



MICHIGAN MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

138th Annual Conference

Founded 1885

An affiliate of Music Teachers National Association



October 18-19, 2024

Calvin University
Covenant Fine Arts Center
Grand Rapids, MI



WELCOME TO GRAND RAPIDS!

We're thrilled to host you in our beautiful city! Over the next few days, you'll gain valuable insights and inspiration from leading experts in the field, all while connecting with fellow educators who share your passion for music. As you immerse yourself in the conference, we encourage you to take some time to explore Grand Rapids. From the scenic riverwalk to world-class dining and renowned breweries, Frederik Meijer Gardens and museums, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Here's to a successful and enriching conference experience for all!



PTFGR.ORG

**PROUD HOST OF THE
MICHIGAN MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
2024 CONFERENCE**

Let's Celebrate!

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MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY



Dear Colleagues,

It is with a heart full of gratitude and anticipation that I welcome you to the 138th Annual Conference of the mighty Michigan Music Teachers Association. As I step down from my role as President, I want to take a moment to say what an incredible journey it has been leading this remarkable group, and as I pass the torch, I am thrilled to see where we will go next.

Over the past few years, we have achieved so much together as a community of passionate and dedicated teachers. This conference stands as a celebration of our collective accomplishments and a springboard for future endeavors.

I want to extend my deepest thanks to each of you. Your support, enthusiasm, and commitment have made my tenure as President a truly rewarding experience. It has been a privilege to work alongside such talented and generous individuals. I would particularly like to thank the MMTA leadership including local association volunteers, state committee chairs, state board members, and the members of the executive committee.

As we gather for this conference, I encourage you to take full advantage of the remarkable diversity of sessions, workshops, networking opportunities and performances that the conference committee has assembled. The themes and discussions scheduled promise to inspire and challenge us, pushing the boundaries of our field and shaping the future of our association.

Please join me in welcoming our new President, Laurie Marshall. I have every confidence that she will bring fresh perspectives and a wealth of experience to the role. I look forward to seeing how our association will evolve under her leadership.

Thank you once again for being part of this incredible journey. Here's to a successful conference and a bright musical future ahead for all of us!

Most Sincerely,

Derek Kealii Polischuk
President, Michigan Music Teachers Association



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Michigan Music Teachers Association

AFFILIATED WITH THE MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOUNDED IN 1885

October 18, 2024

Dear colleagues and friends,

On behalf of the Michigan Music Teachers Association leadership and the 2024 Conference Committee, welcome to the MMTA 138th Annual Conference.



MMTA conference theme **CELEBRATE COLLABORATION!** presents award winning concert artists and educators from all over the world - tripling the number of performances and presentations. We are thrilled to host our seasoned members, our newest Young Professionals, and Collegiate Chapter music majors.

Two major recitals: Friday night's **Annual Gala Concert** features award winning concert artists and educators, **Cristina Ballatori, Paul Houghtaling, and Kevin Chance**. Saturday afternoon's **Annual Student Recital** features Michigan's MTNA and MMTA award-winning competition students. They are breathtaking!

In honor of this event, host **Piano Teachers' Forum of Grand Rapids** commissioned a new work by Michigan composer **Bernadine Johnson**, a gift you will find in your registration package.

It has been an exciting year listening to you and collaborating with the local association hosts. 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 **Calvin University** including Tiffany Engel, Forrest Wakeman, Lisa Meyer, Anna Nienhuis, Emily Duff, Jim Nyhoff, and others.

Finally, on a personal note, thank you to **MTNA CEO Brian Shephard, MTNA President Peter Mack, and President Elect Kevin Chance** for providing wisdom, experience, and laughter. Their commitment to our professional development is why MTNA is the preeminent source for professional music educators. Thank you for all you do!

Laurie M Marshall

Michigan Music Teachers Association, Vice President / Conference Chair



On behalf of the Department of Visual and Performing Arts, I am delighted to welcome you to the campus of Calvin University. We are honored to be able to host the 138th Michigan Music Teachers Association Annual Conference.

For two full days, you will have the opportunity to learn from dedicated scholars and observe gifted teachers. You will be renewed and inspired by captivating performances. And you will have the opportunity to do this within a supportive community of individuals united in passion and purpose.

Here at Calvin, we value the study and performance of music as important and enriching parts of our academic, artistic, social, and spiritual community. Our program invites majors, minors, and non-majors to create and explore music through ensembles, private lessons, and varied courses. Our outstanding faculty are dedicated to equipping students as listeners, performers, composers, scholars, educators, and worship leaders to serve as agents of renewal throughout the Kingdom of God.

I am confident that this conference will not only promote your musical growth and pedagogical development but will provide you with a network of colleagues that ultimately lead to long-lasting friendships. We hope you will find Calvin and our wonderful facility here in the Covenant Fine Arts Center to be a conducive environment in which to celebrate such meaningful collaboration.

We are so glad to have you here.

Tiffany Engle
Department of Visual and Performing Arts Co-Chair (Music)



MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

October 18, 2024

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 next MTNA National Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 15-19, 2025. 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. You'll be treated to the artistry of *Michelle Cann*, keynote speaker *Libby Larsen* and insightful master classes with *Lynda Lybeck-Robinson* (elementary piano), *Jennifer Linn* (intermediate piano), *Michelle Cann* (advanced piano), and *John Bloomfield* (piano technique). The 2025 MTNA National Conference will be an unforgettable time to learn and share, so visit the MTNA website later this year for more details!

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

Sincerely,

Peter Mack, NCTM
President

Sincerely,

Brian Shepard
Chief Executive Officer



*Piano Teachers' Forum
of Grand Rapids*



Colleagues,

Piano Teachers' Forum of Grand Rapids welcomes you to the 138th Annual State Conference of the Michigan Music Teachers' Association, held in the beautiful city of Grand Rapids. Our city is full of museums, fabulous restaurants, art, music, and theater. I hope you are able to experience some of these offerings during your stay.

We are delighted to share with you two pieces composed by PTFGR member, Bernadine Johnson, that were commissioned by Piano Teachers' Forum of Grand Rapids in recognition of the 2024 MMTA State Conference. Bernadine is an accomplished composer, and we are very appreciative for the work she put in to these compositions. Thank you to Mary Jane Timmer, Michele Wells, and Yelena Wells, for their work on the local host committee. Calvin University is a beautiful venue and we are so appreciative that Calvin is hosting us on their campus.

We are thrilled to have each of you here, and are excited to learn from each other, encourage each other, connect with each other, and honor each other as we celebrate collaboration as musicians.

Enjoy your time here and all the conference has to offer.

Andrea Johnson
President, Piano Teachers' Forum of Grand Rapids

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

Concerto Competition Chair, Wendy Wan Hsing Chu

Historian, Miho Segal

Local Associations Chair, Zhao “Lia” Wang

Membership Chair, David Keep

MMT Editor, Vacant

MMTA SAT Auditions Chair, Gerardo Ascheri

MMTA SAT Coordinator, Pinlin Liu

SAT Piano Handbook Chair, Jacki Vander Slik

SAT Strings Chair, Erin Thomas

SAT Voice Chair, Vacant

SAT Woodwind Chair, Karen Betz-Griewahn

SAT Special Committee Chair, Janice Derian

MTNA Michigan Commissioned Composer Chair, Silvia Roederer

MTNA Michigan Director of Competitions, Laurie M Marshall

MTNA Michigan Composition Chair, Michael Zutis

MTNA Michigan Junior Division Chair, Karen Johnson

MTNA Michigan Senior Division Chair, Karen Feilla

MTNA Michigan Young Artist Division Chair, Lora Kolean

MTNA Michigan Foundation Chair, Megan Nyquist

Teacher Education Chair, Allison Shinnick Keep

Webmaster, Yelena Wells through October 2024

MMTA 2024 Conference Schedule

Friday, October 18, 2024

8:00 AM	MMTA Board of Directors	Room 125
8:30 AM	Registration Check-in Piano Teachers' Forum of Grand Rapids	Fine Arts Lobby
9:00 AM	MMTA Committee Booths Vendor Exhibit Booths	Fine Arts Lobby
10:00 AM	Opening Session Derek Kealii Polischuk, D.M.A., MMTA President Tiffany Engle, Calvin University Laurie M Marshall, MMTA Vice President and Conference Chair	<i>Recital Hall</i>
10:15 AM	<i>The Complete Solo Piano Works of Joan Tower: From Twelve-Tone Crowd to Risk-Taker</i> Kara Huber	Recital Hall
11:00 AM	<i>Women of the Nocturne</i> Allison Shinnick Keep	Recital Hall
11:15 AM	<i>Music As Medicine</i> Ryan Holley-Mallo	Swets Choral Hall
Noon	MMTA Local Association Presidents' Luncheon Meeting	Prince Hickory Room
12:30 PM	Publisher's Showcase <i>Answers and Solutions for Teaching Adult Beginners</i> Keith Snell	Swets Choral Hall
1:15 PM	<i>By Her Hand</i> Alta Dantzler, voice and Mary Siciliano, piano	Recital Hall

1:30 PM	<i>The Pianist Guide to the Universe</i> Martin and Martha Duncan	Swets Choral Hall
2:15 PM	<i>Fairy Tales for Four Hands</i> The Westhuizen Duo: Pierre & Sophie van der Westhuizen	Recital Hall
2:30 PM	<i>Worship Service Improvisation for Classical Pianists</i> Lori Rhoden	Swets Choral Hall
3:15 PM	<i>Performing the Beethoven "accompanied sonatas" in a year: A pianist's half marathon.</i> Sonja Bosca-Harasim, violin and Julia Siciliano, piano	Recital Hall
3:30 PM	<i>Teaching the Way We Learn: Applications of Edwin E. Gordon's Music Learning Theory (MLT)</i> Joy Morin and Amy Chaplin	Swets Choral Hall
4:15 PM	<i>The Victory Vertical Project</i> Garik Pedersen	Recital Hall
4:30 PM	<i>The Healthy Pianist: Strategies for Avoiding Injury and Building Strong Foundations</i> Michael Finlay	Swets Choral Hall
6:00 PM	Gala Dinner MTNA Foundation, Megan Nyquist, Michigan Chair MMTA 25 and 50-year Members Recognition, David Keep, Chair Local Association Teachers of the Year Awards, Zhao "Lia" Wang, Chair Distinguished Service Award, presented by MMTA President Derek Kealii Polischuk.	Prince Willow Room

8:00 PM	Commissioned Composer Award & Performance <i>Utterly as the sunlight</i> , Nicole Knorr, composer FLYDLPHN: Lexi Eubanks, flute, Oliver Bishop, clarinet, Bryce Richardson, bassoon, Emani Barber, bass, Olivia Cirisan, percussion, and Ancel Fitzgerald Neeley, percussion. MTNA Commissioned Composer, Michigan Chair, Silvia Roederer	
8:15 PM	Gala Concert: <i>CELEBRATE COLLABORATION!</i> Cristina Ballatori, flute, Paul Houghtaling, Bass-Baritone, and Kevin Chance, piano.	
9:30 PM	Gala Concert Reception Hosted by the MMTA Leadership.	Fine Arts Lobby

Saturday, October 19, 2024

7:30 AM	Publisher's Showcase <i>The Imaginative Women of Red Leaf Pianoworks</i> Susan Griesdale, Martha Hill Duncan, Amy Stephens	Swets Choral Hall
8:00 AM	<i>Foundations in Technique</i> Julie Hague	Recital Hall
8:15 AM	<i>Evolutionary Entrepreneurialism: Grow Your Studio One "Yes" At a Time</i> Amy Chaplin	Swets Choral Hall
9:00 AM	<i>Barrier Breaking Chamber Music Experiences for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their Neurotypical Peers</i> Derek Kealii Polischuk	Recital Hall
9:15 AM	<i>Preparing Successful Performance</i> Keith Porter Snell	Swets Choral Hall
10:00 AM	<i>Ferruccio Busoni's Bach: The Birth of Modern Performance Practice</i> Svetlana Belsky	Recital Hall

10:15 AM *Finding Your Inner Composer: Developing Musical Creativity*
 Martha Hill Duncan Swets Choral Hall

11:00 AM *MASTERCLASS: Junior, Senior, and Young Artist*
 Gala Concert Artist Recital Hall

Noon MMTA SAT Coordinator Luncheon Meeting
 Prince President's Dining
 MMTA Past Presidents Luncheon Meeting Prince Dogwood

12:15 PM Publisher's Showcase Swets Choral Hall
Catherine Rollin Music

1:15 PM MMTA Annual Business Meeting Recital Hall
 MMTA President Derek Kealii Polischuk
 MMTA Proposed Budget, MMTA Treasurer David Husser
 MMTA Election, MMTA Immediate Past President and
 Nominating Committee Chair Beatrice Ellis
 Christie Otter, MMTA Parliamentarian

1:30 PM *Joining Forces in Voice and Chamber Music* Recital Hall

Chip Away for soprano, clarinet, & piano (2024) Christian Ellenwood
Newly commission for the 2024 MMTA Conference

Jennifer Ribeiro, soprano
 Christian Ellenwood, clarinet
 David Abbott, piano

From 8 Pieces, Op. for clarinet, viola & piano Op. 83. Max Bruch
 Allegro con moto (1838-1920)
 Nachtgesang (nocturne)
 Allegro vivace, ma non troppo
 Christian Ellenwood, clarinet
 Ji Hyun Kim, viola
 David Abbott, piano

1:40 PM	<i>Dance Trends, Piano Building, and Four-Hand Performance: Take-aways from Summer Research in Vienna</i> David Keep	Swets Choral Hall
2:10 PM	<i>Three Applications for Teaching the Waltz to Pianists</i> David Keep	Swets Choral Hall
2:30 PM	<i>Loving Chopin Etudes with Small Hands</i> Sookkyung Cho	Recital Hall
2:40 PM	<i>It's All in the Elbows!</i> Amy Stephens	Swets Choral Hall
3:10 PM	<i>"Opus 78": Beethoven and the Blind King, Reimagined</i> Holly Matthews and Laura Burkett	Swets Choral Hall
3:30 PM	<i>Marguerite Long: A Reassessment of Her Impact on the French School of Piano</i> John Ellis	Recital Hall
3:40 PM	<i>The Creativity Continuum: Sequencing Improvisation</i> Sarah Boyd	Swets Choral Hall
4:10 PM	<i>Professor's Corner: Teaching Masterclasses</i> Jasmine Lucia Wong, Khanh Nhi Luong, and Le Binh Anh Nguyen	Swets Choral Hall
4:40 PM	<i>Music & Storytelling: Developing Imagination Through the Use of AI</i> Le Binh Anh Nguyen	Swets Choral Hall
5:00 PM	Michigan's MTNA, Concerto, and MMTA Student Winners!	Recital Hall
6:15 PM	Recital Reception Hosted by the MMTA Membership	Fine Arts Lobby

Conference Notes: Include sparked ideas, favorite compositions & artists, networking contacts, etc.

Welcome

- Fitness Room (1st floor)
- Dogwood (3rd floor)





Paul Houghtaling, Bass-Baritone Cristina Ballatori, Flute Kevin Chance, Piano

2024 GALA CONCERT ARTISTS

Cristina Ballatori has performed across the United States, Europe, England, and Latin America as a recitalist, soloist, chamber and orchestral musician. Performance highlights include concerts in such venues as the Festivales Internacionales de Flautistas in Lima, Peru, World Flutes Festival in Mendoza, Argentina, Atelier Concert Series in Paris, France, and artist residencies in Spain, Costa Rica, and Mexico.

An active chamber musician, Ballatori is a member of the Semplice Duo with pianist Kevin Chance, and the Whitewater Chamber Players. Described by critics as “delightful performers” whose “music making was effortless and sparkling,” the Semplice Duo was formed in 2000 with the goal of exposing a wide variety of audiences to the less frequently performed chamber music for flute and piano. Winners of the Notes at 9,000 Emerging Artist Series Competition in Colorado, the Semplice Duo has performed recitals and educational outreach concerts throughout the United States and abroad. Their debut album, “Night Surrendering to Dawn” features an engaging and eclectic program of works for flute and piano by 21st Century composers Valerie Coleman, Amanda Harberg, and Samuel Zyman, including two world-premiere recordings of works by Christian Ellenwood; it will be released by Centaur Records in 2024-2025. Passionate about the performance of new music and music by women, Ballatori has commissioned and premiered works by Valerie Coleman, Cherise Liter, and Alexandra Molnar-Suhajda. One of her upcoming projects includes a new commissioned work by Reena Esmail as a member of the Flute New Music Consortium.

Ballatori regularly appears as a guest artist and has been a featured performer, clinician, and adjudicator at many festivals and conferences including those of the National Flute Association, Music Teachers National Association, Texas Music Educators Association, Texas Band Directors Association, and Florida Flute Association among many others. In 2023-2024, she was a featured guest artist for the Rochester Flute Association,

Wisconsin Flute Festival, and the Southwestern Oklahoma State Flute Day. A passionate advocate for music education, Dr. Ballatori has presented workshops for the Yehudi Menuhin Foundation's "Live! Music Now" program and given master classes at universities and public schools throughout the United States and in Latin America.

A sought-after and dedicated teacher, Ballatori will join the faculty at the University of Arkansas in Fall 2024 as Assistant Professor of Flute and flutist with the Lyrique Quintet. She previously served as Associate Professor of Flute at both the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV). At UTRGV, Ballatori was one of fifteen tenure track professors within the sixteen University of Texas System schools to receive the Regents' Outstanding Award, a \$25,000 award recognizing extraordinary classroom performance and innovation in instruction. Her students have been named winners and finalists in local, state, regional, and national competitions, including those sponsored by the National Flute Association and Texas Association of Music Schools, and have been accepted into top summer festivals and graduate programs. Under Ballatori's direction, the UTRGV Flute Choir and Flautarra Ensemble enjoyed the university's first invitations to appear as featured performers at the National Flute Association Convention, Texas Music Educators Association Convention, and Texas Flute Festival. In 2022, the UW-W Flute Ensemble received the university's first invitation to perform at the National Flute Association Convention in over thirty years.

A winner of the National Flute Association's Graduate Research Competition, Ballatori's doctoral thesis, "Suite Paysanne Hongroise for Flute and Piano by Béla Bartók/Arr. Paul Arma: A Performer's Guide," was recognized for its outstanding contribution to flute research. Her articles have been published in *American Music Teacher*, *Flute Talk*, and *Flutist Quarterly*. Ballatori is currently Director of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Summer Flute Camp. She has served as co-director of the Frontera Chamber Music Society, a non-profit organization she co-founded, and as co-director and co-founder of the South Texas Flute & Clarinet Festival. An active member of the National Flute Association, she currently serves as Assistant Program Chair of the 2025 Convention in Atlanta and on the organization's Youth Engagement Committee. She previously served as a member of the NFA's Board of Directors, Diversity & Inclusion Committee, Pedagogy Committee, and as coordinator of the High School Soloist Competition.

Ballatori completed the Doctor of Musical Arts in Flute Performance, Pedagogy, and Literature at the University of Colorado at Boulder. The recipient of a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship, she received a postgraduate diploma from the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, England where she studied with Peter Lloyd, retired principal flutist of the London Symphony Orchestra. She earned performance degrees at Louisiana State University (M.M.) and George Mason University (B.M.). Her major teachers include Alexa Still, Katherine Kemler, Judith Lapple, and Diane Smith. She is a Burkart Artist.

Named Teacher of the Year by the Alabama Music Teachers Association and Music Educator of the Year by the Arts Council of Tuscaloosa, pianist **Kevin T. Chance** has been hailed as “a superlative musician” playing “with musical conviction and muscularity.” He has performed throughout the United States and abroad as both soloist and collaborator. Recent engagements include performances at Carnegie Hall as well as concerto appearances with Bernstein’s *Age of Anxiety* and Rachmaninoff’s *Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini* with the Huxford Symphony Orchestra, Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue* with the University of Alabama Wind Ensemble, Beethoven’s *Choral Fantasy* with the Athens Chorale in Georgia, and Gerald Finzi’s *Eclogue*. In March 2016, he also appeared with the Tuscaloosa Symphony in a performance of Saint-Saens’s *Carnival of the Animals*. Recital engagements have taken him throughout the U.S. with recent appearances at the American Matthay Association Festivals, the University of Oklahoma, the Louisiana Piano Series International, and the Albion College International Piano Festival. He has also been presented in performances by the Mobile Opera, the Mississippi Opera, Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre, the University of Texas at Brownsville, the University of South Carolina, Columbus State University, Auburn University, Millsaps College, the University of North Dakota, the Saratoga Arts Fest, and Bucknell University. Dr. Chance was a prizewinner of several regional and national competitions including the National Society of Arts and Letters Career Awards Competition, Music Teachers National Association Competitions (MTNA), and the Brevard Music Center Concerto Competition.

Dr. Chance is a member of the Semplice Duo with flutist Cristina Ballatori. In August 2004, they were named the winners of the Notes at 9,000 Emerging Artist Series Competition in Colorado. Past seasons have taken them to Texas, Colorado, New York, and Louisiana, and they were selected as artist fellows for the 2005 Hampden-Sydney Music Festival in Virginia, where they returned for a series of performances in 2008. They frequently perform in recital on the “Live from Hochstein” series, which are broadcast live on WXXI radio in Rochester, NY, and in 2014, they made their European debut in Paris.

A sought-after teacher, Dr. Chance maintains a prize-winning studio, and he was recently named a Leadership Board Faculty Fellow by the University of Alabama College of Arts and Sciences. His students are frequently named winners and finalists in local, state, regional, and national competitions, including the 2009 Music Teachers National Association’s National Competition Finals in Atlanta. He currently serves on the faculties of several summer festivals including the New Orleans Piano Institute. In demand as a clinician and adjudicator, he regularly presents workshops and lecture-performances on repertoire and pedagogy throughout the country, and he has served as a guest artist and clinician for the Michigan, Mississippi, and Alabama state music teacher conferences. Additionally, Dr. Chance has presented at the 2023, 2019, 2016, and 2008 Music Teachers National Association Conferences. He is a Past President of the Alabama Music Teachers Association and is a past board member of the Music Teachers National Association serving as Director of the Southern Division and later Vice President. Kevin currently serves as the President-Elect of Music Teachers National Association and is a past president of the American Matthay Association.

Serving as Associate Professor of Piano and Chair of the Gloria Narramore Moody Piano Area at the University of Alabama, Dr. Chance is a former faculty member at the Alabama School of Fine Arts in Birmingham. He holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance and Literature from the Eastman School of Music where he was awarded the Jerald C. Graue Fellowship for academic excellence. An alumnus of the Aspen Music Festival, he holds the Master of Music degree from Louisiana State University and graduated magna cum laude from Birmingham-Southern College. His teachers have included Barry Snyder, Constance Knox Carroll, Ann Schein, Anne Koscielny, Herbert Stessin, William DeVan and Betty Sue Shepherd.

Paul Houghtaling, bass-baritone, is Professor of Music, Co-Coordinator of Voice, and Director of Opera Theatre. He joined The University of Alabama faculty in the fall of 2007.

Career highlights include European tours as Papageno in *Die Zauberflöte* with Teatro Lirico d'Europa ("...an extraordinary Papageno of comic sensitivity, naivete and tenderness, served by a superb voice and a remarkable physical agility." *Salon de Provence*); a debut with the Bard Music Festival and the American Symphony Orchestra in Haydn's *L'Infedeltà Delusa* ("...revealed a striking and flexible baritone." *Opera News*); Peter Maxwell Davies' *Eight Songs for a Mad King* with ALEA III in Boston ("...singing forcefully, in eerie falsetto highs and chesty baritone lows ... the Davies sent you home stunned." *The Boston Globe*); several works with the Cecilia Chorus of New York at Carnegie Hall under David Randolph; works of Bach with the Orchestra of St. Luke's "Bach Cantatas in Context" Series, American Classical Orchestra, Amor Artis Baroque Orchestra, and others; Die Sprecher in the American original instrument premiere of *Die Zauberflöte* with Boston Baroque; United States tours with the Waverly Consort, including Kennedy Center appearances, and Early Music New York; "Opera Buffa: Comedy On Stage" on Lincoln Center's "Meet the Artists" series; and his acclaimed Gilbert & Sullivan interpretations with the Anchorage, Cedar Rapids, Central City, Knoxville, Saratoga, Nashville, and Natchez Operas, and Opera Mississippi. Additional opera companies and ensembles with which Dr. Houghtaling has performed include the Alabama Symphony, Baltimore Opera, Opera Birmingham, Boston Baroque, First Coast Opera, Helena Symphony, Opera Las Vegas, L'Opera Francais de New York, Marble City Opera, Metropolitan Opera Guild, Tacoma Opera, Tuscaloosa Symphony, and others. As a director, he has staged productions for Hubbard Hall, Opéra Louisiane, Opera on the James, Opera Mississippi, Mobile Opera, Red River Lyric Opera, Music on Site, and others.

Dr. Houghtaling was the 2019 recipient of the Blackmon-Moody Outstanding Faculty Award, one of the University of Alabama's highest faculty honors, and the 2019 President's Research Award as Senior Scholar for the Arts and Humanities. He was also the 2015 recipient of the Morris Lehman Mayer Award at The University of Alabama. The award is an honor given to "one member of the teaching faculty who exemplifies the life of Morris L. Mayer: selfless and significant service and leadership for the U of A community, significant contributions to student life, and integrity." Also in 2015, he received the Druid Arts Award for Music Educator of the Year, an honor given by the the Arts and Humanities Council of Tuscaloosa, as well as the Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award given by UA's National Alumni Association.

Dr. Houghtaling is a frequent presenter at national and regional conferences such as the College Music Society (CMS), National Opera Association (NOA), AMTA (Alabama Music Teachers Association, MTNA Affiliate) and the Classical Singer National Convention and College Expo and he is in demand as an adjudicator (state and regional NATSAA, MTNA, AFMC, Alabama Vocal Association, Distinguished Young Women [formerly America's Junior Miss]) and master class clinician. He previously served on the faculty of Hunter College in New York (CUNY), and has given residencies, master classes, and/or recitals at many institutions including Columbus State University, University of Delaware, Louisiana State University, Mississippi State University, SUNY Brockport, Virginia Tech University, Université de Sherbrooke in Montreal, University of Southern Mississippi, University of Mississippi, University of Nevada Las Vegas, Binghamton University, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, University of West Georgia, University of Louisiana, Lafayette, The College of the Holy Cross, Stillman College, Texas A&M University-Commerce, and University of Alaska, Anchorage.

Dr. Houghtaling was the founder and artistic director of the Druid City Opera Workshop, a week-long young artist training intensive held at UA starting in 2010. As of May 2022, the program became Druid City Opera, a professional opera company in residence at UA, and the first professional opera company in the Tuscaloosa region. In addition, Houghtaling and the UA Opera Theatre have been finalists in the National Opera Association's Collegiate Opera Scenes and Opera Production competitions, as well as the American Prize for opera production and stage direction. The UA Opera Theatre was awarded First Place in Division II of NOA's Opera Production Competition in 2022 for its production of Tobias Picker's *Thérèse Raquin*.

Professor Houghtaling was a frequent studio artist with Philip Glass and Looking Glass Studios in New York and can be heard as a featured vocalist on Glass's soundtrack to Reggio's film *Naqoyqatsi* on the SONY label, and as the Laughing Sun and the Ogre in the Glass/Beni Montresor collaboration, *The Witches of Venice*, recorded for Euphorbia. Earning considerable attention for his work in contemporary music, especially for his performances of Davies' *Eight Songs for a Mad King*, Mr. Houghtaling has performed with Gunther Schuller, the Virgil Thomson Foundation, and ALEA III, both in the U.S. and on the Kalamata and Iraklion Festivals in Greece in new theater works for Greek National Television. Other notable projects include John Cage's *Apartment House 1776* during the composer's 1988 Norton Lectures at Harvard, George Crumb's *Songs, Drones & Refrains of Death* with ALEA III, and Davies' *Le Jongleur de Notre Dame* with the Dinosaur Annex Ensemble in Boston. In addition to works by Philip Glass, Mr. Houghtaling has created roles in numerous new theater and opera works including Lee Hoiby's *The Tempest* with Des Moines Metro Opera and the title role in William Harper's *El Greco* for the Off-Broadway Intar Theater.

Dr. Houghtaling has appeared with the Boston Early Music Festival, Clarion Music, Early Music New York (U.S. tours), the Waverly Consort, and the Mark Morris Dance Company production of *Dido & Aeneas*, and the Folger Consort in Washington, D.C. He has performed more than 70 Bach Cantatas and other Baroque works with such ensembles as the Bach Societies of Miami and Worcester, American Classical Orchestra, Boston Baroque, American Classical Orchestra, Boston Baroque, New York's BachWorks at Merkin Hall, Long Island Baroque, the Bach Aria Festival and Institute, and the renowned Holy Trinity Bach Foundation series, also in New York. He has recorded for the Albany, New World, EMI, Euphorbia,

Balkanton, and Prospect Classics labels.

He holds degrees from the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA (B.A.), The New England Conservatory of Music in Boston (B.M.), Hunter College (M.A.), and the City University of New York (D.M.A.). His students are performing with young artist programs and opera and musical theater companies across the country and are frequent finalists and winners at state, regional, and national competitions including MTNA, NATS, National Federation of Music Clubs, Mobile Opera's Madame Rose Palmai-Tenser Competition, Birmingham Music Club Guild, the James Toland Vocal Arts Competition, and others. His current professional affiliations include the National Opera Association (NOA, Past President – 2018-2020), Music Teacher's National Association (MTNA), Alabama Music Teacher's Association (AMTA), National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS), and the College Music Society (CMS). He has also served on the Executive Board of the Montgomery Symphony's Vann Vocal Institute.



The MTNA National Conference, held annually, brings together the most representative cross-section of the MTNA membership. This year, evening recitals, a keynote speaker and four master classes will be among the headlining events at this premier conference for studio music teachers. Arrive a day early to take advantage of the five Pedagogy Saturday tracks. And, all the annual favorites like the Exhibit Hall, showcases and the MTNA Competitions will be back!

**Michigan Music Teachers Association
Annual Gala Concert**

**Cristina Ballatori, Flute
Paul Houghtaling, Bass-Baritone
Kevin Chance, Piano**

Soir Païen

Georges Hüe (1858-1948)

Paul Houghtaling, bass-baritone
Cristina Ballatori, flute
Kevin Chance, piano

Canción de Cuna

Samuel Zyman (b.1956)

Cristina Ballatori, flute
Kevin Chance, piano

Two songs from *Poets of the Dawn* (world premiere) Juliana Hall (b.1958)

Poets of the Dawn

Milton

Paul Houghtaling, bass-baritone

Kevin Chance Piano

Sonata No.2 for Flute and Piano

Christian Ellenwood (b.1970)

I. Dig It

II. Elegy in Blue

III. Get It

Cristina Ballatori, Flute
Kevin Chance, Piano

Brief Intermission

ten-second rainshowers

Michael Scherperel (b.1947)

The Birds

The Trees

Paul Houghtaling, Bass-Baritone
Cristina Ballatori, Flute
Kevin Chance, Piano

Two Songs about Hope

The Assassination (Two fates discuss a human problem)

The Passenger

Norman Dello Joio (1913-2008)

Randall Thompson (1899-1984)

Paul Houghtaling, Bass-Baritone

Kevin Chance, Piano

Court Dances

Amanda Harberg (b.1973)

I. Courante

II. Air de cour

III. Tambourin

Cristina Ballatori, Flute

Kevin Chance, Piano

Translation

Soir païen

La lune glisse sous les bois

Sa paleur douce et opaline

Ecoutes tu toutes les voix

Monter du fond de toutes les ravines?

Soit silencieuse! Ecoute Ecoute,

Une flûte prélude au fond du bois

Je rêve de formes sur la route

Qui font revivre l'autrefois.

Oublirons-nous que l'huere est brève

Et que l'aurore reviendra

Les fleurs de nuit versent un rêve

Mais le soleil les refermera.

-André Lebey

Pagan Evening

The moon shines over the woods

Her paleness sweet and opaline . . .

Are you listening to all the voices

Rise from the bottom of the ravines?

Be quiet! Listen!

A flute plays a flourish from the depth of the wood. . .

I dream of figures on the road,

Who will come alive again.

We forget that time flies

And that dawn will come again.

The night flowers spill open with a dream,

But the sun will re-seal them.

-translation: Judith Kellock

2024 CONFERENCE ARTISTS & PRESENTERS, TITLES, AND ABSTRACTS

Alphabetical by Presenter

Ferruccio Busoni's Bach: The birth of Modern Performance Practice

Comparison of editions, transcriptions and writings by the father of modern Bach performance practice.

Dr. Svetlana Belsky

Performing the Beethoven "accompanied sonatas" in a year:

A pianist's half marathon

In 2020, I performed the complete accompanied sonatas of Beethoven, 23 works in total with some of the top chamber musicians in the world on stages throughout the US and Europe. I will talk about and demonstrate how this experience transformed my collaborative and solo playing.

Sonja Bosca-Harasim, violin and Julia Siciliano, piano

The Creativity Continuum: Sequencing Improvisation

Using the framework from Music Moves for Piano by Marilyn Lowe, a sequence of exploration, creativity and improvisation activities will be modeled. Students can progress successfully along the creativity continuum with this clear roadmap!

Sarah Boyd

"Opus 78": Beethoven and the Blind King, Reimagined

This collaborative performance project includes three mediums concurrently: storytelling, painting, and piano performance. "Opus 78" explores the idea of sense-removal, and examines Beethoven's greatness through a parallel character, the blind king. This piece looks at intersections between art forms, while it raises questions about the nature of perceiving.

Laura Burkett Gutierrez and Holly Matthews

Evolutionary Entrepreneurialism: Grow Your Studio One "Yes" At a Time

Cultivate a business mindset that will grow a thriving and sustainable studio. Learn how to tap into your community, diversify by saying "yes" to the unexpected, and foster effective cultural change with current clients.

Amy Chaplin

Loving Chopin Etudes with Small Hands

Students with small hands are prone to develop playing-related injuries. This session walks through select sections of Chopin Etudes op.10 and op.25 through the lens of the presenter who suffered a severe injury 20 years ago but has been injury-free since then.

Sookkyung Cho

By Her Hand

Women have always been prominent members of musical society, although their roles were often dictated by the preferences of men. Women often composed “salon music” or music intended for the home, and it is here that they have the most robust representation. Five centuries of music by prominent women composers and their contemporaries is presented.

Alta Dantzler and Mary Siciliano

Finding Your Inner Composer: Developing Musical Creativity with Composer Martha Hill Duncan.

This presentation discusses contemporary musical notation as a road map to expressive performance. It also explores composing - using creative solutions and approaches for beginners as well as for more seasoned creators.

Martha Hill Duncan

The Pianist's Guide to the Universe

Composer Martha Hill Duncan along with her husband, astrophysicist Dr. Martin Duncan, will present a whimsical marriage of astronomy and music, combining their talents to celebrate the beauty of the night sky and the magic of music. Musical selections will be highlighted with astronomical imagery and scientific commentary.

Dr. Martin & Martha Duncan

Joining Forces in Voice and Chamber Music

This presentation will involve a collaborative demonstration of the preparation of a newly commissioned work for voice and piano and several pieces for clarinet, viola, & piano by Max Bruch.

Dr. Christian Ellenwood, Jennifer Ribeiro, Dr. Ji Hyun Kim, and Dr. David Abbott

Marguerite Long: A Reassessment of Her Impact on the French School of Piano

A reappraisal of French pianist Marguerite Long using her two major treatises.

"La petite Méthode de piano" and "Le Piano." The presentation will include the impact of sexism as well as her rivalry with Cortot. A comparison of the pedagogical and performance styles of Long and Cortot will be included.

John Ellis

The Healthy Pianist: Strategies for Avoiding Injury and Building Strong Foundations

Studies indicate that between 70-90% of musicians experience an injury over the course of their careers. This presentation will focus on the most common injuries afflicting pianists and provide teaching strategies for their prevention.

Michael Finlay

Foundations in Technique

What are the foundational skills necessary to prepare students for the technical demands of advanced repertoire? The presenter will provide teachers with exercises and strategies for guiding students through the beginning stages of technical development.

Julie Hague

Music As Medicine

Listen to this Sonata and call me in the morning if you're not feeling any better! This session will introduce attendees to utilization of Music Therapy and it's importance in treating common ailments seen in the primary care setting. Participants will review evidence-based literature, understand the significance and power of utilizing music as medicine.

Ryan Holley-Mallo, PhD, DNP, NP-C, FAANP

The Complete Solo Piano Works of Joan Tower: From Twelve-Tone Crowd to Risk-Taker

This lecture recital focuses on the solo piano works of Joan Tower (b. 1938). She continues to produce a colorful and high-energetic style in her compositions that will diversify recital programs for intermediate and advanced pianists.

Kara Huber

Dance Trends, Piano Building, and Four-Hand Performance:

Takeaways from Summer Research in Vienna

Three Applications for Teaching the Waltz to Pianists

This two-part session on the waltz will begin with a general overview of summer research conducted in Vienna, including thoughts on dance trends (the fall of the minuet and the rise of the waltz) and their correlation with technology and piano building in Europe in the period 1700-1900, as well as similarities between the somatic experiences of dancing with a partner and playing four-hand piano music.

The second session will focus on three applications for teaching waltzes, including how to improve the performance of difficult left hand patterns using awareness of hypermeter and conducting, how melodic patterns are often derived from the dance itself, and how the dance's centrifugal motion can affect synchrony of right and left hands. Students from Hope College will demonstrate aspects of each application at the piano.

David Keep

Students, Mallory Neebes, Jonathan Chia, and Kellen Woolhiser

Teaching the Way We Learn: Applications of Edwin E. Gordon's Music Learning Theory (MLT)

Learn how Gordon's groundbreaking Music Learning Theory can help teachers tap into the way our minds naturally learn music. Gain fun, fresh activities and practical strategies for enabling your students to aurally comprehend ("audiate") the music they are learning.

Joy Morin and Amy Chaplin

Music & Storytelling: Developing Imagination through the Use of AI

Recent advancements in Artificial Intelligence (AI) suggest an inevitable shift toward an interdisciplinary approach in art education. This presentation explores the integration of music, storytelling, and AI tools to enhance children's imagination in group teaching.

Le Binh Anh Nguyen

The Victory Vertical Project

The Victory Vertical Project uses descriptive vignettes accompanied by piano music in many styles to bring to life a remarkable account of courage, solidarity, and the power of music. Garik Pedersen, a Steinway Artist, provides fascinating, beautiful, and moving glimpses into the war that, more than any other, united us as a people with a common purpose.

Garik Pedersen

Barrier Breaking Chamber Music Experiences for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their Neurotypical Peers

Working with neurodivergent students has obvious benefits for those students, but neurotypical peers and teachers can benefit greatly from interacting with individuals on the Autism Spectrum as well. The term "neurodiverse" was introduced by sociologist Judy Singer in the 1990's as an alternative to deficit-based language such as "disorder." Singer pointed out notable strength of many individuals with autism including the ability to focus, recognize patterns, and remember factual information. A "neurodivergent" person refers to a person whose brain processes information in a way that is not typical amongst the overall population.

Derek Kealii Polischuk

Worship Service Improvisation for Classical Pianists

This session will demonstrate improvisation tools and resources for the classical pianist playing for worship services functioning as an accompanist with other instrumentalists, a sole accompanist, a piano soloist, and worship band keyboardist.

Lori Rhoden, DMA, NCTM

Women of the Nocturne

With musical qualities of sentimentality and detailed ornamentation, the nocturne genre was largely considered feminine during Chopin's time. This lecture recital features nocturnes by Chopin, Chaminade, Beach, and Schumann, while unpacking the gender stereotypes that faced female composers of the 19th century.

Allison Shinnick Keep

Preparing Successful Performance

Keith will share insights and experiences for creating well-prepared, confident performances at the piano, including the initial steps of learning a new piece, practical methods for memorization, and strategies for gaining security under pressure.

Keith Snell

It's All in the Elbows!

Both as piano instructor for over 30 years and an adjudicator for examinations and competitions, Amy Stephens has evaluated a large population of K-12 piano students and noticed many students would improve their technique quickly with a better understanding of the genesis of motion in the upper arms, elbows and wrists.

Amy Stephens

Fairy Tales for Four Hands

Fairy tales: A great way to introduce your student to the magical world of duet playing. We will explore the fairy tale worlds of Ravel, Grieg and Dvorak, who depict familiar fairy tales in various different styles. Connecting music with stories in a direct way to help shape a students' interpretational skills.

The Westhuizen Duo: Pierre and Sophié van der Westhuizen

Professor's Corner: Teaching Masterclasses

Teaching masterclasses, a significant advancement in piano pedagogy, is a skill required for job interviews and higher education recruitment. Join us for the tips and approaches collected from our interviews with renowned professors and artists.

Jasmine Lucia Wong, Khanh Nhi Luong, and Le Binh Anh Nguyen

Masterclass w/Gala Concert Artist-Educators.

Publisher's Showcases:

The Imaginative Women Composers of Red Leaf Pianoworks!

Catherine Rollin Music

Kjos featuring Keith Porter Snell's New Adult Method Series

Michigan Music Teachers Association

2024 Commissioned Composer



Nicole Knorr (b. 1999) is a composer, performer, and interdisciplinary artist based in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Her work investigates transformation, change, and growth—often through the lens of the natural world. Her music has been described as having “remarkable command of melody” and is characterized by gleaming lyricism, sharp counterpoint, and a fundamental, underlying sense of whimsy.

Current creative projects include a song cycle in collaboration with NeuroArts Productions and a new work for Haven Trio that was premiered at Connecticut Summerfest 2024. In the past, she has had the honor of collaborating with renowned ensembles such as Sinta Quartet, Estrella Consort, Brain Pocket, and VIRID duo, among other groups and personal commissions.

Equally passionate as an educator, Nicole’s work ranges from private studio lessons in piano, voice, and composition, to curriculum development at larger institutions, such as Interlochen Center for the Arts summer program. She engages students in a variety of musical disciplines and perspectives to equip them with a well-rounded education; she actively strives to provide her students skills beyond the scope of traditional, conservatory-style methods.

Nicole earned her M.M. in Music Composition from the University of Michigan, and her B.M. in Voice Performance and Piano Performance from the University of North Florida. Her mentors include Evan Chambers, Michael Daugherty, Erin K. Bennett, John Daugherty, Mathew Fuerst, and Joshua Tomlinson.

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



2024 Commissioned Composer Artists

Based in Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti, **FLYDLPHN** is a contemporary mixed chamber ensemble committed to fostering collaborations with artists and sound makers who celebrate the unique. With support from commissions, FLYDLPHN cultivates a distinctive panoramic soundscape making extensive use of electro-acoustic, multimedia, and improvised performance. We desire to build a community that empowers the sharing of art from young and underrepresented voices, and we do so with our various productions in compelling spaces throughout the year.

Ultimately, we are a collective of friends who are excited to create together. When given one chance to breach the surface of the cosmic soup, we are grateful to be the dolphin in midair showing our best trick to the world. FLYDLPHN is flutist Lexi Eubanks, clarinetist Oliver Bishop, bassoonist Bryce Richardson, bassist Emani Barber, and percussionists Olivia Cirisan and Ancel Fitzgerald Neeley.

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

2024 Conference Presenter Bios

David Abbott is a versatile pianist equally at home in chamber music or solo performance on modern as well as historical keyboard instruments. He resided for ten years in Switzerland performing both as soloist and collaborative artist throughout Switzerland and Germany and toured in Australia and Europe as a member of the Swiss Chamber Soloists. He was awarded a Bronze medal and two special prizes at the 1980 International Music Competition in Geneva.



A graduate of both the renowned Eastman and Juilliard Schools of Music, Dr. Abbott has served on the faculties of the Zürich and Schaffhausen Conservatories of Music (Switzerland) and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (USA). He has directed summer courses in both piano and chamber music in Europe as well as the United States.

His Swiss Chamber Soloists recording of Schumann's piano quartet and quintet won the coveted Prix d'Or prize for outstanding chamber music recording. He also recorded a two-CD set of solo and chamber music by 20th century composer Dmitri Shostakovich. Current activities included a planned recording of the complete string sextets by Brahms in the rarely heard four-hand piano transcriptions by the composer.

He has been a member of the faculty at Albion College since 2005 where he currently serves as Professor of Piano and chair of the music department.

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 album Ferruccio Busoni: The Late Works (Ravello, 2019) was selected by Spotify for its Best New Releases list, 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 prestigious Claude V. Palisca Award by the American Musicological Society. According to one reviewer, Belsky "has some claim to call herself Ms. Bach-Busoni".

Dr. Belsky was the Coordinator 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. She received her formal education from the Peabody Conservatory of Music (B.A. and M.M) and the Manhattan School of Music (D.M.A.).



Sonja Bosca-Harasim, performer and educator, has been described as an "undeniably impressive" performer by James Chute of the San Diego Union-Tribune, and hailed for her attention to detail, making "every note count deliciously" by Joel Luks of Culture Map Houston. The 2024-25 season marks Sonja's seventh season as concertmaster of the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony Orchestra. Having just relocated with her family to the Detroit Metro Area, she recently concluded her tenure as associate professor of violin and viola at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, where she taught for more than a decade. While at Concordia, she served as head of the string area and both director and founder of the North Star Chamber Music Festival and Concordia String Preparatory Program.

Sonja maintains an active performing career locally, nationally, and internationally as a solo, chamber, and orchestral musician, including performances as guest principal 2nd violin with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music in Santa Cruz, CA, as well as at the "Grieg in Bergen"

concert series in Norway, the Library of Congress and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., La Jolla SummerFest in California, and at the Soiva Music Camp in Järvenpää, Finland. Prior to joining the faculty at Concordia, she performed regularly with the Houston Symphony, Houston Grand Opera, River Oaks Chamber Orchestra and Da Camera of Houston. Sonja has performed at numerous preeminent music festivals, including Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music, Lakes Area Music Festival, Schleswig-Holstein, International Holland Music Sessions, Sarasota, Tanglewood, Aspen, Round Top, Brevard and Interlochen. Engagements this season include recitals with pianists Michael Finley and Julia Siciliano at the Kerrytown Concert House (Ann Arbor), Pleyel Piano Series (Detroit), and St. Michael Concert Series (Chicago), as well as performing Ralph Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending* with the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony in March 2025.

A sought-after educator, Sonja has been invited to perform and teach throughout the United States and Canada, giving masterclasses and recitals at Southern Illinois University, University of Manitoba, Georgia State University, University of South Florida, University of North Florida, University of Nevada-Las Vegas, Valparaiso University, St. Olaf College, University of North Dakota, North Dakota State University, among others. She has performed and served on the teaching faculty at various summer music festivals, including Concordia's North Star Chamber Music Festival and Symposium, International Music Camp, Soiva Music Camp, Dakota Chamber Music, Minnesota All-State Camp, NDSU Chamber Music Festival, and Chamber Music of the Rockies. Her students have won competitions and participated in prominent music festivals all over the world and have gone on to become successful music educators and attend distinguished graduate programs in music performance and other fields of study.

Sonja is dedicated to the performance of new and neglected music, with several composers, including Karim Al-Zand, Daniel Breedon, Doug Harbin, Benjamin Krause, Richard Lavenda, Russell Peterson and Christopher Walzcak, having written pieces for her. She began her violin studies at the age of five and went on to attend Houston's critically acclaimed High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. Sonja completed her undergraduate studies at the Cleveland Institute of Music and her Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music, where she frequently led as concertmaster of their symphony and chamber orchestras and was winner of their concerto competition. Sonja performs a violin she commissioned in 2011 by Los Angeles-based luthier, Mario Miralles, modeled after the "Titian" Stradivarius.



Sarah Boyd believes that musicians are people who make music, and everyone can learn to participate in music making. Sarah leads Piano Vine Studio, an audition-based private and group piano studio for students of all ages, both in-person and online.

Sarah was introduced to Music Moves for Piano by her piano professor, Dr. Garik Pedersen, at Eastern Michigan University, in 2007. She completed the PDLC through the Gordon Institute of Music Learning, Early Childhood Level 1, with Dr. Edwin Gordon and Dr. Cynthia Taggart teaching, in 2008. She is extremely grateful to have met Marilyn Lowe beginning in 2010 and was mentored by her, as were so many others.

Sarah is a Faculty Intern for the Gordon Institute of Music Learning.

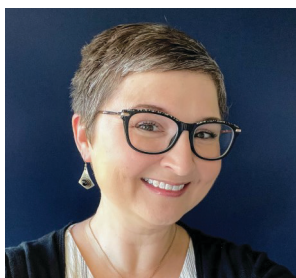
In 2010, she founded Hummingbirds Music Together, an early childhood music program for children and the grownups who love them. She is on staff as the Lead Teaching Artist for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, writing curriculum, leading teacher workshops, and leading group music experiences for classrooms in and around Detroit.

Sarah holds a Master's degree in Music Education at Eastern Michigan University, studying with Dr. Heather Shouldice. She completed a Graduate Certificate in Injury-Preventive Well-Coordinated Keyboard Technique with Dr. Lister-Sink at Salem College in 2022.

Sarah and her husband, Ryan, enjoy music making with their children Julia, JP, Luke, and Wesley.

Laura Burkett Gutierrez, MA, is a therapist and teacher and has been in private practice in the field of nutrition, eating psychology, and psychological development for the past 15 years. She holds a masters degree in Transpersonal Psychology, is a Level-3 certified practitioner of Internal Family Systems (IFS) Therapy, and holds multiple certifications in holistic nutrition, the psychology of eating, and depth psychology. She is a former ballroom dance teacher, a current student of Flamenco dance, and has a deep love for the arts and movement.





Amy Chaplin is a pianist, teacher, speaker, blogger, and podcaster. She loves supporting teachers on all things related to teaching, organization, productivity, and life on the Piano Pantry blog, podcast, and via her small group digital organization coaching series and retreat.

Amy has enjoyed serving the profession in a variety of ways since 2009, including President (and now Trustee) of the Indiana Music Teachers Association. She has

appeared on multiple podcasts for teachers including Music Studio Startup with Andrea Miller, Key Ideas with Leila Viss, Teach Music Online with Carly Walton, Piano Teacher Primer with Angela Toone, and the Duet Partner Podcast.

Amy holds a certification from the Gordon Institute for Music Learning in piano, a Master's in Piano Pedagogy and Performance from Ball State University, and a Bachelor's in Music Education, Choral K-12, from Huntington University. She graduated magna cum laude from BSU in 2011 and was given the MTNA StAR Award for student excellence.

Besides operating her independent piano studio in Northeast Indiana, Amy enjoys cooking, reading, and traveling with her husband.

Noted for her “sensitive and imaginative” (New York Concert Review) playing, Korean-born pianist **Sookkyung Cho** has been captivating worldwide audiences with her personal, thoughtful expressionist style. She has appeared in venues such as Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Chicago Cultural Center, Sarasota Opera House, Baltimore Museum of Art, Beaux concerts de la relève in Quebec, Château de Fontainebleau in France, and Zijingang Theater at Zhejiang University and Xi'an Conservatory in China, among others, and was heard on Chicago's WFMT. A founding member of the New York-based Almava Trio, she has also been featured in major music festivals including Yellow Barn, Norfolk, and Sarasota, and was a Performing Associate at Bowdoin International Music Festival in Maine.



As a sought-after pedagogue, Dr. Cho has been invited to adjudicate competitions at major institutions and organizations including Osaka International Music Competition (Chinese regional round), National Federation of Music Clubs (Young Artist Piano Award), University of Michigan, New England Conservatory

Preparatory School, and Walnut Hill School for the Arts. She also taught as a piano instructor for the LINKS Signature Arts Program at The Juilliard School in New York and was on piano and chamber music faculty at NEC Preparatory in Boston. A performer-scholar, she was selected to present a lecture-recital at College Music Society for its biennial International Conference in Korea and has taught music theory at Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

Dr. Cho holds a Master of Music degree from Peabody and Bachelor of Music from Juilliard, where she was honored with the John Erskine Graduation Prize. She also received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Juilliard as C. V. Starr Doctoral Fellow. Her doctoral dissertation, “Schubert’s Sonata in B-Major, D. 575, Re-imagined” became an inspiration for her debut CD, “Schubert’s 1817 Sonatas,” released on Centaur in April 2021. Her teachers include Boris Slutsky, Julian Martin, Matti Raekallio, and Jonathan Bass. She currently serves as Associate Professor of Piano, Artist- Performer, at Grand Valley State University in Michigan and is the Artistic Director of Grand Valley Piano Chamber Series. In summer, she also teaches at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp and ESME Camp.



Dr. Alta Dantzler, mezzo-soprano, holds degrees from Skidmore College (B.A.), The Eastman School of Music (M.M. Vocal Performance and Literature), and the University of Texas at Austin (D.M.A. Opera Performance). She has extensive post-doctoral training in contemporary singing styles, and in the biomechanics and habilitation of the singing and speaking voice. Her students have performed in concert halls, opera houses, and entertainment venues around the world, on Broadway, and on National Broadway Tours. Many have earned regional and national recognition for top placement in competitions through the Metropolitan Opera

National Council Auditions, the National Association of Teachers of Singing, and the American Collegiate Theatre Festival, as well as televised singing competitions. Dr. Dantzler is an Associate Professor of Voice at Oakland University and teaches Lyric Diction and Business Essentials for Musicians.

As a performer, Dr. Dantzler is praised by audiences and critics for her “richly timbred voice with manifest and endearing sincerity” (Fanfare) and her “perfect comic timing” (Cleveland Plain Dealer). In New York, she has appeared at Carnegie Hall as a soloist in Mozart’s Solemn Vespers and Haydn’s Creation and appeared at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center as the Narrator in Peter and the Wolf as well as in the premiere of a new version of Victor Herbert’s Babes in Toyland. On the operatic stage, favorite roles include Julia Child in Bon Appétit!,

Marcellina in *Il Nozze di Figaro*, Prince Orlovsky in *Die Fledermaus*, Ruth in *The Pirates of Penzance*, Berta in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, Katisha in *The Mikado*, and Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd*, with companies including Opera Carolina, Toledo Opera, Opera Grand Rapids, Austin Lyric Opera, Shreveport Opera, and Des Moines Metro Opera.

Dr. Dantzer spent six seasons with the Ohio Light Opera, the only professional company in the United States entirely devoted to the preservation of operetta. With them, she honed her skill as a performer of the Gilbert and Sullivan repertoire and had well over 400 performances in over 50 separate productions of European and American operetta.

She has appeared as a concert and oratorio soloist with the New York Chamber Orchestra, the Helena Symphony, the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra (MI and NY), the Toledo Symphony, the Shreveport Symphony, the North Mississippi Symphony, the Texarkana Regional Chorale, the Temple Symphony, the Texas Symphony, and locally with Dearborn Symphony, Oakland Symphony, and the Macomb Symphony in performances including Mahler's *Songs of a Wayfarer*, *Symphony No. 2*, Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*, Bach's *St. John Passion*, *St. Matthew Passion*, *Magnificat*, *Weinachts Oratorio*, and *Handel's Messiah*.

Internationally, she toured Brazil as the alto soloist in a resurrection of the work of Jose Mauricio Nunes Garcia in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, as well as gave the world premiere performance of Robert Orledge's orchestration of Debussy's *Trois Chansons de Billitis* at the International Congress on Claude Debussy in Austin Texas. She presents and performs American Operetta across the U.S. and shared that presentation in the home of Operetta — Vienna, Austria — at the 10th International Congress of Voice Teachers in 2022. She recorded the role of Dame Paula in Victor Herbert's *Sweethearts* with Albany Records for which she was lauded by Opera News for her "hefty mezzo voice and strong characterization that dominated the stage." She can also be heard on the Albany Records and Operetta Archives labels as Dame Durden in Reginald deKoven's operetta *Robin Hood*, Aunt Mathilde in Sigmund Romberg's *Maytime* and most recently recorded *Princess Marghanza* in John Phillip Sousa's comic operetta *El Capitan*.

She commissioned a companion piece for Schumann's *Frauenliebe und Leben* called *A Woman's Life (and Love)* by L.A. composer Sara Carina Graef. With her colleague Tian Tian, she recorded both pieces and their album, *Life and Love*, is available on all streaming platforms and wherever albums are sold. This piece offers a modern twist on Schumann's classic work, setting texts culled from Twitter, and the poetry of Taije Silverman, Melissa Stein and Morgan Parker. Her album, *Of Time and Love*, with John Alexander Madison, viola and Mary Siciliano, piano, will be released in 2023 by Centaur Records. Along with music by Charles Loeffler and Johannes Brahms, it features musical settings of Shakespeare's *Sonnets 63-66* by French composer Nicolas Bacri.



Martha Hill Duncan's passion for music started early, inspired by her mother, who sang and played the piano by ear. She was a member of the first graduating class of the Houston High School for Performing and Visual Arts, (Vocal Music '74) and earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Composition from the University of Texas at Austin (1979). She is grateful to many inspirational and generous teachers including compos-

ers Dr. Donald Grantham and Dr. Sam Dolin and pianists Danielle Martin, Gregory Allen, Dr. Errol Haun and Trudy Borden.

Many of her piano compositions have been inspired, at least in part, by her long-time career as a piano teacher. Some of these piano solos, as well as her art songs, appear in the syllabi and/or publications of The National Federation of Music Clubs Bulletin, The Royal Conservatory of Music, Conservatory Canada, Contemporary Showcase Syllabus and other educational music syllabi. A former piano examiner for the Royal Conservatory of Music, Martha is also a frequent adjudicator and clinician for music festivals and competitions. She is a member of SOCAN, the American Composers Forum, an associate composer of the Canadian Music Centre, a member of the Association of Canadian Women Composers and the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers.

Several song cycles and choral works have been inspired by Canadian landscapes and texts with several winning awards in the following competitions: The Diana Barnhart American Song Competition (2005), Ruth Watson Henderson Choral Composition Competition (2005) and The NATS Calgary 2009 Art Song Competition. In January 2014, her opera, *Searching the Painted Sky*, with poet/librettist Janet Windeler Ryan, was premiered at the National Opera Association Convention in New York City by the Youth Opera of El Paso, Texas. In 2020, Martha was named as a finalist for the 2020 Louis Applebaum Award.

As composer and artistic director of *She Sings! Women's Choir*, Martha has written numerous choral works. Her frequent collaborations with performers, songwriters, poets, artists, choirs and visual artists have led to many new vocal, choral and piano works.

Martha is also a founding member and ongoing co-administrator of Red Leaf Piano-works, an international self-publishing composers' collective. Originally from Houston, Texas, Martha has lived in Kingston, Ontario with her husband, retired astrophysicist Martin Duncan, since 1988. She has two grown children and two granddaughters.

Dr. Martin Duncan was born in London, England and was raised in Montreal, Canada. As a child, his biggest question was, “What would happen if...?” His first experiments involved creating foul-smelling concoctions with his chemistry set in his parents’ basement. He survived and went on to



complete an Honours Physics degree at McGill University, followed by graduate degrees in astronomy at the Universities of Toronto and Texas at Austin. Post-doctoral research was performed at Cornell University, the University of Toronto and the University of California, Santa Cruz. In 1988, he became a professor of astronomy and physics at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario.

In his academic career he has co-authored over 120 scientific papers, which have been cited over 8,000 times. He has presented numerous invited talks at international scientific conferences and has been the guest speaker at many public lectures. His research has ranged from the study of black holes to simulations of the formation and orbital evolution of planets and comets. He is best known for the prediction of the existence of a disk of small icy bodies beyond Neptune, which he and his colleagues called the Kuiper Belt. In 1996, the International Astronomical Union named Asteroid 6115 “martinduncan” in honor of his contributions to planetary dynamics.



Christian Ellenwood is a composer, clarinetist, and teacher based near Milwaukee, Wisconsin. His compositions have been performed internationally and throughout the United States at major venues such as Carnegie Hall and at international concerts, festivals, and conferences, and his music has been broadcast over several major classical networks, including Chicago’s WFMT.

A passionate clarinetist, he performs as principal clarinetist with the Skylight Opera of Milwaukee, the Woodstock Mozart Festival/Midwest Mozart

Festival, and appears regularly with other orchestras and ensembles in the region, including the Milwaukee Ballet, Bel Canto Chamber Orchestra of Milwaukee, Madison Symphony, and Madison Opera. Chamber music collaborations include performances with the Grammy Award-winning Ying Quartet as well as artists such as LA Phil principal cellist Robert DeMaine, violinist Mark Peskanov,

Committed to fostering and nurturing human growth through the art of music, he proudly serves as Professor of Clarinet at the University of Wisconsin–Whitewater, where his contributions have received many commendations, including the W. P. Roseman Award, UW-Whitewater’s highest honor for excellence in teaching. He also assists young composers growth through the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra’s John Downey Creation project, sponsored by Present Music.



John Ellis is the director of Graduate Studies in Piano Pedagogy and administers the Piano Pedagogy Laboratory Program.

He is in demand, nationally and internationally, as a master class clinician, adjudicator, and lecturer on piano pedagogy. His travels have taken him to the University of South Florida, the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Finland, and Hawaii. Ellis speaks regularly on pedagogy

topics to teachers’ groups throughout Michigan and the United States.

As a pianist, he has performed as soloist, lecture-recitalist, and collaborative artist in New York City (Weill Recital Hall, Steinway Hall), Rutgers University, SUNY Purchase, Notre Dame University, Montclair Museum of Art, the University of Helsinki and the Sibelius Academy (Finland), and Freiburg in Breisgau (Germany). He has recorded the solo piano music of Arthur Cunningham.

As a scholar in the field of pedagogy, Ellis combines music theory, musicology, and the humanities with the more traditional pedagogical methods. His book, *The Pedagogical Writings of Marguerite Long: A Reassessment of Her Impact on the French School of Piano*, was published by IU Press in 2024.

He has published articles on Long as well as on the Metropolitan Music School in *American Music Teacher*. He has also worked with the Musical Signification Project of the International Congress on Musical Signification (ICMS) since 1996, presenting papers on musical meaning and pedagogy at the University of Bologna, the Université de Provence, the University of Helsinki, and the New England Conference of Music Theorists at Wellesley College. His articles have been published by CLUEB (Bologna)/International Semiotics Institute (Finland) and *Acta Semiotica Fennica*.

He has presented his research at the conferences of the Music Teachers National Association and the National Conference of Keyboard Pedagogy. His primary teachers were Arthur Cunningham, Frank Iogha, Michel Block, and Constance Keene. Prior to coming to Michigan, he served on the faculties of the Manhattan School of Music and the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music. He has taught on the piano faculty of the University of Michigan All-State program at Interlochen and coordinated the piano program at the U-M Summer Arts Institute.

Michael Finlay is an award-winning concert pianist and chamber musician, most recently invited to perform at the Dame Myra Hess series in Chicago and the Metropolitan Detroit Musician's League in Michigan. He is a 2022 prizewinner of The American Prize Ernst Bacon Memorial Award. He maintains an active performing schedule with recent performances in Catania (Italy), Montreal, Toronto, Austin, San Antonio, Denver, and Atlanta. His performances have been broadcast on classical radio stations in Austin, Cleveland, Baltimore, and Montreal. He is a frequent concerto soloist, most recently performing with the Colorado Springs Philharmonic and the Southwest Symphony Orchestra. An avid chamber musician, Finlay has performed with prominent members of the Cleveland, Chicago, and Montreal Symphony orchestras as well as with members of the Catalyst, Kontras, and Koerner quartets. A recent concert with cellist Jean Hatmaker was hailed as "sensitive and commanding" by WFMT, Chicago's classical radio station.



Upcoming projects include a video performance of the complete Beethoven violin sonata cycle with Denver-based violinist Byron Hitchcock and a solo album featuring the Liszt Sonata.

Finlay began his piano studies with Kathryn Mishell in Austin, TX. He left home at the age of 15 to study at the prestigious Interlochen Arts Academy on a full scholar-



Susan Griesdale is an award-winning composer, piano teacher, clinician, and adjudicator. A founding member of Red Leaf Pianoworks, she has published works for piano, violin, flute, chamber music, and choral works.

Dr. Julie Hague is coauthor of the Piano Safari method and teaches piano at her home studio in Connecticut. Julie taught applied piano, piano pedagogy, and group piano as a faculty member at the University of Missouri, Oklahoma City University, Ohio University, and the Hartt School Community Division.

Julie holds a PhD in Music Education with an emphasis in Piano Pedagogy from the University of Oklahoma, where her dissertation on elementary level piano technique was nominated for the Best PhD Dissertation Award in 2006. Additional degrees include MM degrees in Piano Performance and Piano Pedagogy from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a BM in Piano Performance from the University of Puget Sound. Her mentors in piano pedagogy include Jane Magrath, Barbara Fast, Christos Tsitsaros, and Reid Alexander. Her former piano teachers include Duane Hulbert, James Barbagallo, William Heiles, Timothy Ehlen, and Edward Gates.

Julie is a frequent lecturer and adjudicator at festivals throughout the United States. Her current research interests include elementary level piano technique, lesser-known pre-college piano repertoire, and group piano pedagogy.



Dr. Ryan Holley-Mallo is currently studying at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point in a Master of Music Education Program and concurrently at Grand Valley State University in the Piano Pedagogy Program. Dr. Holley-Mallo has nearly two decades of experience in Family and Emergency Medicine and is double board certified in both Family and Emergency Medicine as a Nurse Practitioner. Dr. Holley-Mallo has been blessed to be able to practice both family and emergency medicine and teach at many different universities. However, the Covid-19 Pandemic was without a doubt one of the hardest and most challenging times he has endured in his professional career. Throughout the pandemic he made the decision to dedicate more time in life to things that bring joy!



What sustained him most throughout the years of 2019-2021 was music, family, and his faith. Dr. Holley-Mallo had previously studied piano privately and at the collegiate level but had never completed a formal degree. Dr. Holley-Mallo has served as a sacred pianist for many churches as well as held positions as Choir Director and Director of Worship Arts. In 2020-2021 he served as a collaborative pia-

He currently serves as the pianist for St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Greenville, MI and collaborative pianists for local, high-school choirs. Additionally, Dr. Holley-Mallo also teaches piano privately in his own piano studio. He has received multiple awards in the State of Michigan in sacred piano performance and was the recipient of the John Philip Sousa 2003 for being the top instrumentalist in Osceola County. Finally, he has performed throughout the US as well as abroad in Israel in 2019.

Grammy nominated Canadian-American pianist and conductor **Kara Huber** is quickly establishing herself as a celebrated member of the new class of concert pianists. Hailed as "absolutely dazzling...in a word, flawless" (New York Concert Review) in her Carnegie Hall debut, Ms. Huber combines the polish and warmth of an old-school soloist with the charisma and flair of the new generation of piano virtuosos.

Ms. Huber has performed across North America, Europe, and Australia, including lauded solo appearances at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Piano Virtuoso Series at the Canadian Opera Company, the Rising Stars Piano Series in Southampton, New York and Steinway Series at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. An in-demand recitalist, Ms. Huber seeks to excite and delight diverse audiences through her creative and engaging programming. Her album featuring the complete solo piano works of Joan Tower will be available in the spring of 2024.



In the 2023-2024 season, Kara champions the rare Amy Beach Piano Concerto, including appearances with Grammy-award winning conductor Michael Repper and the Ashland Symphony Orchestra. On the orchestral stage, Ms. Huber's past seasons involve the Louisville Orchestra, San Juan Symphony, Oakville Symphony, Scarborough Philharmonic, and York Symphony Orchestra. She has worked under the baton of Charles Dutoit, Gerard Schwarz, Teddy Abrams, Thomas Heuser and Denis Mastrotonaco, in addition to a performance conducting and performing with the Canadian Chamber Orchestra.

Ms. Huber has received numerous prizes and awards for her performances, including the Audience Favorite Award in the Cincinnati World Piano Competition. She received training from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music with Awadagin Pratt and The Glenn Gould School of The Royal Conservatory of Music with John Perry and Leon Fleisher. Dr. Huber recently completed a DMA in piano and conducting at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, taught at the University of Louisville School of Music, and is currently the Marjorie Wood Drackett Chair of Piano at the Interlochen Arts Academy.



David Keep has performed as recitalist, concerto soloist, Lied partner, and chamber musician through the United States, Asia, and Europe. Recent recital venues include the Christian-Albrechts-Universität (Kiel, Germany), Bowling Green University (OH), Grove Music Festival (MI), Loyola University (IL), Lawrence University (WI), and Free at

Three Recital Series (MI). His collaboration with artist Greg Looker (Hope College) produced an interdisciplinary exploration of George Crumb's "Little Suite for Christmas", funded by a grant from the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship. The resulting multimedia performance was presented to church congregations across West Michigan in 2022, designed to inspire conversations about faith, discomfort, and music in Advent. He has won prizes in the Wisconsin MTNA Young Artists Competition, the Miroslav Pansky Concerto Competition, the Kankakee Valley Symphony Orchestra Piano Concerto Competition, and Wisconsin Public Radio's Neale-Silva Young Artists' Competition. Performance highlights include the complete Chopin op. 10 Études, a concerto debut with the Green Bay Civic Symphony Orchestra, a lecture recital focusing on musical narrative and Russian fairy tales in Prokofiev's music, and the complete sonatas for solo instrument and piano by Brahms. Current projects include a performance cycle of the complete solo piano works of Brahms. Keep studied piano with Derison Duarte, Anthony Padilla, Luba Edlina-Dubinsky, and Vincent Lenti.

As a theorist, Keep has devoted much of his research toward understanding how meaning is perceived in music. Keep's interests are centered on the music of Brahms, music of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and the connections between analysis and performance. He has presented his research at the annual meetings of the Society for Music Theory, the Music Theory Society of New York State, Music Theory Midwest, the Texas Society for Music Theory, the American Brahms Society, the Michigan Music Teachers Association, the Society for Christian Scholarship in Music, and at the Stravinsky in America Festival. Invited lectures have been given at Cornell University's conference "Performing Clara Schumann: Keyboard Legacies and Feminine Identities in the Long Romantic Tradition" and the Forschungszentrum der Johannes Brahms Gesamtausgabe, Musikwissenschaftlichen Institut of the Christian-Albrechts-Universität, in Kiel, Germany. Publications include articles, invited book chapters, and reviews, appearing

in *Intégral: The Journal of Applied Musical Thought, Liszt and Virtuosity* (ed. Robert Doran, University of Rochester Press, co-winner of the Alan Walker Triennial Book Award given by the American Liszt Society), *Music Theory Online*, and the *Journal of the American Liszt Society*. Keep was named a Towsley Research Scholar by Hope College in 2022 and has been the recipient of Hope's Nyenhuis Faculty Development grants. He was recognized as a finalist for the Karl Geiringer Dissertation Fellowship by the American Brahms Society, received the Raymond N. Ball Dissertation Fellowship from the University of Rochester, and was awarded the Colvin Award for the Best Student Paper by the Texas Society for Music Theory. His dissertation, "Brahms's Re-Creativity in opp. 80-90" (Eastman School of Music, 2020) was advised by Jonathan Dunsby. Current research projects include studies on disability and virtuosity in Brahms's music, harmonic sequences as signifiers of the sublime, and the relationship between dance gestures and un-notated performance conventions in waltzes composed for the piano, particularly as captured by early recorded piano performances in the era leading up to 1914.

As a pedagogue, Keep has taught both applied piano lessons and academic courses in a variety of contexts, focused on topics such as class piano, aural skills, music theory, music history, and upper-level research seminars. He has taught at the Lawrence Academy of Music, the Young Pianists Program at Indiana University, the Eastman School of Music, Gustavus Adolphus College, the University of Minnesota, and Hope College. He is an active member of the Michigan Music Teachers Association, serving as State Membership Chair. Keep has been invited to give master-classes across the Midwest and has adjudicated local, state, and regional competitions. In 2019, he was awarded the Teaching Assistant Prize for Excellence in Classroom Instruction from the Eastman School of Music. Currently he teaches piano and academic courses to majors and nonmajors at Hope College, emphasizing both the rigorous pursuit of specialization in music as well as the exploration of the art form's significance within a liberal arts curriculum. He has advised undergraduate research projects that have focused on the intersections of piano performance and music theory, funded by Hope's Nyenhuis Faculty-Student Collaborative Grants.

David Keep holds a Ph.D. in music theory from the Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester. Keep earned a MM in piano performance with a minor in music theory from the Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University; he also holds a BM in piano performance from Lawrence University. He is an Assistant Professor of Music at Hope College in Holland, Michigan, where he also serves as the Music Department's Keyboard Area Head.

An Australian-American violinist, **Dr. Ji Hyun Kim**, is a sought-after soloist, chamber and orchestral musician, educator, and music director. Born in South Korea and raised in New Zealand and Australia, Ji Hyun's multicultural background has shaped her dynamic and diverse musical career.



Ji Hyun received a Bachelor of Music Performance from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Australia, and completed her Master and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees at Michigan State University, with cognate studies in Contemporary Art Music, Viola Performance, and Music Therapy. She also has worked closely and performed with renowned violinists, conductors, and educators including Vladimir Ashkenazy, Jonna Arthur, Kolja Blacher, Wolfram Christ, Youngwoo Chun, Yuri Gandelman, Richard Gill, Raphael Jimenéz, Christopher Kimber, Jin-Kyoung Lee, Mary O'Brien, Imre Palló, Walter Verdehr, and Wanda Wilkomirska. Her doctoral research, "Thinking Outside the Chamber: Revolutionary Revivals of the String Quartet Medium in North America since the Late Twentieth Century," is listed in the Doctoral Dissertations in Musicology database of the American Musicological Society.

As an acclaimed violinist, Ji Hyun has made numerous media appearances worldwide and performed in major cities in South Korea, New Zealand, Australia, New Caledonia, Luxembourg, Austria, and the United States. Her live and recorded performances have been featured on New Zealand's TV3 National News, Australia's ABC Classic FM and SBS Korean Radio, and Michigan's WKAR and WILX Broadcast. Ji Hyun's outstanding musicality was recognized through her success in both national and international competitions hosted by the Kaleidoscope Performing Arts Foundation, Yamaha Music Society, Chamber Music New Zealand, Sydney Eisteddfod, International Grieg Society, and the International Golden Classical Music Awards. Ji Hyun also served as concertmaster and principal violinist of various ensembles and orchestras including the Ad Libitum, Musique 21, Sydney Sinfonia, Vianden Summer Music Festival Orchestra, Society of International Music Artist Orchestra, Lansing Symphony Orchestra, Jackson Symphony Orchestra, and Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra.

As a dedicated educator, Ji Hyun has traveled nationally and internationally to adjudicate in auditions and competitions, present lecture-recitals and master classes, give chamber and orchestral clinics, and lead interdisciplinary workshops for various audiences. She also served as an Artist-Teacher in Residence of the Jackson Symphony Orchestra Community Music School, where she designed and developed the curriculum of String Team, a satellite string program for the local elementary schools. During the pandemic, Ji Hyun was appointed as the violin faculty of the

Oakland Youth Symphony Orchestras, coaching the talented young violinists through weekly virtual sectionals in preparation for a series of online performances. Ji Hyun has also been invited as the conductor-clinician for the annual MSBOA Middle School String Orchestra Clinics. During Summer, Ji Hyun teaches and performs at the MASTA Summer String Camp as the Violin Faculty.

In addition to performing and teaching, she has been sought after as an adjudicator for various festivals, competitions, and auditions including the MSBOA Solo & Ensemble Festival, ENKOR International Competition, Central Michigan University's Concerto Competition, Oakland Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition, Michigan ArtWorks Competition, LSO Young Artist Competition, Don Heckinlively Music Performance Competition, and the Lansing Symphony and Jackson Symphony's String Auditions. Ji Hyun also has served as one of the mentors for the Your Music Business student projects at Michigan State University's College of Music and Broad College of Business.

Ji Hyun is the Founder and Artistic Director of ConTempus Initiative, a Michigan-based contemporary music collective committed to presenting creative and collaborative performances of music by diverse living composers and overlooked women composers to connect with today's audiences. Determined to cultivate more engaging composer-performer-audience relationships through new music that is relatable and accessible, Ji Hyun has premiered multiple works by both professional and student composers in more unconventional and inclusive settings, collaborated with contemporary jazz and world-music ensembles, and presented interdisciplinary and community-enriching concert programs with various artists, chefs, storytellers, and dancers.

Notable performances include collaborations with the Detroit Institute of Arts, Artlab J Dance Company, Michigan State University, Spring Arbor University, Albion College, Flint Institute of Music, City of East Lansing, Lansing Symphony Orchestra, Jackson Symphony Orchestra, Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, Big Rapids Festival of the Arts, and many more.

In 2021, Ji Hyun joined Albion College Music Department as the Director of Orchestras and Visiting Assistant Professor of Violin and Viola. Prior to joining Albion College, Ji Hyun served as the Director of String Orchestra and Assistant Professor of Violin and Viola at Spring Arbor University. As an advocate for "cultivating a culture of belongingness through embracing our

differences," Ji Hyun continues her effort to program diverse and inclusive repertoire, promote a positive and respectful learning and performing environment, and foster a broader understanding of the ever-expanding collaborative and entrepreneurial prospects in the music profession

Vietnamese pianist **Khanh Nhi Luong** has enjoyed an international career spanning over three continents. Born and raised in a musical family, Nhi started playing piano at the age of four. In 2014, she was the only candidate in the South-East Asia region who got chosen to study in Kunstuniversität Graz (Austria) with full scholarship. Nhi is the prize winner of the Lee University International Piano Competition (2021), MTNA National Piano Competition (2023), and recently the Sicily International Piano Competition (2023), which gained her a five-concert tour in Italy in 2024.



Nhi obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Piano Performance with full scholarship at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music (Singapore) and Master of Music Degree in Piano Performance and Chamber Music at the University of Michigan—where she continues to pursue her Doctoral of Musical Arts degree under the tutelage of Prof. Christopher Harding.



Holly Matthews is a Lecturer in Dance at Eastern Michigan University, where she is also a candidate for an M.M. in Piano Performance.

Holly attended Interlochen Arts Academy as a piano major and received her B.A. in English and her M.F.A. in Dance. In addition to EMU, she has taught dance at Michigan State University, University Liggett School, University of Toledo, and other places.

She presented an academic paper at the Annual Dance Conference at the University of Valetta in Malta in 2018, in which she examined the intersectionality between the African-Brazilian martial art form, capoeira, and dance.

She was a ballet accompanist in San Francisco and Seattle for 10 years, where she accompanied for Pacific Northwest Ballet, LINES Contemporary Ballet, and others.

She currently studies piano with Dr. Joel Schoenhals. This collection of short stories is a work-in-progress, as is her musical study of Beethoven's Opus 78 Sonata.



Joy Morin is a teacher, pianist, speaker, and writer of a blog at ColorInMyPiano.com. She teaches students of all ages at her independent piano studio near Ann Arbor, Michigan. A devoted teacher and lifelong learner, Joy has twice been the recipient of MTNA Teacher Enrichment Grants, enabling her to further pursue her interest in Edwin Gordon's work in Music Learning Theory (MLT) and complete certifications from the Gordon Institute for Music Learning in both piano and early childhood music. An active member of Music Teachers National Association (MTNA),

Joy has served in numerous capacities: most recently as Teacher Education Chair of MichiganMTA, VP for Affiliated Associations of OhioMTA, and Co-President of the Toledo Piano Teachers Association. She has given presentations on the topics of piano method books, music learning theory, piano teaching literature, and studio business for local, state, and national events. Joy holds a Master's degree in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from Central Michigan University (Mount Pleasant, Michigan) and a Bachelor's degree in Piano Performance from Hope College (Holland, Michigan).

Le Binh Anh Nguyen is a Doctoral Candidate in Piano Performance and the Head Secondary Piano Graduate Assistant at the University of Cincinnati. His scholarly activities include publications and presentations on topics of music technology, generative AI, sight-reading, K-Pop, and Vietnamese music.

In 2024, Nguyen is scheduled to present his research on multiple music technology and AI topics at various teaching conferences, including the Group Piano/Piano Pedagogy Forum, the Music Teachers National Association National/District Conferences, and the NAFME Research & Teacher Education Conference.





Garik Pedersen, a Steinway Artist, is enjoying a rewarding post-academic career as a teacher, performer, and researcher in St. Louis, Missouri. In 2023 he recorded a CD of solo and chamber works for piano by British composer Sasha Johnson Manning. In May 2024, he is featured on TV in season three of *Secret History of WWII* (Fox Nation) for The Victory Vertical Project, his touring lecture-performance that tells the musical story of small pianos built for the military during World War II.

His performance career has taken him throughout the US and to Europe, Asia, Canada, Central America, and the Philippines. He has presented programs for the State Department, the National Federation of Music Clubs, and professional music teacher associations in the US, Europe, Canada, and Taiwan. His recordings can be found on the Albany, Regents, and Hornblower labels and he has performed on numerous public television and radio broadcasts.

Pedersen taught for over 30 years at Eastern Michigan University, which granted him emeritus status in 2021. At EMU his piano studio included prizewinners in national, international, regional and state competitions.

A scholarship student of Wesley True at the University of Central Missouri, which named him Distinguished Alumnus in Music, he was a DMA piano student of John Simms at the University of Iowa. Other major influences have been Gyorgy Sebok, Eugene Bossart, and Edwin E. Gordon.

Garik is a past president of Michigan Music Teachers Association, which honored him with its Distinguished Service Award in 2016. He received the Michigan Touchstone Award in 2017 in recognition of his “commitment to Michigan’s artistic excellence and his advocacy for the arts.”

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.



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 Baltayan, 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.



Lori Rhoden maintains an active schedule as a clinician, performer, and adjudicator. She has performed and taught in China, Korea, Canada, and throughout the USA.

She is Professor of Piano and Coordinator of Piano Pedagogy/Group Piano at Ball State University. She has been a Fulbright Specialist Grant recipient (Southwest China Piano Pedagogy Project) and is the Piano Director for the MasterWorks Festival, where she collaborates regularly with orchestral musicians and university faculty from around the country.

An active MTNA member, she has received the Indiana MTA Teacher of the Year and Distinguished Service awards and is a former IMTA president.

Jennifer Ribeiro “American soprano Jenny Ribeiro uses her “bright instrument and engaging personality” (Voce di meche) to delight audiences throughout the world. Trained as a classical pianist and clarinetist as well as a singer, she spent several seasons in musical theater before switching her focus to opera.



This season 2023/24, Jenny makes several role and house debuts including Nina in Thomas Pasatieri’s *The Seagull* with Toronto’s Opera by Request and covering Mother in Missy Mazzoli’s *Breaking the Waves* at Detroit Opera. She also continues her association with Berlin Wagner Group in their Boston concert “Wagner’s Women: Archetypes and Inspirations’. Other concert work includes recitals with the Lansing New Music Forum and at Grace United Methodist Church in Lansing.

On the concert stage, Jenny has been a soloist in Vivaldi’s *Gloria*, Britten’s *Ceremony of Carols*, Handel’s *Messiah*, the Verdi Requiem, and the Mozart Requiem with Reformed Church in Bronxville, Westchester Choral Society, New Jersey Oratorio Society, and Danbury Concert Chorus.

In the 2022/23 season, Jenny toured the U.S. with her recital “From the Hearts of Women.” She also sang the soprano roles in Beethoven’s ninth Symphony with Elkhart County Symphony, St. Saëns’ Christmas Oratorio with Hudson Chorale, and Brahms’ Requiem with the Westchester Choral Society. She has received grants from The Olga Forrai Foundation, as well as numerous awards including First Prize in the 2023 Birmingham International Music Competition. The Emerging Artist Prize in the 2023 Opera MODO Detroit Artist Competition, and Third prize in the 2022 Medici International Music Competition.



Allison Shinnick Keep is enthusiastic about participating in musical experiences with others. As pianist, educator, collaborative musician, and administrator, she advocates for the transformative role that music can play in society and in the lives of individuals. An unabashed extrovert, Allison is happiest when she can share in the joys, struggles, and triumphs of life with others,

and she treasures every opportunity to connect with students and audiences over music.

Dr. Keep is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor of Music at Hope College in Holland, MI. She teaches piano, theory, and music history courses to both music majors and non-majors. Prior to moving to Holland, Allison spent three years in residency in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where she maintained a vibrant private studio. She also served as a Graduate Student Instructor at the University of Michigan, where she taught keyboard skills classes to undergraduates and private lessons to precollege students as part of the Piano Pedagogy Lab Program.

From 2016-2020, Allison was on the faculty of the New School for Music Study in Princeton, NJ, a division of the Frances Clark Center for Keyboard Pedagogy.

Allison’s solo and collaborative performances have been heard across the US, Germany, Spain, and Japan, and in venues such as Orchard Hall (Tokyo), Helzberg Hall (Kansas City), and Carnegie’s Weill Recital Hall (NYC).

Recipient of various prizes and awards, Allison was a finalist in UMKC’s Chancellor’s Concerto Competition, a finalist in the Chautauqua Piano Competition, and winner of the Lawrence University Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition.

Energized by connecting with fellow teachers and exchanging pedagogical ideas, Dr. Keep seeks to contribute to the greater piano teaching community both locally and nationally in her conference attendance, writing, and presenting. Allison contributed to the Piano Magazine's special "Teaching Piano in the Time of COVID-19" issue and also participated as a panelist for two webinars aimed to connect and inspire pianists during the pandemic. Additionally, Allison has presented at the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy (Lombard, IL), for the Piano Teachers Forum of Central New Jersey, at MTNA National Conferences in Reno, NV, and Baltimore, MD, at the Michigan Music Teachers state conference, and at MTNA Collegiate Symposia in Florida and South Carolina. As an administrator, Allison currently serves as the secretary of the board for the PianoArts Competition. She previously served as Digital Communications and Engagement Coordinator for the Frances Clark Center, initiating the Teacher Education Webinar Series and facilitating over 60 webinars during her tenure.

Allison completed her doctoral studies in Piano Pedagogy and Performance at the University of Michigan, where she studied piano with Dr. Arthur Greene and pedagogy with Dr. John Ellis.

She obtained her Master of Music in Piano Performance from University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance, where she studied piano with Dr. Robert Weirich and pedagogy with Dr. Diane Petrella. Allison completed a Bachelor of Music degree from Lawrence University Conservatory of Music (Appleton, WI) with majors in piano performance and oboe performance and a minor in German. She studied piano with Dr. Catherine Kautsky, oboe with Howard Niblock, and pedagogy with Mary Van De Loo.

Award-winning concert pianist, **Julia Siciliano** has been heralded as a musician with “fabulous creative power” by the Bonn General-Anzeiger. Ms. Siciliano has become a well-respected artist on the world stage, being invited as a solo artist by many prestigious orchestras, and festivals, most recently with the Orquesta Sinfónica de la Region de Murcia for the MurciArt Music Festival. A winner



of many local and international piano competitions, Julia has won top prizes at the Sicily International Piano Competition, Heida Hermanns International Competition, Iowa Piano Competition, and MTNA National Competition. A highly active chamber musician, Julia has been invited to perform on concert series and festivals

with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra Chamber Players, the Euskadiko Orchestra’s “Miramon Matinees”, Donostia Musika series at Teatro Victoria Eugenia in San Sebastián, Spain, and the La Verdi chamber music series in Teatro Gerolamo di Milano. She has given recitals with Metropolitan Opera stars Amanda Pabyan, Eric Owens, and Marina Domashenko, and internationally acclaimed instrumentalists Hayoung Choi, Simone Lamsma, and Alexei Ogrintchouk. Most notably, Julia performed the complete “accompanied sonatas” of Beethoven in the year 2020 at the Teatro Victoria Eugenia in Donostia-San Sebastián, Spain, and in various venues throughout the United States, France, and Sweden.

Julia has an active performing career in both solo and chamber music capacities across stages in North America, Central America, Europe and Asia. She has performed multiple times live on Chicago radio station WFMT, Detroit’s historic Scarab Club, Cincinnati Music Hall, the Bulgarian Consulate in New York City, Teatro Nacional of Guatemala, MalmöLive in Malmö, Sweden, Teatro Victoria Eugenia in San Sebastián, Spain, Palazzo Biscari in Catania, Italy, Teatro Gerolamo in Milan, Italy, Parvis de l’église Notre-Dame d’Espérance in Cannes, Deutsche Telekom Headquarters in Bonn, Clairmont Hall in Tel Aviv, Rachmaninov Hall in Moscow, and Kioi Hall in Tokyo.

Her debut solo album “Dream Catchers”, a two-disc album featuring small scale works by Beethoven, Schumann, Schubert, Ravel and Debussy, released in 2016 to great acclaim. Fanfare Magazine declared “this release has merit as a career milestone” and leaves “no doubt about the devotion and seriousness of Siciliano’s approach to music.”

Gramophone Magazine praised her “fine technique and natural musicality” pinpointing her “masterful delicacy, harmonic motion, and timing” in Debussy’s *Images II*.

Siciliano holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music, where she studied with Nelita True, and the University of Michigan, where she studied with Logan Skelton.



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.



Keith Snell began teaching piano when he was fifteen years old under the guidance of his piano teacher mother, Carol Snell. Since that time, he has maintained an independent piano studio because of his passion for teaching.

Co-author of Piano Town and the highly acclaimed Fundamentals of Piano Theory, Keith is also well-known to piano teachers as editor of Piano Repertoire, the Master Composer Library, and producer of the recordings for each series. He has shared his insights about piano teaching in workshops and

master classes throughout the United States and abroad.

Keith received Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in Piano Performance from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, where he studied with John Perry. Significant pre-college studies include work with Boston University professor Maria Clodes

Pianist **Amy Stephens** (NCTM) is a Third Stream, pedagogical and jazz composer. Her solo piano works include Scenes of San Francisco, A Day at the Beach, Becoming: Suite for Solo Piano, Childhood Excursions, and 'Round the Key Circle collections. Many of her pieces are in the NFMF bulletin. She released several albums of her ensemble compositions with her jazz quartet, Amy Stephens Group.



Amy earned two Bachelors, a Masters, and Performer's Certificate in classical and jazz piano from Indiana University. Her mentors include jazz legend David N. Baker and classical master Evelyn Brancart.

She has been teaching all styles of piano, composition and theory for 33 years. Her San Francisco studio is filled with musically curious students of all ages. She is an RCM certified teacher and Red Leaf Pianoworks composer.



Westhuizen Duo, Pierre and Sophié van der Westhuizen

The Westhuizen Duo's performances have been described as "...music-making that rewards you seventy times seven." They have been hailed by audiences and critics alike for their "...excellent sensitivity for each other," combined with playing that is "...charming, lyrical, and brilliant..." (Volksblad, South Africa).

Their performances have been heard on WCLV (Cleveland), ClassicFm (South Africa), Radio Sonder Grense (SA), WGTE (Toledo), WYSU, and WFMT (Chicago). Their interest in new music has led to premiere performances of works written for the duo by young composers, and they enjoy taking part in new music festivals. Highlights include performances and guest teaching at major South African festivals, as well as others in the USA such as Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series in Chicago (broadcast live on NPR and PBS Television), Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory's Bach Festival, Cleveland Institute of Music's Summer Sonata Festival, Gilmore Keysfest, College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati, Colorado International Piano Festival, Chautauqua Piano Institute, Kent State University Keyboard Series, and Cleveland Art Song Festival, among others. They also made their New York debut at Steinway Hall in 2017.

Pierre has served as juror for several international competitions, including the Cleveland, Scriabin (Italy), MozArte (Germany), and UNISA (South Africa), and serves on the boards of the Yun Foundation (Philadelphia) and Magistera Soloists (Canada), as well as the Honorary Committee for Astral Artists (Philadelphia) and the Advisory Board for the Avery Fisher Career Grants in New York.

"Exceptional pianism through evocative coloring" and "superlative interpretative abilities" (CUE Magazine, 2011) describes the playing of South African pianist Sophié van der Westhuizen. She currently holds a piano teaching position at

Kalamazoo College, maintains a large private studio, and also teaches at Interlochen Arts Camp in the summer. Sophié is a Steinway Artist and performs internationally as both soloist and collaborative pianist, with a specialization in piano duo with her husband Pierre, as the Westhuizen Duo.

Sophié has served on the faculty of Heidelberg University, Youngstown State University, The Music Settlement, Aurora School of Music and Cleveland State University. She also served as director of ArtsConnect, a community outreach program for the Cleveland International Piano Competition, up until their relocation to Kalamazoo.

The Westhuizen Duo resides in Kalamazoo, MI, where Pierre is the Executive and Artistic Director of the Gilmore International Piano Festival and Award. Prior to this, he served as President of the Cleveland International Piano Competition (CIPC). Sophié joined the faculty of Kalamazoo College and maintains a private teaching studio. In the summer she teaches at Interlochen Arts Camp. She was Director of ArtsConnect, the community outreach program for the CIPC, and taught at Cleveland State University and the Cleveland Music Settlement. They both previously served on the faculty of Heidelberg University as Assistant Professors of Piano and Co-coordinators of the Keyboard Division. The Westhuizen Duo are Steinway Artists.

Highly devoted to performance and education, Chinese-Canadian pianist **Jasmine Lucia Wong's** accomplishments in performance and pedagogy have brought her to perform in venues around Italy, Canada, the USA, and established her as a recipient of numerous full-tuition academic and music scholarships including the Sicily International Music Festival Scholarship, the Menahem Pressler Scholarship, and the Alice Kern Award. She has won various first-place prizes from city and province-wide competitions and the chosen solo pianist representative of Ontario, Canada for consecutive years.



In 2023, Jasmine was recruited as the pianist of the globally acclaimed film, *American: An Odyssey to 1947*. Excitement builds as she prepares for her performances in Gijón, Spain this August.

Jasmine is pursuing her Doctoral Degree in Piano Performance and Pedagogy at the University of Michigan on full scholarship with Christopher Harding and Dr. John Ellis. Jasmine was the only student accepted into her dual Master's and Doctorate program.

Music Teachers National Association and Michigan Music Teachers Association provides opportunities to engage, network, and advance your professional development through performance and composition competitions.

Participate in the most competitive and exciting event in Michigan. Stay informed on competition literature, learn performance strategies and techniques, network with some of the finest professional music educators in the nation.

Join the MTNA Michigan Performance and Composition Competition Team. Volunteer a minimum of two hours over the 3-day event at the 2024-2025 MTNA Michigan Performance Competition. Learn by participating!

**University of Michigan, School of Music, Theatre & Dance
Ann Arbor, Michigan
November 8-12, 2024**

- Young Artist Piano Friday
- Senior Piano Saturday and Sunday
- Junior Piano Sunday
- Young Artist Woodwind Saturday and Sunday
- Senior & Junior Woodwind Sunday
- Junior, Senior, and Young Artist String Saturday morning



Lora Kolean
Young Artist Coordinator



Karen Feilla
Senior Coordinator



Karen Johnson
Junior Coordinator



Michael Zutis
Composition Coordinator



Laurie M Marshall
Director of Competitions

Michigan Music Teachers Association Annual Student Honors Recital

MMTA Concerto Division I Winner

Venetian Boat Song in F-sharp minor, Op. 30, No. 6

Felix Mendelssohn

Oscar Gu, piano

Gerardo Ascheri, teacher

MMTA Concerto Division II Winner

Violin Concerto No. 5 in A minor, Op. 37 mvt.1

Henri Vieuxtemps

Yufeng Xu, violin

Isoa Chapman, teacher

MTNA Michigan Junior Division String State Winner

Violin Partita No. 3 in E Major, BWV 1006: Preludio

Johann Sebastian

Bach

Abigail Huang, violin

Fanqye Sun, teacher

MMTA State Finals Junior Division Piano Winner

Nocturne in B-flat minor, Op. 9, No. 1

Frédéric

Chopin

Evelyn Cao

Catherine Rollin, teacher

MTNA Michigan Senior Division String Winner

Variations on a Rococo Theme, Op.33

Pyotr Ilyich

Tchaikovsky

Kevin Baek, cello

Amir Elden, teacher

MTNA Michigan Senior Division Piano Winner

Ballade in F Minor Op. 52 No. 4

Frederic Chopin

Keliang Yao

Logan Skelton, teacher

**MMTA Division III Concerto Winner,
MMTA State Finals Senior Division Piano Winner,
MTNA Michigan & East Central Junior Division Winner, and
MTNA National Chopin Foundation of the United States Best
Chopin Performance Award Winner**

Miroirs III. Une barque sur l'océan

Maurice Ravel

Ethan Mihaescu, piano
Catherine Rollin, teacher

MTNA Michigan Young Artist String Representative

Sabina

Andrew Norman

Camille Koharu, violin
David Halen, teacher

MTNA Michigan Young Artist Piano Winner

Etude 10.8, 10.11, 10.7, 25.6

Frédéric Chopin

Takeshi Nagayasu
Logan Skelton, teacher

**MTNA Michigan Representative, East Central Division Winner, and National
Composition, Second Place**

Sonata No. 6 Op. 62, I. Allegro ma non troppo

Nikolai Kapustin

Trinity Fan
Christopher Harding, teacher

**MTNA Michigan and East Central Division Young Artist Woodwind Winner
MTNA National Young Artist Woodwind, Second Place**

Russian Dance from Swan Lake

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Zachary Costello, saxophone
Soojin Kim, collaborative pianist
Joseph Lulloff, teacher

**MTNA Michigan, East Central Division, and
National Young Artist Brass Winner**

Fantasy Op. 94

Joseph Nepomuk Hummel

Samual Levi Hardy, euphonium
Anthony Beer, collaborative pianist
Kenneth Kroesche, teacher



Michigan Music Teachers Association

2024 Concerto Competition Results

Division I

First Place: Oscar Gu, Piano, student of Gerardo Ascheri

Second Place: Aiden Lu, Piano, student of Natalia Bezuglova

Third Place: Veronica Ding, Piano, student of Mary Siciliano

Division II

First Place: Yufeng Xu, Violin, student of Isoa Chapman

Second Place: Violet Kang, Piano, student of Yangwei Situ

Third Place: Eric Choi, Cello, student of Leo Singer

Division III

First Place: Ethan Mihaescu, Piano, student of Catherine Rollin

Second Place: Victor Zhong, Piano, student of Mary Siciliano

Third Place: Jocelyn Wong and Joseph Kim, Cello, student of HyeYeong Yoon

Division IV

First Place: Ryan Li, Piano, student of Christopher Harding

Second Place(tie): Sunny Ron, Piano, student of Mary Siciliano

Brain Zhang, Piano, student of Christopher Harding

Third Place (tie): David Jaster, Piano, student of Daniel Schmit

Serafima Bezuglova, Violin, student of Tigran Shiganyan

Wendy Wan Hsing Chu, Chair



Michigan Music Teachers Association

2024 State Piano Finals Results

Piano: Intermediate Division

Dr. Soonghee Ha (Schoolcraft College) and Dr. Wei-Qin Claire Tang, Adjudicators

First Place: Mark Shilakes, student of Derek Polischuk

Second Place: Joyce Cao, student of Nai-Wen Weng

Third Place: Leah Yeon, student of Wendy Chu

Honorable Mention: Naomi Alderink, student of Jinah Lee

Honorable Mention: Claire Liu, student of Liu Pinlin

Piano: Junior Division

Dr. Soonghee Ha (Schoolcraft College) and Dr. Wei-Qin Claire Tang, Adjudicators

First Place: Evelyn Cao, student of Catherine Rollin

Second Place: Evie Schramm, student of Adrienne Wiley

Third Place: Darshan Khandavalli, student of Jinah Lee

Honorable Mention: Jessica Liu, student of Linda Hoisington

Honorable Mention: Dheeraj Khandavalli, student of Jinah Lee

Piano: Senior Division

Prof. Emeritus Ralph Votapek (MSU) and Dr. Adrienne Wiley (CMU), Adjudicators

First Place: Ethan Mihaescu, student of Catherine Rollin

Second Place: Bryna Sullivan, student of Marta Pietrzyk

Third Place: Reina Li, student of Derek Polischuk

Honorable Mention: John Alderink, student of Andrew Focks

Gerardo Ascheri, SAT Auditions Chair

2023 MTNA Michigan Competitions

Michigan State University, College of Music, East Lansing, MI

November 10-12, 2023

RESULTS

Junior Division

Piano:

Winner, Ethan Mihaescu	Teacher, Catherine Rollin
Alternate, Victor Yuankai Zhong	Teacher, Mary Siciliano
Honorable Mention, Elliot Geonhee Kim	Teacher, Mary Siciliano
Judges: David Keep, Gail Lytle Lira, Allison Shinnick Keep	

String:

Representative, Abigail N. Huang	Teacher, Fangye Sun
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Senior Division

Composition:

Winner, Gabriel (Zephyr) Jonah White	Teacher, Philip Pletcher
Honorable Mention, Richard Shao	Teacher, Arthur Greene
Judge: Susan Dersnah Fee	

Piano:

Winner, Keliang Yao	Teacher, Logan Skelton
Alternate, Pinn Mahasaranond	Teacher, Thomas Lymenstull
Honorable Mention, Faith Yeha Lee	Teacher, Helen Marlais
Honorable Mention, Beckler C Whittaker	Teacher, Kara Huber
Honorable Mention, Sunny Rong	Teacher, Mary Siciliano
Judges: Louise Chan, Wendy Chu, Hamilton Tescarollo	

String:

Winner, Kevin Baek	Teacher, Amir Elden
Alternate, Jayden Im	Teacher, Derek Weller
Honorable Mention, Allen E. Choi	Teacher, Kimberly Kennedy
Judge: Yvonne Lam	

Woodwind:

Winner, Nathan Shangyi Leung, saxophone	Teacher, Sean Hurburt
Alternate, Maddox Ray Lewis, clarinet	Teacher, Gary June
Honorable Mention, Emily Elizabeth Sullivan, clarinet	Teacher, Arthur Campbell

Judges: Garrett Evans, Kevin Schempf, Matthew Younglove

Young Artist Division**Brass:**

Winner, Samuel Levi Hardy, euphonium	Teacher, Kenneth Kroesche
Alternate, Ryan Douglas Lofland, tuba	Teacher, David Zerkel

Judge: Adam Graham

Composition:

Representative, Trinity Fan	Teacher, Christopher Harding
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Piano:

Winner, Takeshi Nagayasu	Teacher, Logan Skelton
Alternate, Min Shan Tsai	Teacher, Arthur Greene
Honorable Mention, Yumiao Mai	Teacher, Logan Skelton
Honorable Mention, Myungseo Ki	Teacher, Eric Zuber

Judges: Louise Chan, Wendy Chu, Derek Kealii Polischuk

String:

Representative, Camille Koharu, violin	Teacher, David Halen
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Woodwind:

Winner, Zachary Jeehoon Lee Costello, saxophone	Teacher, Joseph Lulloff
Alternate, Jacob Michael Bissonnette, saxophone	Teacher, John Nichol
Honorable Mention, Isabella Ann Carucci, flute	Teacher, Amy Porter
Honorable Mention, Kyle Kato, saxophone	Teacher, Timothy McAllister

Judges: Garrett Evans, Kevin Schempf, Matthew Younglove

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
2023-2024 National Finals Michigan Results
Atlanta, GA, March 2024

Junior Division

National Chopin Award: Ethan Mihaescu, piano Teacher, Catherine Rollin

Young Artist Division

National 2nd Place: Trinity Fan, composition Teacher, Christopher Harding
University of Michigan

National 1st Place: Samuel Hardy, euphonium Teacher, Kenneth Kroesche
Oakland University

National 2nd Place: Sean Yang, piano Teacher, Logan Skelton
University of Michigan

National 2nd Place: Zachary Castello, saxophone Teacher, Joseph Lulloff
Michigan State University

Chamber Ensemble Wind

National 1st Place: Cerus Quartet

Roberto Campa, soprano saxophone	Teacher/Coach, Timothy McAllister
Laura Ramsay, alto saxophone	University of Michigan
Kyle Kato, tenor saxophone	
Samuel Dishon, baritone saxophone	

MTNA Michigan Performance Competition Host Universities



Michigan Music Teachers Association Annual Student Honors Recital Student Winners



Kevin Baek is 16 years old, attends Okemos High School, and currently studies with Amir Eldan. He started playing the cello at 7 years old with Marylin Kesler and has also studied with Leo Singer and Horacio Contreras.

Kevin was a winner of the 2023 Music Teachers National Association Michigan Performance Competitions Senior String, one of four winners of the 2024 MSBOA Outstanding Soloist Competition, a runner-up in the 2023 Ann Arbor Symphony Young Artist Competition, received 3rd place in the 2023 Michigan Music Teachers Association Concerto Competition, and won the 2022 Lansing Matinee Musicale Performing Arts Students String Competition.

This summer, Kevin attended the Bowdoin International Music Festival, where he had the opportunity to have lessons and coachings from renowned musicians including Edward Arron, Daniel McDonough, and Jon Nakamatsu.

Kevin was selected as the principal cellist of the 2024 MSBOA All-State Orchestra and participated in the Michigan Youth Symphony Orchestra. He currently leads his school's chamber orchestra.

Evelyn Cao is 10 years old and in the sixth 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 in 2022. She won first place awards from MMTA State Concerto Competition in Division I and II in 2022 and 2023; first place awards from MMTA State Finals in the Intermediate and Junior Division in 2023 and 2024.

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



Zachary Costello, originally from central Maryland, holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Michigan State University, where he studied under Professor Joseph Lulloff. During his time at Michigan State, Zachary regularly presented solo recitals at events such as the U.S. Navy Band's annual Saxophone Symposium and the North American Saxophone Alliance (NASA) conference.



Zachary has been recognized both nationally and internationally with numerous accolades to his name. In 2024, he was named a finalist and awarded Sixth Prize at the Andorra Saxfest International Saxophone Competition. The same year, he won second prize at the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) National Solo Competition after winning both the regional and state rounds. Additionally, he was honored with the Hans Schaeuble Award in Switzerland in 2022. Zachary's accomplishments also include performing as a soloist with the National Classical Orchestra of Andorra.

As a chamber musician, Zachary is the soprano chair of the award-winning saxophone quartet, PULSE. For the past several summers, PULSE members have been artists in residence at the Interlochen Center for the Arts as part of the Sound Garden Project, which aims to plant music in unexpected places. PULSE has been recognized in numerous competitions including winning the Lift Every Voice Prize at the 2024 Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition, 1st Prize at the Glass City Chamber Music Competition, 1st Prize in the NOLA Chamber Music Competition, and 2nd Prize at the Chesapeake Chamber Music Competition. Zachary has also performed as a chamber musician at the Arosa Klassik Festival in Switzerland with multiple ensembles.

Zachary has appeared in masterclasses led by Vincent David, Lars Mlekusch, Christian Wirth, Timothy McAllister, Otis Murphy, Christopher Creviston, and Stephen Page.

Zachary is currently pursuing a Master of Music degree in Saxophone Performance at the Eastman School of Music where he studies under Professor Chien-Kwan Lin and is a Graduate Assistant.

Trinity Fan, 23, made her first Weill Recital-Carnegie Hall appearance at the age of 8 as a Grand Winner of the NLPA International Young Artists Competition and has been a top prizewinner of several competitions since then, including the New Jersey Teachers Music Association Competition, YoungArts, Camerata Artists International Competition, and more. In 2022, Trinity was a finalist in the Spotlight International Piano Competition, where she also won the Audience Award.



Previously, Trinity studied with Tomoko Harada for 11 years and with Edward Auer at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music as a Founders Scholar, and was a recipient of the Music Faculty Award, Premier Young Artist Award Scholarship, Dorothy L. Herriman Scholarship, and the György Sebők Scholarship.

Aside from performing, Trinity has a love for teaching. She is a former faculty member of IU's Young Pianists Program and is currently a Graduate Student Instructor at the University of Michigan and teaches at SMTD's Piano Pedagogy Laboratory Program.

As a composer, she was awarded Second Prize in the 2024 MTNA National Composition Competition for her piece, "Reminiscence." Trinity previously studied with Shuyu Lin, Corey Chang, and Wong Chun Wai. Trinity is currently pursuing a master's degree in Piano Performance and Pedagogy at the University of Michigan. She studies with Christopher Harding and jazz piano with Andy Milne.



Oscar Gu was born on February 17, 2015, and lives in Okemos, Michigan. His musical journey began at the age of 5 when his first teacher, Ching-wen Tseng, introduced him to the world of music. He later studied under Dr. Gerardo Ascheri, who played a key role in nurturing Oscar's deepening love for the piano.

In 2022, he won second prize in the Little Mozart Competition and performed at Carnegie Hall. By 2024, Oscar participated in the Bach Festival, Sonatina/Sonata Festival, and the Honors Auditions for piano at Schoolcraft College. That same year, he also won the MMTA Concerto First Prize in Division I. In addition to piano, Oscar enjoys reading, swimming, Minecraft and chess.



Samuel Levi Hardy is a 1st-year master's student at Oakland University, and a graduate of North Greenville University in Greenville, SC. Levi's teachers include Kenneth Kroesche and Mike Taylor.

He has been featured as a guest euphoniumist in local orchestras and bands such as the Oakland Symphony Orchestra, Toledo Concert Band, and Grand Rapids Symphony.

Some achievements include being a Finalist in the 2023 Rosen-Schaffel Concerto Competition, Runner-Up in the 2023 David Daniels Young Artist Concerto Competition, Winner of the 2024 National MTNA Brass Solo Competition, and Second-Place Winner of the 2024 MWRTEC Young Artist Competition.

Hi! My name is **Abigail Huang**. I've been playing violin for almost nine years, and I love exploring different pieces, styles, and genres of music, whether it's classical, indie, or pop; really, a huge mix of everything. Specifically, playing the violin has been my creative outlet and a way to bond with others through music. I especially enjoy playing chamber music with my peers and participating in orchestra concerts and recitals. Interacting with people of a similar interest has been extremely rewarding and fun, and I look forward to getting to know new people and further forming connections in the future. Music has shaped a huge part of my life, and I hope to continue sharing my passion for music with those around me!





Camille McLean is a third-year student at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theater, and Dance pursuing Violin Performance. She is from Olympia, WA, where she studied with Simon James and Hiro David as a member of the Coleman Violin Studio and is now in the studio of Professor David Halen.

Camille was a National Finalist in the MTNA Young Artist String Competition in 2024. Camille plays in the University Symphony Orchestra and Contemporary Directions Ensemble at the University of Michigan as well as various chamber groups.

Notable performances include the workshop premier of *The Pigeon Keeper* in collaboration with the Santa Fe Opera in March of 2024 and the Music of Auschwitz tour in Vienna and Krakow led by Professors Patricia Hall and Oriol Sans.

Ethan Mihaescu is thirteen and in eighth grade at the Roeper School in Birmingham, Michigan. He has been recognized with many awards in Michigan, including first place awards in the Steinway Competition Division I & II, the Michigan Music Teachers Association Concerto Competition Divisions I, II & III; and first place from the Metropolitan Detroit Musicians League Young Artist Competition in the Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary & Junior High divisions. He has also won first place awards in the Michigan Music Teachers Association State Solos Finals in the Intermediate, Junior & Senior divisions.



Nationally, Ethan was the second-place winner as well as the Chopin Foundation award winner at the 2023 Music Teachers National Association Junior Piano Competition. He was also an MTNA national finalist for 2024 and once again received the Chopin Award.

Ethan was honored to have been recognized internationally, and was listed among the final six of the Steinway International Virtual Competition Division I in 2020. In 2023, he was a finalist of the inaugural Nashville International Chopin Piano Competition. He was also a semi-finalist of the Kaufman Music Center 2024 International Youth Piano Competition.

Ethan was featured in a Pro Musica of Detroit concert in 2023. Ethan has also performed collaboratively with vocalists of the Tuesday Musicale of Detroit, from whom he received the Doreen Wessel Taylor Piano Award in 2023. As the Bea and Harry Shapiro Piano Scholar with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Civic Youth Ensemble, Ethan has performed collaboratively with other leading instrumentalists of Metro Detroit. He has also shared his love of music at multiple benefit concerts at area churches.

In addition to being guided by his father, a classically trained singer, Ethan studies piano with pianist Catherine Rollin.



Takeshi Nagayasu has been recognized and won many top prizes in competitions such as the Kosciuszko Foundation Chopin, Jacob Flier, Rosamond Haeberle, Borderland Chopin International, and the International Robert Schumann Competition in Germany. He is a recipient of multiple scholarships including awards from the Feltsman Piano Foundation, as well as the Evelyn Bonar Storrs Scholarship from the Musical Club of Hartford. He also received full scholarships to attend major music festivals including Pianosummer at New Paltz and International Keyboard Institute & Festival in New York, and Gijon International Piano Festival in Spain.

Takeshi studied at Juilliard, Yale, and is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in piano performance at the University of Michigan. His teachers include Logan Skelton, Vladimir Feltsman, Melvin Chen, Boris Berman, Joseph Kalichstein, Matti Raekallio, Antonio Pompa-Baldi, and Xiaohe Xie.

Yufeng Xu was born on December 15th, 2012, and lives in Okemos, Michigan. He began his violin journey at the age of 5 and has since continued his studies under the mentorship of Dr. Isoa Chapman. His passion for the violin is evident in his dedication and love for expressing himself through music. In 2021, Shaun won first place in the Crescendo International Competition. This past summer, he was honored to participate in the Interlochen Junior Advanced String Program, where he was selected as the first violin and concertmaster. Outside of his violin pursuits, Shaun is a skilled swimmer and enjoys reading, basketball, and football.



Keliang Yao is a 17-year-old pianist. She is a student of Prof. Logan Skelton, and has studied with Prof. Soyeon Kate Lee and Mrs. Kathleen Sadoff.

She was 2023 MTNA Michigan state winner, has won 2023 East Carolina University Concerto competition, the 2022 BMSO concerto competition, the 2019 MTNA Ohio State competition, the 2019 CMTA competition, and the 2017 Central East Ohio Buckeye audition. She was also a major prize winner the 2022 Overture Awards, the 2022 and 2023 Dayton Symphony concerto competition, the 2021 Ohio MTNA State competition, the 2020 New Albany Symphony concerto competition, the 2019 OM-TA competition, and the 2017 State Buckeye auditions.

She has participated in the 2023 Bosendorfer and Yamaha USASU International Piano Competition, 2023 Southeastern Piano Festival, the 2022 David DuBois International Piano Competition, the 2019 CIPC Summer Festival, She performed as a soloist with the Blue Ash Montgomery Symphony Orchestra in 2023 and has played in masterclasses with Jerome Lowenthal, Alessio Bax, Alvin Chow, Kathryn Brown, Meng-Chieh Liu and Stanislav Khristenko.

In addition to competitions and recitals, Keliang also performs in the community. She enjoys reading and swimming and plays clarinet in her school band.



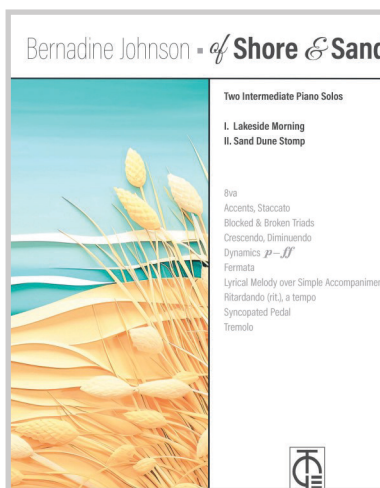
**Michigan Music Teachers Association
2024 Conference Commissioned Composer
Bernadine Johnson
Piano Teachers' Forum of Grand Rapids**

Bernadine Johnson earned her degree in music education from Indiana Wesleyan University and has dedicated 49 years to teaching piano to students of all ages in her private studio in Fremont, Michigan.

She has served on the piano faculty at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp and has taught music education classes for local county schools.

In addition to her teaching, Bernadine is a published composer and arranger, a church musician, an adjudicator, an accompanist, and a director, actively involved in various musical organizations and community initiatives. She has received numerous awards for her contributions and service in the field of music.

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Michigan Music Teachers Association
2024 Distinguished Service Award
Béatrice Ellis



From 1976 to 1983, Béatrice received her musical and piano performance training from the Conservatoire Régional and the Université de Lyon in France as well as the Conservatoire Supérieur de Genève in Switzerland. Following graduation, she enjoyed a freelance career as a teacher and collaborative pianist mainly through the Lyon Opéra. In 1987, she was offered an assistantship by the Hartt School of Music (Hartford, CT) and later on received a grant from the French Ministry of Culture to pursue a Masters degree in Piano Performance at this institution.

After receiving her diploma, she moved to New York City where she worked for two companies specializing in classical music production before being hired by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy where she served in various capacities from 1991 to 2000. In 1997, she accepted the post of Attachée Culturelle in charge of the arts. Since 2000, she has settled in Ann Arbor after her husband accepted a post at the University of Michigan School of Music Theatre & Dance.

Béatrice has been teaching piano privately from her home since 2003. In order to deepen her pedagogical approach, she attended many classes in psychology and social sciences at Washtenaw Community College. In the past 8 years, she has been regularly invited to judge various competitions in the Ann Arbor/Detroit area. Always an active member of the Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild, she completed a two-year term as President of this organization (2014-2016) and is still involved with the organization of the Music Student Achievement Testing Day. She also created and directed AVEC, a Piano Ensemble Camp giving a unique opportunity for young students to discover chamber music (2015-2021.) Béatrice has served on the board of the Michigan Music Teacher Association from 2016 to 2024 as Education Chair, Vice-President, President and Immediate Past President.

Michigan Music Teachers Association

2024 Local Associations

Teacher of the Year Award



Jessica Hastings was born and raised in Warren, Michigan, where her early life revolved around the piano. Growing up in a family of informal piano educators and enthusiasts ignited her passion for teaching from a young age. She earned her degree from Western Michigan University in 2010 and pursued certification as a registered piano technician in 2019. Later, she co-founded The Kalamazoo Piano Company in 2013, which quickly became known for its educational opportunities, public

performances, and strong community ties. The shop offered everything from piano lessons and tuning to hosting shows and musical gatherings, making it a hub for both new learners and seasoned performers alike. As the company evolved, Jessica transitioned the business into Hastings Piano Services, where she continues her commitment to the artistry of piano care.

Carol Levy has taught piano in her home studio for nearly 30 years. An active member of MDML and Vivace Music Club, Carol has served in numerous positions including more recently as the Michigan Music Teachers Association 2023 Local Association Conference Chair. She holds a Michigan State Certified Emeritus from MMTA and have served as President (2012-13) and SAT Chair at MDML for 2014, 2023-25.



Acknowledged for her sincere enthusiasm for teaching students for 70 years, **Nancy Jo Sheaffer**, was recently designated as Teacher of the Year by the Port Huron Music Teachers Association. Nancy Jo Sheaffer obtained her bachelor's degree in music education from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, was a member of the Delta Omicron Sorority, and studied under Anna McGrosso of Bloomington, Indiana. She furthered her education with the University of Michigan, by earning a Master of Music Education, and was a music teacher in two public school systems for thirty years.

In addition to working full time as a music educator while raising a son and daughter, she taught piano to students privately, entering them in Festival, Solo & Ensemble Festival and MMTA Student Achievement Testing. Her excellent teaching highlights exemplary technic and quality literature. She and her student's success in these areas have served as examples for the local chapter members to emulate. Nancy takes great satisfaction in knowing she has contributed to the achievements of students. She continues to teach today, while living with her husband, David, in a Senior living residence.

Michele Wells joined Piano Teachers' Forum of Grand Rapids in 2003, and has served in various executive board positions for the past 16 years, including president from 2020-2024. She was instrumental in creating the first MMTA local chapter website in the mid-2000's, and has recently started two new programs for her local chapter: the Piano Book Club and the Performing Arts Passport.



MTNA 50-Year Memberships (1974)

Marilyn Slenk, Grand Rapids

Ida Mucciante, Novi

MTNA 25-Year Memberships (1999)

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Derek Polischuk, East Lansing

Roxane Ewert, Marcellus

Andrea Johnson, Grand Rapids

Alissa Veeneman, Sumas, WA

Rae Vaught, Chassell

Joel Schoenhals, Ann Arbor

Judith Madden, Grand Rapids

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Lake Michigan Music
The Children's Academy
Lake Michigan Concert Series

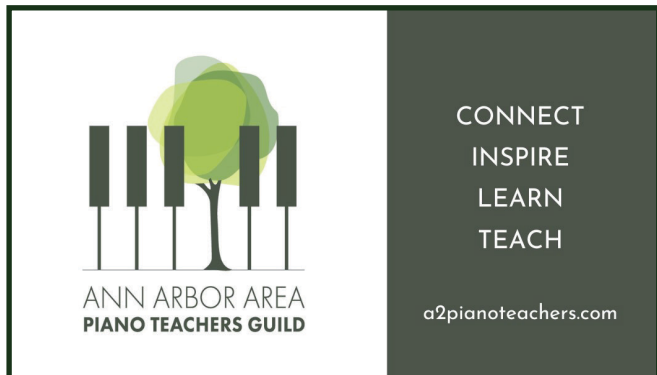
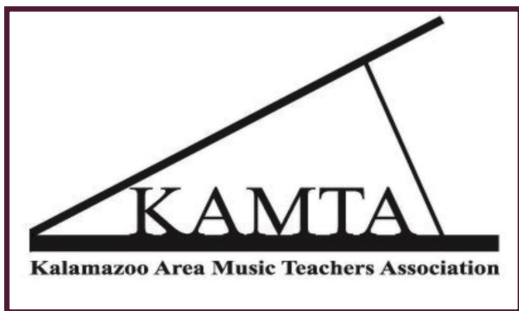
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BCAMTA

Battle Creek Area Music Teachers Association

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A collage of three photographs is displayed at the bottom of the BCAMTA section. The leftmost photo shows an older man with glasses, wearing a blue and white striped shirt, speaking into a microphone at a wooden podium. The middle photo shows a group of seven women standing in a line, smiling for a group photo in a room with brick walls. The rightmost photo shows a man in a purple shirt playing a black grand piano in a church-like setting with high ceilings and arched windows.

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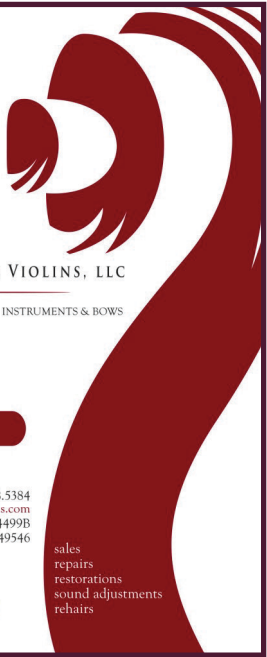
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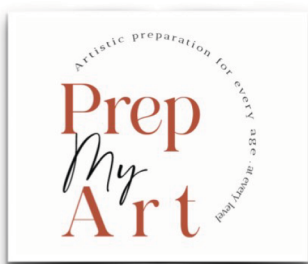
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Peter Rudzik Amy Stephens Irene Voros

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****"What you need to know" information**

***Research and development**

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***The best technology advice**

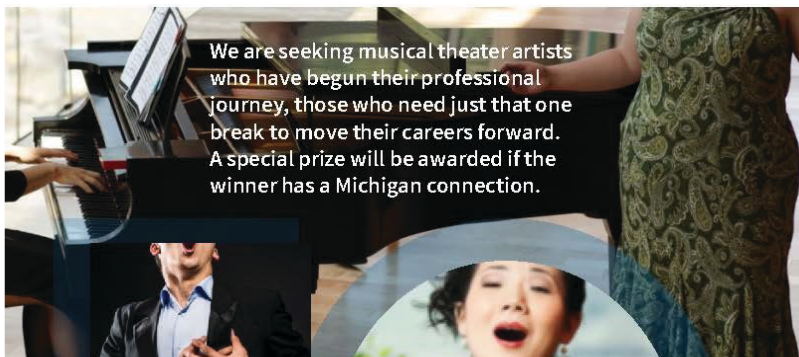
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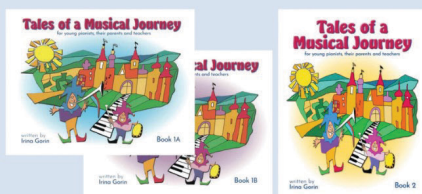
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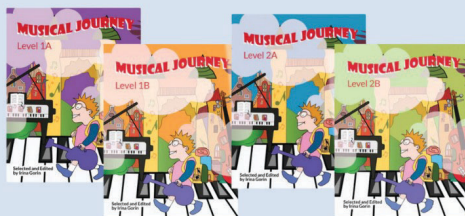


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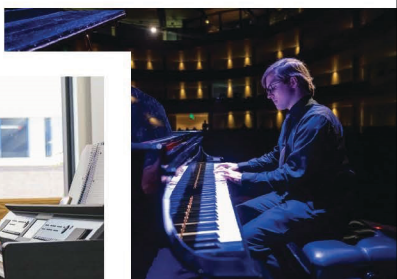
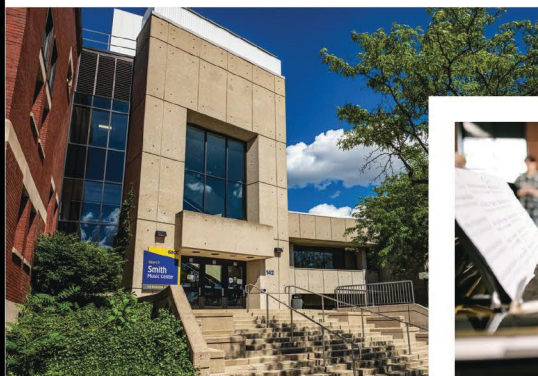
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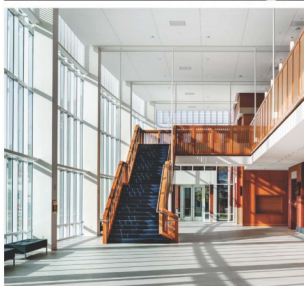
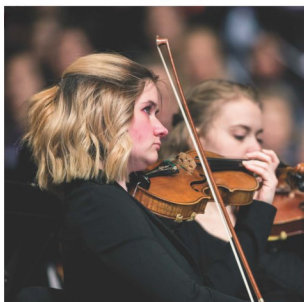


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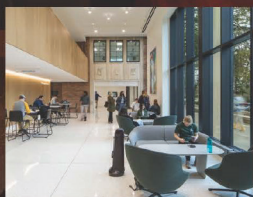


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