



# **MICHIGAN MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

137th Annual Conference

Founded 1885

An affiliate of Music Teachers National Association



October 20-21, 2023

Oakland University  
School of Music, Theatre, and Dance  
Varner Hall  
Rochester, MI

*Lake Michigan Music Concert Series  
The Children's Academy  
Lake Michigan Music Teachers Association*

*Best wishes for much success at the  
Michigan Music Teachers Association  
137th Annual Conference*



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**MICHIGAN STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

September 8, 2023

Colleagues-



It's my pleasure to welcome you to the 137<sup>th</sup> Michigan Music Teachers Association State Conference. Laurie Marshall, our Vice President, has put together a fantastic lineup of events for you over the next few days. I hope you'll take this opportunity to learn, be inspired, and build community amongst our extraordinary group of MMTA teachers in attendance.

We are honored to be at Oakland University, and thankful for the work of our Local Association Host, the Metropolitan Detroit Musicians League, for their time and effort in putting together this event. Thank you as well to the Macomb Piano Teachers' Forum for their additional support for this conference. A special thank you to MTNA Executive Director and CEO Gary Ingle for joining us. We are very thankful for his many years of service to MTNA.



**College of Music**

Derek Kealii Polischuk  
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The work you do in your music studios is important and indispensable. I hope you will take this time to celebrate the achievements of yourselves, your colleagues, and your students, and to build each other up. Our profession is stronger when we work closely as an association. I believe in this mission, and I hope you do too.

Have a fantastic conference. I look forward to speaking with you.

Derek Kealii Polischuk  
President



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## Michigan Music Teachers Association

AFFILIATED WITH THE MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
FOUNDED IN 1885

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October 20, 2023

Dear Colleagues—friends,

On behalf of the Michigan Music Teachers Association leadership and the 2023 Conference Committee, welcome to the **MMTA 137<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**.

We are thrilled to share with you award winning concert artists and educators with presentations on pedagogy, diversity, literature, performance, artistry, movement, and more.

Two major recitals: Friday night's **Annual Gala Concert** features award winning concert artist and educators, **Susan Yang and Nicholas Susi**. Saturday afternoon's **Annual Student Recital** features Michigan's MTNA and MMTA award-winning competition students. They are breathtaking!

In honor of this event, MDML commissioned a new work by Michigan composer Catherine Rollin, a gift you will find in your registration package.

It has been an exciting year listening to you and collaborating with our local association hosts, the **Metropolitan Detroit Musicians League** led by Local Association Committee Chair, Carol Levy. Carol's team includes MDML members Sara Aylesworth, Karen Feilla, Karen Johnson, Maria Lonchyna-Lisowsky, and Catherine Rollin. We are thrilled they welcomed Macomb Piano Teachers Forum President Steven Mastrogiacomo to join their team. Rounding out our team are MTNA Michigan Foundation Chair Megan Nyquist and Arts and Advocacy Chair Michael Zutis along with the support of MTNA President Derek Polischuk, Treasurer David Husser, and Webmaster Yelena Wells.

In addition, we received extraordinary support from the faculty and staff of **Oakland University** including Jeffrey Heisler, Tian Tian, Kenneth Kroesche, I-Chen Yeh, Katherine Boersma, Megan Herald, Terry Herald, Chris Reed, and others.

Finally, on a personal note, thank you to **MTNA Executive Director and C.E.O., Dr. Gary Ingle** and **MTNA President Peter Mack** for providing wisdom, experience, and laughter. Their commitment to our professional development is why MTNA is the preeminent source for professional music educators. We are thrilled they are here with us! Thank you for all you do!

Laurie M Marshall

Michigan Music Teachers Association, Vice President / Conference Chair



School of Music, Theatre and Dance

11 September 2023

Dear Members of the MMTA,

On behalf of the School of Music, Theatre and Dance at Oakland University, welcome to the 2023 Michigan Music Teachers Association state conference. We are pleased to be hosting this exciting program especially as we return to our newly renovated Varner Hall. With beautifully redesigned public and performing spaces as well as upgraded instructional and rehearsal rooms, the facility is ready to support the next generation of students, artists, and audiences and we are happy to share it with you.

This year at MMTA, you'll discover events to inform and inspire you in your teaching and performing. From presentations on entrepreneurship to classes in movement, the conference encompasses topics of relevance to all aspects of music teaching and making. You'll hear some of our outstanding faculty artist-educators in performance, a keynote from executive director of the MTNA, Dr. Gary L. Ingle, and the conference will culminate with performances from the winners of the MTNA and Michigan Composition competition.

Best wishes for a wonderful weekend,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Hoegberg".

Elisabeth Hönn Hoegberg, PhD  
Director, School of Music, Theatre and Dance  
Professor of Music



MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

October 20, 2023

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 opportunities for professional development and networking, you are invited to attend the upcoming MTNA National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, March 16– 20, 2024. During this event, you will be able to attend more than 100 informative sessions, inspiring master classes, and an exhibit hall with the latest music, products and innovations. Entrepreneur and music teacher Tim Topham will provide the keynote address. The 2024 MTNA National Conference will be an unforgettable time to learn and share, so visit the MTNA website for more details!

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Mack" followed by a horizontal line.

Peter Mack, NCTM  
President

Sincerely,

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

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



The Metropolitan Detroit Musicians League  
warmly welcomes you to this year's  
Michigan Music Teachers Association  
Annual State Conference.

It is an honor to be your host chapter!

Musically yours, 🎵  
MDML

*MDML Local Association HOST Committee members Sara Aylesworth,  
Karen Feilla, Karen Johnson, Maria Lonchyna-Lisowsky, Catherine Rollin,  
MPTF Steven Mastrogiocomo, and Committee Chair, Carol Levy.*

## Michigan Music Teachers Association 2023 Conference Schedule

### Friday, October 20

|          |  |                |
|----------|--|----------------|
| 8:00 AM  | <b>MMTA Board of Directors</b>   | 205 Varner     |
| 9:00 AM  | <b>Registration Check-in</b><br>Local Hosts: MDML & MPTF, <b>Carol Levy</b> , Chair<br><b>Megan Nyquist</b> , Michigan's MTNA Foundation Chair   | Music Lobby    |
| 10:00 AM | <b>Derek Kealii Polischuk, D.M.A.</b> , MMTA President<br><b>Laurie M Marshall</b> , MMTA Vice President/Conference Chair<br><b>Dr. Gary L. Ingle</b> , MTNA Executive Director & CEO<br><b>Dr. Peter Mack</b> , MTNA President  | Recital Hall   |
| 10:30 AM | <b>Opening Concert</b><br>Concerto for Bass Tuba      Ralph Vaughan Williams<br>I. Prelude: Allegro moderato<br>Brian Wiik, tuba<br>Karen Park, piano<br><br>Euphonium Concerto                      Martin Ellerby<br>I. Fantasy<br>Samuel Levi Hardy, euphonium<br>I-Chen Yeh, piano<br><br><b>Jeffrey Heisler, D.M.A.</b> , saxophone and<br><b>Chen Yeh, D.M.A.</b> , piano<br><i>Latin Influenced Dance Music</i> | Recital Hall   |
| 11:00 AM | <b>Tian Tian, D.M.A.</b> , piano<br>"J. S. Bach: The Ultimate Pedagogue"   | Recital Hall   |
| Noon     | <b>Local Association Presidents</b>  | Student Center |
| Noon     | <b>Past MMTA Presidents</b>  | Student Center |
| 1:15 PM  | <b>Brendan Jacklin, D.M.A.</b><br>"Examining the Butterfly Effect of Repertoire Requirements"  | 205 Varner     |
| 2:15 PM  | <b>Emily Peterson, M.Ed., MT-BC</b><br>"Intersections of Music Therapy & Music Education: Students on the Autism Spectrum"   | 205 Varner     |

|         |  |                |
|---------|--|----------------|
| 3:15 PM | <b>Justin Gray</b><br>"Music Learning Theory as a Starting Point for an Inspiring Future for Music Education"  | 205 Varner     |
| 4:15 PM | <b>Mary Siciliano</b><br>"Empowering Students with Understanding, Purpose, and Excellence"   | Recital Hall   |
| 5:45 PM | <b>Gala Cocktails</b>  | Embassy Suites |
| 6:00 PM | <b>Gala Dinner</b>   | Embassy Suites |
| 7:30 PM | <b>Commissioned Composer Concert</b><br><b>Siliva Roederer, D.M.A.</b> , Commissioned Composer Chair<br><b>Alexis C. Lamb</b> , Commissioned Composer, "Reading Seams"<br><b>Liminal Quartet</b> , saxophone quartet | Recital Hall   |
| 7:50 PM | <b>Derek Kealii Polischuk, D.M.A.</b> , MMTA President<br><b>Silvia Roederer, D.M.A.</b> , Distinguished Service Award Recipient   |                |
| 8:00 PM | <b>Gala Concert</b><br><b>Susan Yang, D.M.A. &amp; Nicholas Susi, D.M.A.</b>   | Recital Hall   |
| 9:15 PM | <b>Gala Concert Reception, MDML Hosts</b>  | Music Lobby    |

### **Saturday, October 21**

|          |  |              |
|----------|--|--------------|
| 7:20 AM  | <b>Justin Gray</b><br>"Using Laban Efforts within the Music Lesson"  | Dance Studio |
| 8:00 AM  | <b>Svetlana Belsky, D.M.A.</b><br>"Tchaikovsky's Children's Album: The Light of a Dark Soul"   | Recital Hall |
| 9:00 AM  | <b>Susan Yang, D.M.A.</b> , Concert Artist<br>"A Path to Thoughtful Programming"   | Recital Hall |
| 10:00 AM | <b>Sungyeon Ahn and Jiwoon Sim</b> , MSU Collegiate Chapter,<br><b>Derek Kealii Polischuk, D.M.A.</b><br><br>"Many Hands: Music by Women for Piano Four Hands" | Recital Hall |
| 11:00 AM | <b>Nicholas Susi, D.M.A.</b> , Concert Artist<br>Masterclass   | Recital Hall |

## Masterclass Program

Arabesque I

Claude Debussy

**Evelyn Cao**

Student of Catherine Rollin

Sonata in C Major, K 330

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Allegro moderato

**Nathan Wen**

Student of Mary Siciliano

Prelude and Fugue in E Major, WTC II

Johann Sebastian Bach

**Jiawen Zhang**

Student of Tian Tian

|                 |  |                |
|-----------------|--|----------------|
| Noon            | <b>Local Association SAT Chairs</b>  | Student Center |
| 1:30 PM         | <b>MMTA Membership Business Meeting</b><br>Derek Kealii Polischuk, D.M.A., MMTA President  | 205 Varner     |
| 2:00 PM         | <b>Catherine Rollin</b><br>"Unlocking Intuition & Freeing Up the Flow of Musical Expression"   | Recital Hall   |
| 3:00 PM         | <b>Zhiqian "Mona" Wu</b> , MSU Collegiate Chapter<br>"No Pain, No Gain: Playing-Related Injuries Among Students<br>And Practicing Musicians" | 205 Varner     |
| 3:30 PM         | <b>Pinlin Liu</b> , MSU Collegiate Chapter<br>"Harmonizing the Trio: Parent, Teacher, and<br>Student in Piano Education"                     | 205 Varner     |
| 4:30 PM         | <b>MTNA &amp; MMTA Audition &amp; Concerto Winners Recital</b><br>Michigan's State, Division, and National Winners                           | Recital Hall   |
| 6:00 to 7:00 PM | <b>Recital Reception, MDML Hosts</b>   | Music Lobby    |



**Peter Mack, NCTM, President**

***Music Teachers National Association***

MTNA President Peter Mack is a nationally renowned performer, clinician and convention artist. Originally from Ireland, he now lives in Seattle, Washington, where he runs a successful private studio. He was professor of piano at Cornish College for 33 years.

A choral scholar at Trinity College Dublin, Peter received his master's degree from the University of Cincinnati and his doctorate from the University of Washington. His students frequently win local, national and even international competitions. Peter is the proud teacher of 20 MTNA Competition national finalists and of three MTNA national first-place winners. He has written for *Keyboard Companion*, the *Clarion* and *American Music Teacher*.

For MTNA, Peter served on the national board as vice president (2017–2019) and as Northwest Division director (2010–2012). He chaired the planning committee for the 2014 Chicago National Conference, coordinated Pedagogy Saturday for the 2012 New York Conference and has led the Artistry Track multiple times. The 2015 Las Vegas conference saw him honored as a surprise MTNA FOUNDATION Fellow. For Washington State, he has served as district vice president (organizing two district conferences), education board member (two five-year terms), and adjudicator chair (organizing two adjudicator conferences). Peter is currently Washington State's Foundation chair and serves on its nominating committee. He is especially honored to administer the state's needy student MAP subsidy program. Peter has adjudicated for Washington's amazing MAP/adjudications program for 23 years.



**Gary L. Ingle, Executive Director and CEO,  
*Music Teachers National Association***

Founded in 1876, MTNA is the oldest music teacher association in the United States. Currently headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio, MTNA is a professional organization of 20,000 studio music teachers who teach in independent and collegiate settings worldwide. MTNA's mission is to advance the value of music teaching and music making to society and to support the professionalism of music teachers.

As a part of his role at MTNA, Ingle serves as President and CEO of the American Classical Hall of Fame. Also with offices in Cincinnati, Ohio, the Hall of Fame was acquired by MTNA in December 2017 to manage and oversee its programs and operations. As a subsidiary of MTNA, the Hall of Fame recognizes artists, composers, educators, and organizations that have made significant and lasting contributions to Classical Music in America and to American Classical Music.

Ingle holds multiple volunteer leadership positions in organizations throughout the world. He currently serves as president and chairman of the board of the National Music Council of the United States (NMC). Founded in 1940 and chartered by the 84th U.S. Congress in 1956, the NMC acts as a clearing house for the joint opinion and decision of its 47 member organizations and is dedicated to strengthening the importance of music in the life and culture of the United States. In this role, he represents the NMC to the International Music Council, headquartered in Paris.

Ingle also serves as president of the Music Council of the Three Americas (COMTA), one of five regional councils of the International Music Council. COMTA represents musical organizations across North, Central and South America, fostering understanding, cooperation and interaction among its various cultures and citizens.

After completing six years as chair of the Forum for Instrumental and Vocal Pedagogy of the International Society for Music Education (ISME) In July 2018, he now serves as a special advisor to the group. The mission of the Forum is to inform the work of studio instrumental and vocal music teachers around the world who provide individualized or group instruction in keyboard, wind, string and percussion instruments, and voice.

Ingle is a member of the Advisory Board of *From the Top*, the public radio program dedicated to encouraging, supporting and celebrating the commitment of young people to music and the arts. He is on the Advisory Board of the Chopin Foundation of the United States and the Editorial Advisory Board for the magazine *Making Music: Better Living Through Recreational Music Making*, a publication devoted to the health and wellness benefits of music making. From 1998 until 2012 he served on the Board of Trustees of the American Classical Music Hall of Fame, during which he held the position of Secretary of the Board from 2000–2003, was the Chair of the Professional Organizations Advisory Council, and was a member of its National Artistic Council.

A frequent speaker and panelist, Ingle has given addresses in all 50 states as well as to music groups in Canada, the United Kingdom, China, Eastern and Western Europe, South America and Africa, including the International Society for Music Education, the European Music Teachers Association, the International Music Council, the Music Council of the Three Americas, the National Association of Schools of Music, NAMM: The International Music Products Association, the College Music Society, Piano Technicians Guild, the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers Associations, the Global Summit of the Music Products Industry, the Music Publishers Association, among others.

Widely regarded for his advocacy efforts for music study in all its settings, Ingle has been interviewed on numerous TV and talk radio programs across the United States. He was featured on the award-winning television program *Profile Series* for a segment on music education in the United States. Hosted by the Oscar winning actor Lou Gossett, Jr., the *Profile Series* is dedicated to showcasing the most important issues of the day, from the latest business and technology stories, to revolutionary medical and health issues, to current educational breakthroughs. Ingle's message that music study with a qualified music teacher is for everyone was broadcast over such channels as Bravo, Lifetime, CNN, Fox News and Voice of America. In 2007, Ingle was featured on Sky Radio, the in-flight information and entertainment channel, which was broadcast on all Northwest and American Airlines flights for a three-month period. His segment encouraged adults to take music lessons for musical, social and health reasons.

Prior to his December 1996 appointment to MTNA, Ingle was executive director of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Music Fraternity in Evansville, Indiana. At Phi Mu Alpha, he was responsible for the fraternity’s work with more than 200 collegiate chapters across the country, as well as the activities of the Sinfonia Foundation of America.

Ingle’s academic career spanned 10 years with Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri. During his tenure, he attained the rank of full professor of music and served as chair of the Department of Music, later as dean of the Casebolt School of Fine Arts, and ultimately as Vice President for Enrollment Management. As a conductor, he directed his choirs on four international tours: to continental Europe, to Great Britain, and two tours to the Far East. While in Asia, his choirs sang for the Far East Broadcasting Company and in Olympic Stadium in Seoul, South Korea.

Ingle is listed in the *International Who’s Who in Music*, *Who’s Who in America*, *Outstanding Young Men of America*, *Community Leaders and Noteworthy Americans*, the *Dictionary of International Biography* and other prominent biographical resources.

A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Ingle holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree with emphases in conducting, voice and higher education administration from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in music at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. Additional studies include the Cumberland School of Law in Birmingham.



## 2023 CONFERENCE ARTISTS, PRESENTERS, TOPICS, ABSTRACTS

**Sungyeon Ahn and Jiwoon Sim**, Michigan State University Collegiate Chapter, and **Derek Kealii Polischuk, D.M.A.**

### **“Many Hands: Music by Women for Piano Four Hands”**

Women Composers have been undeservedly neglected in the canon of classical music for hundreds of years. We will present two works by Cécile Chaminade (1857-1944) and Marie Jaëll (1846-1925) as works that deserve a place amongst the greatest works for piano four hands.

**Svetlana Belsky, D.M.A.**

### **“Tchaikovsky’s Children’s Album: The Light of a Dark Soul”**

The 24 delightful miniatures of Tchaikovsky’s *Children’s Album* are a perfect pedagogical tool for introducing students of all ages to elements of romantic technique and sound production. For the adults and the teachers, these works are so much more — written during a difficult time in Tchaikovsky’s life, following the death of one young lover and a failed marriage, and dedicated to the next young lover, his own nephew, they paint a picture of the composer’s life and his internal struggles. Hearing the complete set performed is a fascinating and revealing experience. This talk will also offer teaching suggestions and ideas.

**Justin Gray**

### **“Music Learning Theory as a Starting Point for an Inspiring Future for Music Education”**

As a young, relatively new music teacher, I am constantly asking myself what I need to do to help my students become the most well-rounded, independent musicians they can be. Over the last century and a half, music education, and specifically piano education, has been predominantly led by the proverbial establishment of the “method book.” We all learned the rudiments from these collections of exercises and preparatory through elementary level repertoire, which for the most part is grounded in sound pedagogical practices. But do they do enough? Are we giving our students enough musical skills, or even the right skills, to allow them to express themselves in the fullest way possible. I will explore these questions and more and present my case for why I believe piano education is moving in a new direction. My arguments are presented through the lens of Music Learning Theory and the research of Edwin E. Gordon and will focus on the piano series “Music Moves for Piano” by Marilyn Lowe.

**Jeffrey Heisler, D.M.A.**, saxophone & **I-Chen Yeh, D.M.A.**, piano  
**Latin Influenced Dance Music**

**Brendan Jacklin, D.M.A.**

**“Examining the Butterfly Effect of Repertoire Requirements”**

Young musicians face many repertoire requirements throughout their studies, with results that limit the compositional voices they are exposed to. These barriers often occur in method books, competitions, auditions, and festivals. This presentation probes these restraints and offers ideas that create greater exposure to the true breadth of classical music.

**Alexis C. Lamb, Commissioned Composer**

**"Reading Seams"**

Rivers are complex bodies of water. Not only are they home to a myriad of ecosystems and species, but the direction and pacing of water flow varies and supports these ecosystems. One of the most common visual cues of changing water flow is “seams,” where two currents flowing at different rates meet. Seams are an especially great place for fish to relax in the slower current while the faster current carries food sources directly to them. As an avid fisherwoman myself, one of my favorite parts of arriving at a new site is taking the time to notice, or read, the river before sending out my first cast. However, each river presents its own story and is never an open book. There is so much that we may be able to learn about these fragile ecosystems simply by taking the time to be present with them.

**Pinlin Liu, Michigan State University Collegiate Chapter**

**“Harmonizing the Trio: Parent, Teacher, and Student in Piano Education”**

This presentation discusses the pivotal roles of parents, teachers, and students in the context of piano education, highlighting their interdependence in cultivating musical excellence. It not only needs the teacher’s informative lessons, repertoire selection, and practice plans but also the parent’s supportive role to carry on their piano practice routine. Parents can be very beneficial to a child’s piano learning. This presentation will discuss the indispensable role of parents, who support a teacher’s work.

**Emily Peterson, M.Ed., MT-BC**

**“Intersections of Music Therapy & Music Education:  
Students on the Autism Spectrum”**

This presentation will be a lecture-discussion that gives an overview of the field of music therapy, consider the intersections of 1:1 music lesson and 1:1 music therapy session, and will provide time for sharing and discussion among participants. As the facilitator does not have an autism diagnosis, she defers to individuals on the spectrum who wish to share their personal experiences.

**Catherine Rollin**

**“Unlocking Intuition & Freeing Up the Flow of Musical Expression”**

In this session, Catherine will explore how teachers can inspire their students to think creatively and bring their music to life with imagination, passion, and commitment.

**Mary Siciliano**

**“Empowering Students with Understanding, Purpose, and Excellence”**

This presentation will primarily focus on the pre-college student and the tools to create a teaching studio that aspires to elevate self-confidence and the artistic and pianistic possibilities of each student.

**Nicholas Susi, D.M.A.**

Masterclass featuring Junior, Senior, and Young Artist students.

**Tian Tian, D.M.A.**

**“J. S. Bach: The Ultimate Pedagogue”**

Throughout his career, J.S. Bach composed music to teach students in the areas of composition and performance. This session will use various examples to demonstrate how the composer uses motives and patterns to teach technique, timing, pedaling and shaping. It will also explore how Bach's method has continued to influence composers such as Czerny, Haydn, Chopin, and Debussy.

**Susan Yang, D.M.A.**

**“A Path to Thoughtful Programming”**

We all love what is familiar, including the pieces we teach and play. But how do we step out of our comfort zone and strike a balance between familiarity and the unexplored? This presentation will share ideas on how to select repertoire and build programs that are meaningful, educational, and engaging for both students and audiences.

**Zhiqian “Mona” Wu, Michigan State University Collegiate Chapter**

**“No Pain, No Gain: Playing-Related Injuries Among Students  
And Practicing Musicians”**

The presentation will talk about playing-related injuries among students and practicing musicians. Referring to the presenter's own experience and research, the following topics will be discussed: the general unspoken misperception of the injuries, the causes, and some specific problems one may experience from the injuries, and how to cope with the injuries/take precautions in our teaching.

## **Music Movement Class w/ Justin Gray**

### **“Using Laban Efforts within the Music Lesson”**

Join us in a fun and interactive session where we will explore the concepts of Rudolf Laban and the Laban Movement Efforts. We will explore the relationship between our bodies and the music we listen to and how we might be able to guide our students toward a deeper connection with their own bodies and musical minds. This will be a thirty-minute movement session to get our creative juices flowing, our bodies moving, and start the day off with an energizing kick that will be sure to inspire us to learn and grow together.



## MMTA 2023 Gala Concert Artist and Educator

### Susan Yang

Praised as a "magnificent pianist" who "offers compelling insight" (Fanfare Magazine), Chinese American pianist **Susan Yang** maintains a multi-faceted career as a performer, pedagogue, and advocate for diversity in the arts. A recipient of the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Graduate Arts Award, she has captured top prizes at many competitions such as the National Federation of Music Clubs, International Keyboard Odysiad, Naftzger Young Artist, and the New York Competition and Festival, among others. Yang has appeared throughout the US and Europe as a recitalist and chamber musician, as well as a concerto soloist with orchestras such as the Nashville, Ann Arbor, and Delta Symphonies. A champion of historically excluded composers, Yang has an affinity for curating programs that feature the music of women and BIPOC composers. Equally at home with the traditional canon, she released the album *DOORWAYS: Half-Remembered Music* on Blue Griffin Records, which features miniature pairings that explore the subtle connections of music across four centuries.

Yang is currently Assistant Professor of the Practice in Piano at Vanderbilt University Blair School of Music. A dedicated pedagogue, she was named the 2022 Teacher of the Year by both the Nashville Area and Tennessee Music Teachers Associations. She frequently lectures and adjudicates across the US, and her presentations have been featured at various institutions and organizations, such as the Frances Clark Center for Keyboard Pedagogy and the state and national conferences of Music Teachers National Association. Outside of her regular teaching, she has served on the artist faculty at several summer programs, including the InterHarmony International Music Festival in Acqui Terme, Italy, the University of North Carolina-Greensboro Piano Festival, and the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Michigan.



Passionate about addressing social issues through music, Yang is co-founder and President of A Seat at the Piano (ASAP), a nonprofit organization dedicated to broadening public knowledge of marginalized composers and inspiring more thoughtful and inclusive programming. Yang often presents on topics such as incorporating social justice into the piano studio and revamping the teaching repertoire with undervalued works. A proponent of community engagement, she recently joined the Board of Directors at the Nashville Chamber Music Society. Other outreach projects she has initiated in the past include an all-student concert celebrating women’s suffrage and teaching free lessons to low-income students.

Yang holds degrees from the University of Michigan, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and Vanderbilt University. Her primary teachers include Logan Skelton, Elisabeth Pridonoff, and Amy Dorfman. Additional studies with Helen Gleason and Jerome Reed.

<https://www.susanzyang.com/>

**MMTA 2023 Gala Concert**  
**Artist and Educator**  
**Nicholas Susi**



Described in *The WholeNote* as “an innovative musician and aggressive thinker with a gift for keyboard brilliance,” **Dr. Nicholas Susi** enjoys a multifaceted career living out his deep love of music. He recognizes that Classical music has been a transformative force in his life and seeks to share its power with others through his teaching and performing.

As a teenager, Nicholas experienced a musical turning point upon discovering the music of Franz Liszt. Thrilled by the composer’s virtuoso music and inspirational biography, he became a lifelong super-fan of all things Liszt. Performances and projects centering around the Hungarian composer have been a recurring theme throughout Dr. Susi’s career. He has appeared as soloist in the concerti of Liszt with the Omaha Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonia of Greater Kansas City, Taneycomo Festival Orchestra, and Webster Symphony Orchestra, and he celebrated the composer’s bicentennial in 2011 with a series of performances of the complete *Douze études d’exécution transcendante*. In 2014, Susi advanced to the semifinals of the International Franz Liszt Piano Competition (Utrecht, The Netherlands) as one of two Americans selected worldwide to participate in this prestigious competition. Most recently, he made his debut as a published author in the 2020 edition of *The Journal of the American Liszt Society*; in his article, Susi offers an interdisciplinary reading of Liszt’s *Legend no. 1* by intersecting theoretical analysis with Catholic iconography.

Dr. Susi’s research has been awarded grants from such organizations as the Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD), Mu Phi Epsilon Foundation, and Legacy Foundation for the Arts. These and other grants enabled him to travel, study, and perform music across Europe; the experiences of researching Beethoven in Bonn, Debussy in Paris, and Mozart in Vienna have been central to his development as a musician and to his cosmopolitan understanding of musical styles. Other noteworthy appearances abroad include recitals at the Cité universitaire de Paris, two all-Liszt concerts for the Princess von Hohenzollern at her castle in Namedy, Germany, and concerto solos with the Wiener Residenz Orchester and Symphonie orchester der Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln. Continue...



Stateside, Dr. Susi's career took off upon winning the 2015 National Federation of Music Clubs (NFMC) Young Artist Competition. Winners of this competition receive two years of management, which resulted in performances, masterclasses, and lectures across the country. At the same time, Susi recorded and released his debut album, *Scarlatti Now*, to critical acclaim; in addition to international radio airplay, the disc was featured on the prestigious Critics' Choice list (2017) of American Record Guide and was chosen as a 1<sup>st</sup> place winner of The American Prize in 2018.

Dr. Susi is Assistant Professor of Piano at the University of South Carolina. He previously taught piano and music theory at The College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, MN. He completed his doctorate at the University of Michigan, with previous studies at the University of Kansas and at the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln as a two-time DAAD grantee. Primary teachers include Zena Ilyashov, Jack Winrock, Nina Tichman, and Arthur Greene.



<https://www.nicholas-susi.com/>

## Michigan Music Teachers Association

### 2023 Commissioned Composer



**Alexis C. Lamb** (b. 1993) is a composer, percussionist, and educator whose work seeks to cultivate a connectedness to natural, historical, and societal relationships. As a composer, Lamb has collaborated with numerous ensembles and individuals, including Third Coast Percussion, Aizuri Quartet, Opera Omaha, Albany (NY) Symphony, Vera Quartet, Camilla Tassi, Contemporaneous, Emily Roller, Yale Philharmonia, and Evan Chapman.

As a percussionist, Lamb has recently found joy in improvising in a variety of natural soundscapes, listening to how the natural world responds to her human-made music. Her performance is highly influenced by the philosophies and Deep Listening practices of the late Pauline Oliveros. Lamb was also a performer from 2013-2020 with Projeto Arcomusical.

As an educator, Lamb's work runs the gamut from private lessons to curriculum development, to clinics and large classes. Her recent work has included developing the Creative Music-Making program for the Yale Music in Schools Initiative as well as serving as a Graduate Student Instructor at University of Michigan, a Teaching Fellow for the Department of Music at Yale University, and a 6-12th grade band director in Stillman Valley, Illinois.

Lamb is a recipient of a 2022 Presser Foundation Graduate Music Award and a 2021 Charles Ives Scholarship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. She is a doctoral candidate in composition at the University of Michigan and previously earned degrees from Yale School of Music and Northern Illinois University. Her works are self-published and available at <https://alexislamb.com/>.



## 2023 Commissioned Composer Artists

**Liminal Quartet** is an Ann Arbor-based chamber ensemble formed at the University of Michigan composed of Leo Schlaifer (MM '22), Nick Napier (MM '22), Noah Stoker (MM '23), and Matt Dardick (MM '22). The ensemble is primarily coached by world-renowned saxophonist Dr. Timothy McAllister, with additional instruction from Professor Matt Albert. Liminal has performed in masterclasses for artists such as Raaf Hekkema, Jeffrey Heisler, and Robert Young. Members of the ensemble are pursuing degrees in saxophone performance, chamber music, and jazz studies. As a young ensemble, the Liminal Quartet was awarded 3rd Prize in the National Round of the 2022/23 MTNA Chamber Music Competition (Winds Division) and invited to compete in the 2023 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. As passionate educators, the ensemble presents frequent community engagement events at local K-12 schools and workshops for University of Michigan composition students.

Liminal Quartet explores staples of the French and American repertoire as well as modern compositions and commissioned works.





**Sungeyon Ahn and Jiwoon Sim**, Michigan State University Collegiate Chapter  
**Derek Kealii Polischuk, D.M.A.**, Michigan State University, Professor of Piano /  
Director of Piano Pedagogy

**Sungeyon Ahn** is a native of South Korea. She has performed as a solo pianist and chamber musician in South Korea and the United States. Sungeyon has appeared in master classes with Christopher Harding, Ian Hopson, Hervé Billaut and Marcus Groh. Ahn received a Master of Music from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music where she studied with Norman Krieger. Sungeyon is currently pursuing her Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Michigan State University with Derek Kealii Polischuk.

Born in South Korea, **Jiwoon Sim** is currently studying at Michigan State University in Doctoral of Musical Arts degree program in piano performance under Derek Kealii Polischuk where she is awarded a full graduate assistantship. She has performed in several masterclasses with Boris Slutsky, Logan Skelton and Xi Zhang. She was a student of Norman Krieger at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music where she earned her Master of Music degree in piano performance with scholarships. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance from Ewha Womans University in Korea receiving scholarships and honors where she studied with Yoon-bo Jung and Yoon-Jung Song.

**Derek Kealii Polischuk** is professor of piano and director of piano pedagogy at the Michigan State University College of Music. Originally from San Diego, Polischuk studied with Krzysztof Brzuzza before attending the University of Southern California, where he received the Doctor of Music Arts degree in Piano Performance with distinction under the tutelage of Daniel Pollack. Continue...

Polischuk's 2013 solo piano recording "Terra Incognita" for the Blue Griffin label has received international critical acclaim. Colin Clark of Fanfare Magazine wrote, "The Schubert receives an excellent performance from Polischuk. Shadings are perfectly judged, and Schubert's sense of timelessness is superbly judged, finding the pianist testing the boundaries of what constitutes too much without actually transgressing. The playful F-Minor offers pure joy." Lawrence Consentino wrote, "Polischuk hits every chord with a sweet weight. Every now and then, a set of notes tumbles down like flecks of snow breezed from a crow's nest, with no evident human touch. With a warm but not ingratiating touch, he lets the music resound as if it were coming from inside your mind... 'Terra Incognita' is a thought-provoking mix of sensual pleasure and deep reflection." Of Polischuk's recording "Latin American Music for 2 Pianos" with pianist Sarkis Baltanian, James Harrington of American Record Guide wrote, "I cannot imagine anyone listening to this and not being drawn in."

An enthusiastic supporter of the education of musicians at every age, ability and background, Polischuk has been a clinician at conferences around the world, including the Music Teachers National Association, the National Group Piano and Pedagogy Conference, the Multidisciplinary Research in Music Pedagogy Conference, the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy, the DOCTRID Conference in Ireland, the ABLE Assembly at Berklee College, and at universities and conservatories across China. Polischuk serves on the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy's Committee for Teaching Students with Special Needs, the Advisory Board of the Orange County School of the Arts Pianist Program, the Board of Directors of the San Diego Musical Merit Foundation, and is President of the Michigan Music Teachers Association.

Polischuk is a founder and director of the "Celebrating the Spectrum" Piano Festival for advanced pianists on the Autism Spectrum. Polischuk's book "[Transformational Piano Teaching](#)," described by Dr. Alice M. Hammel of James Madison University as "a world of piano pedagogy where anyone and everyone is welcome and included in the art and joy of playing the piano" and Stewart Gordon of the University of Southern California as "a landmark in the field of piano pedagogy" is available from Oxford University Press. At Michigan State University, Polischuk has been the recipient of the Curricular Service-Learning and Civic Engagement Award, the MSU College of Music Excellence in Diversity Award, and the Teacher-Scholar Award, given in recognition of exceptional skill in teaching.

Critically acclaimed as “a passionate pianist and scholar,” **Svetlana Belsky** is a highly regarded performer, noted for her remarkable rapport with audiences and stylistic versatility.

Her recent albums, *Into Darkness: Piano Music of 1910-1920* (Sheridan Music Studio, 2021) and *Ferruccio Busoni: The Late Works* (Ravello, 2019) were selected by Spotify for its Best New Releases list, and received rave reviews from *Fanfare*, *American Record Guide*, *Whole Note Magazine*, and others, and has been heard on radio stations around the world.



Dr. Belsky won the 2019 American Prize in Piano Performance for her earlier recording of Stravinsky’s *Rite of Spring*, which *American Record Guide* described as “an extraordinary performance” and “astounding”. In commemoration of Women’s History Month 2019, Dr. Belsky was awarded the *Outstanding Woman Award for Excellence in Music and Theater Arts* from the Clerk of Cook County District Court.

Dr. Belsky has toured in Europe, East Asia, Canada and throughout the United States. Her performance credits include Carnegie Recital Hall, Kiev Philharmonic Hall, Dame Myra Hess Series, live recitals on Chicago’s WFMT and New York’s WQXR, and guest appearances with symphony and chamber orchestras.

Belsky is considered an authority on the music, writings and pedagogical legacy of Ferruccio Busoni. Her Doctoral Thesis - an annotated translation of *Busoni as Pianist* by the Russian musicologist Grigori Kogan, was published by the University of Rochester Press in January 2010, and was nominated for the prestigious Claude V. Palisca Award by the American Musicological Society. According to one reviewer, Belsky “has some claim to call herself Ms. Bach-Busoni”.

Born in Ukraine, Belsky received most of her education in the United States, first as a student of Emilio Del Rosario in Chicago, receiving her Bachelor’s (summa cum laude) and Master degrees at the Peabody Conservatory in the studio of Ann Schein and her Doctorate at the Manhattan School of Music with Nina Svetlanova.

Dr. Belsky served as the Director of Piano Studies at the University of Chicago for fifteen years, and is in great demand as a lecturer, masterclass guest teacher, and competition adjudicator.



**Justin Gray** began his training in piano and ballet at 8 years old at His House Studios, a local music studio at his family church. From that point on Justin found every opportunity he could to study and perform as a musician and a dancer. At age 13, Justin continued his music studies under the direction of Hamilton Tescarollo at the Indiana University-Purdue University-Fort Wayne Keyboard Department and received intensive training in ballet through the Auer Academy of the Fort Wayne Ballet.

Upon graduating high school, Justin attended the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music and received a Bachelors in Ballet Performance. After three years as a professional dancer with the Fort Wayne Ballet, Justin received the Premier Young Artist Award through the Jacobs School of Music to return to Indiana University and complete a second Bachelor's Degree in Piano Performance under the guidance of Professor Emile Naoumoff.

Utilizing his skills and knowledge in multiple art forms, Justin has built a reputation of being an accomplished dance accompanist, working as a rehearsal and class pianist in such dance organizations as the Fort Wayne Ballet, Fort Wayne Civic Theatre, New American Youth Ballet, Project Ballet School, Indiana University Ballet Theater and Pre-College Program, Indianapolis Ballet, and the Grand Rapids Ballet.

Since 2015, Justin has developed a passion for teaching beginner to advanced piano students of all ages. While in Fort Wayne working as a professional dancer, Justin returned to his family church and taught piano lessons for three years at His House Studios, the place where it all began. Justin has been a resident of Grand Rapids, Michigan since April of 2020 where he has built a thriving studio of piano students. Apart from teaching, Justin also works as a pianist for the Grand Rapids Ballet and is serving as the Vice-President of the Piano Teachers' Forum of Grand Rapids.



Award-winning saxophonist **Jeffrey Heisler** serves as Associate Professor of Saxophone at Oakland University and soprano saxophonist with the Assembly Quartet. Dr. Heisler holds degrees from Bowling Green State University (DMA, MM) and Central Michigan University (BME).

Among Heisler's accomplishments are a Fiscoff National Chamber Music Competition Gold Medal, prizes in the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Chamber Music and Young Artist Competitions, and honors as "Outstanding Classical Soloist" in Downbeat Magazine.

He has concertized throughout the world, including performances with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Michigan Opera Theatre, Toledo Symphony, Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, and Benny Goodman Orchestra.

An advocate of contemporary music, Heisler has commissioned new works from ChenYi, Jennifer Higdon, David Lang, John Mackey, Marc Mellits, Steve Reich, and Marilyn Shrude, and worked with Pulitzer-Prize winning composer Ellen Taaffe Zwilich on transcribing her violin suite *Episodes* for soprano saxophone and piano. Heisler and the Assembly Quartet can also be heard on AMP Recordings, Centaur Records, White Pine Music, and Navona Records. Jeffrey Heisler is a Selmer Paris and Légère Reeds Performing Artist-Clinician.





A native of Kaohsiung, Taiwan, award-winning pianist **I-Chen Yeh** enjoys an international career as a solo and collaborative performer. A performer devoted to contemporary music, Yeh's solo and collaborative performances strive to highlight a new and exciting repertory. Her passion for new music has led to collaborations with notable composers such as Pulitzer Prize winners Steven Stucky and Ellen Taaffe Zwilich. In addition she has commissioned and premiered works for solo piano and other chamber music by David Rakowski, Marc Mellits, Greg Sandow, Andres Carrizo, Timothy Stulman, David Gillingham, Andrea Reinkemeyer, Anthony Donofrio, and Jeff Weston.

Yeh has appeared at many world renowned music festivals, including the Aspen Music Festival, the Bowdoin Music Festival, Bowling Green State University's New Music and Art Festivals, Eastern Music Festival, the Internationale Wiener Musik Seminar, Threshold Electroacoustic Festival, and the Ball State University New Music Festival. Recent concert appearances include performances at (le) poisson rouge (NYC), the Interlochen Center for the Arts, the Yamaha Performing Artist Center (Taipei, Taiwan), the Taiwan National Concert Hall, and many Universities and Conservatories throughout the United States.

Yeh holds degrees from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music (BM), the Eastman School of Music (MM), and Bowling Green State University (DMA). Her primary teachers include Laura Melton, Angela Cheng, and Thomas Schumacher. She has also performed in master-classes led by internationally renowned pianists such as Stephen Hough, Nelita True, Robert Levin, John Perry, and James Giles. Yeh is an active member of Music Teachers National Association (MTNA). Dr. Yeh is on the piano faculty at Oakland University (MI).



Canadian-American pianist, educator, and lecturer, **Brendan Jacklin** is dedicated to sharing new sounds and ideas through his music. He has premiered over 50 new works for both solo piano and chamber ensembles, and has commissioned works from composers across the United States and Canada.

A special interest of his is performing interdisciplinary and multimedia music, including pairing music with electronics, video, poetry, and dance. His solo recital programs reflect these interests, featuring a blend of traditional repertoire, contemporary music, electronics, and other interdisciplinary elements.

Brendan's performances have taken him across the United States, having performed in California, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Tennessee, and Washington. Recent performances have featured a wide variety of music, including everything from a program of songs by American women to George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* to Nicole Lizée's *Hitchcock Études* for piano, video, and glitch. He has also been featured as a performer at a number of festivals, including SPLICE Fest, Ball State's New Music Festival, Western Michigan's New Sounds Festival, University of Nebraska-Kearney's New Music Festival, College Music Society's Southern Chapter Conference, and NAMM's Generation Next.

Apart from performing, Brendan lectures on a large range of topics at conferences across the United States, including presentations, lecture recitals, and posters at the MTNA National Conference, NCKP National Conference, GP3 Conference, CMS Southern Chapter Conference, as well as numerous local and state conferences in Michigan, Ohio, Florida, Kentucky, and Tennessee. Apart from evangelizing for new music, topics have included Baroque ornamentation, different editions of Chopin's piano works, score studying, and American piano sonatas. He is also a co-founder of [A Seat at the Piano](#), an initiative dedicated to promoting music by historically underrepresented composers and advocating for a greater inclusivity in piano repertoire. Continue...

Originally from Canada, Brendan is based in Nashville, TN with his wife and dog, where he is Assistant Professor of Piano at Fisk University. Previous positions include teaching at the University of Tennessee Southern and the Flint School of Performing Arts. He completed his doctoral studies at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music with Prof. Awadagin Pratt and Dr. Michelle Conda, with cognates in both pedagogy and multimedia music. Brendan completed his Masters of Music in Piano Performance at Bowling Green State University with Dr. Thomas Rosenkranz and visiting professor Robert Shannon, and Bachelors of Music in Piano Performance with Prof. Megumi Masaki, with minors in cello with Dr. Leanne Zacharias and history.

When he is not doing any of the above, you will probably find Brendan running, baking, or reading. You can follow his baking with Instagram (@brendanjacklin) or check out his website ([www.brendanjacklin.com](http://www.brendanjacklin.com)) for upcoming concert and project details.



*A Seat at the Piano* promotes and advocates for the inclusion, study, and performance of a more equitably representative body of piano works. Visit our website to view more than 2500 works for solo piano, and discover a wealth of resources for musicians of all levels.





**Pinlin Liu**, a graduate student working on her master’s degree in piano pedagogy at Michigan State University. She is studying under Dr. Polishuck and Dr. Zuber. She received MM in piano performance, studied with Dr. Tian, from Oakland University, MM in musicology, and BA in piano performance from China. She has taught piano lessons in both of US and China. Her teaching experience featured a cultural combination mixed from the US and China.



**Emily DuPont Peterson** (she/her), originally from the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, is a music therapist, music educator, and performer. Emily received her bachelor’s of music degree in voice and music therapy from Appalachian State University and earned her master’s degree in adult & higher education in 2019 from GVSU. In addition to co-owning West Michigan Music Therapy LLC, Emily maintains a thriving private music studio with locations in Grand Rapids and Rockford High School that serves all ages and abilities.



**Mary Siciliano** has a multi-faceted career. She was on the piano faculty at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan, where she taught applied piano, piano ensemble, chamber music, and coordinated the piano pedagogy program. She also taught piano pedagogy at Madonna University, Schoolcraft College, and the University of Michigan. She currently has a very active private studio, continues to give pedagogy workshops, and teaches at the Interlochen Summer Arts Camp. Her students have distinguished themselves in many local, state, and national competitions, among them the Music Teachers National Association National Finals, the Piano Arts International Competition, and the Michigan Music Teacher Association events.

Siciliano and violinist Velda Kelly cofounded “Chamber Music with Piano”. This summer workshop at Madonna University explores chamber music with piano and has included students from age 12 through adults. Students experience intense coaching with various musicians from the Michigan Opera Orchestra. This culminates in a final recital that also includes verbal communication with the audience.

Siciliano is very active in piano teacher organizations. She has served on the boards of the Metropolitan Detroit Musicians League, Michigan Music Teachers Association, the East Central Division of MTNA, and the Tuesday Musicale of Detroit.

Mary Siciliano performs throughout the United States, Canada, and France, and has been broadcast on CBC, WRCJ, and several others. She has collaborated on several cd albums that include the first recordings of Richard Stöhr on Toccata Classics, as well as the chamber music of Jacques de la Presle, Pierre de Bréville, Ignatz Waghalter, Fernand de la Tombelle, and Nicolas Bacri on the Centaur label.

**Catherine Rollin** is a pianist, composer, clinician, author and dedicated teacher. Her more than 400 published pedagogical compositions are recognized worldwide for their combination of musicality and "teachability." As a clinician, Catherine has given over 300 workshops and masterclasses throughout the U.S., Canada, Japan and Taiwan. Her efforts as a composer, clinician and author are an outgrowth of her work as a teacher.



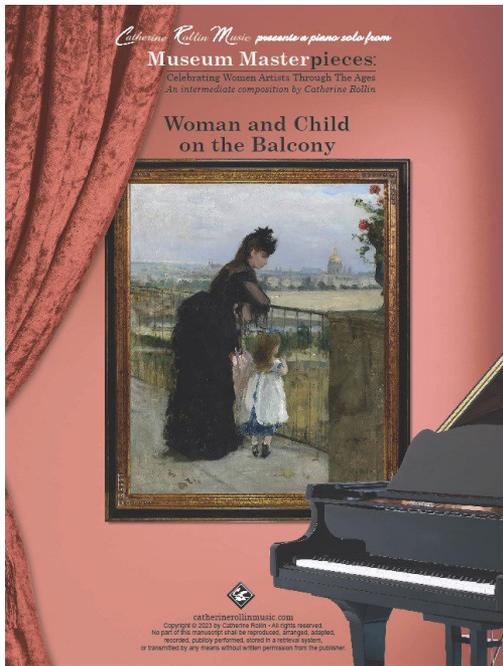
Finding the answers to help her students develop artistic, relaxed and confident technical skills led Catherine to insights featured in her ground breaking series, "Pathways to Artistry." Catherine's ASCAP award winning books, "Museum Masterpieces" feature her original piano works inspired by great art masterpieces from museums around the world. Catherine wrote this series after seeing how her students' creativity was sparked by artwork imagery. She is also the co-author of the 2011 edition of the highly regarded college text, "Creative Piano Teaching." All of the many facets of Catherine's work emanate from her central passion for teaching.

Catherine has received numerous commissions from state and local associations as well as Clavier Magazine and from the Music Teacher National Association. (MTNA) . In 2018 her MTNA commissioned trio for flute, alto saxophone and piano, "Suite Detroit" was featured at the MTNA Conference in Orlando, FL.. Catherine has been honored to have her works featured on the National Federation of Music (NFMC) Clubs Festival Bulletin in the solo, duet, concerto, one hand and Patriotic categories. Additionally, Catherine has been honored to have her works featured on lists of the Trinity Exams based in England, the ABRSM Exams in the U.K. and the Royal Conservatory in Canada. Her two concertos, "Concerto Romantique" and "Concerto in C" are published in 2 piano form and also have full orchestrations available. The concertos have been performed with piano and orchestra in the U.S., Canada, Ukraine, Thailand, Brazil, Czechoslovakia, Russia, Israel and S. Africa. A great thrill for Catherine was having her "Concerto Romantique" performed with piano soloist and orchestra at Carnegie Hall!

Catherine's students have won many honors. Among these are national finalists in solo piano, duet and composition competitions of the MTNA. Most recently, in 2023 one of her students won 2nd place at the MTNA National Finals Junior Division and also was awarded the Chopin Prize by the U.S. Chopin Foundation. Another one of her students was awarded the prestigious National Thelma Byrum Award (first place pianist) as well as two other national awards from the NFMC.

Catherine received her principle training with Detroit Symphony pianist, Mischa Kottler, a disciple of von Sauer and Cortot. While still in high school, her interest in Baroque performance practice led her to study harpsichord for two summers with the world renowned harpsichordist, Dorothy Lane at Northwestern University. Rollin holds the BMA degree with distinction from U. of Michigan and the MM from Oakland University where she was the recipient of the distinguished alumni award.

As of 2023, Catherine has officially launched her own publishing company: *Catherine Rollin Music* with the publication of “Museum Masterpieces: The Premier Exhibition, soon to be followed by “Museum Masterpieces: Featuring Women Artists Through the Ages.”



**Commissioned by the Metropolitan Detroit Musicians League  
in honor of the  
Michigan Music Teachers Association 137th Annual Conference.**



Pianist **Tian Tian** began her piano training at the age of four in her native China. Upon arriving in the United States, she studied with Logan Skelton and quickly began amassing top prizes at national and international competitions. These included 2nd prize at the MTNA Baldwin Junior High school Piano Competition, 2nd prize at the Cooper International Piano Competition (Oberlin), 1st prize at the Idyllwild Arts Academy Young Artist Competition, 2nd prize at the Missouri Southern International

Competition, and 3rd place at the Eastman Young Artists International Piano Competition.

She continued her training at the Juilliard School, where she received B.M. and M.M. degrees under the tutelage of Robert McDonald. In the fall 2011 Tian completed a D.M.A. in Piano Performance and Literature with a minor in Chamber Music and Accompanying at the Eastman School of Music where she was a student of (and served as teaching assistant to) Nelita True.

Dr. Tian maintains a busy performance schedule in the U.S and abroad. Solo appearances have included music festivals such as Piano Texas, the Gilmore Festival, and Summer Courses with Arie Vardi (Germany). Recent concerto appearances included the Windsor Symphony and the Idyllwild Chamber Orchestra. As a member of the Studzinsky Trio, she has recently performed in the U.S., China, and Korea.

Dr. Tian is an Associate Professor of Piano and the area coordinator at Oakland University. Prior to that, she was on the faculty of the University of Central Missouri. Her students have repeatedly performed well in competitions and festivals. Since 2008, she has returned to China annually to present concerts, lectures and masterclasses, which have earned her the title of Honorary Professor at Shandong Normal University and Yunnan Institute for the Arts (in 2008), Shaoxing Academy of the Arts (2009), Weifang Academy, Mudanjiang Teacher's University, Ludong University, Qufu University (2010), Qingdao University (2012), and Shandong University of Technology (2015).



**Zhiqian “Mona” Wu** is an active music performer and educator currently pursuing a Master of Music degree in Piano Pedagogy at Michigan State University.

Born in Yangzhou of Jiangsu Province, China, Mona previously graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University holding a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance with Murray DePillars Scholarship for Piano and Senior Award in Service. During her time at VCU, Mona started participating in activities of the MTNA VCU collegiate chapter and eventually served as the president. She received the MTNA Collegiate Scholarship in Fall 2019 in recognition of her excellence in performance, scholarship, and service for the collegiate chapter and involvement with the local and regional chapters (RMTA and VMTA).

The passion for better promoting music and the arts in community has also encouraged Mona to eagerly explore the world of arts administration. She just successfully completed a season with Wintergreen Music Festival in Virginia as a Leadership Fellow in Artistic Operations and Production. She’s also been working at MSU College of Music as an event staff and a media communication assistant.

Mona’s principal teachers include Young Hyun Cho, Derek Kealii Polischuk, Yin Zheng, Magdalena Adamek, and Xi Zhang. She’s made several appearances in masterclasses from internationally acclaimed artists including Leon Fleisher, Barry Snyder, Kathryn Brown, and Eduardus Halim.

## **Michigan Music Teachers Association Leadership**

President, Derek Kealii Polischuk

Vice President, Laurie M Marshall

Secretary, Alisha Snyder

Treasurer, David Husser

Immediate Past President, Beatrice Ellis

Parliamentarian, Christie Otter

Advocacy and Awareness, Michael Zutis

Awards Chair, Holly Bolthouse

Certification Chair, Janice Derian

College Faculty Coordinator, Sookkyung Cho

Collegiate Chapter Coordinator, Sookkyung Cho

Commissioned Composer Chair, Silvia Roederer

Concerto Competition Chair, Wendy Wan Hsing Chu

Historian, Miho Segal

Local Associations Chair, Katherine Richardson

Membership Chair, David Keep

MMT Editor, Sara Aylesworth

MTNA Michigan Director of Competitions, Laurie M Marshall

MTNA Michigan Composition Chair, Mary Ann Anschutz

MTNA Michigan Junior Division Chair, Justin Gray

MTNA Michigan Senior Division Chair, Karen Feilla

MTNA Michigan Young Artist Division Chair, Lora Kolean

MTNA Michigan Foundation Chair, Megan Nyquist

SAT Auditions Chair, Gerardo Ascheri

SAT Coordinator, Pinlin Liu

SAT Piano Handbook Chair, Jacki Vander Slik

SAT Strings Chair, Erin Thomas

SAT Voice Chair

SAT Woodwind Chair, Karen Betz-Griewahn

SAT Special Committee Chair, Janice Derian

Teacher Education Chair, Joy Morin

Webmaster, Yelena Wells

**Michigan Music Teachers Association  
Annual Gala Concert**

**Susan Yang, D.M.A. and Nicholas Susi, D.M.A.**

|   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Barcarolle in E-flat major, op. 71            | Mélanie Bonis (1858-1937)   |
| Barcarolle no. 6 in E-flat major, op. 70      | Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)   |
| Prelude in D-flat major                       | Lili Boulanger (1893-1918)  |
| Preludes, Book II                             | Claude Debussy (1862-1918)  |
| No. 1 “...Brouillards”                        |                             |
| No. 4 “...Les fées sont d’exquises danseuses” |                             |
| No. 5 “...Bruyères”                           |                             |
| No. 6 “...Général Lavine - eccentric”         |                             |
| Ballade no. 4 in F minor, op. 52              | Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849) |

*Intermission*

|   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| The Bamboula, op. 59 no. 8<br>(1875-1912)                         | Samuel Coleridge-Taylor      |
| “Udje” from <i>24 Studies for African Rhythms</i>                 | Fred Onovwerosuoke (b. 1960) |
| Suite, op. 14   |                              |
| III. Allegro molto  | Béla Bartók (1881-1945)      |
| “Raging River Dance 2” from <i>24 Studies for African Rhythms</i> | Fred Onovwerosuoke (b. 1960) |
| Trois mouvements de Pétrouchka                                    | Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971)  |
| I. Danse russe  |                              |
| II. Chez Pétrouchka   |                              |
| III. La semaine grasse  |                              |

# Michigan Music Teachers Association Annual Honors Student Recital

## MMTA Concerto Division I Winner

Liebestraum (Dream of Love) No.3 in A-flat major Franz Liszt  
**Yeji Kim**, piano  
Sarah Kim, teacher

## MMTA Concerto Division II and MMTA SAT Intermediate Winner

The Lark Glinka/Balakirev  
**Evelyn Cao**, piano  
MMTA Intermediate  
Catherine Rollin, teacher

## MMTA Concerto Division III Winner

Etude in E major, Op. 10 No. 3 Frédéric Chopin  
Isaac Sung, piano  
Jinah Lee, teacher

## MMTA Concerto Division IV Winner

Piano Concerto No. 1 in F# minor, Op. 1, first movement Sergei Rachmaninoff  
**Shuya Zheng**, piano  
Logan Skelton, teacher

## MMTA SAT Senior Winner

Ballade No. 1 in G Minor, Op. 23 Frédéric Chopin  
**Faith Yeha Lee**, piano  
Helen Marlais, teacher

## MTNA Michigan Senior Division Winner

Journey Richard Shao  
**Richard Shao**, composer  
Arthur Green, teacher

**MTNA Michigan Senior Division Winner**

Sonatina Canonica su Capricci di Niccolò Paganini

Luigi Dallapiccola

**Brenda Mao**, piano

Faye Mao, teacher

**MMTA SAT Junior Division, MTNA Michigan & Division Junior,**

**MTNA National 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, and MTNA Chopin Foundation of the United States**

**Best Chopin Performance Award**

Ballade No.4 in F minor, Op. 52

Frédéric Chopin

**Ethan Mihaescu**, piano

Catherine Rollin, teacher

**MTNA Michigan and Division Winner, National 2<sup>nd</sup> Place**

Silk for Parachutes (2022)

Randy Stagich (b. 1997)

I. Bletchley Park

II. Gold Star

III. The Night Witch

**Nathan Salazar**, saxophone

John Solari, piano

Joseph Lulloff, teacher



On behalf of the MTNA Michigan Performance Competition Team, our heartfelt gratitude to the MSU music faculty and venue support for hosting the 2023-2024 MTNA Michigan Performance Competitions, November 10-12, 2023.



## Michigan Music Teachers Association

State Piano Finals May 6, 2023

### Intermediate Division

|  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| First Place: Evelyn Cao                | Student of Catherine Rollin          |
| Second Place: Emma Van Der Westhuizen  | Student of Sophie Van Der Westhuizen |
| Third Place: Dheeraj Khandavalli       | Student of Jinah Lee                 |
| Honorable Mention: Darshan Khandavalli | Student of Jinah Lee                 |
| Honorable Mention: Jiongxin Yin        | Student of Helen Marlais             |
| Honorable Mention: Kimberly Ke         | Student of Mary Siciliano            |

### Junior Division

|                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| First Place: Ethan Mihaescu     | Student of Catherine Rollin   |
| Second Place: Isaac Sung        | Student of Jinah Lee          |
| Third Place: Grace Vanden Berge | Student of Jinah Lee          |
| Honorable Mention: Cai-Fei Tan  | Student of Matthias Chang     |
| Honorable Mention: Nathan McCoy | Student of Jacki Van Der Slik |
| Honorable Mention: Hyunjun Yuk  | Student Jinah Lee             |

### Senior Division

|                                  |                            |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| First Place: Faith Yeha Lee      | Student of Helen Marlais   |
| Second Place: Sam Bergman        | Student of Sookkyung Cho   |
| Third Place: Jing-Yi Hu          | Student of Derek Polischuk |
| Honorable Mention: Reina Li      | Student of Derek Polischuk |
| Honorable Mention: John Alderink | Student of Andrew Focks    |

Gerardo Ascheri, SAT Auditions Chair



## 2022-2023 MTNA Michigan Competitions

Western Michigan University, Dorothy U. Dalton Center, Kalamazoo, MI  
October 21-23, 2022

### RESULTS

#### Junior Division

##### **Piano:**

|                               |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Winner, Ethan Mihaescu        | Teacher, Catherine Rollin |
| Alternate, Reina Li           | Teacher, Derek Polischuk  |
| Honorable Mention, Elisa Chen | Teacher, Rebecca Happel   |

##### **String:**

|                               |                         |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Representative, Seoungun Moon | Teacher, Solomia Soroka |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|

#### Senior Division

##### **Composition:**

|                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Winner, Richard Shao | Teacher, Arthur Greene |
|----------------------|------------------------|

##### **Brass:**

|                                 |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Representative, Makenzie Barber | Teacher, Kenneth Kroesche |
| Representative, Grant Martinez  | Teacher, Kenneth Kroesche |

##### **Piano:**

|                               |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Winner, Brenda Mao            | Teacher, Faye Mao         |
| Alternate, Harry Wang         | Teacher, Faye Mao         |
| Honorable Mention, Aaron Wang | Teacher, Catherine Rollin |
| Honorable Mention, Justin Hu  | Teacher, Joel Schoenhals  |
| Honorable Mention, Matthew Li | Teacher, Faye Mao         |

##### **String:**

|                                       |                           |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Winner, Madeline Cha, violin          | Teacher, Hye-Jin Kim      |
| Alternate, Henry Jackson, violin      | Teacher, Adrienne Ronmark |
| Honorable Mention, Allen Choi, violin | Teacher, Kimberly Kennedy |

##### **Woodwind:**

|                                    |                       |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Representative, Ian Dodd, clarinet | Teacher, Bryan Conger |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|

## Young Artist Division

### **Brass:**

Winner, Joseph Bickel, euphonium                      Teacher, David Zerkel  
Alternate, Dustin Freeman, trombone                Teacher, Kenneth Kroesche  
Honorable Mention, Christopher Warren, euphonium  
Teacher, Kenneth Kroesche

### **Piano:**

Winner, Khanh Nhi Luong                                Teacher, Christopher Harding  
Alternate, Eric Yu    Teacher, Logan Skelton  
Honorable Mention, Wenyu Deng                      Teacher, Arthur Greene  
Honorable Mention, Anna Triezenberg                Teacher, Lora Kolean

### **String:**

Representative, Fiona Cunninghame-Murray, violin  
Teacher, David Halen

### **Woodwind:**

Winner, Nathan Salazar, saxophone                    Teacher, Joseph Lulloff  
Alternate, Michael Keeler, saxophone                Teacher, Henning Schroeder  
Honorable Mention, Nathan Jasper, saxophone  
Teacher, John Nichol  
Honorable Mention, Laura Ramsay, saxophone  
Teacher, Timothy McAllister

## **MTNA Michigan Competitions**

Composition Coordinator, Mary Ann Anschutz  
Junior Division Coordinator, Justin Gray  
Senior Division Coordinator, Karen Feilla  
Young Artist Division Coordinator, Lora Kolean  
Competition Chair, Laurie M. Marshall

**Music Teachers National Association**  
**2022-2023 National Finals Michigan Results**

Reno, Nevada March 25-29, 2023

**Junior Division**

National 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Ethan Mihaescu, piano      Teacher, Catherine Rollin

Chopin Award: Ethan Mihaescu, piano

**Young Artist Division**

National 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Joseph Bickel, euphonium      Teacher, David Zerkel  
University of Michigan

National 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Khanh Nhi Luong, piano      Teacher, Christopher Harding  
University of Michigan

National 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Nathan Salazar, saxophone      Teacher, Joseph Lulloff  
Michigan State University

**Chamber Ensemble String  
Trio Matisse**

National 2<sup>nd</sup> Place:

Nickolas Hamblin, clarinet      Teacher/Coach, Amy I-Lin Cheng  
Benjamin Penzner, viola      University of Michigan  
Ariya Laothitipong, piano

**Chamber Ensemble Wind  
Chiral**

National 3<sup>rd</sup> Place:

Leo Schlaifer, soprano saxophone      Teacher/Coach, Timothy McAllister  
Nicholas Napier, alto saxophone      University of Michigan  
Alex Toth, tenor saxophone  
Matthew Dardick, baritone saxophone

**MTNA Stecher and Horowitz Two Piano Competition**

National 2<sup>nd</sup> Place:

Kelly Bohan      Teacher, Deborah Moriarty  
Philip Roragen      Teacher, Derek Polischuk  
Michigan State University

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Michigan State University, College of Music  
East Lansing, Michigan  
November 10-12, 2023

All brass and string events Saturday morning.

Junior Piano Sunday

Senior Piano Saturday and Sunday

Senior Woodwind Sunday afternoon.

Young Artist Piano Friday

Young Artist Woodwind Saturday and Sunday



Lora Kolean  
Young Artist Coordinator



Karen Feilla  
Senior Coordinator



Justin Gray  
Junior Coordinator



Mary Ann Anschutz  
Composition Coordinator



Michael Zutis  
Composition Assistant



Laurie M Marshall  
Director of Competitions

## MMTA 2023 CONFERENCE WINNERS' RECITAL

### MTNA, MMTA SAT, and MMTA Concerto Events



**Evelyn Cao** is 9 years old and in the fifth 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. She won first place awards in Division I from the Steinway Competition of Michigan, Metropolitan Detroit Musicians Young Artist Competition, and MMTA State Concerto Competition in 2022; first place awards from MMTA State Finals in the intermediate division and MMTA State Concerto Competition in Division II in 2023.

Evelyn loves learning! In addition to her academic studies and piano, she loves reading, writing, skiing, swimming, and hiking.

Born into a musical family, **Yeji Kim** started her piano studies at the age of 5 and continues to do so with her mom, Sarah Kim. At 6 years old, she started winning competitions including First Prize in American Guild of Music Great Lakes Regional Contest. She was awarded Second Place in both 2021 and 2022 in MDML Young Artist Piano Competitions. In the Spring 2023, she won first prizes in both piano concerto competitions - MMTA Piano Concerto Competition and American Guild of Music Piano Concerto Competition.



Yeji is 9 years old and is in 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Haisley Elementary School in Ann Arbor, MI. Besides piano, she also enjoys playing the violin, figure skating, and swimming. When she is not practicing her instruments, she loves reading, especially Harry Potter books, and writing.

**Faith Yeha Lee** is a junior at Forest Hills Northern High School. She started playing piano when she was 8 years old and is a current student of Dr. Helen Marlais. Faith has won several competitions including 1st place and 2nd place in the 2017 and 2018 National Joongang Music Piano Concour for Young Artists in South Korea, 1st place in the Grand Rapids Youth Symphony piano concerto competition, 1st place in the Michigan Music Teacher Association SAT high school senior division finals, 1st place in the Michigan Music Association duet competition, and 1st place at the 2020 and 2022 GRPTF annual awards competition.



She was also the youngest finalist of the 2023 Robert B. Beardsley Piano Competition and is a two-time finalist of the Charleston International Piano Competition. Recently, she attended the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music piano academy and performed in a masterclass with acclaimed pianist, Emile Naoumoff. Besides competitions, Faith enjoys teaching piano to younger students and performing at senior retirement homes.



**Brenda Mao** is a high school junior from Troy, MI. She started playing piano at the age of seven and is currently studying under Faye Mao. Brenda has participated in many piano events, including being selected as the 2022 Michigan MTNA Senior Champion and the 2021 Michigan MTNA Junior Alternate Entrant. More recently, she received second place in the advanced division of the Carmel Klavier International Competition in 2023. In addition to the piano, Brenda plays the violin and is a part of Troy High School's Symphony Orchestra.



**Ethan Mihaescu** is 12 years old and in 7th Grade at the Roeper School in Birmingham, Michigan. Ethan began his piano studies at age 4. When he was 7, he won first place in the Crescendo International Competition and performed at the Weill Recital Hall in New York. That year he also won first place in the Michigan Steinway Competition Division I. Ethan won first place awards in the MMTA concerto competition in 2019 and 2021 in divisions I and II respectively. Those years he also won 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 pianist Yuan Cheng.

In 2022, Ethan won first place at the MMTA State Solo Finals Intermediate Division. In 2023, he represented the state of Michigan and his geographic division to become the MTNA National Junior Division 2nd place winner and winner of the Best Chopin performance from the Chopin Foundation of the United States.

Ethan has performed for the Tuesday Musicale of Detroit on multiple occasions both as a soloist and collaborative pianist. In 2023, he was offered the Tuesday Musicale of Detroit Doreen Wessel Taylor Piano Award. Ethan was also selected as the 2023-2024 Bea and Harry Shapiro Piano Scholar with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Civic Youth Ensemble. In addition to being guided by his father, a classically trained operatic baritone, Ethan studies piano with world-renowned pianist Catherine Rollin.

**Nathan Salazar** is a saxophonist based in the Lansing, Michigan area. As a soloist, Salazar was the winner of the Arizona State University (ASU) concerto competition where he was a featured soloist with the ASU Wind Ensemble and recently received 2nd place at the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Young Artist Competition. He has also performed various guest artist recitals at Oakland University, Western Michigan University, Grand Valley State University, Albion College, and Spring Arbor University. As a chamber musician, Salazar has performed recitals at Chamber Music Montana, Western Michigan University, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Western Illinois University, Midwestern State University, West Texas A&M University.



A dedicated teacher, Salazar is the Adjunct Professor of Saxophone, Clarinet, and Oboe at Spring Arbor University, Adjunct Instructor of Saxophone and Oboe at Albion College, and the Saxophone and Clarinet Instructor at the Jackson Symphony Orchestra Community Music School.



**Richard Shao** currently studies Piano Performance at the University of Michigan with Professor Arthur Greene and Professor Vadim Monastyrski. Richard previously also studied violin with Professor Solomia Soroka (Goshen College, Indiana).

Richard won the First Prize of the 2022-2023 Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Michigan Senior Composition Competition and the National First Prize of the Junior Piano Performance in the 2019-2020 National MTNA Final Competition.

In addition, Richard has also been awarded many other prizes in music competitions, including the Alternate of the Junior String Performance of the 2019-2020 MTNA Michigan Competition and the first prizes of the Michigan Junior Composer (Class III and IV) Contest of National Federation of Music Clubs.

In August of 2019, Richard made his orchestral debut in the Concerto Gala of Music Fest Perugia at the Sala dei Notari in Perugia, Italy. He earned the opportunity to perform the first movement of Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 21 with the Virtuosi Brunensis Chamber Orchestra of the Czech Republic, Continued...

conducted by Maestro Uri Segal. Richard attended the Vivace International Music Festival (Vivace) remotely in July 2021, and in Wilmington, NC in August 2022, where he performed the last movement of Prokofiev's Eighth Piano Sonata. In these festivals, Richard also performed in the masterclasses of many world-renowned piano masters including Jerome Lowenthal, Ursula Oppens, and Ilana Vered.



**Isaac Sung** is currently a sophomore at Grand Rapids High School and is the son of David and Lisa Sung. His musical journey began at the age of nine when he started studying piano with Aileen Chung, who introduced him to the fundamentals of piano playing. Isaac's musical journey has been enriched by his former instructor, Helen Marlais and it's also worth noting that his mother, Lisa Sung, a jazz pianist, has likely played a significant role in nurturing his love for music.

In 2021 and 2022, Isaac achieved recognition by winning the Grand Rapids Musicians League FAME Scholarship Competition. This achievement allowed him to attend the Interlochen Arts Camp during the summer of 2022, where he had the opportunity to further develop his musical skills under the guidance of Mary Siciliano.

In January 2023, Isaac had the honor of performing with the St. Cecilia Youth Symphony after emerging victorious in the concerto competition. Additionally, in May of the same year, he secured 2nd place in the Junior Division of the MMTA State Finals, showcasing his continued musical growth and talent.

Beyond his musical pursuits, Isaac enjoys spending time with friends, drawing, and hanging out with his five siblings. He is also an active member of the varsity wrestling team at his school, demonstrating his versatility and involvement in various activities. Since 2020, he has been studying under the tutelage of Jinah Lee.

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
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**Shuya Zheng**, a pianist residing in Northville, Michigan, began his musical journey at the age of 5. He received classical piano instruction from Izabella Vilensky and Mi-Eun Kim in his early years and is currently studying under Logan Skelton. Shuya took a hiatus from competitive piano during middle school, resuming his journey in his sophomore year of high school, and this year achieved the 1st place award in the MMTA Concerto Competition. Beyond his passion for the piano, Shuya enjoys baking, actively participating in his school's choir, and dedicating his time to volunteer work with Rotary Interact.



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**Michigan Music Teachers Association  
2023 Distinguished Service Award  
Silvia Roederer**



It was success in an MTNA event that first drew **Dr. Silvia Roederer** to a career in music: in the early 70s as a high school sophomore, she represented the state of Colorado in the regional competition in Columbia, MO. Later in grad school in LA, she entered her students in the California MTA competitions, and in Michigan, has continued to benefit from the expertise and camaraderie of wonderful colleagues in MMTA. Professional highlights within the organization include presentations at the MTNA conferences in NYC and Denver, and mentoring the WMU student chapter that presented a session in the Salt Lake City MTNA conference. She has been happy to chair the MMTA Commissioned Composer program for 10 years.

Silvia Roederer was born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina. When she was 7 years old, her family emigrated to Denver, Colorado, where her musical growth was cultivated by Cornelia Vertenstein. She continued her training at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY (B.M.) with David Burge, and earned graduate degrees at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles (M.M., D.M.A.) with John Perry.

Silvia and her husband Leslie Tung moved to Kalamazoo, MI from Los Angeles when he was invited to join the music faculty at Kalamazoo College. Soon afterwards, a piano position opened at WMU, which Silvia accepted and held for 27 years, teaching studio piano, chamber music, piano skills in larger classes, and supervising graduate students in their class piano teaching duties. She received the 2017 “Excellence in Teaching” award from the College of Fine Arts, WMU.

In addition to many rewarding collaborations with colleagues at WMU and piano duet with her husband, Silvia served for 18 years as pianist of the world-renown Verdehr Trio. Continue...

The work of this trio, with its unusual configuration (violin, clarinet, piano) and 250 new works commissioned by them, has left an important legacy in the field of chamber music. As a member of the trio, Silvia premiered countless of their new works all around the world, had the pleasure of meeting and working with composers of the works, and recorded them on 12 critically acclaimed CDs and 6 DVDs.

Silvia continues to offer private lessons in Kalamazoo, and is on the part-time faculty at Kalamazoo College. Though her musical accomplishments are significant, her proudest achievement is having had a hand in raising three incredible children. New directions since retiring from full-time teaching include volunteer tutoring in a local elementary school, sponsoring an immigrant family from Rwanda, service trips to Puerto Rico and Guatemala, camping in a converted hybrid van, training for triathlons, traveling to visit family, and reconnecting with the many wonderful human beings whom she has had the privilege to teach.



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Teachers Association

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and MMTA for a great  
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## Michigan Music Teachers Association

### 2023 Local Associations

#### Teacher of the Year Award



**Natalia Bezuglova** is a Russian-born pianist residing in the US since 2010. She is an active solo performer, member of chamber music groups, accompanist, organist and a piano instructor. She has given concerts in Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Austria, Russia and the United States. In 2016 she got the 3rd Prize and Bronze Medal at VII International Chamber Music Ensemble Competition in the New England Conservatory (Boston, MA).

Her music education includes DMA in Piano Performance under the mentorship of Professor Deborah Moriarty at Michigan State University College of Music (United States); DMA in Chamber music; M.M. in Collaborative Piano and Piano Teaching from Rostov State Conservatory (Russia). In addition to her formal studies, she has taken part in master classes with Yo-Yo Ma (USA), Michail Bezverhny (Belgium), Gunta Sproge (Latvia), Alexander Bonduriansky (Russia), Dmitri Berlinsky (USA).

Natalia is a passionate piano teacher! Her students participate in concerts for a variety of causes around Michigan from studio recitals at retirement homes to Red Cross benefit concerts. They also take part in competitions, festivals, and achievement testing.



**Kathleen Bublitz** began her music career as a student of voice and piano. Graduating from Lawrence University in 1982 with a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance, she went on to receive a Master of Arts in Music Education from Eastern Michigan University.

Over the next 31 years, she taught thousands of young adults to discover and explore music as a middle-school choir director and elementary music teacher in Bloomfield Hills Schools. Her work extended to the region's church communities where she conducted children's choirs at both Kirk in the Hills and Christ Church Cranbrook. She remained an active vocalist herself, though, performing as a staff singer for Christ Church Cranbrook for over a decade. Since her retirement from the public school system Kate has taught beginning piano studies in her Birmingham studio. Kate became a member of MDML in 2019 and is currently serving as its Secretary and Chair of the Adult Recital.



Carol grew up in Grand Rapids where she studied piano with her mother Julianne Ladewig Schaefer and Rebecca Knapp, both members of the GRPTF through MMTA. She also studied vocal performance with Dale Schriemer. After spending her young life immersed in music, it was assumed she would go off to university to pursue this passion. Carol had other plans. Not wanting to “become her mother”, she went to Western Michigan University and received bachelors degrees in both Communications and English instead. She served as the assistant alumni director for WMU for more than a decade, all while still serving her community through music. Following a long wait, she and her husband Rich had their daughter Kat-ey, at which time Carol decided to raise her full-time. Her mother suggested teaching neighborhood children on the side and mentored the establishment of Carol’s studio in 2003 with the stipulation that she join the local MMTA Chapter in Kalamazoo for additional education and guidance. It was the best advice a mentor/mother could have provided. She has served as both secretary and president of the Kalamazoo Area Music Teachers Association, as well as secretary of MMTA. Most recently, she served on this year’s MMTA Bylaws Committee. The friendships made through both of these organizations have been critical to the exponential growth of Carol’s studio. She is sincerely honored by this recognition and grateful to her colleagues in Kalamazoo for the nomination. Most importantly, she is incredibly proud to have “become her mother”.

**Joy Holtrop** has always lived in southeast Grand Rapids and prefers the term “stable” rather than “boring”. She started piano lessons in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and clarinet lessons in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and played and sang in every band, choir, and orchestra possible in middle and high school. When college prep courses conflicted with music offerings, there was no compromise. Her kids still wonder how she made it out of high school without chemistry and physics. Some of her favorite memories are playing in many local and state Solo and Ensemble events. Her mom would accompany her clarinet solos, and her dad would manage to find an outlet in every clarinet and piano performance room to plug in the cassette tape recorder. The trip home always included lunch or ice cream and playing the cassettes in the car.



While at Calvin College (now University), Joy began organ lessons and started playing for church and teaching piano. She married her high school sweetheart after her college freshman year and later raised 4 children who also had many piano and instrumental lessons whether they wanted them or not. Joy joined the PTFGR shortly after college in 1990 and has served on the

Executive Committee, organized the Sonata Festival for 15 years, and recently began chairing SAT. The Forum's programs and teachers have had a big influence on her teaching over the years, and she values the good friends there. Now in the empty nest stage of life Joy teaches 35 students and continues to play the piano and organ for church services and weddings. She and her husband relocated to a smaller home on a golf course and spend a few weeks in FL each winter. So far, her children have provided her with 2 "granddogs," and she enjoys plants and flower gardening.



**Myung Ok Lee** is a piano instructor at Kawai Music Lesson Studios in Shelby Township since 2018. Myung received a BA from the College of Music at Ewha Womans University in Seoul, Korea. She came to the United States in 1994 with her spouse who completed a Ph.D. in Ann Arbor and raised two sons who majored in Engineering and Business.

Always excited to expand her musical skills, she has been studying piano with Dr. Christopher Harding at the University of Michigan since 2020. Myung had previously been taking pipe organ lessons for four years with Dr. Rose Van Mersbergen in Dr. Marilyn Mason's studio at the University of Michigan. Presently, she plays organ and accompanies a choir at Romeo UMC in addition to teaching.

Myung is a member of the National Federation of Music Clubs and has served on the board of the Macomb Piano Teachers Forum as Secretary. She has been an SAT test writer for Theory in the past and serves as the Theory Chair for the Macomb test, taking great care to ensure consistency of grading among committee members.

Her greatest pleasure in working with her own students is watching their growth. The cards from her students saying thank you are most telling and rewarding: "Thank you for helping me get better at piano and pushing me to do my best." (Nola Mae Tcruz - 7<sup>th</sup> grade) and "Thank you for your endless support for me over the years. You've inspired me to love piano as much as you, that's the



**Elena Tsai** spends her current professional life sitting at keyboards: Piano, harpsichord, fortepiano and computer. At the piano she is more often teaching than performing. But she often plays along with her students. Elena tunes and maintains the harpsichords and fortepianos at the University of Michigan. Continue...

This keeps her in the loop of all things related to historical performance, which, to her, is essential to her musicianship. At the computer, Elena spends lots of time emailing, making spreadsheets, and researching, especially in her executive board position of AAAPTG.

Sometimes this has been fun, especially when the data formatting works and her colleagues think she's a computer genius. She is the immediate Past-President and current Treasurer of the Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild.

Elena Tsai has piano, harpsichord, and political science degrees from the University of Michigan. In her younger days she performed harpsichord with numerous ensembles in the Washington, DC area. Fanfare Magazine praised her "panache" and "exquisite musical shading". BBC Music Magazine heralded her "attractive performances" and Early Music America admired her "eloquent...and thoughtful interpretations." Elena also lived in Paris for two years, funded by the Frank Huntington Beebe and Harriet Hale Woolley grants.

Currently, Elena is often at home with her husband, their 2 teenage children, a dog, and 6 chickens and various keyboard instruments.



The Holland Piano Teachers' Forum has nominated **Jacki VanderSlik** as their 2023 Teacher of the Year. Jacki has been a member of the Holland Forum and MMTA since 1982 and earned her state certification in 1999. As a teen, she studied piano with Catharina Hillebrand and Marilyn Slenk, then earned her B.A. in Music at Calvin College. Since then, she has enjoyed working with students of elementary school age to retirees. Her students participate in SAT, with many being eligible for the local Honors Recital and Semifinals/Finals each year. Several students also attend and perform for the Holland Piano Club and enter its annual competition.

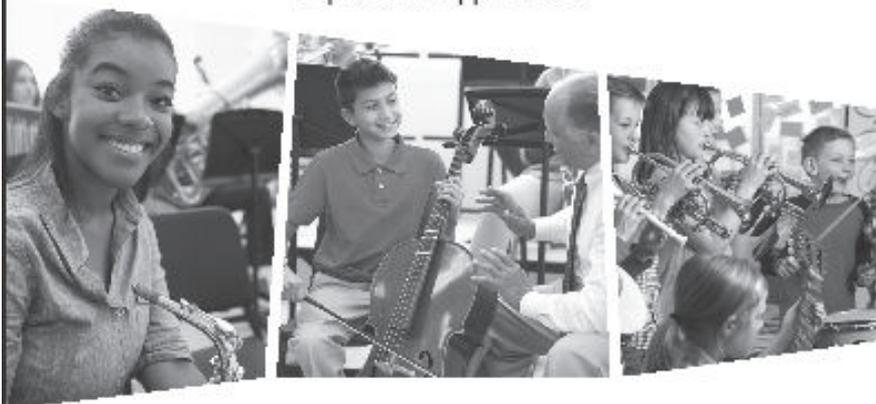
In HPTF, Jacki is currently serving as president and as a member of the SAT team. Over the years, she has served in many capacities. She is also on the MMTA Board as the chair of the SAT Piano Handbook & Testing committee where she oversees the writing and proofing of the tests each year. In her free time, she enjoys reading, knitting, travelling the world with her husband, and spending time with her children and 6 grandchildren.



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| Oakland University, School of Music, Theatre & Dance  | 30 |
| University of Michigan, School of Music, Theatre & Dance  | 25 |



**My Music Bridge**



*Irving S. Gilmore School of Music  
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## **Phyllis Rappeport Legacy Series**

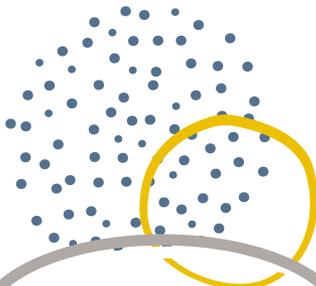
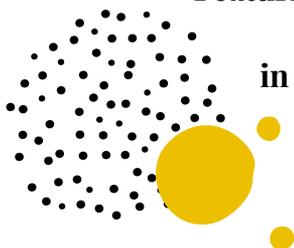
**Saturday February 16, 2024**



**Featuring Guest Artist and Lecturer**

**Marvin Blickenstaff**

**in lecture and masterclass**



### **Event Schedule**

- 9am-12 pm Young Artists Competition
- 10am-12 Marvin Blickenstaff Lecture
- 12am-1pm Lunch
- 1pm-2pm: Recital with the Vardi Piano Duo
- 2pm-4pm Masterclass with Marvin Blickenstaff
- 4pm-5pm Award ceremony

For more information and registration see  
[www.wmich.edu/piano](http://www.wmich.edu/piano)

**Registration Deadline**

**January 15, 2024**

Sponsored by Western Michigan University and  
Kalamazoo Music Teachers Association

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STATE UNIVERSITY**  
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC,  
THEATRE, AND DANCE

# BCAMTA

## Battle Creek Area Music Teachers Association

We are small but mighty. Consider joining us if you are in the Battle Creek Area.

Contact: President Teresa A. Pash at (517) 852-9159, [tpash@hotmail.com](mailto:tpash@hotmail.com),  
or check out our Facebook page for more information.



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## Perform with young musicians from around the globe



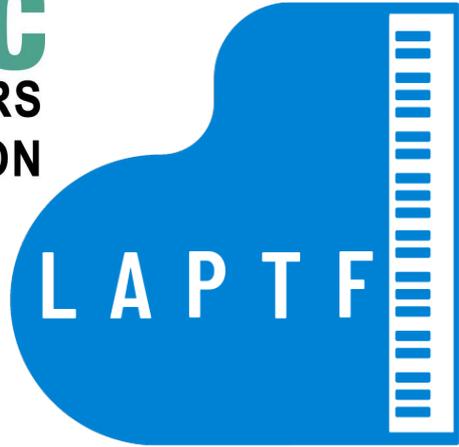
[interlochen.org](https://interlochen.org)

Interlochen Arts Camp is the summer music camp for young musicians in grades 3-12, with programs in a variety of genres, instruments, and skill levels. Here, you'll practice and perform in a beautiful natural setting, work with incredible guest artists and conductors, and forge friendships with young musicians from around the world.

INTERLOCHEN ARTS CAMP - Grades 3-12

INTERLOCHEN ONLINE - Grades 2-12





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