernard, Alto
Kyle Pokropowicz, Barritone
Aaron Rajewski, Tenor
Emmet Harris, Soprano



MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

October 6, 2019

Dear Michigan MTA Members:

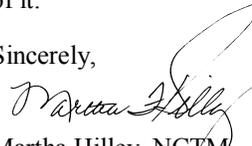
On behalf of your over 20,000 MTNA colleagues across the country, we want to add our welcome to the Michigan State Conference. Gathering with your friends and colleagues from around the state is a very special benefit of membership—a benefit that offers multiple educational and social opportunities for you to grow as a music teaching professional.

At conferences like this, you, the music teacher, become the music student. And as you participate in continuing education, new information and techniques are learned, which ultimately become the basis for new ways to teach your students. This enriching relationship, of constantly receiving and giving away, is vital to your success as a music teacher as well as to the success of your students.

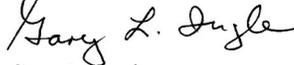
As you consider additional opportunities for continuing education and networking, you are cordially invited to attend the upcoming 2020 MTNA National Conference in Chicago, Illinois. The dates are March 21–25 2020, and the venue is the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile. The Opening Session on Saturday evening will feature the winner of 2020 National Chopin Piano Competition. Tuesday night’s recital features Anton Nel. In addition, you will also have the opportunity to attend dozens of informative sessions, inspiring master classes, and an exhibit hall with the latest music, products and innovations. The 2020 MTNA National Conference will be an unforgettable learning and sharing experience.

Again, welcome to the Michigan state conference. Please enjoy every moment of it.

Sincerely,


Martha Hilley, NCTM
President

Sincerely,


Gary L. Ingle
Executive Director & CEO



October 6, 2019

Dear Fellow Members,

The Capital Area Music Teachers Association greets you with pleasure to explore all that the Greater Lansing Area has to offer during your time here. Although conference activities and business will consume much of our time together, we hope you will be able to sample other aspects of living in the Lansing area. The Radisson Hotel is situated within a 15 minute walk of the seat of state government, museums, historic churches, the Grand Riverfront, and a selection of 'quick casual' spots to explore for lunch or dinner. A drive of 15 minutes or less will expand your options to explore REO Town to the south, historic Oldtown to the north, Michigan State University to the east, and quick connections to shopping on both east and west sides of the city. For more particulars, explore www.lansing.org/visit-greater-lansing or inquire at our hotel; CAMTA members will be happy to assist you in finding answers to your questions.

Sincerely,

Alix Jenkins

President, Capital Area Music Teachers Association



2018 MTNA Michigan Competitions

Western Michigan University, Dorothy U. Dalton Center
Van De Giessen Road, Kalamazoo Township, MI 49006
November 9-11, 2018

Laurie M. Marshall, Performance Competitions Chair

Junior Division

Composition:

Winner: Aaron Wang Teacher, Catherine Rollin

Piano:

Winner: Roger Wang Teacher, Arthur Greene

Alternate: Salem Wang Teacher, Mary Siciliano

Honorable Mention: Aaron Wang Teacher, Catherine Rollin

Honorable Mention: Richard Shao Teacher, Arthur Greene

String:

Winner: Madeline Cha, Violin Teacher, Stephen Shipp

Alternate: Elise Hsiao, Violin Teacher, Adrienne Ronmark

Honorable Mention: Richard Shao, Violin
Teacher, Solomia Soroka

Senior Division

Composition:

Representative: Alex Ge Teacher, Catherine Rollin

Piano:

Winner: Sophia Guan Teacher, Arthur Greene

Alternate: Jincheng Wu Teacher, Thomas Lymenstull

Honorable Mention: Isabella Lian Teacher, Arthur Greene

Honorable Mention, Natania Shi Teacher, Arthur Greene

String:

Winner: Peter Falb, Cello Teacher, Alicia Sawyers

Alternate: Ethan Wei, Cello Teacher, Brandon Cota

2019 MMTA CONCERTO COMPETITION

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI
May 18, 2019

Wendy Chu, Chair

Division 1 (Grades 1-3)

First Place: Ethan Mihaescu, student of Catherine Rollin
Honorable Mention: Elliot Kim, student of Mary Siciliano

Division 2 (Grades 4-6)

Honorable Mention: Spence Sun, student of Izabella Vilensky
Genki Kondo, student of Mary Siciliano
Victor Zhong, student of Mary Siciliano

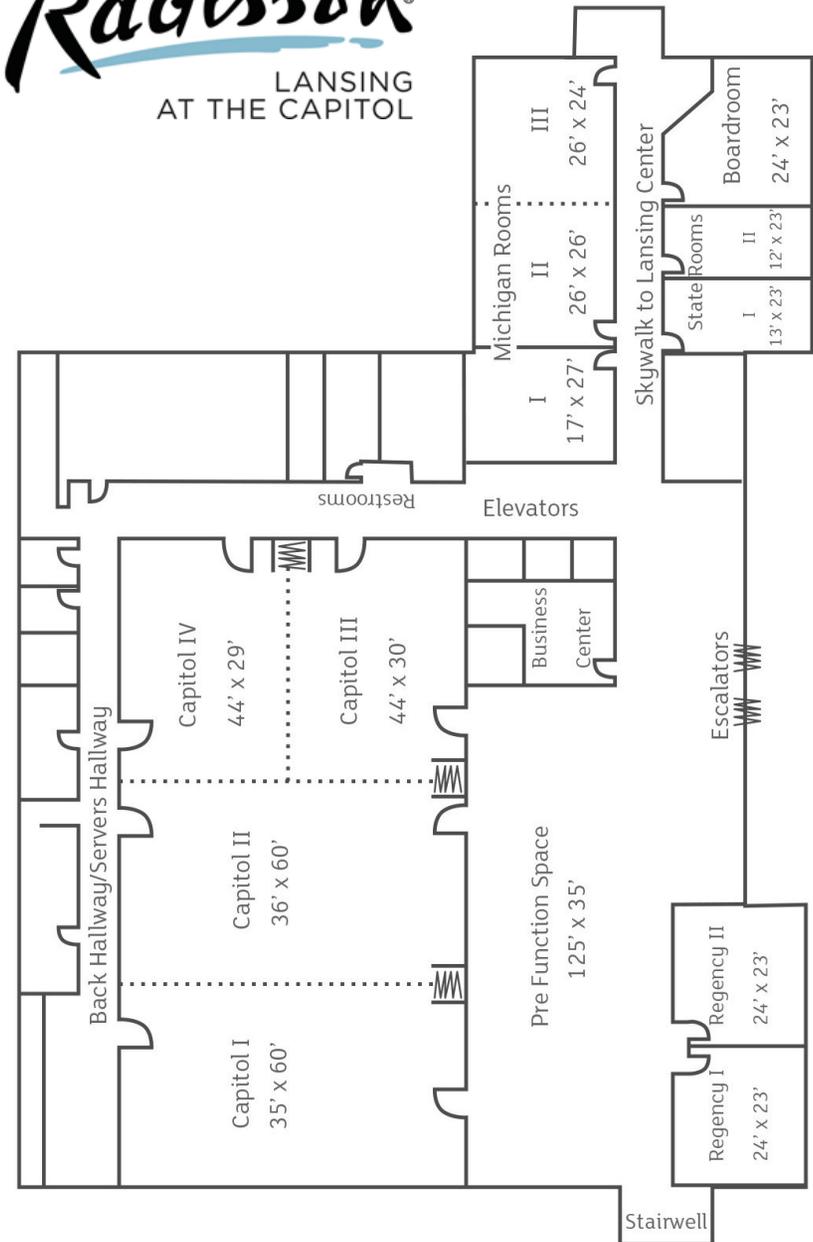
Division 3 (Grades 7-9)

First Place: Salem Wang, student of Mary Siciliano
Second Place: Jean Yu, student of Mary Siciliano
Honorable Mention: Julia Huang, student of Izabella Vilenski

Division 4 (Grades 10-12)

First Place: Frederick Zhao, student of Faya Mao
Honorable Mention: Derek Zhu, student of Joel Schoenhals
Tejas Shivaraman, student of Catherine Rollin

Hotel Map



MMTA Board of Directors, Officers, and Committee Chairs 2019

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SAT Woodwinds Chair	Keith Gamble
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Student Chapters Coordinator	Sookkyung Cho
Student Composition Chair	Mary Ann Anschutz
Teacher Education Chair	Angela Biedenbender
Technology Chair	Yelena Wells

**The MMTA Board would like to express its gratitude to Mr. Thomas Nobel for his oversight of the 2018-2019 budget while a new Treasurer could be elected.*

MMTA-SAT Piano Finals

Michigan State University, East Lansing
May 4, 2019

Michelle Mitchum, NCTM
SAT Auditions Chairperson

Piano: Intermediate Division

Wendy Chu and Zhao Wang, Adjudicators

First Place:	Paul Lee, student of Catherine Rollin
Second Place:	JingYi Hu, student of Derek Polischuk
Third Place:	Rebecca Wang, student of Gail Litle Lyra

Piano: Junior Division

Wendy Chu and Zhao Wang, Adjudicators

First Place: (tie)	Ryan Li, student of Nai-Wen Wang
First Place: (tie)	Eric Yun, student of Derek Polischuk
Third Place:	Gary Xu, student of Catherine Rollin
Honorable Mention:	Fuka Somatomo, student of Sookkyung Cho
	Mika Takahashi, student of Miho Segal

Piano: Senior Division

Christopher Harding and Louis Nagel, Adjudicators

First Place:	Oliver Gao, student of Wei-Qin Claire Tang
Second Place: (tie)	Catherina Lu, student of Catherine Rollin
Second Place: (tie)	Tejas Shivaraman, student of Catherine Rollin



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MMTA would like to acknowledge Faber Piano Adventures/Faber Piano Institute and Reeder Pianos for their generous support of the 134th MMTA Conference!



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Thank you also to Michigan State University School of Music for its contribution to the Sunday evening reception.



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

And be sure to visit our conference vendors, located in the Lobby. Tables include those from the Faber Piano Institute, Reeder Pianos, plus the Lansing Symphony and Marshall Music.

LANSING SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA



MMTA 134th State Conference

Pre-collegiate Master Class with Guest Clinician, Leah Claiborne

Tuesday October 8, 2019
Radisson Hotel, Lansing, 10:30 a.m.

Prelude in A-Flat Major, WTC I J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Finn McCune
Teacher: Penny Draper

Fantasy in D Minor, K.297 W. A. Mozart (1756-1791)

Reina Li
Teacher: Derek Polischuk

Danse Rituelle Du Feu Manuel De Falla (1876-1946)

Joseph Washington
Teacher: Verna Holley

Italian Concerto in F Major, BWV 971 J. S. Bach (1685-1750)
I. Allegro

Haley Gipson
Teacher: Nikie Oechsle

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COMPLETE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

8:30-9:30 a.m.	Executive Board Meeting	Stateroom I
9:30-11:30 a.m.	Full Board Meeting	Michigan I
12:00 p.m.	Registration Opens	Capitol Lobby
1:00-2:20 p.m.	Conference Opens: Welcome by Lia Jensen-Abbott, President. Session 1. Dr. José Ramón Méndez: "Perception and its Influence on Movement"	Capitol I
2:20-2:30 p.m.	BREAK	
2:30-3:45 p.m.	Dr. Kay Zavislak: "The Art Of Interpreting Keyboard Music from the Classical Period"	Capitol I
3:45-4:00 p.m.	Business Meeting I for All MMTA Members	Capitol I
4:00-4:30 p.m.	Warm Up for Recital Performers	Capitol I
4:30-6:00 p.m.	MMTA/MTNA Winners Recital	Capitol I
6:15-7:30 p.m.	Dinner On Your Own	
6:15-7:30 p.m.	Local Associations Dinner SAT Handbook Committee Dinner	Michigan I Stateroom I
7:30 p.m.	CAMTA hosted Concert featuring Commissioned Composition Premiere plus Dr. Young Hyun Cho and Claire Tang, Duo pianists	Capitol I
8:45 p.m.	Reception by Capital Area Music Teachers Association	Capitol Lobby

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7

8:00 a.m.	Registration & Vendors Display Collegiate Chapters Poster Display and AV set up	Capitol Lobby
8:50 a.m.	Students' Lightning Presentations Questions from the floor	Capitol I
9:55-10:55 a.m.	Teacher Education Session: Dr. Juliet Hess: "Privilege and Music Lessons: What can a Music Teacher Do?"	Capitol I
10:55-11:05 a.m.	BREAK	
11:05-12:15 p.m.	Dr. José Ramón Méndez: "Practice Strategies and Methodology"	Capitol I
12:15-1:30 p.m.	Follow up on Poster Presentations by individual students	Lobby
12:15-1:30 p.m.	Lunch On Your Own	
12:15-1:30 p.m.	SAT Local Chairs Lunch Meeting	Regency
1:30-3:00 p.m.	Collegiate Students Master Class: Dr. José Ramón Méndez	Capitol I
3:00-3:15 p.m.	BREAK	
3:15-4:30 p.m.	SESSION: Dr. Matthew Bengtson: "Albeniz and Scriabin: from the Him- alayas to the Teaching Studio"	Capitol I
4:30-5:30 p.m.	BREAK	
5:30 p.m.	Cash Bar Opens	Capitol II Lobby
6:15 p.m.	GALA DINNER	Capitol II
8:00 p.m.	Conference Artist Recital: Dr. José Ramón Méndez	Capitol I
9:15 p.m.	Reception Hosted by MMTA	Capitol Lobby

Katia Skanavi, Frances Renzi, Dylana Jensen, Adam Aleksander, Milton Rubén Laufer, Christopher Taylor and others.

Yelena is an accomplished pianist and performs both as a solo and collaborative artist throughout West Michigan. She is an active member of Music Teachers Nation Association, Michigan Music Teachers Association and the Piano Teachers' Forum of Grand Rapids, where she recently served as president. Yelena serves as the technology chair for MMTA.

In addition to music, Yelena's interests include online business marketing and consulting. Yelena works with Elite One Media where she oversees web design, social media marketing and virtual tour services for local businesses.

Congratulations to these wonderful educators and mentors!



piano, accompanying church choirs, playing piano for community events, and organizing the history of GMMTA held in the archives of the Muskegon Lakeshore Museum Center. She is grateful for the support and dedication of her friends and colleagues in GMMTA, MMTA, and is honored with the TOY recognition. Susan received her BM degree from WMU, and MA in Teaching Music from Calvin College. She has been state and nationally certified since 1994 and served as the Local Chairperson for the 2000 MMTA Fall Convention held in Muskegon. Susan is also a member of the Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Yelena Wells (Grand Rapids MTA)



Dr. Yelena Wells joined the Hope College Music Department in Fall 2019 where she teaches class and applied piano instruction.

Yelena comes from Grand Rapids Community College, where she has taught applied and class piano, music appreciation and music history courses. Yelena's administrative work has included coordinating the GRCC Arts Outreach preparatory kids music program and the GRCC Music Audition Workshop.

Yelena was awarded the 2016 GRCC Excellence in Education Award for adjunct faculty and was also the recipient of League for Innovation 2016 John & Suanne Roueche Excellence Award. She was awarded the 2019 Teacher of the Year by the Grand Rapids Piano Teachers' Forum.

She received degrees from Grand Valley State University, Western Michigan University and Michigan State University. Yelena has studied with Van Cliburn medalist Aviram Reichert, Dr. Silvia Roederer of the Verdehr Trio, Dr. Pauline Martin and George Vatchnadze. She has participated in masterclasses with internationally acclaimed pianists such as Kenneth Drake,

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8

7:30 a.m.	Advisory Council Meeting	Stateroom I
8:00 a.m.	Registration Opens	Capitol Lobby
9:00-10:30 a.m.	Dr. Leah Claiborne: "Leveling Piano Music by Black Composers"	Capitol I
10:15-10:30 a.m.	Break	
10:30-11:45 a.m.	Upper Intermediate and Advanced Master Class: Dr. Leah Claiborne	Capitol I
11:45-12:00 p.m.	Business Meeting 2	Capitol I
12:00 p.m.	End of Conference	

MMTA State Conference (In Detail)

Sunday, October 6, 2019

8:30 AM	Executive Board Meeting	Stateroom I
9:30 AM	Full Board Meeting	Michigan I
12:00 PM	Registration & Vendors set up	Capitol Lobby
1:00 PM	Opening Remarks Dr. Lia Jensen-Abbott, President	Capitol I
1:05 PM	Dr. José Ramón Méndez "Perception and its Influence on Movement"	Capitol I

From the very first time a child approaches the piano, he/she makes a series of assumptions that will impact his/her perception of the instrument. Later on, deciphering a musical score will create new assumptions about space,

timing, position and speed. Without perception and judgment, learning would be impossible. However, those perceptions have an everlasting impact on the way the young musician relates to the instrument and, in some case, they are at the core of technical and musical problems. Identifying the issues arising from a faulty perception and its influence on the way we move at the keyboard is essential.

2:20 PM **BREAK**

2:30 PM **Dr. Kay Zavislak** **Capitol I**

“The Art Of Interpreting Keyboard Music from the Classical Period”

In the classical period, composers employed styles and characteristics that were easily recognized by audiences of the time. Understanding these musical gestures, called Topics, will help performers to achieve stylistic interpretation. (This talk was presented at the MTNA Conference in Spokane last March).

3:45 PM Business Meeting I **Capitol I**

4:00 PM Warm up for MMTA/MTNA
Winners Recital **Capitol I**

4:30 PM MMTA/MTNA Winners Recital **Capitol I**

6:15 PM Dinner On Your Own
SAT Piano Handbook Committee **Stateroom I**
Dinner

Local Associations Dinner **Michigan I**

7:30 PM Opening Night Concert featuring: **Capitol I**
Composer’s Commission Winner: Ancel Neeley
- and -
Dr. Young Hyun Cho and Dr. Claire Tang

8:45 PM Reception Hosted by CAMTA **Capitol Lobby**

videos of her student’s performances.

As if this was not enough, Mary found the time to graciously assist in pioneering a new local association under MMTA, the Macomb Piano Teachers Forum at Evola Music Shelby, enabling students to participate in Student Achievement Testing on that side of town. Her 25 years of experience in data processing made her a valuable secretary on the MPTF board, and she is one of the first to send students to SAT testing in the Macomb center. Mary directed the Theory testing room and much of the detail work in the first few years of the association’s startup. As a valuable board member, the choice to nominate her for the Teacher of the Year award was immediately unanimous.

Susan Rogalla Tindall (Greater Muskegon MTA)



Susan Rogalla Tindall has been chosen as the Greater Muskegon Music Teachers Association 2019 *Teacher of the Year*. Considered the “backbone” of GMMTA, she is the current president along with fourteen prior years serving this office. Under her guidance, despite the dwindling number of members, she led the GMMTA membership to the decision to remain a local association during this past year. The piano students of the membership were high priority with this decision, and the wish to continue to provide the traditional student performance opportunities throughout the GMMTA year. Susan is quick to volunteer and serve the needs of GMMTA. Besides being the concurrent president and vice-president, she has been the chair for the annual Honors Recital since 2002, mentors new and established members when needed, researches materials and information, and continues her high standard of studio teaching through her knowledge of pedagogical material, repertoire, and student performances. Despite a forty year challenge with rheumatoid arthritis, Susan continues to co-chair scheduling musicians for the biennial breast cancer funder in Muskegon, “*Tempting Tables*,” teach

Mary Swanson (Macomb MTA)



Mary Swanson has taught piano lessons in Port Huron, East Lansing and Lake Orion. She has played for several churches for all kinds of services. She held her own recitals twice a year at a local church where Oxford ONTV filmed them. Back then she participated in the Michigan Federation of Music Clubs Festival and has ever since sent students for piano solos, piano concertos and theory testing events. Many students earned certificates, 15-, and 30-point trophies.

Mary expanded her participation in community judging events

when she began teaching mostly private and some group lessons at Evola Music Shelby in 2011 where she presently teaches. A member of Vivace at Evola, she also instructs about 50 students who participate regularly in Federation Festival, Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, MAC Open, American Guild of Music, and Student Achievement Testing with Evola Music's advanced academy program on grand pianos. Her students win top honors. Recitals have also grown so large as to necessarily split them into 2 separate recitals.

Mary goes above and beyond in educating, encouraging students to participate in piano camps which she designs during summers with the assistance of piano camp books, music and theory games, reinforcing their theory knowledge through technology, apps, computer theory games through Alfred and Music ACE. Her openness to new technologies led to the discovery of and competence in Joy Tunes, I-Pad App's Simply Piano, Piano Maestro and more.

For fun, Mary's students have also performed at the Emagine Theater on grand pianos, and at the Clavinova Festival. She also enjoys preparing students for talent shows, church services, and looks forward to texts and

Monday, October 7, 2019

8:00 AM Registration & Vendors Display **Capitol Lobby**
Collegiate Chapters Poster Display and AV set up

8:50 AM 7 Collegiate Students' Lightning **Capitol I**
Presentations with questions from the floor.

9:55 AM **Dr. Juliet Hess** **Capitol I**
"Privilege and Music Lessons: What can a Music Teacher Do?"

This session will give music educators an opportunity to think about privilege across multiple identity sites including gender, race, class, sexual orientation, and disability. We will consider how privilege and lack of privilege affects students in our lessons and we will collectively discuss how privilege can intersect with private music instruction. The final component of this workshop invites participants to create ways to address issues of privilege in music studios.

10:55 AM BREAK

11:05 AM **Dr. José Ramón Méndez** **Capitol I**
"Practice Strategies and Methodology"

Perhaps the most important task any teacher faces when instructing a student is to provide a clear method of practicing. As most lessons deal with the specific problems and details of a particular piece, it falls on the student's capacity to synthesize and apply knowledge to other pieces. Most times, only the most talented students will accomplish this, but a better understanding of the practicing process would benefit all students regardless of their natural facility. Learning the different strategies and methods of practicing can make a huge impact on the student and assure a prosperous pianistic development even after the student no longer has the guidance of a teacher.

12:15 PM Follow up on Poster Presentations **Capitol Lobby**
by individual students

12:15 PM	Lunch On Your Own SAT Local Chairs Lunch Meeting	Regency
1:30 PM	Collegiate Students Master Class: Dr. José Ramón Méndez	Capitol I
3:00 PM	BREAK	
3:15 PM	Dr. Matthew Bengtson "Albeniz and Scriabin: from the Himalayas to the Teaching Studio"	Capitol I
	<i>The two main composers of Mr. Méndez's program have also formed staples of Mr. Bengtson's repertoire over the last decade, both in performance and on recordings. He will discuss some of the unique challenges to a pianist's musicality posed by both of these composers. He will also demonstrate how, as he has argued in The Alexander Scriabin Companion (Rowman and Littlefield, 2017), many of Scriabin's short pieces could occupy a prominent place in our teaching studios.</i>	
4:30 PM	BREAK	
5:30 PM	Cash Bar	Capitol II Lobby
6:15 PM	GALA DINNER	Capitol II
8:00 PM	CONFERENCE ARTIST RECITAL Dr. José Ramón Méndez Works by A. Soler, I. Albéniz, J. Turina, and A. Scriabin (see page 60 for full program)	Capitol I
9:15 PM	Reception Hosted By MMTA	Capitol Lobby

nied singers, instrumentalists, chamber music ensembles, and has accompanied choral groups in Michigan and the Musical Youth International Choir on a European tour. Diana also served as staff accompanist for the Wayne State University Music Department from 1990-1997 and has been the music director at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington since 1998. Diana was one of the founding members of the early music ensemble Michigan Baroque (2006-2010), and currently performs with another early music ensemble, *Les Écuries du Roy*. The performances in both groups have always used period instruments and temperaments as well as historically-informed performance practices. The creativity of playing figured bass has been one of the most rewarding aspects of playing with these ensembles. Diana also encourages her students to play their Baroque repertoire on her harpsichord and their Classical repertoire on her fortepiano, so the students have a better idea how to make the music come to life on the modern piano. She is very pleased that one of the students she introduced to the harpsichord is now pursuing harpsichord studies at Juilliard.

Diana is an active member of Livonia Area Piano Teachers Forum where she has served as SAT Chairperson since 1998. At the 2010 at the MMTA Conference in Novi, Diana did a fortepiano lecture-demonstration on the topic "Rethinking Piano Performance Traditions", in which she talked about Classical performance practices, interpreting the score and demonstrated how the music would sound played on a period instrument. She was SAT Coordinator from 2010-2017 and served on the SAT Handbook Revision Committee.

She also enjoys reading, especially 19th century novelists and composer biographies, gardening and walking her two Labrador Retrievers, Tashi and Mieko, with her husband Bob.

Teaching the piano came back to her life in 2005 when she began giving piano lessons to her seven year-old daughter. After three years of teaching and remembering why she had done it in the first place, she decided she wanted to do more. In December 2008 she already had her first piano recital with nine students performing, with one of her own performances capping the recital off at the end. In doing so she established a rule for herself: preparing and learning a new piece for each recital, to not only enjoy learning and performing, but to expand her own knowledge regarding piano practicing and performance.

She didn't originally know about music teacher organization, and definitely didn't know that a thing like the MDML even existed. Thankfully, her daughter's friend had a piano teacher, Helen Kerwin, who helped her become a part of the group. Simona became an active member from the very beginning, and now, eleven years later, serves as the MDML SAT Chairperson for the third consecutive year.

Diana Munch (Livonia Area Piano Teachers Forum)



Diana Munch has over 40 years of professional experience teaching piano lessons. She studied piano with Lawrence LaGore, Anna Husband, Mischa Kottler, Flavio Varani and Thomas Kuras, and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Vocal Music Education. She has also attended the Baroque Performance Institute at

Oberlin every year since 2000 and currently studies fortepiano and harpsichord with Penelope Crawford. Outside of private piano teaching, she taught elementary school vocal music for five years. She has accompa-

Tuesday, October 8, 2019

7:30 AM Advisory Council Breakfast Meeting **Stateroom I**

9:00 AM **Dr. Leah Claiborne** **Capitol I**
“Leveling Piano Music by Black Composers”

Leah Claiborne will discuss and highlight the pedagogical benefits of incorporating piano music by Black composers into the standard teaching repertoire. By leveling selected piano works by Black composers, Dr. Claiborne will examine the musical and technical challenges presented in these pedagogically fruitful pieces that have been left out of the canon.

10:15 AM BREAK

10:30 AM Upper Intermediate and **Capitol I**
 Advanced Master Class: **Dr. Leah Claiborne**

11:45 AM Business Meeting 2 **Capitol I**

12:00 PM End of Conference

**In October 2020, the MMTA 135th Conference will
be held in Ann Arbor, Michigan.**

*The Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild will be
our local host chapter.*



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(AAAPTG)

Looks forward to seeing you in

2020

**MMTA 135th Annual State Conference
Ann Arbor, Michigan**

A2 PianoTEACHER

Alix has served as Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and President of the Capital Area Music Teachers Association in addition to serving on the State Board of MMTA as Secretary.

Simona Leszinsky (Metro Detroit Music League)



Simona Leszinsky was raised in the former USSR, in a small city named Gomel, in Belarus.

She was noticed in preschool when preparing a song for a holiday concert, and a music teacher advised her to start taking piano lessons. From then on, she started taking piano lessons, eventually getting enrolled to a formal children's music school at the age of seven. The curriculum was Soviet in its difficulty and its thoroughness, with lessons twice a week, weekly theory lessons, music history lessons, and

choir training. Her love for music grew until one day in middle school, when she decided she wanted to do it for the rest of her life as a piano teacher. At the age of nineteen, with an associate degree already under her belt, she became a piano teacher, working at the local music school.

One year later, she was accepted to the Minsk State Gorky Pedagogical Institute, specializing in piano. In 1987 she completed her bachelor's degree in Music, Piano and Pedagogy while continuing to teach at the music school. However, all that changed when in 1992 Simona and her family came to the United States. She continued playing the piano but began a completely new path in her work life as a medical professional.

Alix Jenkins (Capital Area MTA)



Alix Jenkins is grateful for the role models who contributed her interest in music and teaching, including a mother who sang, a grandmother with perfect pitch who played both piano and organ, and her first piano teacher, a student with a sparkling personality who was pursuing her music education degree at Michigan State University.

Her piano skills caught the attention of her 6th grade music teacher, who introduced her to a first experience at accompanying her 7th-8th grade chorus, which led to continuing as accompanist for choral activities in high school.

After completing a BA – music at Wheaton College, Illinois she met and married her husband, Jon, an aspiring law student. A Bachelor of Music degree in vocal music from Michigan State University further developed her passion for mingling music and education within her studio as well as serving several Lansing area churches in this capacity. Her greatest satisfaction in performance comes from collaborative work and accompanying; contact with students in their regular private lessons helps her to live with hope for the future while dealing with the challenges of the present.

Alix’s career as a piano teacher took an important step forward when she joined CAMTA’s predecessor organization --the Greater Lansing Chapter, MMTA--at the invitation of Winnifred Sherburn, who had a remarkable career teaching East Lansing/Lansing area students. Alix is especially grateful for the interchange between local member teachers in CAMTA, and for the continuing education available through in-state events and national conferences.



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Conference Artist: Dr. José Ramón Méndez



Described as "an artist with a polished sound and tremendous constructive power" and hailed by the *Hoja del Lunes de Madrid*, as "the Spanish pianist of his generation," José Ramón Méndez is one of the most exciting Spanish pianists of today.

Recent performances include Chopin's first piano concerto with the Cuban National Symphony Orchestra and Manuel de Falla's "Nights in the Gardens of Spain" with the Nittany Valley Symphony, as well as numerous solo and

chamber music performances in the United States, Europe, and Asia. His playing has been featured on WQXR's "Performance Today" and on Classical KMFA. He has been a guest performer at many music festivals, including Caramoor Festival, Barge Music Series, Festival Internacional de Piano de las Islas Canarias, Music at Penns Woods, Amalfi Coast International Music Festival, "Tocando el Cielo," Musica en Compostela, the Stony Brook International Piano Festival, and the Santander International Music Festival to name a few. As a chamber musician, Méndez has collaborated with such distinguished artists as Karl Leister, Itzhak Perlman, Michael Tree, Pascual Martínez-Nieto, and Pinchas Zukerman.

Méndez received his first music instruction from his father and by the age of seven was already performing on Spanish television and radio stations. He made his solo debut at the age of eleven at the Oviedo Philharmonic Society in Oviedo, Spain, the youngest performer ever to do so in the history of the society. He first gained international recognition when he performed Liszt's first piano con-

certs Association, and active member of the Midland Music Teachers Association. She received the Musician of the Year award and also the Woman of the Year award.

An active member of the local chapter of MMTA, she serves on several committees. Active also in the Saginaw Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, she has been Music Director for several area churches and served as Music Resource Coordinator for the Diocese of Saginaw for many years. She continues to serve as Organist of St. Johns Episcopal Church in Midland and maintains an active piano studio.

Recently widowed, Mair is the parent of 4 adult children, Grandmother of 6 and Great grandmother to 5.

Adjudication Workshop Series
Understanding Adjudication Principles and Practices

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November 21, 10am - 12pm
Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor
Ms. Vail will be presented live stream from Cincinnati
RSVP: a2pianoteachers.gayethomas@gmail.com

February 7, 10am - 12pm
Schoolcraft College, Livonia
Dr. Janet Lopinski
RSVP: livoniaptf@gmail.com

April/May Location TBD
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Teacher of the Year Bios 2019

Mair Alsgaard (Midland MTA)



Mair Alsgaard has been a member and Certified Teacher of of Michigan Music Teachers Association for more than 50 years. She is past President of Midland Music Teachers Association and has been a Board member for many of those years. She served on several State boards in the early days of formulating the idea and need for Testing requirements and suggested following the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music for examples of testing requirements. Mair is a

graduate of Weymouth College affiliated with Southampton University in England and also received the LRAM certification through the Associated Board requirements.

A native of Wales, she grew up in the valleys of South Wales until leaving for college. She came to the USA to meet her fathers relatives who had emigrated in 1929, and because of World War II, travel was not encouraged until 1950. During her visit, she met her future husband on the tennis courts in Saginaw and upon her return to Great Britain, they corresponded for 2 years whilst Richard was drafted into the Chemical Corps of the U.S. Army. Upon her return to Michigan they married and located in Midland where Richard was employed by Dow Corning Corporation.

Mair was actively involved in Midland area music events and is past President of Midland Symphony League, Chair of the Midland Symphony Orchestra board of managers, Board member of the Community Con-

certo under the direction of Sergiu Comissiona at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. Since then, he has concertized extensively in his native Spain, the United States, Italy, England, Portugal, Holland, and Japan to great acclaim. With his poetry, intellect, and masterful technique, he has been praised by critics and celebrated by audiences around the world.

At the age of 18, Méndez's success brought him to the United States, where he began his studies at Manhattan School of Music in New York City. He completed his Bachelors and Masters Degrees in piano performance with renowned pedagogue Solomon Mikowsky and went on to finish his Doctorate of Musical Arts under the tutelage of Byron Janis and Miyoko Lotto. During his stay in New York, he won top prizes in many international competitions, including Pilar Bayona International Piano Competition, Hilton Head Island International Piano Competition, Frederick Chopin Competition in New York, and Hermanos Guerrero International Piano Competition, among others.

Méndez's professional teaching career began in 1996, when he was invited to teach master classes at the Gijón School of Music. Since then, he has given master classes in numerous cities in Spain, including Lugo, Aviles, Valencia, Gijón, Oviedo, Santiago de Compostela, and Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, as well as in the United States at top music schools such as Oberlin Conservatory, Northwestern University, University of Michigan, and Columbus State University. Méndez also taught as assistant teacher to Miyoko Lotto at the Perlman Music Program, a program for gifted young musicians founded by the world famous violinist Itzhak Perlman. Currently in the summers, he is the Artistic Director and on the faculty of the Gijón International Piano Festival in Gijón, Spain, as well as frequently being invited to perform and teach at various festivals.

Conference Clinician: Leah Claiborne



Leah Claiborne, D.M.A., promotes diversity in the arts by championing piano music by Black composers in her performances, research, and teaching. She was the first pianist at the University of Michigan to be awarded the Rackham Pre-doc fellowship which is the most prestigious fellowship awarded by the graduate school. This fellowship allowed her to further research, compile, and edit piano music by Black composers.

In 2018 she curated a sold out concert at the University of Michigan Museum of Art which

featured instrumental and vocal music by Black American composers. In the same year, she recorded selections from Samuel Coleridge Taylor's 24 Negro Melodies for piano solo and piano trio. In 2016 she was a top prize winner in the National Association of Negro Musicians National Piano Competition. In the same year she was awarded the University of Michigan Martin Luther King Spirit Award for her creation of a free piano program for local students where the focus of study is on the impact of Black classical piano composers.

Leah has performed across the United States as well as, Germany, Italy, and the Czech Republic. Most recently, she performed at Hiroshima University in Japan with the Asia America New Music Ensemble.

and other teaching subjects. In April 2009 Dr. Ascheri was invited by the Alaska Music Teachers Association for a two-week adjudicating and lecturing tour in the cities of Sitka, Fairbanks, and Anchorage.

Dr. Ascheri earned a DMA from Michigan State University where he studied with Ralph Votapek. He has a Masters Degree in Piano Performance from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and a Performance and Music Education degree from Universidad Nacional de Rosario, Argentina, where he studied with composer and pianist Roberto Caamaño. In the summer of 2000, Dr. Ascheri attended the Seventh American-Russian Piano Institute at the St. Petersburg Conservatory, St. Petersburg, Russia.

During the past years Mr. Ascheri received extensive Suzuki training at the Chicago Suzuki Institute, The Suzuki Association of Northern Ohio (Berea), Studea Music in Orford, Quebec, and Colorado Suzuki Institute (Beaver Creek). He trained with Doris Koppelman, Dorris Harrel, Fay Adams, Renee Robins, and Nehama Patkin.

Dr. Ascheri often teaches at various Suzuki workshops and summer institutes, such as the Austin and Houston piano winter workshops (Texas), Anchorage Suzuki Summer Institute (Alaska), Blue Lake Suzuki Family Camp (Michigan), and Newton Suzuki by the Green (Massachusetts).

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2019 Distinguished Service Award Recipient

Gerardo Ascheri



Gerardo Ascheri lives in Lansing, Michigan, where he is an active teacher, music advocate, soloist, and chamber musician. He is also the director of the Piano Teachers' Certificate Program at Schoolcraft College (Livonia, MI), where he teaches applied piano and piano pedagogy classes. He collaborates as chamber pianist with a number of musicians in Michigan.

Dr. Ascheri is involved in several musical organizations. He has served as President for Lansing

Matinee Musicale, (Michigan) Capital Area Music Teachers Association, and Michigan Music Teachers Association. He is also a member of the Suzuki Association of the Americas. From 2008-2018 Dr. Ascheri served as the chair of the MMTA Piano SAT Committee, and from 2013-2018 was a member of the Piano SAT Revision Committee.

Dr. Ascheri has received the 2008-2009 Distinguished Service Award from the Michigan Music Teachers Association. He also received the 2008-2009 Educator of the Year Award by the Michigan Youth Arts Association. From 2012 until 2014 Dr. Ascheri was a member of the Music Teachers National Association Board of Directors representing the East Central Division. From 1994 until 2011 Dr. Ascheri was piano faculty at the Michigan State University Community Music School.

Dr. Ascheri gives master classes, and lectures regularly about subjects such as Latin American Music and Composers, Teaching the Very Young, Transition to Intermediate Level, Elements of Artistry and Technique,

Dr. Claiborne received her undergraduate degree from Manhattan School of Music where she received the Josephine Whitmore graduation award. This award was given to a graduating senior "whose personal qualities enriches the spirit of the school and community at large." She received her Masters of Music and Doctorate of Musical Arts degree at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Claiborne currently teaches at the University of the District of Columbia where she serves as coordinator of keyboard studies and teaches the History of African American Music.

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Piano Teachers' Forum of Grand Rapids will host **Dr. Janice Larson Razaq**, nationally-acclaimed pedagogue and adjudicator, on **Friday, November 8, 2019**.

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Guest Presenter: Kay Zavislak



American pianist Kay Zavislak enjoys a multi-faceted career as a performer, teacher, adjudicator, and clinician. Spending her formative years in Japan, Dr. Zavislak attended the Toho Gakuen High School of Music, one of the most prestigious conservatories in the country. She then moved to the U.S. and earned the degrees Bachelor of Music, Master of Music, and Doctor of

Musical Arts from the University of Michigan.

As a performer, Dr. Zavislak has given solo recitals and chamber concerts regionally and nationally, in addition to public performances in Australia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, and Poland. In collaboration with flutist Leonard Garrison and saxophonist Bill Perconti, Dr. Zavislak has also recorded two commercial CDs for Centaur Records. Her awards and honors include first prize in the Frances Walton Competition, second prize in the Richardson Young Artist Award Competition, second prize in the All-Tohoku Piano Competition in Japan, third prize in the William Byrd International Concerto Competition, and the Alice Kern Pedagogy Award.

A black and white advertisement for Albion College. The background is a photograph of a woman in a marching band uniform, wearing a tall black hat with a tassel and playing a flute. Overlaid on the image is the text "THE ONE PLACE FOR EVERY YOU." in large, bold, white capital letters. Below this text is the website "albion.edu" in a smaller, lowercase font. At the bottom right, there is a black banner with the Albion College crest (a shield with a cross and four quadrants) and the text "Albion College" in white.

**Gala Concert with Guest Artist:
Dr. José Ramón Méndez, Pianist**

134th MMTA State Conference, Radisson Hotel, Lansing
October 7, 2019, 8:00 p.m.

Sonata in D Major, No. 84	Antonio Soler (1729-1783)
Sonata in D-flat Major, No. 88	
from <i>Iberia</i> :	Isaac Albéniz (1860-1909)
<i>Evocación</i> (from Book I)	
<i>El Puerto</i> (from Book I)	
<i>Triana</i> (from Book II)	
Sonata Fantasia	Joaquín Turina (1882-1949)
Sonata No. 2 in G# minor, Op. 19	Alexander Scriabin (1872-1915)
Mazurka in G# minor, Op. 3 No. 9	Alexander Scriabin
Prelude in G Major (<i>Vivo</i>), Op. 11 No. 3	
Prelude in B Minor (<i>Allegro</i>), Op. 11 No. 6	
Mazurka in E minor (<i>Con passione</i>), Op. 3 No. 7	
Prelude in C# Minor (<i>Andante</i>), Op. 11 No. 10	
Mazurka in B minor (<i>Tempo giusto</i>), Op. 3 No. 1	
Prelude in F# Minor (<i>Allegro agitato</i>), Op. 11 No. 8	
Prelude in B Major (<i>Allegro assai</i>), Op. 11 No. 11	
Sonata No. 4 in F# Major, Op. 30	Alexander Scriabin

*Please join us afterwards for a reception in the Capitol Lobby,
hosted by MMTA with support from the Faber Piano Institute.*

Many of Dr. Zavislak's university and pre-college students have received top prizes and honors in a number of regional piano festivals and competitions, such as the Music Fest Northwest in Spokane, Sonata-Sonatina Festival in Ellensburg, Northern Idaho Piano Festival, Music Teachers National Association Idaho State Competition, MTNA WA State Competition, Seattle Russian Music Competition, Spokane Piano Competition, and MTNA Northwest Regional Competition, in addition to being accepted to and offered full-tuition scholarships for Bachelor's and Master's programs in piano performance nationwide.

Dr. Zavislak is passionate about teaching and sharing ideas with students of all ages as well as piano teachers, especially in the area of performance practices and interpretation. As a result, she is in high demand for workshops, master classes, master lessons, and for adjudicating regional festivals and competitions.

Before joining her family in Bellingham in 2013, Dr. Zavislak was an Assistant Professor of Piano and the Keyboard Area Coordinator at the University of Idaho Lionel Hampton School of Music. In addition, she has held teaching positions at Schoolcraft College, Albion College, and the University of Michigan, and she is currently on the music faculty at Western Washington University. She studied piano under the guidance of Arthur Greene, Logan Skelton, Yoshie Kora, and Miyoko Hamamoto, harpsichord with Edward Parmentier, and organ with Marilyn Mason.

Guest Presenter: Juliet Hess



Juliet Hess is an assistant professor of music education at Michigan State University's College of Music, where she teaches secondary general methods in music education, principles in music education, philosophy and sociology of music education, and a course on race issues in music teaching. Her prior experience includes an appointment as assistant professor of music education at the Setnor School of Music at Syracuse University with a dual appointment in the School of Education. She taught undergraduate

and graduate courses in elementary and secondary methods, foundations in music education, assessment in music education, and general music in the inclusive classroom.

Hess received her Ph.D. in Sociology of Education from the department of Sociology and Equity Studies in Education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. She received her master's and bachelor's degree in music education from the University of Toronto. Her research interests include anti-oppression education, activism in music and music education, music education for social justice, and the question of ethics in world music study. Hess formerly held a position teaching elementary and middle school vocal, instrumental, and world music at a public school board in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) in Ontario, Canada.

Hess has presented at many national and international conferences, including the Research in Music Education Conference (RIME) in the UK, the International Society for Music Education

MMTA 134th State Conference Collegiate Master Class with Dr. José Ramón Méndez

Monday October 7, 2019
Radisson Hotel, Lansing, 1:30 p.m.

Kreisleriana, Op.16

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

1. *Äußerst bewegt*
2. *Sehr innig und nicht zu rasch*
3. *Sehr aufgereg*
4. *Sehr langsam*

Qian Tang, piano

Teacher: Deborah Moriarty

Sonata no. 7, op. 83

Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953)

1. *Allegro inquieto*

James Schippers, piano

Teacher: Deborah Moriarty

Andante spianato

Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

and Grand Polonaise Brillante, Op. 22

Yufan Li, piano

Teacher: Derek Kealii Polischuk

All performers are Doctoral students in Piano Performance at Michigan State University

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(ISME) Conference, the MayDay Colloquium, the Society for Music Teacher Education, and the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) Conference. Her scholarly research has been published in the *Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education*, *Philosophy of Music Education Review*, *International Journal of Music Education*, *Action, Criticism, & Theory for Music Education*, *Visions of Research in Music Education*, *Music Education Research*, *Research Studies in Music Education*, *Proteus: A Journal of Ideas*, and *Encounters on Education*.



www.LAPTF.org

Guest Presenter: Matthew Bengtson



Critically acclaimed as a “musician’s pianist,” Matthew Bengtson has a unique combination of musical talents ranging from extraordinary pianist, to analyst, writer, scholar of performance practice, and educator. An advocate of both contemporary and rarely performed music, he offers a diverse repertoire, ranging from Byrd to György Ligeti and numerous contemporary

composers. He has performed concerts in France, Germany, Italy, Poland, and Hungary, in Mexico, in Washington, DC, at Monticello, and in solo recitals at Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall. He has appeared with violinist Joshua Bell on NPR’s “Performance Today” and XM Satellite Radio’s “Classical Confidential.” His recordings can be heard on the Roméo, Arabesque, Griffin Renaissance, Albany, Navona, and Musica Omnia record labels.

Mr. Bengtson is lauded as one of the most persuasive advocates of the music of Scriabin and Szymanowski. On his complete Scriabin Piano Sonatas, the American Record Guide writes: “Big-boned pianism, rich tonal colors, and dazzling technique are on display here. Has Scriabin ever been played better? Only Horowitz and Richter can compare.” Fanfare magazine calls him “a Scriabinist for the 21st century ... upon whom future generations can rely for definitive interpretations.” In 2015, he toured with the complete Scriabin sonatas, and performed in the historic centennial “Scriabin in the Himalayas” festival in Ladakh, India. He is co-author of “The Alexander Scriabin Companion: History, Performance, and Lore” published by

The advertisement features a black and white photograph of a man in a suit and a young girl sitting at a Steinway grand piano. The man is leaning over the piano, looking at the sheet music, while the girl plays. The background is a wall of dark, rectangular panels. The Steinway logo is visible on the piano's fallboard.

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Wei-Qin Claire Tang



Wei-Qin Claire Tang comes from a family of professional musicians. Before continuing her piano study in the United States, she studied at the Xinghai Conservatory of Music in Guangzhou, China. She was twice a winner in the “Pearl River” National Piano Competition. She was invited to perform as a soloist with the Hongkong Philharmonic at age 15.

Ms. Tang earned her Bachelor’s, Master’s, and Doctoral degree in piano performance from Michigan State University. Her teachers and mentors include Philip Hosford, Ralph and Albertine Votapek, Pa-

nayis Lyras, as well as Alan Weiss. She was a winner of the MSU Honor’s (Concerto) Competition, and a recipient of various scholarships, including the Ralph Votapek Endowment Scholarship. Being an active performer, Ms. Tang has given many solo and chamber recitals, in the United States, France, and China. As a soloist, she has performed with the MSU Symphony, the Guangzhou Symphony and the Hongkong Philharmonic.

She is also an active piano teacher as well as competition adjudicator, a member of National Music Teacher’s Association, Michigan Music Teacher’s Association, Capital Area Music Teacher’s Association, and Lansing Matinee Musicale. Her students are frequent winners of regional and state competitions.

Rowman and Littlefield Press.

Equally devoted to the music of Karol Szymanowski, he has recorded a 3-CD recording of the solo piano and violin/piano duo music of the great Polish composer, together with violinist Blanka Bednarz, on the Musica Omnia label. The duo has presented numerous all-Szymanowski duo/solo recitals all across the United States, and in Poland, including the Karol Szymanowski Museum in Zakopane.

Mr. Bengtson is among today’s proponents of historical performance practice in Baroque and Classical repertoire. He studied harpsichord with Webb Wiggins at Peabody, and fortepiano with Malcolm Bilson at Cornell University. His video introduction to the Viennese 5-octave fortepiano has become a YouTube favorite. He teaches in the annual summer program University of Michigan Early Keyboard Institute (UMEKI), and his students took the top prizes at the inaugural sfzp International Fortepiano Competition in New York.

Mr. Bengtson studied piano performance as a Harvard undergraduate with Patricia Zander; he also studied contemporary repertoire with Stephen Drury, and chamber music and performance practice with Robert Levin. He earned his MM and DMA degrees in piano performance at the Peabody Conservatory of Music, where he studied with Ann Schein.

Mr. Bengtson is Assistant Professor of Piano Literature at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre and Dance, where he teaches studio piano and fortepiano, and courses and seminars in piano repertoire, history and culture. He has taught at the University of Pennsylvania, at Haverford and Bryn Mawr Colleges, at Carnegie Mellon University’s School of Music, and the Peabody Institute. He has also served on the collaborative piano staff at the Curtis Institute of Music.

Mr. Bengtson is a Steinway Artist.

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As a featured soloist, Young Hyun Cho has performed with the North Czech Philharmonic Orchestra Teplice, Bohuslav Martinu Philharmonic Orchestra, Orquesta Sinfónica de la Región de Murcia of Spain, Budapest Symphony Chamber Orchestra MAV, Euro Sinfonietta Wien, Korean Broadcasting System Symphony Orchestra, Korean Symphony Orchestra, Seoul National Symphony Orchestra, and many others.

As a guest faculty artist, Young Hyun Cho has taught and/or performed at many institutes

and universities including the International Piano Festival in Poland, International Music Festival *Armonie della sera* in Italy, the Goethe Institute of Thailand; China Conservatory of Beijing, Xinghai Conservatory of Guangzhou, plus dozens of colleges and universities across Asia and the U.S. She is a frequent adjudicator for piano competitions, having judged for the Dallas Chamber Symphony Orchestra International Competition in addition to both State and Regional divisions of the MTNA piano competitions.

She received her Doctoral Arts of Musical degree from the Eastman School of Music, a Master's degree and Graduate Performance Diploma from Peabody Conservatory, and Bachelor's degree from Seoul National University. Her primary teachers include Nelita True, Boris Slutsky and Mikyung Kim. Young Hyun Cho currently serves as an associate professor of piano at the Michigan State University College of Music. Prior to MSU, she served as an associate professor at the University of Texas at Arlington.

performers and the audience. Looking at music as a means of storytelling, Ancel focuses on the broad emotional relationships between people, places and things as opposed to any one specific narrative. Ancel is inspired and influenced by a variety of sources including John Cage, Claude Debussy, Julie Giroux, Andy Akiho, Joseph Schwantner, Frank Ticheli, Amanda Harberg, James Blake, Dream Theater, miscellaneous mundane noises, cold colors, and all of the composition majors at U of M.

Ann Arbor-based musician **Weston St. Charles Gilbert** aims to curate musical experiences that convey emotional and political meaning through their work as a composer, performer, and improviser. As a composer, Weston has collaborated with musicians such as the CSO Chamber Players, the Darling Duo, Front Porch, MoonGreen, and the Converge String Quartet. As a performer, Weston has collaborated with many fellow composers, including Brian Nabors, Kristin Kuster, and Ellen Harrison. He frequently performs outside the world of contemporary classical music as a member of the improv band Vulnerability Hours and a member of the Klezmer band Vaguely Yiddish. They also have participated in semi-improvisatory queer performance art with writer Bronwen Brenner.

Sylvan Talavera is a composer, improviser, poet, visual artist, and performance artist studying composition with Kristin Kuster and percussion with Jonathan Ovalle at the University of Michigan. Most recently from Portland, OR but born and raised in Rio Nido, CA, his influences include perception of place, queer issues, catharsis, the sacred and profane, and power relationships. Past teachers include Ryan Anthony Francis, Joseph Gramley, and Bright Sheng.

Young Hyun Cho

Young Hyun Cho's concert activities have taken her around the globe. She has performed in Germany, Austria, Italy, Belgium, Hungary, Spain, Poland, Czech Republic, South Korea, China, Thailand, Malaysia, and throughout the United States.

Seven College Chapter Presentations

Benefits of Learning Piano in a Group Setting for Adult Students

This presentation offers new perspectives on the benefits of learning piano in a group setting for adult students. After a year of teaching in a new program for adult students at the University of Michigan, we analyzed survey results taken at the beginning and end of each course. The results suggest that students enrolled in the course increased their self-esteem and confidence in various ways, especially in the way they perceived their own ability to learn new skills.

Melissa Coppola (DMA candidate in Piano Pedagogy and Performance, University of Michigan) is a co-founder of Girls Rock Detroit. Her research includes arranging and teaching popular, rock, and video game music for RMM, as well as integrating multimedia and art into classical performance. (Faculty Advisor: Paola Savvidou)

Alissa Freeman (DMA student in Piano Pedagogy and Performance, University of Michigan) performs frequently with orchestras, ensembles, and soloist while maintaining an active private piano studio. She has researched and presented on topics including the teaching of Leschetizky, piano music by Classical and Romantic era female composers, and adult learning in group piano classes. (Faculty Advisor: Paola Savvidou)

Incorporating Music into the Curriculum for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (d/hh students)

In spite of their success rates, many directors in instrumental programs are reluctant to incorporate students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Reasons may include a lack of knowledge on how to meet the needs and capabilities of these unique learners or even fear that these learners may negatively impact the quality of a musical performance. This presentation will discuss the benefits of incorporating music into the academic curriculum for all students including d/hh. Finally, I will talk about how to merge music into different classroom environments in order to accommodate d/hh musicians.

Jasmine Harry is pursuing a graduate degree in Piano Pedagogy at Michigan State University. While only in elementary school, Jasmine volunteered to help students with mental and physical disabilities achieve academic success. She continued this passion through middle and high school, bringing her musical abilities into the academic curriculum to create innovative ways for students to learn while having fun. Jasmine aspires to have her own piano studio where people of all ages and learning abilities are welcomed. (Faculty Advisor: Derek Polischuk)

Connecting the Modern Audience to Classical Music

Classical music is beautiful to anyone, which is why music director of the California Symphony, Donato Cabrera, argues “we needed to change the experience, not the repertoire.” Musicians must consider how to create a concert experience that will intrigue today’s listeners. This mission becomes more vital as many art programs are struggling to survive, and classical music is gradually losing public support. I believe the key to engaging new audiences lies largely in encouraging collaborations with other artists and art forms to develop interdisciplinary events.

This presentation offers condensed examples from Bach and Chopin (who collaborated with other artists, writers, and philosophers of their times) to the Yara Ensemble and pianist, Daniil Trifonov (who incorporate various art genres and technologies in their performances). I will also incorporate some of my own work engaging with student artists from different universities/study areas to produce a piano recital. Through this project and poster presentation, I hope to inspire other professionals in my field to explore innovative ways to create art and music events.

Abigail Mullis is currently a senior at Central Michigan University majoring in music. She studies piano under Dr. Alexandra Mascolo-David. Abigail received one of Central Michigan University’s 2018 Provost’s Awards for Undergraduate Research and Creative Accomplishments and one of Central Michigan University’s 2019 Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors Grants. Her research focus is on STEAM education and developing ways to incorporate the arts back into the core of education. (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Alexandra Mascolo-David)

2018 Commissioned Composer - Ancel Neeley



Ancel Neeley (b. 2000) is a composer, percussionist, performer, musician who writes for percussion and occasionally other instruments; including but not limited to solo, chamber ensemble, winds, strings, and large wind ensembles. Ancel is originally from DeWitt, Michigan and has spent many years performing in the DeWitt High School and Middle School’s Symphonic Band, Marching Band, Musical Pits, and Chamber Choir.

Ancel is currently studying composition and percussion at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor with Professors Michael Daugherty and Jonathan Ovalle, as well as having been instructed by Pro-

fessor Joseph Gramley, Jeremy Epp, and Tom Sherwood. Ancel has spent multiple summers studying composition and percussion performance at institutes including Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, Interlochen Summer Arts Camp, Boston Conservatory, and the Yarn/Wire Summer Institute.

Ancel has written for, and has had pieces performed by ensembles/performers such as Danielle Gonzalez, the Interlochen World Youth Wind Symphony, the Meridian Community Band, the Videri String Quartet, Transient Canvas, and the University of Michigan Percussion Ensemble.

In addition to performing as a solo percussionist, Ancel has performed in the Spartan Youth Wind Symphony, MMEA All-State Orchestra, MSBOA Honors Orchestra and the University of Michigan Concert Band, Symphony Band, and Percussion Ensemble.

Ancel looks to further the repertoire for chamber and wind ensemble music into the 21st century with a heavy emphasis on engaging both the

**Opening Night Concert with 2019 Commissioned Composition
Hosted by CAMTA**

Sunday, October 6, 2019
Radisson Hotel, Lansing, 7:30 p.m.

Program

Premier Performance:

Listen Closely for violin and two percussion **Ancel Neeley (b. 2000)**

Weston Gilbert, violin
Sylvan Talavera, percussion
Ancel Neeley, percussion

The 2019 commissioned work is funded jointly by the Music Teachers National Association and the Michigan Music Teachers Association.

Lindaraja (1901) **Claude Debussy (1862-1918)**

La Valse poème chorégraphique (1919-20) **Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)**

Suite No. 2, Op. 17 **Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)**

- I. *Introduction*
- II. *Valse*
- III. *Romance*
- IV. *Tarantelle*

**Young Hyun Cho and Wei-Qin Claire Tang,
Duo Pianists**

*Please join us afterwards for a reception in the Capitol Lobby,
Hosted by CAMTA with generous support from MSU*

The Student as Collaborator

High school ensembles are filled with musicians making music by working together. The high school-aged pianist, however, does not. Most of the time, high school piano students don't play with other musicians. Why is that, when collaboration is a huge part of a pianist's career? It is important and hugely beneficial for the student's collaborative skills and overall musicianship to work on and highlight these valuable skills. Using my knowledge from studying both piano and trombone, I will highlight high-school-level brass repertoire that is also at the level for a high school pianist to accompany. Breaking down these examples will demonstrate musical and technical challenges, and will suggest how to teach each part to facilitate good collaboration skills: including listening to the soloist, following tempo, rehearsal techniques and etiquette, coaching, and even how best to present the music to a pianist.

Christian Clark is currently going into his fourth year of his Bachelors of Music Education degree at Central Michigan University. He studies both the piano and the trombone as a double major, receiving applied lessons in both every week. While attending university, he discovered a strong interest and love for collaborative piano, and discovered that many pianists even at the Undergraduate level simply do not have enough experience collaborating. Breaking down some approachable works can help high school music teachers to begin honing these skills. (Faculty Advisor: Adrienne Wiley)

***O Guia Prático: An Introduction to the Pedagogical Work of
Villa-Lobos***

To this day, Heitor Villa-Lobos is the most well-known and revered composer of Brazil. His compositional output is astounding for sheer quantity, but also because it covers traditional genres such as piano pieces and symphonic compositions, as well as uniquely scored pieces like those for eight cellos and voice or duet for flute and cello.

What is perhaps the most overlooked aspect of Villa-Lobos's oeuvre is his immense pedagogical contribution. In an 11-volume set of teaching pieces, the *Guia Prático* functions as repertoire that can help late-intermediate students transition into early advanced stages of piano study.

This presentation will introduce the technical and musical skills learnable by way of study of the *Guia Prática* including: polyrhythmic playing, complex chord figurations, and differentiation of complex textures. While these skills are all very useful in a student's musical education, what may be of greater value is the opportunity to learn the value of the musical contributions of composers from countries outside of mainstream Europe.

Forrest Howell (DMA candidate in Piano Performance and Pedagogy, University of Michigan). Having diversified musical interests has allowed Forrest to have a wealth of experiences in performing, teaching, and research. Recent performances include concerts with Broadway singer Lea Salonga as well as performances at the Bowdoin International Music Festival. Forrest's versatility as a teacher is evidenced by the wide range of ages and of experience levels of his students. As a researcher in piano pedagogy, he has presented and led research teams focusing on Theodor Leschetizky, cognitive development theory, and mindfulness meditation practice. (Faculty Advisor: Paola Savvidou)

Learning Disorders: What Every Piano Teacher Needs to Know

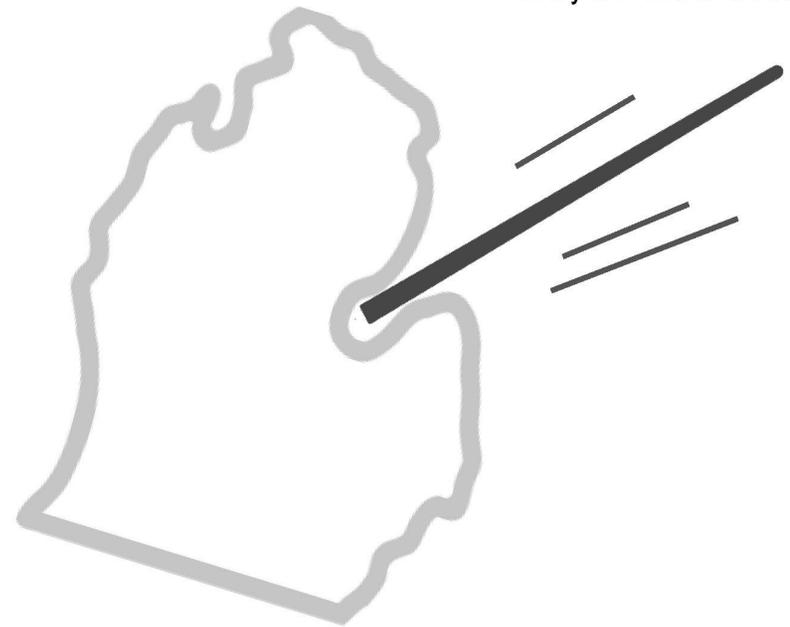
Approximately 2.3 million students are diagnosed with specific learning disabilities and require services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). But many are instead undiagnosed (or misdiagnosed) due to lack of knowledge by teachers. Such children do not receive the services they need to be successful in class, music lessons, and life. Students with a learning disorder may have difficulty with processing, comprehension, memory, organization, and discrimination of appropriate information. As piano teachers, it is important to understand the different aspects of learning disorders, and to accommodate our teaching style in order to promote success for these children. This poster will cover what learning disorders are, the different symptoms that children may present, as well as teaching strategies that help solidify and reinforce the material introduced. Handouts with references and other applicable information will be provided.

Katie Mervyn is a Senior at Central Michigan University completing a Bachelor's of Science in Music and Communication Disorders. She is interested in teaching piano lessons as well as learning organ. Upon graduation in May, Katie will attend graduate school and work towards her degree in Speech Language Pathology as well as beginning her own private studio. This is her third year presenting at MMTA. (Faculty Advisor: Adrienne Wiley)

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 AGE REQUIREMENT: 18
 NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 6

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 ALL AGES MAY APPLY
 NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 5 PER SESSION

DETAILS AT THEGILMORE.ORG

Introducing Compositional Techniques at a Young Age

One aspect of music not normally introduced until the collegiate level is composition. This project proposes a change to this approach. By introducing music composition at an earlier age, we can better prepare our students for greater musical success. By looking at music from both compositional and practice-oriented perspectives, students can gain a fuller understanding of the music itself and will better develop a sense of musical interpretation. My project will explore elementary and intermediate repertoire, honing in on specific compositional techniques used and emphasizing what students can learn from each. I will also consider new ways of teaching repertoire through discussion of compositional value and by introducing easy exercises to better enhance musical development rather than relying on practice-oriented exercises alone.

Grace Ridley is a junior in the Theory/Composition program at Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. With over 14 years of piano experience, she has also been involved in various music ensembles such as CMU's Symphony Band. Her knowledge of a variety of instruments has influenced her musical voice, through which she hopes to express her unique style. Grace has also studied grit and its effect on musical pursuits. In the future, she hopes to receive her Bachelor of Music degree and pursue music composition further at the graduate level. (Faculty Advisor: Adrienne Wiley)

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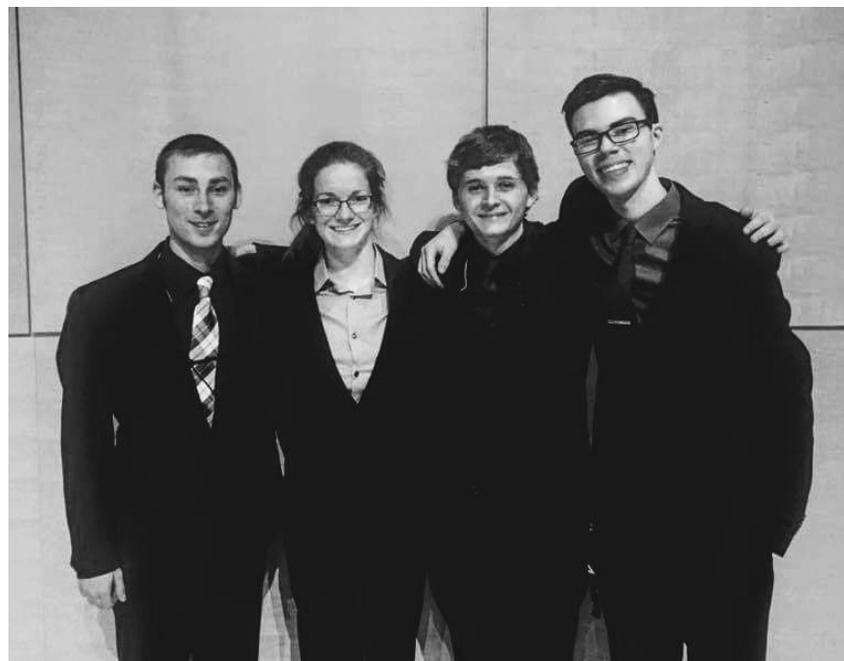
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The Kairos Saxophone Quartet is an undergraduate chamber ensemble comprised of musicians studying at Central Michigan University. The Greek word “Kairos” was chosen as the group's name because of its unique meaning: the right or opportune moment. Recently Kairos has been recognized both at the regional and divisional rounds of the Music Teachers National Association Chamber Music Competition, as well as the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition.





Chinese pianist **Xiaoya Liu** has captured the imagination of worldwide audiences through her profound interpretations and immaculate performances in Asia, Europe and across the United States with orchestras such as the Fort Worth Symphony, the GSIM Festival Orchestra, the University of Michigan Sym-

phony, and the Round Rock Symphony and in venues including Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Hill Auditorium, Duomo di Taormina, Palazzo Biscari, Shanghai Concert Hall and Hangzhou Grand Theatre.

Successes in competitions in 2019 include the Grand Prix in the Sicily International Piano Competition, the First Prize in the Michigan MTNA-Steinway Young Artist Piano Competition, the Winner in the University of Michigan Concerto Competition, the PianoTexas Concerto Competition, the GSIM Concerto Competition and the John F. Kennedy Center Debut Prize.

Xiaoya gained her Bachelor's degree with Honors on full scholarship at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music – National University of Singapore under Prof. Thomas Hecht and subsequently received her Master's degree at the Eastman School of Music with Prof. Natalya Antonova. She is currently pursuing a DMA in Piano Performance at the University of Michigan on full scholarship studying with Prof. Christopher Harding.

More information at xiaoyaliupiano.com

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2019 MTNA and MMTA Competition Winners' Recital

Hosted by Laurie Marshall

Sunday, October 6, 2019
Radisson Hotel, Lansing, 4:30 p.m.

MMTA Concerto Competition, Division 1

Variations on a Theme by Paganini Isaak Berkovich (1902-1972)

Ethan Mihaescu, piano

Catherine Rollin, teacher

MMTA SAT Intermediate Division

Fantasie Impromptu, Op. 66 Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

Paul Lee, piano

Catherine Rollin, teacher

MMTA SAT Junior Division (1st place tied)

"The Lark" from *A Farewell to Saint Petersburg* (1864) Glinka/M. Balakirev

Ryan Li, piano

Nai-Wen Wang, teacher

MTNA Composition Competition State, Regional, and National Finalist

Fantasie, Op. 28 Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

II. *Allegro con moto*

III. *Presto*

Aaron Wang, piano

Catherine Rollin, teacher

MMTA SAT Junior Division (1st place tied)

The Serpent's Kiss William Bolcom (b. 1938)

Eric Yun, piano

Derek Polischuk, teacher

2018 MTNA Michigan Junior Division

Violin Concerto in G major, KV 216 W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)

I. *Allegro*

Madeline Cha, violin

Minji Kim, piano

Sunmi Chang, teacher



Sophia Guan is 19 years old and originally from Chattanooga, Tennessee. She is currently studying piano performance at the University of Michigan, under Arthur Greene.

Sophia was winner of the 2018 Michigan MTNA competition, and proceeded to place alternate at MTNA regionals. She has placed/won prizes in competitions Emory Young Artist, Marian Garcia Competition, Chattanooga Music Club, UTC Piano Arts, and Memphis International Piano Competition.

This summer, Sophia attended Orford Musique Festival, where she worked with John O'Connor, Daniel Shapiro, Ronan O'Hara, and Jimmy Brière. She

was also selected to perform concerto in Perugia, Italy with the orchestra in August, where she also won the best dancer award. Last summer, she attended Boston University's Tanglewood Institute, the Domaine Forget Academy, and Gijon International Piano Festival, where she worked with pianists James Giles, Dominique Weber, Jose Ramon Mendez, and so on. At Tanglewood, Sophia was picked to perform on behalf of the piano department for the Tanglewood on Parade Concert Series. Sophia has performed in masterclass for pianists Boris Berman, Benedetto Lupo, Natalya Antonova, Ronan O'Hara, Ory Shihor, Walter Hautzig, Gila Goldstein, Gilles Vonsattel, Michael Shinn, and Mirian Conti.

In her free time, Sophia likes to rock climb, read, write, and blog as a creative outlet.



Roger Wang is fifteen years old, and a sophomore at Troy High School. Since the age of five, the piano has been a fundamental part of his life. He has participated in numerous recitals and competitions, achieving the distinction of a MTNA National Finalist.

He considers his ability to “feel” and assess the moods and themes of a piece to be among the hallmarks of his playing. He has found it especially challenging to captivate audiences with the Haydn Sonata he plays today—a challenge he accepts to the fullest!

Oliver Gao is currently a senior at Okemos High School. He began playing the piano at age six. After studying piano with Mr. Haicong Ni for three years, Oliver started lessons with Dr. Claire Wei-Qin Tang, who has been his teacher since. In addition to placing first in the MMTA Piano SAT State competition, Oliver has placed in numerous Performing Arts Students (PAS) and Eileen Keel Sonata competitions. Beyond playing solo repertoire, Oliver enjoys playing keyboard in the Okemos High School Theatre pit orchestra and playing for nursing home residents.



Oliver also enjoys running cross country, playing the violin in the Okemos Philharmonic Orchestra, and eating fruit. Oliver would like to thank all of his piano and violin teachers, including Dr. Tang, Dr. Shiganyan, Dr. Schut, and Dr. Haicong Ni, for the valuable music and life lessons they have taught him throughout the years. Finally, he would like to thank his friends and family for all the support.

MMTA Concerto Competition, Division 3

From *Ten Pieces*, Op.12
No. 6, *Legend*
No. 10, *Scherzo*

Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953)

Salem Wang, piano

Logan Skelton, teacher

- - - *Brief Intermission* - - -

2018 MTNA Michigan Junior Division

Haydn Sonata in E major, Hob XVI:31
I. *Moderato*

Franz Josef Haydn (1732-1809)

Roger Wang, piano

Arthur Greene, teacher

MMTA SAT Senior Division

El Puerto from *Iberia*, Book 1

Issac Albeniz (1860-1909)

Oliver Gao, piano

Claire Wei-Qin Tang, teacher

MTNA Michigan Senior Division

Nocturne Op.48, No. 1 in C minor

Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

Sophia Guan, piano

Arthur Greene, teacher

2018 MTNA Michigan Young Artist Division

Nocturne in B Major, Op. 62 No. 1

Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

Xiaoya Liu, piano

Christopher Harding, teacher

2018-2019 MTNA Young Artist Chamber Ensemble Wind

Trio Sonata "La Follia" in D Minor, RV63

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

Speed Metal Organum Blues

Gregory Wanamaker (b. 1968)

Kairos Saxophone Quartet: Emmet Harris - soprano saxophone

Kaylee Bernard - alto saxophone

Aaron Rajewski - tenor saxophone

Kyle Pokropowicz - baritone saxophone

John Nichol, coach

The Performers



Ethan Mihaescu is 8 years old and just began third grade at Roeper School. He began piano studies at the age of 4. Ethan has been honored to be featured at the Weill Hall of Carnegie Hall in 2017. He has also won first place awards from the Steinway Young Artist Competition in 2018, and the Metropolitan Detroit Musician's League Young Artist Competition in 2019. Ethan was the youngest of 10 piano soloists selected to perform on the "Faith in Humanity Concert" raising funds to benefit homeless people in need in Detroit.

Recently, Ethan has enjoyed collaborative music making, performing the Bach F minor concerto with string quartet as well as with piano accompaniment for the MMTA Concerto Competition (Division I) in which he won first place. He has begun collaborating with his father, baritone Dan Mihaescu, with selections from Robert Schumann's *Dichterliebe*, and looks forward to performing the entire song cycle. In addition to his love of piano, Ethan enjoys his academic work, reading, and video games.

Paul Lee is 12 years old and in the 7th grade at Cranbrook School. He studies piano with Catherine Rollin. In the past year, Paul was honored to be selected to perform on two programs at Carnegie Hall's Weill Auditorium—the same year he was selected as the first place winner in MMTA's intermediate division. In the spring of 2019, Paul was a featured soloist in the "Faith in Humanity Concert" held at St. Peter's in Detroit. The proceeds



Lansing Symphony Orchestra student ambassador and a member of the Performing Art Students of the Lansing Matinee Musicale. He is currently studying with Dr. Derek Kealii Polischuk at Michigan State University.



Madeline Cha is currently in 8th grade in Jefferson Middle school in Midland.

Beyond the honor of being a state representative of MTNA, she received an honorable mention in the Walgreens National Concerto competition last winter and was selected as one of the finalists in the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra's young artists competition.

When not playing the violin, Madeline loves to read fantasy fiction books and write stories.

Salem Wang is a passionate pianist who has won prizes in many piano competitions, including first places in the 2019 MMTA Concerto Competition, 2018 Tuesday Musicale Student League Competition, 2018 Steinway & Sons Piano Competition, 2018 MMTA State Finals, the MMTA Concerto Competition in 2017, and the 2017 Schoolcraft College Honors Auditions. Also in 2018, Salem was awarded the Doreen Wessel Taylor Piano Award and scholarship by the Tuesday Musicale of Detroit. In addition, she won second place in the Albion College International Festival and the 2017 MMTA State Finals, and alternative in the 2018 MTNA State Competition, among others.



“Faith in Humanity Benefit Concert” in April of 2019 in Detroit. In 2017 he was honored to be selected as a semi-finalist and finalist in the prestigious Kaufman International Competition held in N.Y.

Also a composer, Aaron has won the state, regional and national first prize from the National Federation of Music Clubs Competition in 2017. For three consecutive years, 2017, 2018 and 2019, Aaron was honored to be selected as the state and regional first prize winner and as a national finalist from the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Composition Competition. In 2018, Aaron was selected as the national second place winner in composition by the MTNA.

Aaron has studied piano and composition with Catherine Rollin since the third grade. He has also been studying composition with Professor Bright Sheng and flute with Professor Amy Porter of University of Michigan. Additionally, Aaron is an avid hockey player and accomplished sailor.



Eric Yun is a sophomore at Okemos High School. He lives with his parents and two dogs and has a brother who is in college. He began to study violin when he was four years old and started piano one year later.

He has received awards from several competitions such as the Hartman Stickley Memorial Piano Competition, Hoosier Auditions, the Ft. Wayne Philharmonic Friends Young Artist Concerto Competition, ISSMA State Solo and Ensemble contest, MSBOA State Solo and Ensemble contest, the Eileen Keel Sonata/ Sonatina Competition, the Lansing

Matinee Musicale Audition Awards in both piano and violin, the Sigma Alpha Iota Competition, MMTA SAT State Competition, the Carmel Klavier International Piano Competition, and IBLA Grand Prize.

He is a violinist in his high school’s Philharmonic Orchestra, a member of Student council, ACTION, Math club, and the Boys Golf team. He is also a

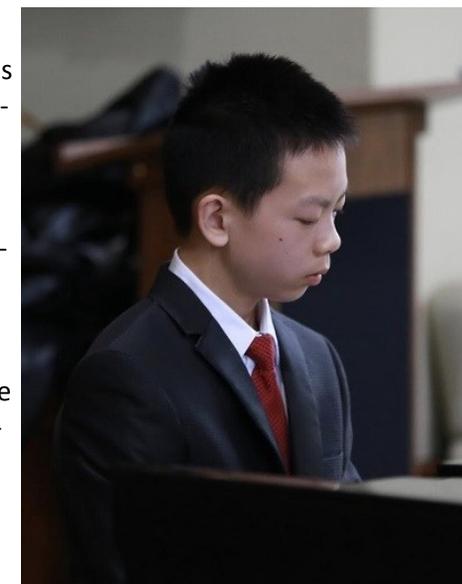
from this concert went to the “Corner Shower and Laundry” project which gives homeless people in Detroit access to shower and laundry facilities and gave gifted young musicians the opportunity to perform in a professional venue and share their music for a very good cause. Additionally, Paul has won multiple trophies at the American Guild Music Competitions. Paul is also a cellist and enjoys being part of his school’s orchestra. Outside of his piano, cello and academic work, Paul is an avid soccer player and captain of the Liverpool travel soccer.



Ryan Li is 12 years old. He began playing piano at the age of six with Dr. Nai-wen Wang. With her inspiring teaching and encouragement, Ryan has made steady progress and really enjoyed playing piano.

This year, Ryan won Honorable Mention at the Oakland University Piano Day competition, First Place award in Elementary Section for Schoolcraft Piano Competition, and First Place in Division II for the Steinway Junior Piano Competition.

At only 12 years of age, pianist **Aaron Wang** has won many awards including a first prize from the Michigan Music Teachers Association (MMTA) state finals (2018). He also has been a first and a third prize winner in the MMTA Concerto Competition (2016 and 2017 respectively). Additionally, Aaron has won awards from the MDML’s Young Artist Competition, third place in the 2019 Steinway Junior Piano Competition, and was among 10 outstanding piano soloists selected to perform and share their music for the



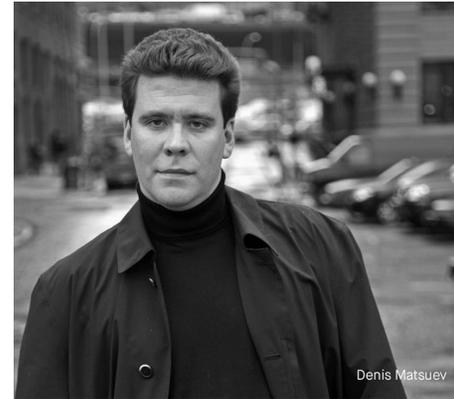
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Hélène Grimaud
Sat 3/14 at 8 pm

Benjamin Grosvenor
Thu 4/2 at 7:30 pm

Contact the UMS Group Sales office for more info:
umsgroupsales@umich.edu


BE PRESENT

