

MICHIGAN MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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136th State Conference



**WESTERN
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October 7-8, 2022

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Kalamazoo, MI



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full of melodies, memories, and making

a musical difference!



NANCY AND RANDALL FABER
AND THE PIANO ADVENTURES TEAM

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The Michigan Music Teachers Association

October 7, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 136th Michigan Music Teachers State Conference! It is going to be a pleasure to greet you all.

As you all know, planning a conference is a challenging task. We are extremely fortunate to be hosted by Western Michigan University and are very grateful to Prof. Lori Sims who made this possible.

Dr. Polishuk, his wife Karin, and KAMTA's President Carol Conklin with her dynamic team have been working hard for many months to ensure that we all have a most pleasant time. Thanks also to MMTA Communication Chair Yelena Wells whose social media posts and conference updates on the website have punctuated our summer and reminded us to stay informed.

While the appealing lineup of presenters and topics will no doubt satisfy our ongoing search to better ourselves as music educators, we will also be able to rejoice in seeing our colleagues' smiling faces again, since masks will not be mandatory! Let's enjoy this unique moment and savor fully the opportunity to be together again.

I look forward to greeting all of you!

Béatrice Ellis



MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

October 7, 2022

Dear Michigan MTA Members:

On behalf of your 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 professional development, 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 possibilities for professional development and networking, you are cordially invited to attend the upcoming, *in-person* MTNA National Conference in Reno/Tahoe, Nevada, March 25–29, 2023. In addition to more than 100 informative sessions and showcases and an extensive Exhibit Hall where you may browse the latest music, products, and innovations, you will also be treated to the world-class artistry of *Yefim Bronfman*, reflective inspiration of *Lara Downes*, insightful master classes with *Angela Cheng and Alvin Chow*, *Dennis Alexander*, and *Melody Bober*, and a down-to-earth elementary teaching demonstration by *Lisa and Lori Bastien*.

As an added incentive, the hotel room rates at the conference hotel in Reno/Tahoe are only \$119 per night. Hotel rates for an MTNA Conference have not been this low since the early 2000s. Don't miss the opportunity to take advantage of the affordable costs and the exceptional program and personalities of the 2023 MTNA National Conference in Reno/Tahoe next March.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Thickett".

Karen Thickett, NCTM
President

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary L. Ingle".

Dr. Gary L. Ingle
Executive Director &
Chief Executive Officer



October 7, 2022

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

On behalf of the Kalamazoo Area Music Teachers Association (KAMTA), welcome to Kalamazoo and the 136th annual MMTA State Conference. It is a particular thrill to host you on the beautiful campus of Western Michigan University, my alma mater, and home to the award-winning Western Michigan University School of Music (WMUSOM). Thank you to all at WMUSOM who have worked with the state and our local association to make this event possible, especially Professors Lori Sims and Yu-Lien The.

Our sincere gratitude is also extended to MMTA Vice-President Derek Polischuk and his team for managing the bulk of work that goes into coordinating an event of this size. He deserves tremendous credit for providing us with a musically rich and educationally diverse program over the next two days.

Finally, thank you to the members of KAMTA for rising to the challenge of hosting this event, in particular, our local coordinator, Margaret Hamilton. We are a chapter made up of teachers from wide-ranging backgrounds—all committed to elevating music education in our community. I'm proud to be a member of this local group as well as a state organization that is passionate about pursuing excellence at all levels.

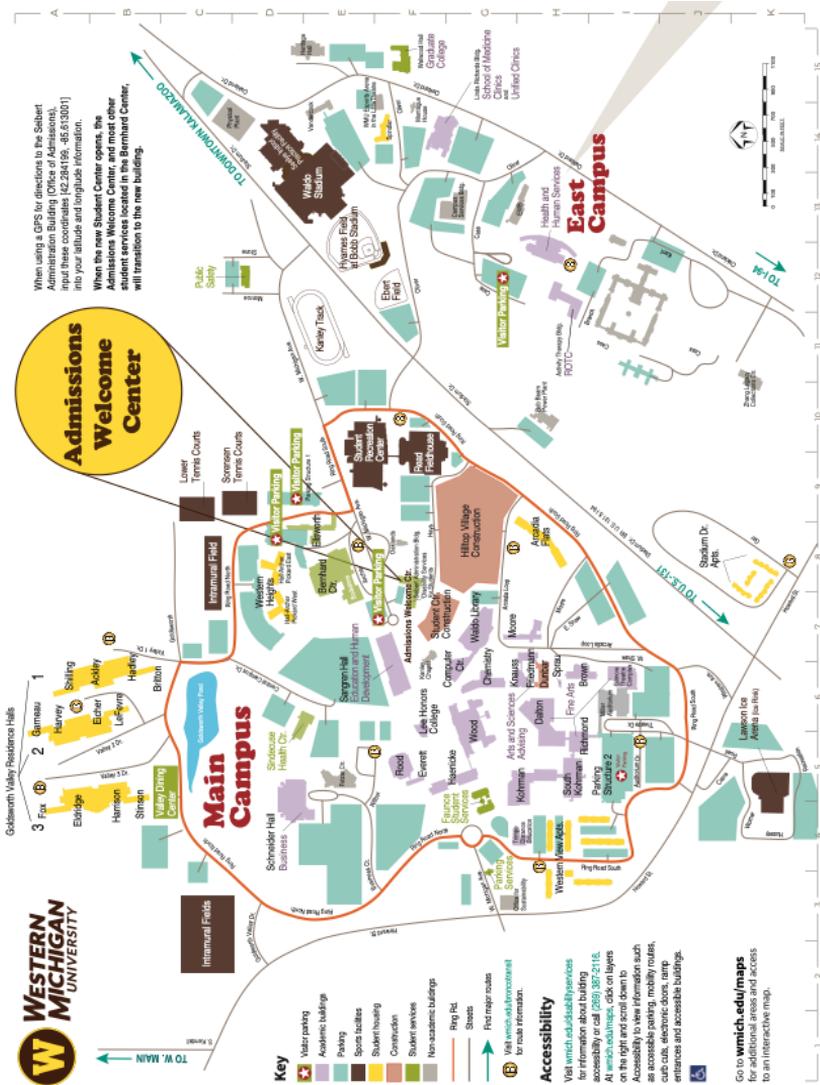
With more than 250 arts organizations in our community, Kalamazoo is an amazing city to explore beyond WMU's campus. More than ten breweries and dozens of restaurants await you in our downtown area, providing plenty of places to share a meal and meaningful conversations about our individual studios.

So enjoy your time in our beloved city, and may you be blessed with a conference that uplifts and motivates you for the upcoming teaching year.

Carol

Carol Conklin
President, Kalamazoo Area Music Teachers Association

MAP OF WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY



MMTA Board of Directors, Officers, Committee Chairs and Personnel 2022

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Student Achievement Testing Coordinator	Sarah Hamilton
Student Chapters/College Faculty Coordinator	Sookkyung Cho

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2022 MMTA FALL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2022 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM

9:00-10:00	Executive Board Meeting	[Closed session] Room 1110
10:00-10:30	Registration	Atrium
10:30-10:45	Opening Remarks	Room 1110
10:45-12:00	Presentation: Karen Salvador <i>"Developmentally Appropriate Practices for Young Learners"</i>	Room 1110
12:00-1:15	Lunch	
12:00-1:15	SAT Lunch	[Closed session] Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center (2nd Floor, Room 244)
1:15-2:30	Presentation: Yu-Lien The <i>"The Culturally Sensitive Music Teacher: Fostering An Inclusive Learning Space"</i>	Room 1110
2:30-4:30	Break	
2:30-4:30	Full Board Meeting	[Closed session] Room 1110
4:30-5:30	Presentations by MMTA Teachers	Room 1110
5:30-6:00	Full Meeting	Room 1110
6:00-8:00	Break/Dinner	
6:00-8:00	Chapter Presidents' Dinner	[Closed session] Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center (2nd Floor, Room 244)
8:00	2022 Commissioned Composer Premiere and Recital by Eric Zuber	Recital Hall

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2022 8:30 AM – 8:00 PM

8:30-9:15	Presentations by College and University Students from the State of Michigan	Room 1110
9:15-10:30	Presentations by MMTA Teachers	Room 1110
10:45-12:00	Presentation: Xavier Davis <i>"What Is Jazz and How Do I Teach It?"</i>	Recital Hall
12:00-1:30	Lunch	
1:30-2:45	Masterclass, Eric Zuber	Recital Hall
2:45-4:00	Presentation: Yoo Jin Noh <i>"You Can Feel The Music"</i>	Room 1110
4:15-5:45	Student Winners Recital	Recital Hall
6:00-8:00	Awards Dinner	West Ballroom, Bernhard Center (2nd Floor, Room 208)



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Conference Artist: Dr. Eric Zuber



Hailed as an "irresistibly fluid" and "illuminating" pianist by the New York Times and the Cleveland Plain Dealer, Eric Zuber has established himself as one of the leaders of a new generation of American pianism.

During a period of just a few years, Dr. Zuber was a recipient of major prizes from twelve of the world's most prestigious international piano competitions including Arthur Rubinstein, Cleveland, Seoul, Sydney,

Dublin, Hastings, Honens, and the Piano-e-Competition, and was named a Laureate of the American Pianists Association Classical Fellowship Awards. He was also a Gold Medalist in both the Hilton Head and Bösendorfer International Piano Competitions. For these and many other remarkable achievements, he was given the Arthur Rubinstein Prize by the Juilliard School.

Dr. Zuber has made solo appearances at the Kennedy Center, Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall, Merkin Hall, the Sydney Opera House, Severance Hall and for the International Keyboard Institute and Festival in New York City. After making his orchestral debut at the age of twelve with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, he has gone on to perform with many of the major orchestras in the United States and abroad including Cleveland, Israel, Indianapolis, Minnesota, Phoenix, Sydney, RTE National, and the Royal Philharmonic. His collaborations with internationally acclaimed artists include performances with Lewis Kaplan, Paul Huang, Amir Eldan, Charlie Neidich, Joseph Silverstein, Gerard Schwartz, Johannes Moser, and Amanda Roocroft.

In addition to a busy solo and collaborative career, Dr. Zuber is dedicated to helping the next generation of aspiring young artists. He recently served as Visiting Assistant Professor of Piano at the University of Kansas and has held previous faculty positions at a number of universities including Bucknell University, Ball State, the University of Memphis, the Peabody Institute, and at the Bowdoin International Music Festival. In past summers he has joined the faculty for festivals including the Walled City International Piano Festival and Competition in Northern Ireland, the Cleveland International Piano Preparatory Academy and Festival, the Asia International Piano Festival held at Ehwa University in South Korea, and MusicFest Perugia in Italy.

Eric holds degrees from the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University (B.M., A.D., D.M.A.), the Curtis Institute of Music (Diploma), and the Juilliard School (M.M). His major teachers have been Boris Slutsky, Leon Fleisher, Claude Frank, and Robert McDonald. Dr. Zuber is a CME Artist.



Congratulation to MMTA for assembling another stellar conference. We're proud to be your partner in bringing the love of music to the lives of the young people in our corner of Michigan.

Conference Clinician: Dr. Karen Salvado



Karen Salvador is Associate Professor and Chair of Music Education at Michigan State University's College of Music, where she teaches courses regarding music in early childhood and elementary general music as well as graduate seminars in music education psychology and research. Prior to her appointment at Michigan State, Dr. Salvador coordinated the music teacher certification program at the University of Michigan-Flint. She previously taught elementary general music

(K-4) in Eaton Rapids, MI; choir and drama in Palmerston North, New Zealand; early childhood music at the MSU Community Music School; children's choirs in Grand Rapids, MI; and early childhood music at the UM-Flint Early Childhood Development Center.

Dr. Salvador earned her PhD in Music Education and Master's degree in Choral Conducting from Michigan State University, and holds a Bachelor's degree in vocal performance from Western Michigan University. Her research pertains to how music educators meet individual student needs, particularly in early childhood and elementary grades. This research extends into music teacher education, exploring both program practices for music educator preparation and also the lived experiences of music educators who are working to become more inclusive and responsive educators. Her research appears in journals including *Journal of Research in Music Education*, *International Journal of Music in Early Childhood*, *Arts Education Policy Review*, *Research Studies in Music Education*, *Journal of Music Teacher*

Education, and *Music Educators Journal*. Dr. Salvador's work also appears in books including *Music Education: Navigating the Future* (2015); *Oxford Handbook of Philosophical and Qualitative Perspectives on Assessment in Music Education* (2019); *Music Play 2: Early Childhood Music Engagement Plans. Guide for Parents, Teachers, Caregivers, and Children* (2020); and *The Routledge Companion to Creativities in Music Education* (expected 2023).

Dr. Salvador directs the early childhood music education programs at Michigan State's Community Music Schools in East Lansing and Detroit. She serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of Music Teacher Education* and is coordinating the 2023 New Directions in Music Education Conference. She is a past president of the Michigan Music Education Association, and is Immediate Past President of the National Association for Music Education's ten-state North Central Division. A frequent presenter, Dr. Salvador is in demand for workshops on early childhood and elementary music (particularly regarding ability-responsive and culturally sustaining instruction) and as a facilitator working with music teaching and learning organizations to strategize toward more inclusive, responsive, and sustaining practices.



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Featuring Mitchell Newman, violin

Sunday, April 30 - "Meditations on Fate"

Hovhaness, Verdi, Brahms and John Williams

Featuring the KJSO 2022 Concerto Competition Winner

Conference Clinician: Xavier Davis



Xavier Davis has been appointed associate professor of jazz piano at the MSU College of Music, following six years of teaching at the Juilliard School.

His professional career as a jazz pianist took off when the legendary vocalist Betty Carter spotted his outstanding talent at the 1994 International Association of Jazz Educators convention in

Boston while he was performing with his college ensemble. It was Carter who brought Davis to New York, hiring him exclusively as the pianist of her working trio. Today, he is one of the most accomplished jazz pianists worldwide. Having led master classes and clinics all over the world and coming from a family of music educators, passing on knowledge and skills to young musicians is very important to Davis.

Davis' development as a musician has been greatly influenced by the inspiration and guidance he has received from Carl Allen, James Williams, and Billy Hart, whom he sees and respects as his great mentors. He has performed and recorded with many other world-famous jazz artists including the legendary Freddie Hubbard, Tom Harrell, Christian McBride, Regina Carter, Stefon Harris, Abbey Lincoln, Wynton Marsalis, Don Byron, Nat Adderley, Nicholas Payton, Jon Faddis, Jimmy Greene, Steve Turre, Al Foster, and Jeremy Pelt. Davis has worked with the Boy's Choir of Harlem as their musical director and he also played keyboard for the television series "Cosby." His talent has been featured on more than 60 albums. Davis is part of the Christian McBride Big Band and was featured on McBride's album *The Good Feeling*, which won a GRAMMY award in 2012.

As a bandleader, Davis has released two critically acclaimed albums - *Dance of Life* and *The Innocence of Youth*. "The pianist [Xavier Davis] simply knows how to make every note on his instrument sing, and he invariably finds the richest area of the keyboard for voicing his chords," says writer Bob Blumenthal. *Jazz Times* reviewer John Murph writes "...the music exudes a mature, nonchalant ease and cozy empathy that make this...a rewarding listen." *DownBeat* gave the CD *Dance of Life* four stars, stating "Davis steps out with an accomplished debut."

In 2005, Davis became the first person to receive the prestigious New Works Grant twice from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation under the auspices of Chamber Music America. He has won awards at several festivals as well as in *DownBeat* magazine. Being a gifted composer, arranger, and producer of music, he has composed and arranged music for outstanding artists like Carl Allen, Regina Carter, and Hans Schuman. He has co-produced the album *Wise Children* by Tom Harrell, and he recently produced the new album of singer Lizzie Thomas. He is also a passionate and experienced film and commercial music composer/producer.



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Conference Clinician: Dr. Yu-Lien The



Yu-Lien The has performed throughout the US, Europe and Southeast-Asia, including appearances as a soloist with the Nordwestdeutsche Philharmonie, the Kammerorchester Hannover, and the Baroque Orchestra L'Arco. Other notable performances include a two-piano recital with Lori Sims of Messiaen's "Visions de l'Amen" in 2008 and a lecture-recital of "The Other Diabelli-Variations" in 2012, both at the Gilmore International Keyboard Festival in Kalamazoo, Michigan. A prizewinner of the 12th International Piano Competition Viotti-Valsesia (Italy) and the Deutsche

Musikwettbewerb, she was admitted to the National Concert Podium for Young Artists (Germany), which led to several concert tours with violinist Tomo Keller. Ms. The is a champion of contemporary composers and has been involved in a number of commissions and world premieres. She frequently collaborates with saxophonists Joe Lulloff and Henning Schröder as well as composers Dorothy Chang, Keith Murphy, and Carter Pann. During her tenure with the new music ensemble Opus21, she worked with composers Anna Clyne, David Lang, and Frederic Rzewski, which culminated in premiere performances at Symphony Space (New York) as well as Zankel Hall at Carnegie in 2007 and 2008, respectively.

Born in the Netherlands, Yu-Lien The received most of her musical training in Germany, where she obtained degrees in both piano and recorder performance and pedagogy from the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hannover. She has earned an Artist Diploma from the Hochschule für Musik Detmold, a Master of Music from Western Michigan University as well as a

D.M.A. in piano performance from Michigan State University. Her principal piano teachers were Arie Vardi, Anatol Ugorski, Deborah Moriarty, and Lori Sims.

Yu-Lien The is Assistant Professor of Keyboard Studies at Western Michigan University and has previously served on the faculties at Bowling Green State University, Valparaiso University, and Kalamazoo College.

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Conference Clinician: Dr. Yoo Jin Noh



Yoo Jin Noh debuted as a soloist with Cape Ann Symphony Orchestra in May 2017. Her other recent performances include a solo at Alfaisal University, Saudi Arabia (August 2022), Segarstrom Hall (February 2019), an ensemble with Quincy Symphony Orchestra (October 2015), and Boston Halfener Symphony Orchestra (March 2015).

Yoo Jin became blind at birth and pursued her interest in music from childhood. Despite her late start at the age of 14, she received a series of awards from local competitions including top prizes in the Southwestern Music Festival and Musical Arts Club Competition (2002-2004). In 2005, she received a grand prize at the U.S. String and Piano Concours of Hymn and played at Carnegie Weill recital hall in New York. In 2008, she was awarded VSA Young Soloist Award and was invited to play at the National Federation of the Blind Convention.

Yoo Jin received a doctorate degree in piano performance from Michigan State University (2021), and a Master of Music from New England Conservatory of Music (2013). Her primary teachers include Deborah Moriarty, Wha-kyung Byun, Gabriel Chodos, and Hae-sun Paik.

By partnering with Michigan State University Tower Guard members, Yoo Jin created the first prototype of 3D tactile music for the blind and visually impaired. The project was selected as a top prize for MSU College of Music Running Start Competition 2021. The team is further developing the prototype to allow both blind and sighted people to use the tool in an educational setting.

Yoo Jin always had a passion for reaching out to communities through music. She had numerous performances in local senior centers, churches, and retirement homes. Since 2005, she annually participated in fundraising concerts for the disabled at Orange County Braille Institute and Hope-Sight Mission of Los Angeles. In June 2014, she performed with El Camino College Orchestra for a benefit concert for the homeless mission. Her other community projects include performances at Park Street Church (March 2016) and Susan Bailey Retirement Center (2014-2015).

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Michelle Shan-Shan Ding is a pianist-soprano. She received her DMA in piano performance, and MM in Voice from Michigan State University.

The Care and Keeping of Young Oboists

In the 20 years that I have been a private oboe instructor I have learned that young oboists need a lot of support. Early on in my career as a teacher I began asking myself “how can I help this or that player with their individual issues as well as their goals on the oboe?” Not only do young oboists need to feel encouraged and understood in their private lessons, but in their band classroom as well. My aim is to provide middle and high school band directors with specific support and ideas to cultivate oboe power in their ensembles.

Caitlin Kramer received her Bachelor’s degree in Oboe Performance in 2007 studying with Anna Mattix, now solo English horn of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. In 2009 she finished her Master’s degree with the same specialization at The San Francisco Conservatory of Music. At SFCM, her primary oboe mentor was Pamela Smith- 2nd Oboist of The San Francisco Symphony. From 2009-2019 Caitlin performed as the first call oboist on the Las Vegas strip. In Vegas, she performed many shows with headliners like Hugh



Jackman, Amy Grant, Weird Al Yankovic, Evanescence, Natalie Merchant, Johnny Mathis, Celtic Woman, Andrea Bocelli, and many more. Caitlin’s oboe students have continued on to attend prestigious music programs including Interlochen, Blue Lake, and Mpulse, and schools such as Arizona State University, University of Michigan, DePauw University, and others. Currently Caitlin is in high demand as an oboist in the “Michiana” region: performing with KSO, BCSO, SMSO, WMS, NISO, SBSO, and more!

The forgotten voice of Emilie Mayer's solo piano music

This presentation will introduce Emilie Mayer's solo piano compositions, which represent her unique romantic aesthetics, close in style to Beethoven, Mendelssohns, and Schumanns. Overview of pedagogical aspects and leveling will be included. Emilie Mayer (1812-1883) managed to devote her life to music and was probably the first woman in music of the 19th century considered to be a "full-time" female composer (Rottermund). Her resilience helped her overcome the barriers that women musicians faced in that era, allowing her to establish herself as a composer and pianist. Mayer's vast compositional oeuvre is worthy of renewal in present concert halls. Along with large scale works, Mayer composed solo and chamber piano music. In this presentation I will introduce Mayer's solo piano compositions, which represent her unique romantic aesthetics, close in style to Beethoven, Mendelssohns, and Schumanns. An overview of pedagogical aspects and leveling will be included. Awareness of Mayer's works will raise one of the unsung keyboard stories from history to the prominence it deserves in the year preceding the 140th anniversary of her death.



Agnieszka Zick is a pianist and pedagogue. She advocates for inclusive music repertoire for students and audiences. Dedicated to excellence in pedagogy, Zick frequently presents her research, most recently at Puerto Rico Center for Collaborative Piano (June 2022), and EPTA Portugal (September 2022). Zick holds a DMA degree in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Michigan, MM from University of South Florida, and BM from Fryderyk Chopin Academy of Music in Warsaw, Poland.

Music of Ukraine

This presentation will feature a brief historical timeline of classical music in the Ukraine. It includes information about four composers whose surnames begin with “L”—Lysenko, Lyudkevych, Leontovych, and Lyatoshynsky, as well as living composers. While none of these composers wrote elementary or intermediate music for the piano, the presentation will offer two pieces teachers can incorporate with younger students. In addition to the information about classical music, the presentation also provides a short introduction to the folk and non-classical music from this area. This presentation has the opportunity to provide music teachers an opportunity to feel a deeper connection to this war-torn region.

Cole Burger teaches class piano and piano pedagogy at Bowling Green State University. Dr. Burger holds degrees in piano performance and economics from Northwestern University and the University of Texas at Austin. Recent presentations include the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy, the International Florence Price Festival, and the Group Piano and Piano Pedagogy Forum.





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College – Presenters

More than meets the Eye: Beginning Reading Approaches and the Pianist's Technical Development

Teachers have long debated the most effective modes of introducing music reading to beginners. In the 1950s, Frances Clark and Louise Goss revolutionized piano teaching with their development of the Music Tree method and its intervallic reading approach. Intervallic reading has impacted countless methods developed since. While developing strong reading skills appears to be the primary focus of many beginning methods, technical foundations - good or bad - are also being laid. This presentation will briefly explore possible pitfalls of how technique is introduced and demonstrate ways in which an intervallic reading approach can be paired with a healthy technical foundation using examples from Music Pathways (Bianchi, Blickenstaff, Olson).



As pianist, educator, collaborative musician, and administrator, **Allison Shinnick** advocates for the transformative role that music can play in society and in the lives of individuals. She is currently a candidate for the DMA in Piano Pedagogy and Performance at the University of Michigan, where she studies with Dr. Arthur Greene and Dr. John Ellis. Allison previously taught at the New School for Music Study and served as Digital Communications and Social Media Coordinator for the Frances Clark Center.

Breaking Boundaries: Smaller Keyboards for Small-Handed Pianists

Small-handed pianists around the world struggle to reach their full potential because of the keyboard size that is standardized for European male virtuosos. Small-handed pianists regularly encounter injuries, limitations of repertoire, and compensated sound quality. They are also frequently criticized for lacking technical or musical abilities. This presentation provides non-exhaustive data about hand spans, preferences of different keyboard sizes, the gender gap in the professional field, the pedagogical benefits of these keyboards, and answers to frequently asked questions. With the crucial development of understanding equity, making these keyboards widely accessible will significantly improve the future of piano playing.

As an active performer and pedagogue, **Ceren Su Sahin** is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Michigan in Piano Performance & Pedagogy, where she studies with Prof. Logan Skelton and Prof. John Ellis. She is also a private piano instructor at Schoolcraft College. Ceren has won prizes at piano competitions and has performed in various festivals throughout Turkey and Europe. She passionately advocates for the use and accessibility of ergonomically scaled keyboards to enable a wider range of people to play the piano.



Cultivating Practical Whimsy in the Private Lesson

This presentation introduces two musical games that can be used in teaching beginner-level students. Designed to be easily adaptable to each student's specific educational needs, these games address a wide range of topics, including note-reading, aural training, rhythm recognition, and Dalcroze eurhythmics.



Mei Lin Wooden is a transferring piano performance and pedagogy senior from Grand Rapids Community College where she received her Associate of Music with a focus in Music Education; and is finishing her Bachelor of Music at Grand Valley State University. She is passionate about teaching young musicians in both 1:1 lessons & group piano classes from her studio at West Michigan Band Instruments. Mei Lin enjoys collaborating with jazz,

wind, string, and choral ensembles, and has served as a dance accompanist for the professional troupe at the Grand Rapids Ballet.

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2022 Commissioned Composer - Michael Kropf



Michael Kropf is a Michigan-based composer whose work deals with hidden emotions and evocative places. He has collaborated with Marin Alsop and the Cabrillo Festival Orchestra, the Ann Arbor Symphony, the Apple Hill String Quartet, and the Aspen Contemporary Ensemble. His music has been described as "a brilliant, rapid fire stretch of perpetual motion," by the SF Chronicle's Joshua Kosman. Recent projects include a violin sonata for violinist Matt Albert and pianist Forrest Howell. He is currently writing a violin concerto for Sabrina Tabby and Contemporaneous.

Michael is also an active music teacher, pianist, violinist, and conductor. He has taught classes at the University of Michigan, the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Pre-College and the Academy of Art. He serves as an academic dean and faculty member at the Walden School Young Musicians Young Musician's Program in New Hampshire.

He earned his doctoral degree in composition at The University of Michigan in 2022, where he studied with Kristin Kuster and Evan Chambers. He received his Master's degree from the San Francisco Conservatory in 2016, where he studied with David Conte. He has also received private study in composition from John Adams.

His work has received recognition from institutions including ASCAP, The San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and the The Music Teacher's National Association.

Forrest Howell, Pianist



Forrest Howell is a near-nomadic musician and writer from Woodinville, Washington. His work as a performer embraces an omnivorous taste in music, ranging from historical keyboard instruments to contemporary Broadway productions to experimental sounds and improvisation. Recent highlights include performances at the Gilmore Piano Festival, Hill Auditorium with the Ann Arbor Symphony, the University of Michigan’s Imprint Series, CoLab at Trinity Laban Conservatoire, Round Top Festival Institute, and Porto PianoFest as an artist in residence.

As a writer, Forrest has contributed to *I CARE IF YOU LISTEN*, *American Music Teacher*, and *The Westfield Center for Historical Keyboard Studies*. He is currently developing the program-note essay genre which contextualizes musical interpretation within personal narratives. The first iteration of this project, “Return from Oblivion: Essays During a Recital”, is focused on stories of loss which occurred during his years as a humanitarian worker in São Paulo.

Equally a devoted pedagogue, Forrest has taught keyboard skills and musicianship courses at the University of Michigan and Brigham Young University. With a mind towards educational equity, he has served as an instructor and curriculum advisor for the Our Own Thing Piano Program; an organization aiming to reduce financial barriers for pre-college students in Washtenaw County.

Forrest currently resides in Denver where he is serving as a full-time Resident Teaching Artist with ArtistYear, an AmeriCorps program focused on providing access to arts education in underfunded schools.

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Gala Concert featuring 2022 MMTA Commissioned Composition and Guest Artist Eric Zuber

Recital Hall
Western Michigan University School of Music
Friday, October 7, 8pm

Michael Kropf & Forrest Howell, Pianists

Two Impressions Michael Kropf
I. Variations Without a Theme (b. 1991)
II. Michigan

Eric Zuber, Pianist

Papillons, Op. 2 Robert Schumann
(1810-1856)

Songs Without Words, Op. 16 # 1 in E major Delphine von Schauroth
(1813-1887)

Moments Musicaux, Op. 16 Sergei Rachmaninov
(1873-1943)
1. Andantino
2. Allegro
3. Andante Cantabile
4. Presto
5. Adagio sostenuto
6. Maestoso

Masterclass with Guest Artist Eric Zuber

Recital Hall
Western Michigan University School of Music
Saturday, October 8, 2022, 1:30 PM

March of the Tin Soldiers, Op. 25, No. 1 Genari Karganov (1858-1890)
Tyce Hoekstra
Student of Jennifer Drake

Sonatina No. 2 in G Major, Op. 36, No. 2 Muzio Clementi (1752-1832)
III. Allegro
Raymin Zhu
Student of Susan Uchimura

Impromptu in A Flat Major, Op. 90 Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
Claire Tong
Student of Annie Leong

Danzas Argentinas Alberto Ginastera (1916-1983)
Selected movements
Danielle Kwon
Student of Sophia van der Westhuizen



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2022 MTNA/MMTA Competition Winners Recital

Recital Hall
Western Michigan University School of Music
Saturday, October 8, 2022, 4:15 PM

MMTA Concerto Competition, Division I Winner

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

Evelyn Cao, piano
Catherine Rollin, teacher

MMTA Concerto Competition, Division II Winner

Sonata No. 1 in E Minor, Op. 38 Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
Allegro non troppo

Jocelyn Wong, cello
Jeremy Crosmer, teacher

MMTA MTNA Junior Division Piano Winner

MMTA SAT Senior Division Winner

Aria variata alla maniera italiana in A Minor, BWV 989 J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Aaron Wang, piano
Catherine Rollin, teacher

MMTA SAT Junior Division Winner

Liebstraum No. 3 Franz Liszt (1811-1886)

Bryna Sullivan, piano
Marta Pietrzyk, teacher

MMTA MTNA Junior Division String Winner

Cello Concerto in C Major

Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

Bhargava Kulkarni, cello

Amir Eldan, teacher

MMTA MTNA Senior Division String Winner

Tzigane

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

Nikolas Simon, violin

Kim Kennedy, teacher

MMTA SAT Intermediate Division Winner

Sonata No. 2 in D Minor, Op. 14

Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953)

IV. Vivace

Ethan Mihaescu, piano

Catherine Rollin, teacher

MMTA MTNA Young Artist Piano Winner

Piano Sonata No. 2

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

Allegro agitato

Zhengyi Huang, piano

Logan Skelton, teacher

MMTA MTNA Young Artist Woodwind Winner

Flute Sonata in A Minor, Wq. 132/H. 562

C.P.E. Bach (1714-1788)

I. Poco Adagio

II. Allegro

III. Allegro

Roberto Campa, saxophone

Timothy McAllister, teacher

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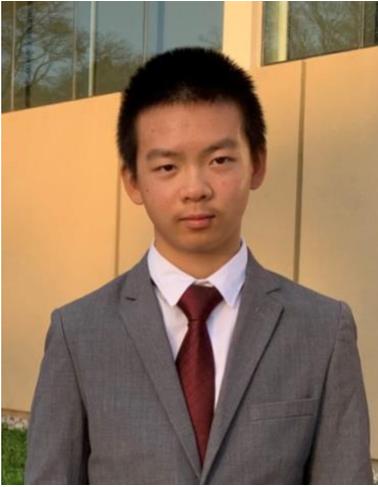
Evelyn Cao is 8 years old and in the fourth grade. She loves piano and began lessons at age 5. She has been studying with Catherine Rollin since the spring of 2021. In the 2021-2022 season, Evelyn was honored to win two Bronze Medals from the International Musicale Recital series, a third prize from the prestigious Chopin Competition in Hartford, CT and the second place award from the MMTA State Finals in the intermediate division. She won first place awards from Division I of the Steinway Competition of Michigan, Metropolitan Detroit Musicians Young Artist Competition and the MMTA State Concerto Competition respectively.

Evelyn loves learning! In addition to her academic studies and piano, she is also an avid reader, chess player, skier and swimmer.

Jocelyn Wong was born in Ann Arbor and is a 7th grader at Slauson Middle School in Ann Arbor. Jocelyn began her cello lesson with Dr. Andrea Yun when she was 5-year-old. She instantly became interested in cello and has continued to play since then. She is currently studying with Dr. Jeremy Crosmer. The 2022 MMTA Concerto Competition was her first competition ever, and she was very excited to be selected as a winner. She also has been a member of the DSO Civic Philharmonic Orchestra since last season. Jocelyn also enjoys playing piano trio music with her older sister and mom.



Throughout her years, she has lived in England (London) and China (Shanghai), and she had the opportunity to visit many countries and learned about their history and culture. Jocelyn can speak three different languages because of these opportunities to live abroad. Besides music, she loves to draw. Her art works have been chosen to be displayed around downtown Ann Arbor, and she has previously gotten an award from Shanghai Education Council. Her other passions are animals, crafts, science, and learning to bake new things.



Aaron Wang, pianist, 15 years old, studies with Catherine Rollin. In 2021, he was an MTNA national finalist, and in 2022, was selected as the alternate winner for the East Central Division. In 2022, Aaron also won the MMTA SAT in the Senior division. Additionally, he was a finalist in the Kaufman International Youth Piano Competition in 2017. As a composer, Aaron was a three-time national finalist in the MTNA composition competitions, placing 2nd nationally in 2018. Aaron, commencing his studies at Cranbrook Schools as a freshman in 2021 received the prestigious Slotkin Music Scholarship from Cranbrook Schools. He is the founder

of the Slotkin Trio, a chamber group dedicated to performing piano trios. In addition, he is a skipper on Cranbrook's Varsity Sailing Team and has competed in national regattas.

Bryna Sullivan, an outstanding eighth grader from Van Hoosen Middle School of Rochester Hills-Michigan, began taking piano lessons at age 6 with Ms. Marta Pietrzyk who immediately discovered her talent in musical comprehension and expression.



Bryna started to play pieces from classical composers like Mozart and Bach after a couple of years of study. Starting at age 7, she began to compete at various piano contests and won several awards. Those included the AGM national age championships in 2017 & 2018 and two consecutive first-place awards in MDML Competition in 2018 and 2019. In 2019, Bryna took 1st place in Division I of the Steinway competition and in April 2022, Bryna won the 1st place of Division II of the Steinway Competition. In May 2021, Bryna won first place in the intermediate division of MMTA SAT competition. In May 2022, she finished in the first place in Junior Piano Division of MMTA SAT piano competition.

Bryna loves to perform her music pieces, no matter it is for a big concert or a small group of casual audiences in a restaurant or at an airport. In February 2020, Bryna was invited to perform at the prestigious Tuesday Musicale of Detroit. And in Sept 2022, Bryna was invited as a guest young artist to perform at the Tuesday Musicale of Greater Pontiac.

Besides piano, Bryna is also a great dancer. Her favorite dance styles are jazz, lyrical and tap. She enjoys swimming, skating, and reading. She loves to share her passion for music. She hopes one day she could introduce her music to the world.



Bhargava Kulkarni is a 12-year-old eighth grade student at the Chippewa middle school in Okemos, Michigan. Bhargava started learning cello as a four-year-old with Molly Rebeck. Since then, he has studied cello with Horacio Contreras and Richard Aaron. For the past three years, he is studying with Amir Eldan, a professor of cello at the University of Michigan. His repertoire includes cello concertos by Kabalevsky, Saint-Saens, Elgar and others as well as many chamber music pieces.

As a participant at the Indiana University Summer String Academy, he performed Gavotte by Popper and the Goltermann cello concerto no. 4. He has won local string performance competitions. He has also participated in several masterclasses including that by Susan Moses (ASTA national conference).

Nikolas Simon, fifteen years old, lives in Bloomfield Hills, MI with his parents and younger brother. He is a sophomore at Bloomfield Hills High School.

Nikolas started playing the violin at three years old and has been recognized over the years with numerous awards for his musical abilities, most recently in 2020, 2021, and 2022 by the Tuesday Musicale of Detroit Student League Competition.

Nikolas is also an avid sports enthusiast - he plays travel soccer and captains his High School Varsity soccer team.





Ethan Mihaescu is 11 years old and in sixth grade at the Roeper School. When he was 7, he won the first place award in the Crescendo International Competition and was honored to perform at Carnegie Hall. That year he also won first place in the Michigan Steinway Competition Division I. Ethan has won the first place awards in the MMTA concerto competition in 2019 and 2021 in divisions I and II respectively. Those years he also won the first place awards in the MDML Young Artist Competition's divisions I and II. In the fall of 2020, Ethan was one of only six pianists,

of over 300, to be recognized in the Steinway International Virtual Competition Division I. Additionally, in 2020-21, Ethan placed in a number of other prestigious international competitions, including The Chopin Hartford, Musicale Romantic Competition, and the Rocky Mountain Competition. In 2021, he received a Gold Medal in the International Musicale Festival and was selected to perform for a Master Class with Yuan Cheng. In 2022, Ethan won first place at the MMTA State Solo Finals Intermediate Division. Ethan has performed for the Tuesday Musicale of Detroit on multiple occasions both as a soloist and collaborative pianist with his father, baritone Dan Mihaescu. Ethan studies piano with Catherine Rollin. In addition to piano, Ethan loves learning, is an avid reader, plays tennis, and enjoys playing video games in his spare time.

Zhengyi Huang is from Shenzhen, China. He is currently pursuing his Master of Music in piano performance and chamber music with Professor Logan Skelton under a full tuition scholarship. His recent competition wins include first prize in the Young Texas Artist Competition, First in the Marian Garcia Piano Competition, first and audience favorite prizes in Grand Junction Concerto competition, second place in the MTNA-Steinway Young Artist National Final, and first place in the Rosamond P. Haeberle Piano Award competition. This summer, he received full scholarships to attend the Gilmore, Piano Texas, and Rebecca Pennys festivals. Frank will be competing as finalist of the Seattle International Piano Competition and performing with the Grand Junction Orchestra in September.





Saxophonist **Roberto Campa** (b. 2000 in Monterrey, Mexico) is an up-and-coming artist currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Saxophone Performance at the University of Michigan under Dr. Timothy McAllister. An active chamber musician, he is the tenor saxophonist in the Eros Quartet, silver medalists at the 2021 Fiscoff National Chamber Music Competition, winners of the 2021 NOLA Music Competition, and finalists in the 2021 MTNA Chamber Music Competition. As a soloist, In 2022 Roberto was named a prize winner in both the National MTNA Young Artist and the Vandoren Emerging Artist Competitions. This past summer, he was named a recipient of the Hans Schauble Award, for

which he will give his European debut at the Arosa Klassik Festival in March 2023. He has also given solo performances with the Clear Lake Symphony as well as the Little Orchestra Society, based in New York City.

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2022 Distinguished Service Award Recipient

Lia Jensen-Abbott



Dr. Lia Jensen-Abbott is an Associate Professor of Music at Albion College. Awarded the Arthur Andersen New Faculty of the Year award in 2016 from Albion College, Lia is well known for her interdisciplinary lecture recitals based on semiotic analysis, Fanny Hensel, Florence Price, Beethoven and Anton Diabelli, and the connections between

athletics and music. Her solo and collaborative performances with Dr. Karen Kness have taken her around the United States, Europe, and Central America. In 2012 she performed at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in New York City.

As a clinician and adjudicator, Lia has been invited to judge the MTNA National Finals in San Antonio and Chicago, and she has presented at the MTNA National Conference two times (Orlando and Baltimore) a CMS International Conference, and three WPTA Conferences. Recently, Lia has recorded a three-volume CD set entitled **The Albion College Diabelli Squared Project**, which presents Beethoven's Op. 120, the original Fifty Variations written for Anton Diabelli's philanthropic project, and thirteen newly commissioned variations on the same Waltz theme.

An active member of the Music Teachers National Association, Lia is now the Past President of the Michigan MTA. She is a member of the European Piano Teachers Association and the World Piano Teachers Association, and President of the WPTA Michigan Chapter. Lia earned degrees from The

University of Nebraska-Lincoln (BM, DMA), Indiana University (Performer Diploma), and The Pennsylvania State University (MM, MA). Her teachers have included Timothy Shafer, Edmund Battersby, and Mark Clinton. She is a co-founder of the Albion College International Piano Festival and Competition and lives in Albion, Michigan with her husband, pianist Dr. David Abbott, her son Charlie, and two dogs. In her spare time, Lia competes in triathlons, plays golf, and reads.

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Sarah Albright



Sarah Albright grew up in Martinsville, Virginia where she began piano lessons with her mother. In Junior High School she began organ study and in high school accompanied the high school and was organist of her church. She received a degree in Organ Performance from Salem College, Winston-Salem, NC where she studied with John Mueller, and a Masters degree in Organ at the University of Michigan, where she studied with Marilyn Mason. She also had organ study in Paris with Marie Claire Alain. For 50 years Sarah has taught piano and held

church positions as organist, pianist and choir director. She has been active in the Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild and served on the Certification Board and head of Local Associations in MMTA. She is a long time member of the American Guild of Organists and served as Dean of the Ann Arbor Chapter.

Jerre Jean Conran



Jerre Jean Conran, NCTM, holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Literature with Piano Principal, (U of M, 1960), and a Master of Arts in Teaching at the Elementary Level, (WMU, 1971). She has been a teacher of piano since 1960 and a teacher of Elementary Music from 1993 until 2003. Mrs.

Conran joined the Piano Teachers Forum of Grand Rapids in 1967 at the recommendation of Jerre Jean McDaniel who was active in the MMTA at the

state and regional level. She served as president and was named GRPTF Teacher of the Year (1988) during her twenty year membership.

When she began teaching in Coopersville Elementary School, she transferred her membership to the Holland Piano Teachers Forum, where she continued her activity in the MMTA Student Achievement Testing program in which she had worked from its inception in 1976 (?). HPTF named her as Teacher of the Year in 2001. From 2006-2009 she served as president of HPTF. She served as Secretary for the MMTA Board of Directors for several years during the 1980s.

Since 1994, Mrs. Conran has been an active Rotarian, serving the Coopersville and worldwide community. She was named Coopersville's Citizen of the Year in 2015. Mrs. Conran has been married to Ross for 54 years and has two sons, three grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter. She retired from active piano teaching in 2020.



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Barbara Collins



Honoring Barbara Collins 50 years with PHMTA

Barbara Collins, often cited as the “grandmother” of the Port Huron Music Teachers Association, is being honored for fifty-one years of membership and service to the state organization, Michigan Music Teachers Association and local chapter. During her lengthy tenure with the state organization, Collins received the MMTA Distinguished Service Award, which recognized her for exemplary service to the state organization through her decade long service on the board, serving in various

capacities, including Student Achievement Testing (SAT) Coordinator, SAT Audition Chair and Concerto Competition Chair. During her affiliation with the local chapter, Collins is currently serving one of many terms on the board of PHMTA, and has been honored as their Teacher of the Year.

Collins’ 58 years of experience as a piano teacher, school music teacher, church musician and a collaborative pianist has highly benefited the state organization, the local community and her many students. Being a piano teacher has been her passion since her teen years and she loves continuing to learn through attendance at workshops and seminars. She also teaches adults to return to the keyboard in the Recreational Music Making format. In addition to maintaining a thriving home piano studio, she has been a church musician at St. Joseph Church, part of Holy Trinity Parish, for 51 years. She is a member of the Port Huron Piano Trio, which prior to COVID, presented educational programs for 3rd and 4th graders in area school districts.

Collins’ positive influence in the community was acknowledged by the Michigan Waterways Council of Girl Scouts, in 2004 as she was designated a “Woman of

Distinction.” Barbara earned a Bachelor of Music education degree from Central Michigan University and has permanent professional certification with the MMTA and Music Teachers National Association (MTNA).

In addition to her role as the “grandmother” of PHMTA, Barbara has served as the “Hub of the Wheel”, considering past precedents while keeping abreast of new pedagogical concepts and industry trends. PHMTA members are grateful for her mentorship expertise, while acknowledging the futility of comparing themselves to her, grasping that the good Lord crafted and gifted her with superb abilities, admirable personality traits and a unique sensitivity to others.

Bernadine Johnson

Bernadine grew up in the Western suburbs of Chicago and started music lessons at age 8. Her mother had bought a piano that came with 10 free lessons and after 1 or 2 lessons decided it wasn’t for her, so she sent Bernadine to the rest of the lessons, and they continued. In addition to piano, Bernadine played violin in grade school, flute in high school, and participated in school bands, orchestras, and choir. In 7th and 8th grade, her school music teacher, Miss



Wilson, encouraged Bernadine in her musical journey and used her to accompany the school choir. Miss Wilson was the biggest musical influence in young Bernadine’s life.

In college, Bernadine earned a degree in music education, studying at Marion College (now Indiana Wesleyan University). However, there was no music teaching position open in the schools where she and her husband lived in Fremont, Michigan. She became friends with a piano teacher who encouraged her to open a private studio because she didn’t have room for any more students in her schedule. Since piano was her major in college and her passion, she did just that. At first, she thought it would be a temporary job while she waited for a school

position to open up. But when that position was eventually offered, she realized that she was already in the best fit for her and her town (even if it wasn't the best fit for insurance or retirement). She hasn't regretted it! Bernadine has been teaching piano in Fremont for over 46 years now! She loves getting to know so many students (and their families) intimately and being part of their lives, being around the piano for hours, seeing the miracle of what happens between age 7 and 17, being able to love them/encourage them.

Bernadine truly loves playing the piano! It's her job/profession, but it's also a fun hobby. "I LOVE to play the piano!" But she also loves reading, camping at Lake Michigan, and riding around with her husband in a convertible. Bernadine and her husband, Bob, just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They have 3 sons and 3 grandchildren.

Jennifer Drake



Jennifer began piano at age 8 with a teacher whose home doubled as a piano studio and guinea pig breeding operation. She thought she was hot stuff in the 4th grade when she could play the Star Wars theme 3 times as fast as the intended tempo without hitting any wrong notes. At home, Jennifer was accused of ruining the piano career of 4 other siblings by hogging the piano. In high school, Jennifer's teacher recommended a change to a more advanced teacher. Since no such teacher existed in the area, she continued with her original teacher who gave her a book of Chopin Nocturnes and wished her luck. The results were not stellar. After floundering at the piano for the rest of high

school, Jennifer entered Kalamazoo College as an English major. But she found out that if you declared a music major you were not charged an extra fee for piano lessons, so she became a music major freshman fall, beginning her piano studies for real with Dr. Leslie Tung.

After graduating from Kalamazoo College with a degree in piano performance and a pretty vague idea about her future, Dr. Tung recommended taking on a few private students. He advised joining KAMTA as well as observing a few lessons with some of Kalamazoo’s finest private piano teachers: Annie Leong, Jill Christian, and Peggy Hegel. The professionalism and excellence in teaching that Jennifer observed far exceeded her own precollege piano experiences and convinced her that this was a career path that could be enjoyable and challenging. She has maintained a thriving private piano studio in Kalamazoo for the last 30 years. Jennifer has also done graduate work in piano performance at WMU, studying with Lori Sims.

The role models, networking, and continuing education provided by KAMTA have been essential to Jennifer’s success as a piano teacher. In KAMTA she has served on the executive board as treasurer, vice-president, president, and vice-president again. She has served as the Ensemble Festival coordinator and continues to serve as the SAT coordinator. She served MMTA for several years as Awards Chair. She has also been an adjunct piano instructor at Kalamazoo College since 2002 and a pianist for Peoples Church in Kalamazoo since 2009. Jennifer loves the unique human connections that are made by sharing music and is grateful for all the teachers, colleagues, and students that have enriched her life as a pianist and teacher.

Karen Johnson

Karen Johnson is a classically trained pianist and enjoys teaching private piano lessons in her Bloomfield Hills home studio to children and adults of all ages and abilities. A native of Michigan, Karen studied under Mary Siciliano and continued her music studies at the University of Michigan School of Music where she received a Bachelor of Music, Music Education. In addition, Karen received her Master of Business Administration at the University of Michigan.



Karen is an active member of the Metropolitan Detroit Musician’s League, where this past year she served on the Board as Secretary, as well as Chairperson for Student Recitals. Karen is married and has three grown children. In addition to sharing her love of music, Karen enjoys exercising, cooking, traveling, and spending time with family.

Linda Jones



Linda Jones returned to the Mason area after a sixteen-year hiatus in which her family lived in Alpena, MI and Pearl City, IL. She found a warm and welcoming group of teachers at Capital Area Music Teachers Association, and she recently served as president from 2020-2022.

As a young girl, Linda enjoyed “playing” every piano she could find, but she finally began formal music lessons at the age of nine. Her Uncle Fred, who was a trumpeter in a polka band, was instrumental in encouraging her to play at many church events from her earliest phase of music education. She quickly advanced and became a church organist/pianist at the age of fifteen. She also enjoyed playing the flute and singing.

As she prepared for college, Linda debated about a career trajectory. Although she loved science, it quickly became evident that music had the greater pull. She attended Michigan State University where she earned degrees in Piano Pedagogy and Music Therapy. Linda loved the duality of her two career choices, and until her children were born, she worked half time in each of them.

Presently, Linda has a studio in Mason. She also is the pianist for the Eaton Rapids Public schools and is a church musician in Eaton Rapids. The mother of four grown children is an avid irisarian and gardener; she has over 200 cultivars of iris. Linda and her husband, John, share their home with two cats and two dogs. One of the latter, a Sheltie, is also a music lover, and he regularly “sings along” with his favorite pieces.

Sharon Gomulka



Sharon Gomulka now serves as the Immediate Past President of the Livonia Area Piano Teachers Forum. She was president the last 2 years of COVID and vice-president for 3 years prior. Doris Edwards invited Sharon to join LAPTF 10 years ago.

Born and raised in Trenton, N.J., Sharon received 13 years private classical training starting at age 4. Heavily influenced by her father's passion for music, it was always heard in her home. Attending live musical events up and down the East Coast was a way of life in her family. Her family moved to Michigan in the late 70's. Losing connection with her classical teacher and training she joined local Detroit jazz, jazz-fusion, and pop bands before marrying and raising a family. After working in corporate America for 15 years she and her husband, Ted, a jazz saxophonist-engineer, decided to homeschool their youngest three children. Raising their children in similar fashion, Sharon incorporated music in most of their subjects and it was always heard in the home, and they would often attend live performances. Another family asked her to teach their daughter to play the piano. Having never thought about teaching before, Sharon explored the possibility of learning how to teach piano since she enjoyed homeschooling her own children so much.

Don Morelock accepted Sharon into the Pedagogy Certification Program at Schoolcraft College. She completed the program under Dr. Gerardo Ascheri while simultaneously completing her Associates of Arts degree, and replacing Nancy Whitecar's position as full time accompanist for Livonia Stevenson High School.

Going on her 11th year as a piano teacher, Sharon runs a very active studio, serves as full time choir director of St Innocent Russian Orthodox Church in Redford, MI, works as a free-lance pianist for various local venues and occasions, studies privately with mentor, Mary Siciliano, and is currently a MTNA Certification 2023 candidate.

Sharon is forever indebted to LAPTF for the opportunities it affords anyone who desires to learn and grow musically, professionally, and personally.

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MMTA-SAT PIANO FINAL WINNERS

May 7, 2022

Intermediate Division

Sheryl Iott and Justin Colwell, Adjudicators

First Place:	Ethan Mihaescu, student of Catherine Rollin
Second Place:	Evelyn Cao, student of Catherine Rollin
Third Place:	Nathan Mei, student of Irina Babina

Junior Division

Sheryl Iott and Justin Colwell, Adjudicators

First Place:	Bryna Sullivan, student of Marta Pietrzyk
Second Place:	Claire Tong, student of Annie Leong
Third Place:	Nathan McCoy, student of Jacki VanderSlik

Senior Division

Debora DeWitt and Laura Kolean, Adjudicators

First Place:	Aaron Wang, student of Catherine Rollin
Second Place:	Alexandra Xu, student of Mary Siciliano
Third Place:	Sunny Rong, student of Mary Siciliano
Honorable Mention:	Fuka Somatomo, student of Sookkyung Cho

MMTA 2022 CONCERTO COMPETITION WINNERS

May 21, 2022

Division I

1st winner: Evelyn Cao, Piano, Student of Catherine Rollin
2nd winner: Violet Kang, Piano, Student of Yangwei Situ

Division II

1st winner: Jocelyn Wong, Cello, Student of Jeremy Crosmer
2nd winner: Nathan Wen, Piano, Student of Mary Siciliano
3rd winners (tie): Claire Kim, Cello, Student of Jeremy Crosmer
Eliot Kim, Piano, Student of Mary Siciliano

Division III

1st winner: Brian Zhang, Piano, Student of Christopher Harding
2nd winners (tie): Serafima Bezuglova, Violin, Student of Oleg
Bezuglova
Victor Zhong, Piano, Student of Mary Siciliano
3rd winners (tie): Lang Ren, Cello, Student of Nathaniel Pierce
Sunny Rong, Piano, Student of Mary Siciliano

Division IV

1st winner: Madeline Cha, Violin, Student of Hye-Jin Kim
2nd winner: Shuya Zheng, Piano, Student of Mi-Eun Kim
3rd winner (tie): Audrey Zhang, Piano, Student of Christopher Harding
Minwoo (Brian) Kim, Cello, Student of Kunhee Koo

2021-2022 MTNA National Performance Competition Winners and Finalists from Michigan

Junior Division Composition

Second Place: Jonah Cohen

Mary Siciliano

Senior Division Brass

Third Place: Roel Arazo

David Zerkel
University of Michigan

Young Artist Piano

Second Place: Zhengyi Huang

Logan Skelton
University of Michigan

Young Artist String

Second Place: Benjamin Deighton

Amir Eldan
University of Michigan

Young Artist Woodwind

Second Place: Roberto Campa

Timothy McAllister
University of Michigan

MTNA Chamber Ensemble String

Second Place: The Darcy Trio

Emily Hauer, violin
Andres Ayerbe, cello
Sarah Jin, piano

Amy I-Li Cheng
University of Michigan

Third Place: Clover Trio

Yu Xin, violin
Mira Cheng, cello
Chang Li, piano

Derek Polischuk
Michigan State University

Finalist: Quartet Samod

Nathan Salazar, soprano saxophone
Kaylee Bernard, alto saxophone
Evan Harris, tenor saxophone
Emmet Harris, baritone saxophone

Joseph Lulloff
Michigan State University

2021 MTNA Michigan Competition and Performance Competitions

Junior Division

Piano

Winner:	Aaron Wang, Student of Catherine Rollin
Alternate:	Brenda Mao, Student of Faye Mao
Honorable Mention:	Brian Zhang, Student of Christopher Harding
Honorable Mention:	Sunny Rong, Student of Mary Siciliano
Honorable Mention:	Victor Zhong, Student of Mary Siciliano

String

Winner:	Bhargava Kulkarni, cello. Student of Amir Eldan
Alternate:	Anna Lee, violin. Student of Kim Kennedy
Honorable Mention:	Yohei Kuroda, violin. Student of Mallory Tabb

Senior Division

Composition

Winner:	Jonah Cohen, Student of Mary Siciliano
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Brass

Representative:	Roel Arazo, euphonium. Student of David Zerfel
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Piano

Winner:	Davis Morgensten, Student of Michael Coonrod
Alternate:	Roger Wang, Student of Arthur Greene
Honorable Mention:	Khoa Ho, Student of Thomas Lymanstull
Honorable Mention:	Ariya Laothitipong Student of Christopher Harding
Honorable Mention:	Luis Villa, Student of Michael Coonrod

String

Winner:	Nikolas Simon, violin. Student of Kim Kennedy
Alternate:	Kaivalya Kulkarni, cello. Student of Amir Eldan
Honorable Mention:	Henry Jackson, violin. Student of Adrienne Ronmark

Young Artist Division

Composition

Representative: Michael Eaton, Student of David Biedenbender

Brass

Winner: Joseph Bickel, euphonium. Student of David Zerkel

Alternate: Brian Wilk, tuba. Student of James Long

Piano

Winner: Zhengyi Huang, Student of Logan Skelton

Alternate: Zhisheng Wang, Student of Logan Skelton

Honorable Mention: Helen Bryant, Student of Christopher Harding

Theron Masters, Student of Arthur Greene

String

Winner: Benjamin Deighton, cello. Student of Amir Eldan

Alternate: Jacob Resendez, cello. Student of Bruce Uchimura

Honorable Mention: Zachary Earle, Student of Bruce Uchimura

Woodwind

Winner: Roberto Campa, saxophone. Student of Timothy McAllister

Alternate: Jacob Nance, saxophone. Student of Joseph Lulloff

Honorable Mention: Nathan Jasper, saxophone. Student of John Nichol

Jason Frazier, saxophone. Student of Timothy McAllister

Philip Kleutgens, saxophone. Student of Timothy McAllister

Samuel Dishon, saxophone. Student of Timothy McAllister

MTNA East Central Division Competitions

Michigan Results

Junior Performance, Piano

Alternate: Aaron Wang

Teacher: Catherine Rollin

Junior Performance, String

Alternate: Bhargava Kulkarni

Teacher: Amir Eldan

Senior Composition

Winner: Jonah Cohen

Teacher: Mary Siciliano

Senior Performance, Brass

Rep: Roel Arazo

Teacher: David Zerkel

Young Artist Composition

Rep: Michael Eaton

Teacher: David Biedenbender

Young Artist Performance, Brass

Alternate: Joseph Bickel

Teacher: David Zerkel

Young Artist Performance, Piano

Winner: Zhengyi Huang

Teacher: Logan Skelton

Young Artist Performance, String

Winner: Benjamin Deighton

Teacher: Amir Eldan

Young Artist Performance. Woodwind

Winner: Roberto Campa

Teacher: Timothy McAllister

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