

150 YEARS



MTNA 2026
CHICAGO

MARCH 21-25, 2026

YOU BELONG AT MTNA

“Hey Google:”

IS MUSIC LITERACY **DECLINING?**

The Problem We Face in Music Education



We live in a society that does not prioritize music education.

The percentage of US children and young adults taking piano lessons peaked in the 1960's and has been consistently dropping ever since. This declining perception of value is clear when we look at how music is treated when allocating funding. When a budget gets cut, music and the arts are usually the first on the chopping block.

Without intervention, this is a trend that is likely to continue.

There are many reasons for this. It is largely due to the widely-held perception that music is not a practical skill. For so many reasons, this is a false (but understandable) assumption.

Administrators, parents, and politicians want to see measurable progress. They want to see proof that what we are doing is working and therefore worthy of funding. Standardized testing has long

been the basis for determining school funding. It is much harder for a teacher to prove their teaching success when you only have anecdotal proof of growth. We know that music is an essential part of education. Countless studies have shown how music improves memory and retention, critical thinking and language skills, and decreases stress.

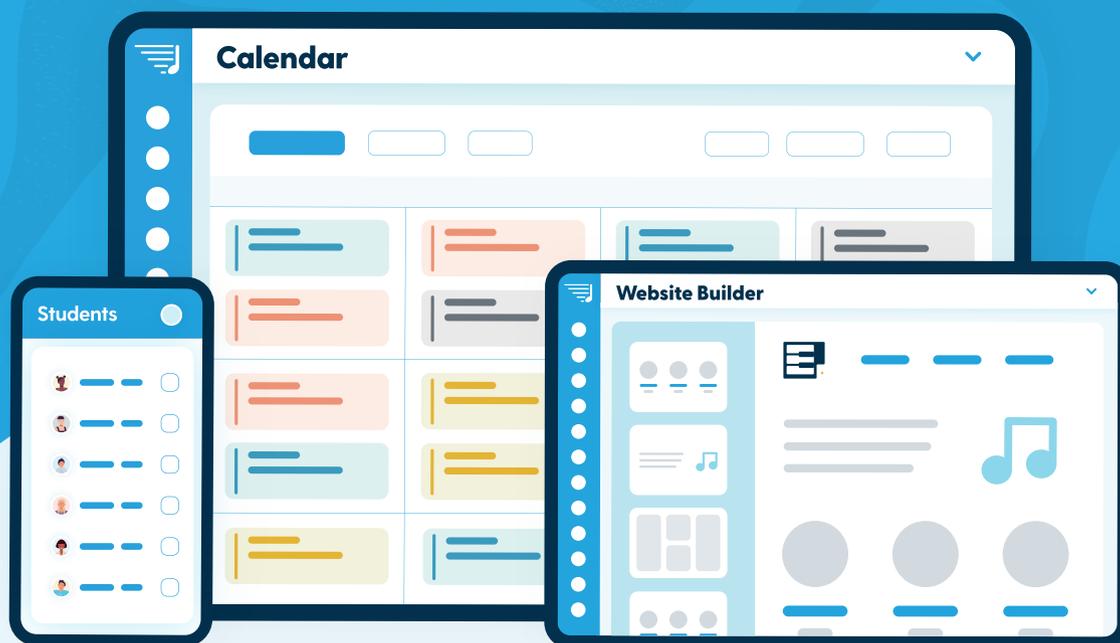
It's up to us as teachers to fight for music's well-deserved place in American education.

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WELCOME TO CHICAGO!



Kevin T. Chance, NCTM
President



Brian Shepard
CEO

“ For a century and a half, MTNA has existed for one simple but powerful purpose: to bring teachers together. ”

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Chicago—and to a truly historic gathering of the Music Teachers National Association! As we come together for the 2026 MTNA National Conference, we celebrate an extraordinary milestone: 150 years of connection, collaboration, and commitment to music teaching.

For a century and a half, MTNA has existed for one simple but powerful purpose: to bring teachers together. Since its founding, educators from across the country and around the world have regularly gathered to share ideas, learn from one another, and support each other in the joyful, challenging, and deeply human work of teaching music. This conference is the living expression of all that our predecessors envisioned. Over the next five days, our global community gathers not only to share, learn, and support, but to imagine what the future of music education can be.

The 2026 Conference Planning Committee, chaired by Luis Sanchez and joined by Christopher Madden, NCTM; Laurie Marshall; Amanda Montgomery, NCTM; and Susan Todd, NCTM, has curated a program of more than 100 sessions designed to meet this moment. Their work reflects the full breadth of our profession and serves teachers at every stage of their journey, from those attending their very first MTNA Conference to those who have helped shape this organization over decades.

This year also brings remarkable artistic voices to our stages—artists whose work reminds us why we do what we do. Our time together begins with an Opening Session performance by jazz vocalist Jane Monheit, whose artistry reflects both excellence and openness, tradition and innovation. On Tuesday evening, pianist Angela Hewitt, one of the world’s most respected interpreters of Bach, shares her extraordinary musicianship and insight. On Sunday, conductor Scott Yoo, host of PBS’s *Now Hear This*, invites us to listen more deeply and think more boldly as our keynote speaker. And this year’s master classes are led by artists at the height of their craft: Intermediate Piano with Nancy O’Neill Breth and Advanced Piano with Alan Chow. We hope each of these musical offerings stays with you long after the final note fades.

There is even more to experience together. The Conference Gala honors this year’s MTNA FOUNDATION Fellows and features the world premiere of Brian Raphael Nabors’s *Piano Sonata No. 3*, commissioned by Melvin Stecher, NCTM, and Norman Horowitz, NCTM, and performed by Lewis Warren, Jr. The Awards Brunch celebrates both legends and changemakers who have helped shape our profession. Sessions for All ensure that every teacher—regardless of instrument, genre, level, or setting—finds ideas they can use immediately. The Exhibit Hall and industry showcases offer opportunities to explore new tools and innovations up close. The National Competition Finals continue MTNA’s proud tradition of celebrating excellence and emerging talent. Pedagogy Saturday features five rich tracks—Artistry, Collaborative Performance, Musician Wellness, Recreational Music Making, and Representation & Advocacy—while Monday hosts the ever-popular Young Professionals sessions, reflecting the growth and evolving needs of our community.

Yet, as many of us know, some of the most meaningful moments of any MTNA event happen between the sessions: a conversation in the elevator, a shared table at lunch, a generous exchange of ideas with the person sitting next to you. These smaller moments, we believe, are the heart of MTNA.

As we celebrate 150 years, we honor not only where we have been, but also who we are becoming. This milestone belongs to you—every teacher, student, administrator, creator, publisher, and entrepreneur who believes we are stronger together. We invite you to embrace this time fully: Connect, be inspired, and take pride in the profound impact you have, both as music teachers in your studios, schools, and communities, and as artist-citizens shaping the world through music.

We are so glad you are here.

Warmly,



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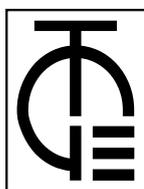
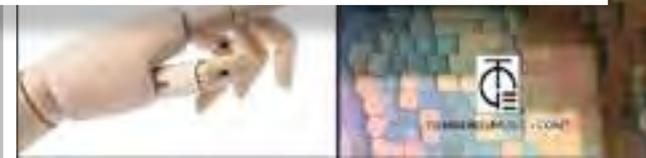
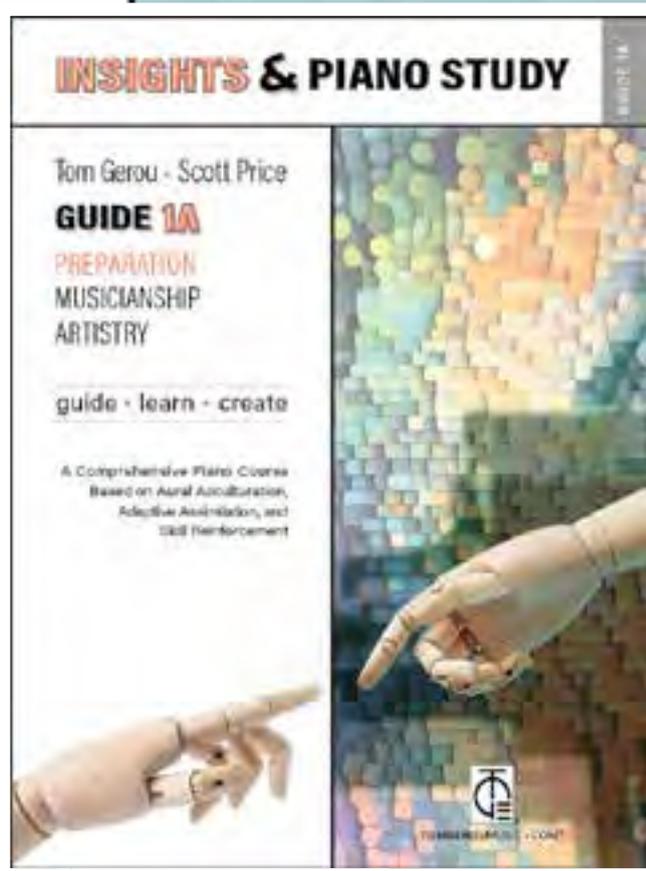
A New Method
Connecting
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at the

**EXHIBITOR
SHOWCASE**

Tuesday,
March 24
8:00 am

Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/
Michigan State Room



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FEATURED GUESTS

Opening Session Concert

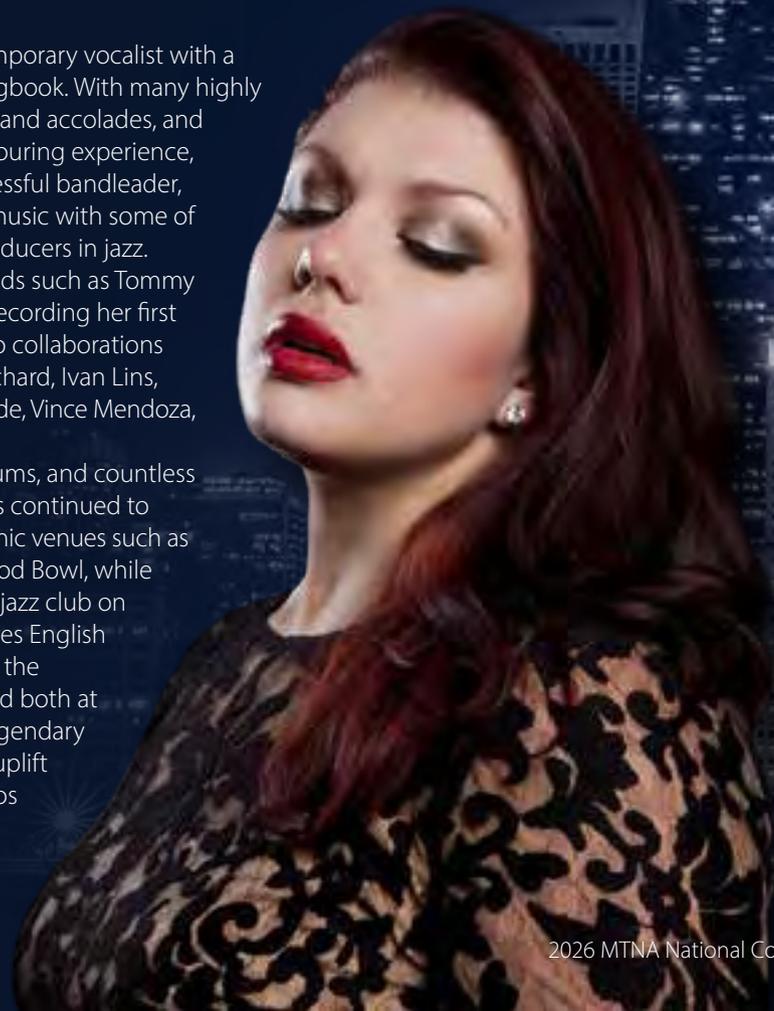
Saturday, March 21, 7:30 P.M.

Jane Monheit

Jane Monheit is a jazz and adult contemporary vocalist with a deep passion for the Great American Songbook. With many highly acclaimed solo albums, countless awards and accolades, and more than two decades of international touring experience, she has not only been an extremely successful bandleader, but she has had the privilege of making music with some of the greatest musicians, arrangers, and producers in jazz.

By 22, Monheit was working with legends such as Tommy Flanagan, Ron Carter, and Kenny Barron, recording her first albums, and touring the planet. This led to collaborations with jazz luminaries such as Terence Blanchard, Ivan Lins, Tom Harrell, John Pizzarelli, Christian McBride, Vince Mendoza, Jorge Calandrelli, and many more.

After more than 25 years, 13 studio albums, and countless recorded guest appearances, Monheit has continued to tour the world nearly nonstop, playing iconic venues such as Carnegie Hall, Town Hall, and the Hollywood Bowl, while also headlining at nearly every legendary jazz club on the planet. In addition to touring, she writes English lyrics for Brazilian artist Ivan Lins. She uses the knowledge and experience she has gained both at Manhattan School of Music and on the legendary bandstands of the world to educate and uplift students worldwide. Monheit resides in Los Angeles with her husband, drummer Rick Montalban, and their son.



Plenary Session: Keynote

Sunday, March 22, 9:15 A.M.

Scott Yoo

American conductor Scott Yoo is the host and executive producer of the Emmy-nominated PBS series *Now Hear This*, the first classical music show on American prime time television in 50 years.

Yoo is also the conductor of the Colorado College Music Festival and the founder of the Medellín Festicámara, a chamber music program that brings together world-class artists with underprivileged young musicians. In 2020, he inaugurated a similar program in Mexico City. He has also served as the chief conductor and artistic director of the Mexico City Philharmonic since 2016. Since 2004, Yoo has served as music director of Festival Mozaic, an orchestral and chamber music festival in the Central Coast of California.

Yoo has conducted numerous national and international orchestras, including the London Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestre philharmonique de Radio France, the Colorado and Dallas Symphony, Estonian, and Busan Philharmonic.

His discography includes more than 20 recordings on Bridge, Naxos, New World, and Sony Classical.

A proponent of the music of our time, Yoo has premiered 71 works by 38 composers and has toured extensively with the Metamorphosen Chamber Orchestra, which he founded.

Born in Tokyo and raised in Glastonbury, Connecticut, Yoo began his musical studies at age 3. He received his bachelor's degree from Harvard University. In 2021, Yoo received an honorary doctorate degree from Colorado College.

Evening Performance

Tuesday, March 24, 8:00 P.M.

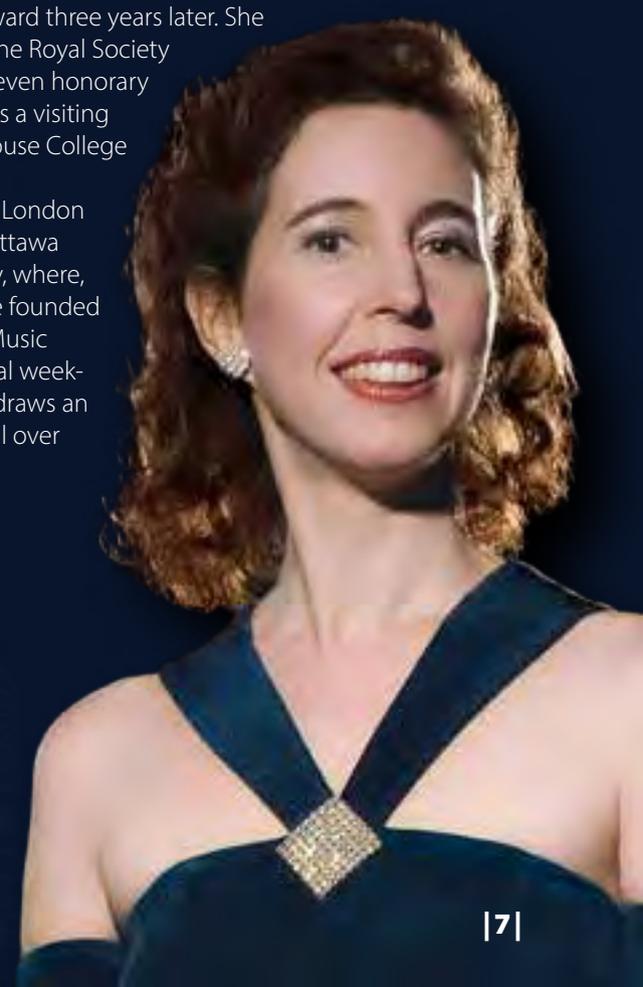
Angela Hewitt

Angela Hewitt occupies a unique position among today's leading pianists. With a wide-ranging repertoire and frequent appearances in recital and with major orchestras throughout Europe, the Americas, and Asia, she is also an award-winning recording artist whose performances of Bach have established her as one of the composer's foremost interpreters.

In March 2024, Hewitt embarked on her latest major project titled, "The Mozart Odyssey," comprising the composer's complete piano concertos. This follows Hewitt's highly acclaimed "Bach Odyssey" cycle, in which she performed the complete keyboard works of Bach across 12 recitals worldwide.

Hewitt began her piano studies at age 3, performing in public at 4 and winning her first scholarship a year later. She studied with Jean-Paul Sévilla at the University of Ottawa and, in 1985, won the Toronto International Bach Piano Competition, launching her career. In 2015, she received the highest honor from her native country, becoming a Companion of the Order of Canada; she received the Governor General's Lifetime Achievement Award three years later. She is a member of the Royal Society of Canada, has seven honorary doctorates, and is a visiting fellow of Peterhouse College in Cambridge.

Hewitt lives in London with homes in Ottawa and Umbria, Italy, where, 20 years ago, she founded the Trasimeno Music Festival, an annual week-long event that draws an audience from all over the world.



MASTER CLASSES

INTERMEDIATE PIANO
Sunday, March 22, 10:30 A.M.



Nancy O'Neill Breth

Nancy O'Neill Breth teaches piano and chamber music in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area.

Breth studied with musical giants such as Margaret Ott, György Sebök, János Starker, and Josef Gingold. Chamber music performance was her all-encompassing passion until her fascination with teaching drew her into a second career.

Breth's students excel in local, regional, and national piano and chamber music competitions, including four first-place wins in MTNA's Senior Duet Competition. Also appearing on NPR's *From the Top*, her students have entered the profession as university professors, conductors, performers, and neighborhood piano teachers.

Breth's publications on practicing, including *Practicing the Piano* and *The Piano Student's Guide to Effective Practicing*—both on Hal Leonard—have sold tens of thousands of copies in the U.S. and abroad. Online contributions include *Effective Practicing*, a dozen short demonstrations of “best-practice” practice tips, and her *Modern Piano Music List*, a clickable list of more than 200 20th- and 21st-century piano pieces, with links to performances and purchase sources.

Breth attributes a lot of her success to her longtime association with MTNA. She has given multiple presentations at MTNA conferences—just one example of the personal and professional interactions with teachers around the country that enrich her life.

ADVANCED PIANO
Tuesday, March 24, 9:15 A.M.



Alan Chow

Alan Chow has performed as a recitalist and concerto soloist in nearly all 50 states, as well as throughout Asia and Europe. Competition honors include winning first prizes at the Concert Artists Guild, the Palm Beach Invitational, and the UCLA International Piano Competitions, as well as the Silver Medal and Audience Favorite Prize at the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition.

Chow has given master classes throughout North America, Europe, and Asia, and is active as a juror for many piano competitions in the U.S., China, and Singapore. He has served as guest professor at the Central Conservatory in Beijing and the Shenyang Conservatory, and he has presented master classes for the conservatories in Shanghai, Chengdu, Wuhan, and Xian. He recently joined the faculty of the Yehudi Menuhin School in Qingdao, China, as visiting professor of piano.

Chow graduated co-valedictorian (with his brother) at the University of Maryland, where he was a student of Nelita True. At the Juilliard School, he studied with Sasha Gorodnitzki, and at Indiana University he was a student of Menahem Pressler. Chow is currently professor of piano and chair of the piano department at the Eastman School of Music.



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MTNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The following Board and committee meetings are held during the conference.
Please check with the respective chairs, as times and locations are subject to change.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

12:00 NOON–2:00 P.M.

**MTNA FOUNDATION FUND Development
Committee**
Old Town Room

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

11:00 A.M.–2:30 P.M.

Certification Commission
Old Town Room

12:00 NOON–2:00 P.M.

Membership Committee
Dupage Room

MONDAY, MARCH 23

8:00–9:00 A.M.

AMT Editorial Committee
Dupage Room

1:00–2:00 P.M.

**State Presidents
Advisory Council**
Chicago Ballroom G

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

8:00–9:00 A.M.

MTNA eJournal Editorial Committee
Old Town Room

8:00–10:00 A.M.

Competitions Committee
O'Hare Room

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

9:00–10:00 A.M.

Board of Directors
Old Town Room

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MTNA COMPETITIONS NATIONAL FINALS

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

Junior Performance Competitions

8:30 A.M.	Piano	Chicago Ballroom D
8:45 A.M.	String	Great America I/II
9:00 A.M.	Woodwind	Lincolnshire I/II

Chamber Music Performance Competitions

8:00 A.M.	Chamber Music String	Chicago Ballroom F
8:15 A.M.	Chamber Music Wind	Chicago Ballroom H

5:00–5:30 P.M.

**Announcement of Junior
Performance Competition Winners**
Chicago Ballroom AB

5:30–6:00 P.M.

**Announcement of Chamber Music
Performance Competitions Winners**
Chicago Ballroom AB

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

Senior Performance Competitions

8:15 A.M.	Woodwind	Lincolnshire I/II
8:30 A.M.	String	Great America I/II
8:45 A.M.	Piano	Chicago Ballroom D
9:00 A.M.	Brass	Chicago Ballroom F
9:15 A.M.	Piano Duet	Chicago Ballroom C
9:30 A.M.	Voice	Chicago Ballroom H

3:30 P.M.

Winners Concert

Chicago Ballroom D

National Winners of the:

- Junior Performance Competitions
- Chamber Music Performance Competitions
- Elementary/Junior Composition Competitions

5:00–6:00 P.M.

**Announcement of Senior Performance
Competition Winners**
Chicago Ballroom AB

MONDAY, MARCH 23

Young Artist Performance Competitions

8:00 A.M.	Piano	Grand Ballroom Salons I/II
8:15 A.M.	String	Great America I/II
8:30 A.M.	Woodwind	Lincolnshire I/II
8:45 A.M.	Brass	Chicago Ballroom F
10:00 A.M.	Voice	Chicago Ballroom H

3:30 P.M.

Winners Concert

Chicago Ballroom D

National Winners of the:

- Senior Performance Competitions
- Senior Composition Competition

5:00–6:00 P.M.

**Announcement of Young Artist
Performance Competition Winners**
Chicago Ballroom AB

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

8:00 A.M.–12:00 NOON

**MTNA—Stecher and Horowitz Two Piano
Competition**

Chicago Ballroom E

1:00 P.M.

**Announcement of the MTNA—Stecher and
Horowitz Two Piano Competition Winners**
Chicago Ballroom E

3:30 P.M.

Winners Concert

Grand Ballroom Salons I/II

National Winners of the:

- Young Artist Performance Competitions
- MTNA—Stecher and Horowitz Two Piano Competition
- Young Artist Composition Competition

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Dr. Helen Marlais

Dr. Helen Marlais, acclaimed pedagogue, International Classical Music Award nominee, exclusive writer for The FJH Music Company Inc, is pleased, and honored, to return once again to MTNA for an exciting FJH pedagogical showcase.

Dr. Kevin Olson

Dr. Kevin Olson is on the faculty at Utah State University, coordinating the Piano Performance & Pedagogy program and directing the nationally-recognized USU Youth Conservatory. He has been a writer for FJH Music Company Inc. since 1994, with over 200 published books and solos.



Mary Leaf

Originally from Minnesota, Mary Leaf received her music education degree from the University of Washington, is a member of NDMTA, MTNA, NFMC, the National Guild of Piano Teachers, and ASCAP. She has been an exclusive writer for The FJH Music Company Inc. since 1999.



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SATURDAY, MARCH 21



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

7:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M.

MTNA Registration
7th Floor Registration Area

8:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M.

Pedagogy Saturday

See pages 16–21 for the full schedule.
An additional fee is required in advance.

8:00 A.M.

**National Finals: MTNA Junior Performance Competitions
and Chamber Music Performance Competitions**

*See page 12 for the complete schedule or purchase a Competitions
Program Book at the MTNA Registration Desk.*

• Michael Dean, NCTM; Natalie Landowski, coordinators

5:00–5:30 P.M.

**Announcement of Junior
Performance Competitions Winners**
Chicago Ballroom AB

5:30–6:00 P.M.

**Announcement of Chamber Music Performance
Competitions Winners**
Chicago Ballroom AB

7:30 P.M.

Opening Session and Recital
Grand Ballroom Salons I/II

• Jane Monheit

9:00 P.M.

Opening Reception and MTNA Birthday Celebration
Grand Ballroom I/II Foyer



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PEDAGOGY SATURDAY

An additional fee is required in advance.

Pedagogy Saturday features five tracks: Artistry (page 16), Collaborative Performance (page 17), Musician Wellness (page 18), Recreational Music Making (page 19), and Representation & Advocacy (pages 20–21).

Attendees may choose to attend one track or mix and match sessions from various tracks.

ARTISTRY

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Teaching Intermediate Students but Were Afraid to Ask!

Ingrid Jacobson Clarfield, NCTM, chair

8:00–9:00 A.M.

Teaching Voicing: From Top to Bottom and Sometimes in the Middle Too!

Grand Ballroom Salons I/II

Schnabel said, “Voicing is the highest form of technique!” Join Ingrid in discovering exercises, efficient practice strategies, and repertoire to guide students towards artistic voicing. Sigrid Luther, NCTM, is guest artist.

- Ingrid Jacobson Clarfield, NCTM

9:15–10:15 A.M.

Creating Beautiful Tone

Grand Ballroom Salons I/II

Schnabel’s student Leon Fleisher once told a student, “If you can’t sing it, you can’t play it.” Singing is essential, but there’s more.

Scott will reveal the fundamentals of tone production at any tempo or dynamic level.

- Scott McBride Smith, NCTM

10:30–11:30 A.M.

What Makes It Great? Straight Talk from the Composer!

Grand Ballroom Salons I/II

For 40 years, Dennis has motivated and inspired countless students from late-elementary to early-advanced with his music that connects with the performer and the listener. Dennis will share his secrets to creating music that inspires artistic expression while building solid technique. Come hear the world premiere of his *Introduction and Toccata*.

- Dennis Alexander

11:30 A.M.–1:00 P.M.

Lunch On Your Own

1:00–2:00 P.M.

Targeting the WHY: How to Motivate Students to Play Artistically by Harnessing Creativity and Emotional Connection

Grand Ballroom Salons I/II

Composers use patterns and musical concepts to communicate emotion and story. Learn how to identify these concepts in music. Connect students creatively to the “why” of technique in a fun, organic, and relevant way.

- Chee-Hwa Tan, NCTM

2:15–3:15 P.M.

Intermediate Master Class

Grand Ballroom Salons I/II

While best known for his informative and entertaining lectures and advanced master classes, for this session, Peter will work his magic with intermediate-level students performing works from several different style periods.

- Peter Mack, NCTM

3:30–4:30 P.M.

Inspiring Your Students’ Creativity Using Video Game Music in Your Teaching!

Grand Ballroom Salons I/II

Discover how video game music can level up student engagement! Explore published video game sheet music from *Super Mario*, *Zelda*, *Final Fantasy*, *Minecraft*, and beyond! Includes performance suggestions, practice strategies, and technical and musical challenges.

- Martin Leung

4:30–5:00 P.M.

Final Q&A

Grand Ballroom Salons I/II

Join the day’s presenters as they come together for a final opportunity to answer your questions.

COLLABORATIVE PERFORMANCE

Making Music Together: The Power of Creative Connection

Tracy Cowden, NCTM, chair

8:00–9:00 A.M.

The Art of the Piano Duet: Inspiring Artistry and Joy Through Ensemble Experience

Los Angeles/Miami/Scottsdale Room

Making music with others can foster tremendous delight and skill! This workshop will explore the benefits of studying and performing piano duets, practical teaching, and rehearsal strategies, as well as essential works and resources.

- Christopher Fisher, NCTM;
- Katherine Fisher

9:15–10:15 A.M.

From Solo to Shared: Creating Imaginative Collaborative Experiences

Los Angeles/Miami/Scottsdale Room

Piano students of all ages thrive when solo playing becomes a shared experience. Learn step-by-step techniques for transforming traditional repertoire into collaborative opportunities that spark creativity, strengthen listening, and inspire deeper musical engagement.

- Carolyn True, NCTM

10:30–11:30 A.M.

Wordplay and Breathing Room: Partnering with the Voice

Los Angeles/Miami/Scottsdale Room

Every person speaks a language—more than one, for many of us. This session will explore ways we as pianists can connect human-to-human via language, in partnership with one singer or a choir full of them.

- Elvia Puccinelli

11:30 A.M.–1:00 P.M.

Lunch On Your Own

1:00–2:00 P.M.

Introducing the Steinway Philharmonic: Orchestral Reductions on the Piano

Los Angeles/Miami/Scottsdale Room

Collaborative pianists frequently perform orchestral scores adapted for piano. In this session, participants will learn to effectively approach, edit, and perform orchestral reductions, exploring scores from instrumental and operatic repertoire.

- Robert Hjelmstad; Richard Masters

2:15–3:15 P.M.

Who Leads? Who Follows? Effective Communication Between Musical Partners

Los Angeles/Miami/Scottsdale Room

Collaborative pianists become well versed in how their duo partners make music. This session will explore ways vocalists and instrumentalists can engage with how pianists play as well as how pianists can communicate their needs.

- Casey Robards

3:30–4:30 P.M.

Looking Back, Looking Forward: Collaborative Music and MTNA

Los Angeles/Miami/Scottsdale Room

Join these master teachers as they explore MTNA's key collaborative music initiatives and lead an open discussion on how the organization can better support members in fostering collaborative music-making in the future.

- Jenna Braaksma; Kevin T. Chance, NCTM;
- Janice Wenger

4:30–5:00 P.M.

The Curiosity Corner

Los Angeles/Miami/Scottsdale Room

Attendees can ask presenters follow-up questions from the day and offer new ideas that today's sessions have sparked. This is our chance to imagine how to make the shared experience of music-making even more magical!

- Tracy Cowden, NCTM; Elvia Puccinelli;
- Casey Robards; Carolyn True, NCTM

MUSICIAN WELLNESS

Ensuring Healthy Music-Making for a Lifetime: The Psychological and Physiological Challenges

Gail Berenson, NCTM, chair

8:00–9:00 A.M.

Rest and Practice as Partners: Learning the Benefits of How to Do Both Takes Skill for Them to Effectively Coexist

Denver/Houston/Kansas City Room

Musicians don't normally think of rest as part of practice. We will explore ways students can incorporate rest into their practice and how research has shown rest helps to replenish the body and brain.

- Gail Berenson, NCTM; Linda Cockey, NCTM; Charles Turon

9:15–10:15 A.M.

Seeing is Achieving: Uncovering the Hidden Vision Problems That May Impact Student Performance

Denver/Houston/Kansas City Room

Good vision is more than just 20/20! Optometrist Shane Foster will discuss common vision problems in children as well as the many "hidden" and often misdiagnosed vision disorders that may be affecting your students (or yourself!).

- Shane Foster

10:30–11:30 A.M.

The Importance of Postural Strength and Body Awareness in Injury Prevention for Performing Artists

Denver/Houston/Kansas City Room

A musician's body is an instrument and needs tuning and care. Having good form and posture means learning what the instrument and body needs. Essential core strength and stretches keep the instrument vital and balanced.

- Stephanie Davies Devlin; Thomas Jung

11:30 A.M.–1:00 P.M.

Lunch On Your Own

1:00–2:00 P.M.

Respect Your Ears: Hearing Wellness 101 for Music Teachers and Students

Denver/Houston/Kansas City Room

This lecture will discuss the anatomy and physiology of the hearing system, sound level measurements, preventative safe listening strategies, management of sound-induced hearing disorders, and tools for teaching your own students about hearing wellness.

- Michael Santucci; Shannon Switzer

2:15–3:15 P.M.

Modeling Joy in the Studio: The Positive Impact of Music Making on Cognitive Function and Health-related Quality of Life

Denver/Houston/Kansas City Room

Cognitive function improves when we study music, whether at age 6 or 66, and experiencing joy in music-making promotes the neuroplasticity that drives cognitive change. Are we modeling that joy for our students?

- Lois Svard, NCTM

3:30–4:30 P.M.

It's Not All Bad: Helping Students Build on the Positive Potential of Stress

Denver/Houston/Kansas City Room

Stress can affect many aspects of learning, practicing, and performing music. Through thoughtful guidance, teachers can help students not only avoid unhealthy impacts of stress but also tap its potential for greater growth and achievement.

- Gail Berenson, NCTM; Linda Cockey, NCTM; Charles Turon

4:30–5:00 P.M.

Q&A Wrap-Up and Important Takeaways

Denver/Houston/Kansas City Room

This session will bring all of our presenters together to answer your questions and highlight important takeaways.

RECREATIONAL MUSIC MAKING

Play, Connect, Create! Unlocking the Joy of Music-Making for All Ages

Rebecca Bellelo, NCTM; Emily Book McGree, NCTM, chairs

8:00–9:00 A.M.

Ready, Set, Group! A Beginner's Q&A **Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/Michigan State Room**

This interactive session invites questions from teachers exploring group instruction. Experienced panelists address practical and pedagogical considerations—curriculum design, pacing, classroom management, and student engagement—offering research-informed strategies for launching and refining successful group piano programs.

- Rebecca Bellelo, NCTM; Emily Book McGree, NCTM; Leah Drake; Marie Lee; Paul J. Myatt

9:15–10:15 A.M.

Is Your Off-the-Bench Working to Your Advantage? **Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/Michigan State Room**

Off-the-bench activities are your secret weapon for deepening understanding and boosting memory. Discover the critical elements that drive learning forward, engage the whole student, and support every type of learner in today's piano studio.

- Paul J. Myatt

10:30–11:30 A.M.

Beyond Word of Mouth: Smart Strategies for Recruitment and Retention **Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/Michigan State Room**

Discover practical ways to improve your studio's visibility, attract the right students, and boost retention. This session offers clear marketing strategies that support sustainable growth for both group and private music teachers.

- Sara Campbell; Marie Lee; Christina Whitlock, NCTM

11:30 A.M.–1:00 P.M.

Lunch On Your Own

1:00–2:00 P.M.

Paint the Blues: A Creative Framework for Group Improv **Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/Michigan State Room**

Explore a hands-on approach to teaching the 12-bar blues that builds creative confidence. Learn hands-on steps, tech tools, and group strategies that help students improvise, compose, and jam—no matter their age, level, or prior experience.

- Leila Viss

2:15–2:45 P.M.

Tuned In: Creative Group Ear Training for Beginner and Intermediate Pianists **Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/Michigan State Room**

Engage in a hands-on workshop featuring dynamic group ear training activities for beginner and intermediate students. Explore fresh pathways to ear-play through popular music for students who have primarily experienced notation-based instruction.

- Eden Esters Brown, NCTM

2:45–3:15 P.M.

Fun and Effective Sight-Reading Activities for the Group: A Live Demo **Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/Michigan State Room**

Experience engaging and effective sight-reading activities for students of all ages in this session. Doing these activities for just a few minutes during class improves individual sight playing and increases student satisfaction and lesson enjoyment.

- Pamela D. Pike, NCTM

3:30–4:00 P.M.

Engage and Explore: Providing a Rich Musical Environment in Small Group Preschool Piano Lessons **Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/Michigan State Room**

The engaging and explorative activities presented in this session include age-appropriate musicianship building, creative musical storytelling using performer controls, hand/finger games to develop technique, and a template to create your own piano board game.

- Hannah Mayo, NCTM

4:00–4:30 P.M.

Simple Skills, Big Impacts **Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/Michigan State Room**

Adult students are enthusiastic about their first lessons, which often fulfill a lifelong goal. As difficulty increases and time decreases, the excitement may wane. Come explore simple skills with big impacts to keep adults engaged.

- Ivan Hurd, NCTM

4:30–5:00 P.M.

Let's Play! **Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/Michigan State Room**

What better way to end the day than by making music together? Experience live demos of effective ensemble repertoire—including a newly commissioned piece by Mona Rejino—perfect for energizing group teaching and student connection.

- Rebecca Bellelo, NCTM; Emily Book McGree, NCTM

REPRESENTATION & ADVOCACY

Widening Our Apertures as Artists and Educators

Annie Jeng, chair

8:00–8:30 A.M.

Shake It Up: Teaching Students with Essential Tremor

Northwestern/Ohio State/Purdue/
Wisconsin Room

Essential tremor is an important issue often overlooked in academic spaces. Learn strategies to better collaborate with students with this neurological disorder and thus allow them to reach their full potential.

- Rebecca Rose McGuire

8:30–9:00 A.M.

One Size Does Not Fit All: The Benefits of Alternatively Sized Piano Keyboards

Northwestern/Ohio State/Purdue/
Wisconsin Room

Designed for large hands, the standard piano keyboard became widely adopted in the 1880s. This session will investigate how an alternatively sized piano keyboard optimizes performances, reduces risk for injury, and creates access for all pianists.

- Jess Johnson, NCTM

9:15–9:45 A.M.

Taking Diversity to the Digital Era: Empowering Colombian Composers Through Online Publishing

Northwestern/Ohio State/Purdue/
Wisconsin Room

The audience's ultimate question: Where can the scores be found? This presentation introduces a new digital platform for Colombian composers that addresses this matter, detailing development, costs, and structure. It aims to inspire culturally driven initiatives in music and technology.

- David Córdoba-Hernández; Natalie Vanegas-Escobar

9:45–10:15 A.M.

Sounding the Past, Shaping the Future Northwestern/Ohio State/Purdue/ Wisconsin Room

García Gil presents key initiatives she has led at the Cornell Center for Historical Keyboards, demonstrating how these instruments can serve as a catalyst for interdisciplinary collaboration, greater representation in music history, and broader public engagement.

- Patricia García Gil

10:30–11:30 A.M.

Cultural Appropriation in Classical Music: Understanding Its Contexts, Nuances, Repercussions, and Tools Toward Cultural Advocacy

Northwestern/Ohio State/Purdue/
Wisconsin Room

This presentation defines cultural appropriation in classical music, its nuances (alongside exoticism), and historical contexts from 17th-century to 2025, while also providing tools to edify performers, composers, and pedagogues on becoming true cultural advocates.

- Mikhail Johnson

11:30 A.M.–1:00 P.M.

Lunch On Your Own

1:00–2:00 P.M.

Advancing Pianists Through Newly Published Works by Black Composers Northwestern/Ohio State/Purdue/ Wisconsin Room

There are scholarly recordings by Black composers that all pedagogues must have at their fingertips to help their students understand style, interpretation, and musical language. Learn how to incorporate this music in your studio.

- Leah Claiborne; Ben Raznick

2:15–3:15 P.M.

From Silence to Song: Restoring Voice Through Trauma-Informed Pedagogy Northwestern/Ohio State/Purdue/ Wisconsin Room

This session examines trauma-informed pedagogy in the music studio, emphasizing how holistic approaches support the voice, agency, and self-regulation. The session will explore evidence-based strategies for fostering emotionally supportive, student-centered learning environments.

- Gloria Tham, NCTM

3:30–4:00 P.M.

The Stories We Tell: Planting the Seeds of Inclusion in our Pedagogy Northwestern/Ohio State/Purdue/ Wisconsin Room

Humans are predisposed to learning through stories. This presentation will survey the stories we tell through traditional pedagogy and offer practical strategies that can influence a studio's environment to reflect the stories of our world.

- Marceline Merrill

4:00–4:30 P.M.

Connecting Communities: Collaborations Between Community Organizations and Music Teachers to Diversify Music in Academia and Education

Northwestern/Ohio State/Purdue/Wisconsin Room

Patricio Molina shares how his partnerships with hip hop artists, the Mapuche indigenous community, Arabic musicians, and Dominican artists helped shape his projects and music education. Patricio will share strategies for honoring diverse cultural traditions while inspiring students with enriching curriculum and concerts.

- Patricio Molina

4:30–5:00 P.M.

Closing Performance: Music Share and Tell
Northwestern/Ohio State/Purdue/Wisconsin Room

Listen to closing remarks and performances of unique and diverse repertoire from presenters of the Representation & Advocacy track.

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SUNDAY, MARCH 22



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE SUNDAY

EXHIBITOR SHOWCASES

8:00–9:00 A.M.

Clefer

Digital Piano Pedagogy for More Effective Piano Practice at Home
Los Angeles/Miami/Scottsdale Room

We'll explore how Clefer helps keep your students engaged and motivated in the days between lessons. Through structured guidance and responsive feedback, practice stays aligned with the goals you set each week, supporting steady progress at home.

- Victoria van Laarhoven

Hal Leonard

From Scarlatti to Severance: Explore Hal Leonard's Newest Releases
Northwestern/Ohio State/Purdue/Wisconsin Room

Discover the latest educational and classical releases from Hal Leonard, including pop and video game duets, diverse piano solos by Black composers, a new edition of Scarlatti sonatas, and more!

- Leah Claiborne; Brendan Fox; Immanuela Gruenberg; Mona Rejino; Charmaine Siagian

Red Leaf Pianoworks

Sample and Save on New Piano Series & More from Red Leaf Pianoworks!
Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/Michigan State Room

Featuring four new multi-book piano series by Amy Stephens, Martha Hill Duncan, Wynn-Anne Rossi, John Burge, and Susan Griesdale: *'Round the Key Circle*, *Prehistoric Piano*, *Dance/Danse/Danza*, *Pianist's Guide to the Universe & 24 Preludes*.

- Martha Hill Duncan; Ayumi Okada; Amy Stephens, NCTM

Ultimate Music Theory

From Teaching to Thriving: Build Six-Figure Success with Theory Club Classes
Denver/Houston/Kansas City Room

Overworked and underpaid? Author Glory St. Germain reveals how Theory Club Classes solve income struggles, create six-figure success, and bring joy back to teaching—plus you'll receive a FREE Game Pack to engage your students!

- Glory St. Germain

7:00–8:00 A.M.

New Member/First-Time Attendee Breakfast

Chicago Ballroom E

7:30 A.M.–4:30 P.M.

MTNA Registration

7th Floor Registration Area

8:15 A.M.

National Finals: MTNA Senior Performance Competitions

See page 12 for a complete schedule or purchase a Competitions Program Book at the MTNA Registration Desk

- Adam Booher, NCTM, coordinator

9:00 A.M.–5:30 P.M.

Exhibit Hall

4th and 7th Floors

9:15–10:15 A.M.

Keynote Address

Grand Ballroom Salons I/II

- Scott Yoo

10:30–11:30 A.M.

Intermediate Piano Master Class

Grand Ballroom Salons I/II

- Nancy O'Neill Breth

The Keyboard Sonata in Spain
**Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/
 Michigan State Room**

A survey of the keyboard sonatas by Spanish composers from Soler to the present, analyzing the various challenges they faced. Illustrated by light analysis and performance of excerpts.

- José Ramón Méndez

SESSION FOR ALL

Money Talk with Music Teachers
Los Angeles/Miami/Scottsdale Room

How do we manage our finances as music teachers and musicians? What are some financial concerns for sole proprietors? What are the roadmaps for retirement, taxes, investment, and insurance? Financial foundation concepts will be discussed.

- Ellena Chen, NCTM

**Thomas Ediger Distinguished
 Composer of the Year Recital**
Denver/Houston/Kansas City Room

Hear the performance of *Spaces Real or Imagined* for clarinet and piano by 2025

Thomas Ediger Distinguished Composer of the Year, Benjamin Krause. This piece was selected from 32 works submitted by MTAs. Following the performance, you will hear a discussion of this piece and new music in general.

- Ann Rivers Witherspoon; Benjamin Krause

**What Happens When Students
 Co-Learn with Machines? Rethinking
 Piano Learning with the AI Generation**
**Northwestern/Ohio State/Purdue/
 Wisconsin Room**

As students turn to AI to think, create, and solve, piano teachers must adapt. This session redefines learning for the AI Generation, exploring how generative tools reshape student cognition.

- Lynn Worcester Jones

11:30 A.M.–1:00 P.M.

Exhibit Hall-Only Time

4th and 7th Floors

Use this time to explore the Exhibit Hall—without missing any sessions!

EXHIBITOR SHOWCASES

1:00–2:00 P.M.

Fons

**The Entrepreneurial Educator: How Intentional Studio
 Management Unlocks Your Best Teaching**
Northwestern/Ohio State/Purdue/Wisconsin Room

Discover how intentional studio management can elevate your teaching. Learn simple systems that protect your time, clarify expectations, and let artistry thrive. See real examples of how the Fons platform empowers independent educators.

- Eric Branner

Piano Safari

Piano Safari: The Journey Begins
Denver/Houston/Kansas City Room

The Piano Safari showcase will highlight pedagogical selections from our method as well as collections of supplemental music. Join us as we continue on our journey to provide high-quality, creative materials for piano students.

- Katherine Fisher

The Royal Conservatory of Music

A Home for Lifelong Music Learning
**Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/
 Michigan State Room**

Discover the full reach of The Royal Conservatory of Music, supporting musical growth from birth to retirement. Explore beyond the Certificate Program with initiatives like RCM Smart Start, teacher professional development, online courses, and advanced training opportunities. This inspiring community fosters lifelong opportunities for music learning, engagement, and excellence, creating a dynamic environment for teachers and students to thrive together.

- Carrie Campbell; Janet Lopinski, NCTM

2:15–3:15 P.M.

“Alexa, Fix My Rhythm!” AI Chatbots as Practice Coaches Northwestern/Ohio State/Purdue/ Wisconsin Room

To what extent can AI chatbots complement traditional piano tutoring? Come discover how these exciting new tools can be effectively used to help college piano majors solve problems and improve their practicing!

- Shiyi Zhu

Double the Hands, Double the Fun: Intimacy, Play, and East Asian Flair on One Piano

Chicago Ballroom AB

Discover the joy and intimacy of piano four-hands through three playful, imaginative works by East Asian composers—blending choreography, children’s games, and storytelling into a vibrant, global celebration of collaboration and creativity.

- Yi-Yang Chen, Fanya Lin

Efficiency Meets Artistry: Practical AI Tools for Piano Teachers

Los Angeles/Miami/Scottsdale Room

Discover how AI tools like ChatGPT can support piano teachers with lesson planning, repertoire selection, studio policies, and more—making daily tasks more efficient while freeing time to focus on musical connection and creativity.

- Aya Hagelthorn

SESSION FOR ALL

Empowering Parents: Best Practices to Support Pianistic Development, Anxiety Management, and a Lifelong Love for Music

Denver/Houston/Kansas City Room

This session explores how teachers can guide parents in supporting at-home practice and managing performance anxiety. Presenters will share research findings, practical strategies, and materials to foster collaborative, student-centered learning environments.

- Lesley McAllister, NCTM; Paola Savvidou

Rise, Shine, & Refine: The Ultimate Daily Technique Workout Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/ Michigan State Room

Discover a fresh, structured approach to developing piano technique through foundational exercises and ergonomic scale frameworks. Learn adaptable tools that empower pianists of all levels to rise, shine, and refine their technique every day.

- Janet Lopinski, NCTM; Stephen Pierce

Teaching Students with Neurodiversities and Unique Learning Needs: Your Questions Answered! Chicago Ballroom G

Six leaders in the piano teaching and special needs field will be available to answer audience questions and discuss issues related to studio management, teaching techniques, repertoire, and performance situations.

- Beth Bauer, NCTM; Olivia Colomaio, NCTM; Elizabeth Davis Everhart; Christopher Marella; Melissa Martiros; Scott Price, NCTM

3:30–3:50 P.M.

Building Community Through Sound: Sensory-Friendly Concerts Chicago Ballroom AB

DMA students at the University of Michigan present a Sensory-Friendly Piano Concert Series at Mott Children’s Hospital, sharing strategies, challenges, and the impact of creating inclusive performances for patients, families, and communities through accessible, multi-sensory music-making.

- University of Michigan Collegiate Chapter: Taeyoon Ahn; Lindsay (Yun) Li Bui; Elizabeth Low; Janna Peña; Pun Punyasavatsut; Ayunia Saputro; Rong Sui; Mira Walker

Music Across Borders: Curating Multicultural Concert Programs Los Angeles/Miami/Scottsdale Room

This presentation explores how to curate multicultural concert programs that introduce audiences to unfamiliar repertoire. It emphasizes the use of narrative and visual elements to create engaging, accessible experiences while showcasing global musical traditions.

- Po Sim Fanny Head, NCTM

SESSION FOR ALL

The One-Point Lesson: Self-Observation as a Tool for Teaching Growth Denver/Houston/Kansas City Room

Discover how recording and reflecting on short teaching clips—using the one-point lesson model—can help teachers refine their habits, grow with intention, and reconnect with their students through clearer, more responsive instruction.

- Aubrey Faith-Slaker, NCTM

Piano Teaching in the AI Age: A Future-Facing Survival Guide
Northwestern/Ohio State/Purdue/Wisconsin Room

This presentation discusses existing AI piano teaching programs, the value of human interaction in lessons, ways that AI can supplement traditional lessons, and how teachers can better market their lessons in this new era.

- University of Colorado-Boulder Collegiate Chapter: Warner Nunez Solano; James Morris; Victoria Paulino; Luca Pompilio; Ethan Stahl; Gregory Worthley

“Please Don’t Make Me Play:” Performance Anxiety Coping Strategies for the Group Piano Classroom
Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/Michigan State Room

This session presents group piano teachers with strategies to address performance anxiety among their students, including curriculum revision and integration of RMM principles. Practical applications to private and other lesson formats will also be discussed.

- Leonidas Lagrimas, NCTM; Curtis Pavey, NCTM

3:30–5:00 P.M.

Winners Concert: National Winners of the MTNA Chamber Music, Junior Performance, and Elementary and Junior Composition Competitions
Chicago Ballroom D

Competitions Sponsors:

- Alfred Music
- Allen I. McHose Scholarship Fund
- Chopin Foundation of the United States
- Ebony Music, Inc.
- Kawai America
- MTNA FOUNDATION FUND
- Margaret Roebke Ruccolo

4:10–4:30 P.M.

Advancing Opportunities: Incorporating Business and Performance into the Collegiate Chapter
Denver/Houston/Kansas City Room

MTNA collegiate chapter members from the University of Oregon share how they incorporate performance and pedagogy with business and administrative development, successfully hosting events at both local and state levels.

- Andrew Cannestra; Helen Nebeker; Yuet-Yang Siew

Expanding Community Music Education to Create a Music-Making and Music-Going Culture
Northwestern/Ohio State/Purdue/Wisconsin Room

Explore how The Gilmore Piano Lab programs have expanded inclusive, accessible music education. Learn about the program’s structure, impact, and outcomes—and how its scalable model can be adapted in other communities.

- Adam Schumaker

Press Play: Gamifying Your Students’ Practice
Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/Michigan State Room

In this presentation, MTNA@FSU will offer research-based approaches to “gamify” piano lessons. Gamification can make practicing fun through risk-free experimentation, social competition and cooperation, and achievable challenges.

- Florida State University Collegiate Chapter: Thadyn Du Pont; Kren Fernandes, NCTM; Emily Gilbertson; Mikayla Kreider; Gabriella Medeiros Dias; Gabriel De Freitas Silva; Lujie Wang; Jonathan Wetzker

Preventing Injury, Promoting Artistry: Rethinking Finger Exercises Through Cognitive Science
Chicago Ballroom AB

Recent research in music cognition offers new perspectives on piano technique development. This session focuses on how concepts like neuroplasticity, auditory-motor integration, and embodied cognition can inform modern approaches to finger exercises.

- Gregório Oliveira

We Share One Sky: Project-Based Learning in the Music Studio Builds Student Motivation, Competence, and Retention
Los Angeles/Miami/Scottsdale Room

Thematic projects and showcase recitals offer students a chance to acknowledge their concerns about world health, climate change, and underrepresentation. Let your students use music to tell profound stories, all while enriching their musical development.

- Penny Lazarus, NCTM

5:00–6:00 P.M.

Announcement of Senior Performance Competitions Winners
Chicago Ballroom AB

Division Meetings

Open to all interested conference attendees. These meetings are a time to celebrate successes, share challenges, and network with colleagues.

East Central Division

Northwestern/Ohio State/Purdue/Wisconsin Room

Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin

Eastern Division

Chicago Ballroom G

Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia

Northwest Division

Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/Michigan State Room

Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming

South Central Division

Los Angeles/Miami/Scottsdale Room

Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas

Southern Division

Chicago Ballroom E

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia

Southwest Division

Chicago Ballroom C

Arizona, California, Hawaii, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah

West Central Division

Denver/Houston/Kansas City Room

Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota

6:15–7:00 P.M.

Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Marvin Blickenstaff

Chicago Ballroom D

All are invited to this special program to honor the late Marvin Blickenstaff.

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MONDAY, MARCH 23



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE MONDAY

8:00 A.M.

National Finals: MTNA Young Artist Performance Competitions

See page 12 for a complete schedule or purchase a Competitions Program Book at the MTNA Registration Desk.

- Christina Wei-Yuh Xie, NCTM, coordinator

8:00 A.M.–4:30 P.M.

MTNA Registration 7th Floor Registration Area

9:00 A.M.–5:30 P.M.

Exhibit Hall 4th and 7th Floors

EXHIBITOR SHOWCASES

8:00–9:00 A.M.

Faber Piano Adventures

The “Grand” Adventure: Expanded Musical Offerings for the Intermediate Student

Northwestern/Ohio State/Purdue/Wisconsin Room

Learn about the new, exciting offerings for the intermediate-level student. A “grand” adventure awaits students and teachers as they explore new repertoire and interactive resources. Come join us!

- Randall Faber

The FJH Music Company, Inc.

Celebrate the Joy of Teaching with The FJH Music Company’s Fresh Creativity and Innovative Pedagogy

Los Angeles/Miami/Scottsdale Room

Celebrate MTNA’s 150th anniversary with FJH as we continue to teach the world to play! Helen Marlais, Kevin Olson, and more present a dynamic, collaborative musical experience honoring MTNA’s legacy of elevating teachers and inspiring students.

- Mary Leaf; Helen Marlais, NCTM; Kevin Olson

Piano Marvel

The Sight-Reading Study Results Are In!

Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/Michigan State Room

Surprising results reveal some shocking discoveries about how to teach sight-reading effectively. See the data from over 50 universities and how your students compare to the national sight-reading average. Learn what these universities discovered.

- Aaron Garner

9:15–10:15 A.M.

Can Every Student Be Taught to Play Musically?

Chicago Ballroom D

In this interactive presentation, Penelope Roskell demonstrates how to help all students play with creativity, understanding, and artistry. She will share imaginative exercises designed to improve sound quality, melodic shaping, phrasing, voicing, and rhythmic impulse.

- Penelope Roskell

From Bayan to Bench: Philippine Stories Through Piano Ensemble

**Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/
Michigan State Room**

Discover the vibrant world of Philippine four-hand and two-piano music through live performances and cultural insights. This session features works by Filipino composers that celebrate folk roots, national identity, and cross-cultural artistry.

- Charisse Baldoria; Paul Casiano; Alison Chiang; Lorenzo Medel; Alexis Faye Pal; Janna Peña; Ross Salvosa, NCTM

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL TRACK

The Many Hats of the Professional Musician: Powerful Strategies for Emerging Musical Leaders

Los Angeles/Miami/Scottsdale Room

Musicians juggle many responsibilities while building what is often a portfolio career. This interactive session explores the joys and challenges young professionals encounter and presents powerful yet practical strategies for finding meaning and creating impact.

- Christopher Fisher, NCTM

SESSION FOR ALL

"Modern Family:" How to Navigate Teaching in Today's Society

Chicago Ballroom AB

Discover effective strategies to support busy parents in guiding their children's piano practice. Enhance the student-teacher-parent triangle with innovative tools and foster lifelong musical engagement. Join us for practical insights and solutions!

- Diana Dumlavwalla, NCTM; Melody Morrison, NCTM

The Musical Sandbox: How a Playful Mindset Can Help Teachers Unlock Student Creativity

Denver/Houston/Kansas City Room

This session will explore how a playful mindset can lead to more mindful, vulnerable, and joyful practicing that cultivates awareness and openness to what we are hearing, feeling, seeing, and sensing.

- Jess Johnson, NCTM; Midori Koga

Technique and Artistry 2.0: You Can't Have One Without the Other

Northwestern/Ohio State/Purdue/Wisconsin Room

Through myriad musical examples, Catherine will discuss and demonstrate technique concepts that have helped students at all levels for decades. She will share important ideas that have evolved and crystallized through the journey of teaching.

- Catherine Rollin, NCTM

10:30–10:50 A.M.

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL TRACK
Crafting Innovative Performance Careers in the 21st Century

Los Angeles/Miami/Scottsdale Room

In this lightning-talk session, hear from young faculty and recent graduates who are creating innovative performance opportunities for themselves and fitting practice into their busy daily lives.

- Katherine Benson; Annie Jeng; David Mach; Mimi Zhang

Exploring Malaysia's Baba-Nyonya Music: A Culturally Authentic Approach to Teaching Musical Heritage

Denver/Houston/Kansas City Room

This presentation explores the musical heritage of the Baba-Nyonya community in Malaysia, highlighting key genres and offering a pedagogical approach to teaching diverse musical culture, fostering global awareness, and enhancing musical understanding.

- Chan Kiat Lim, NCTM; Siok Lian Tan, NCTM

Measuring What Matters: Creative and Reflective Assessment in the Piano Studio

Chicago Ballroom D

Explore creative, student-centered approaches to assessment that go beyond exams and competitions. Learn practical tools for measuring artistic growth, motivation, and individuality in the piano studio through reflection, portfolios, and project-based learning.

- Taylor Renee Glomb

Music is Better Together: Inspiring Young Musicians Through Group Fun

Chicago Ballroom AB

Discover imaginative group activities designed to spark joy and engagement, primarily for students aged 7–13. This session incorporates hands-on experience from Indiana University's Blossom Piano Camp to encourage collaboration, creativity, and musicianship in young learners.

- Euyjong Choi; Hyeseon Jin

SESSION FOR ALL

My Student Wrote a Piece! Wait—Now What Do I Do?

Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/Michigan State Room

Wish you were better equipped to handle this scenario? Red Leaf Pianoworks composers Martha Hill Duncan and Amy Stephens will guide you in fostering the art of composition in your studio—no prior experience necessary!

- Martha Hill Duncan; Amy Stephens, NCTM

SESSION FOR ALL

Trial and Error: Tips and Tricks Learned from a Decade of Growing a Multi-Teacher Studio

Northwestern/Ohio State/Purdue/Wisconsin Room

As teachers transition to running multi-teacher studios, they often lack the business skills necessary for success. We'll share practical tips for managing a growing studio from our experience expanding to a dozen teachers with more than 300 students.

- Julia L. Parker; Spring B. Seals, NCTM

11:10–11:30 A.M.

Alive! Piano Duets by Living Women Composers from Brazil and the USA

Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/Michigan State Room

This lecture-recital highlights piano duets by women composers from Brazil and the U.S., showcasing diverse, underrepresented works. We aim to inspire pianists to explore and perform this powerful, dynamic repertoire, fostering greater inclusion in classical music.

- Jéssica Pacheco Hjelmstad, NCTM

Beyond Bach: Teaching Counterpoint Through Matarrita's Costa Rican Inventions and Salmon's Jazz Up the Inventions

Denver/Houston/Kansas City Room

Learn valuable tools and resources for teaching counterpoint and baroque style through the use of the 15 Costa Rican Inventions by Manuel Matarrita and the "Jazz Up the Inventions" project by John Salmon.

- Jorge Briceño González

A Composer's Voice: Exploring Pedagogical and Virtuoso Compositions by Underrepresented Composers

Northwestern/Ohio State/Purdue/Wisconsin Room

One of the great joys in music is discovering a composer's voice. This presentation will explore works by underrepresented composers who have written for both the developing and virtuosic pianist, making connections about compositional style.

- Tiantian Liang, NCTM; Rebecca Pennington

SESSION FOR ALL

Engage, Inspire, Connect: Building a Vibrant Local Music Teachers' Organization

Chicago Ballroom AB

Learn practical strategies to strengthen connections within your local music teachers association. Discover engaging events, collaborative projects, and communication techniques that foster a supportive, vibrant professional community, enhancing both teacher growth and student success.

- René Wolthuis Johnson, NCTM

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL TRACK ***Got Research? Enhancing Your Career with Publications and Presentations***

Los Angeles/Miami/Scottsdale Room

Discover best practices for landing successful conference acceptances and article publications. Learn new strategies for maximizing your research effectiveness and developing your work from its early conceptual stages to finally sharing it with the world!

- J. P. Murphy, NCTM; Jenna Klein Young, NCTM

Let's Make Something Up!

Chicago Ballroom D

Don't be afraid of improvisation! Video examples and audience participation will inspire you to teach improvisation to any age and level, including blues, rock, modal, circus music, Halloween music, and more!

- Clinton Pratt, NCTM

11:30 A.M.–1:00 P.M.

Exhibit Hall-Only Time

4th and 7th Floors

Use this time to explore the Exhibit Hall—without missing any sessions!

11:30 A.M.–1:00 P.M.

Poster Sessions

5th Floor Lobby

See pages 40–41 for details.

1:00–2:00 P.M.

MTNA State Presidents Advisory Council (SPAC) Meeting

Chicago Ballroom G

The SPAC is designed to give state leaders the opportunity to discuss association issues and make recommendations for Board consideration.

EXHIBITOR SHOWCASES

1:00–2:00 P.M.

Alfred Music

Inspiring the Next Generation of Pianists with Alfred Music **Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/Michigan State Room**

Join Alfred Music as we unveil exciting new supplemental collections, showcase new digital resources that support our methods, and enjoy a live performance by Dennis Alexander of his new piano solo celebrating MTNA's 150th anniversary.

- Dennis Alexander; Brian Chung; Davis Dorrough, NCTM; Elizabeth Swift, NCTM

One Eye Publications

Resilient Voices: The Artistry of Women Composers Across Three Centuries

Los Angeles/Miami/Scottsdale Room

Discover new composers and expand your repertoire with music from underrepresented women composers spanning 300 years. Eleanor Gummer will highlight their artistry, resilience, and expressive depth that emerged despite societal barriers and limited opportunities.

- Eleanor Gummer

TimeWarp Technologies

Equipping Your Students with the Best Tools for Home Practice **Denver/Houston/Kansas City Room**

Every week you provide your students with excellent feedback during their lessons. Between lessons, students become their own instructors. Discover essential, interactive tools for learning at home! Ensure motivation and successful results.

- George Litterst

2:15–3:15 P.M.

Age of Content or Discontent? Exploring the Future of Content Creation for Music Education
Chicago Ballroom G

This session assembles a panel of creators who have launched online courses, built popular YouTube channels, and directed content creation for major music startups. Together, they'll consider where music education content is going next.

- Kate Boyd, NCTM; Ben Laude; Adam Maness; John J. Mortensen; Jeremy Siskind

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL TRACK

Blueprint for Success: Running a Thriving 21st-Century Studio
Los Angeles/Miami/Scottsdale Room

Join veteran teachers as they share strategies for building, managing, and sustaining a profitable studio. Discover best practices for marketing, scheduling, virtual teaching, and staying current in the ever-evolving music teaching profession.

- Amy Chaplin; Davis Dorrrough, NCTM

SESSION FOR ALL

Burnout Among University Music Faculty in the United States
Chicago Ballroom AB

The presenter will discuss findings from a study of burnout among 310 university music teachers across the United States, focusing on impacts and applications of this research for individuals and the institutions that employ them.

- Brenda Wristen, NCTM

Empowering Underserved Youth Through Music Education: A Community Music Program Led by an HBCU

Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/Michigan State Room

Discover how an HBCU-led community music program empowers underserved youth through group piano and choir classes—where college mentors and cultural connection come together in a dynamic service-learning model.

- Rosetta Dingle; Ka-Young Lee, NCTM

Keys to Inclusion Presents American Landscape

Northwestern/Ohio State/Purdue/Wisconsin Room

Join Keys to Inclusion as we share newly commissioned works from our *American Landscape* collection, advancing our mission to explore and create music that reimagines the piano canon.

- Brian Hsu, NCTM; Sun Min Kim; Daniel Pesca; Sarah Rhee; Sonya Schumann, NCTM; Susan Tang

“We’ve Come a Long Way, Baby?” A History of Women Pianists

Denver/Houston/Kansas City Room

Learn about the remarkable careers of women pianists throughout history, understanding the attitudes and aesthetics that have shaped the field and taking a current look at the prominence of women pianists in our discipline.

- Jennifer Hayghe

3:30–3:50 P.M.

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL TRACK

Find Your Forte: Building a Professional Identity and Niche

Los Angeles/Miami/Scottsdale Room

This interactive session guides emerging musicians to clarify their artistic identities, discover unique professional niches, and develop practical strategies for confidently communicating and aligning career opportunities with their authentic musical strengths.

- Susan Yang

Hats Off for Agnes Tyrrell: Recital/Competition Pieces by a Romantic Genius

Denver/Houston/Kansas City Room

Agnes Tyrrell (1846–1883) wrote brilliant, crowd-pleasing masterworks—Liszt was a fan!—and now her music is finally coming to light. Discover Tyrrell's *12 Concert Etudes* and some easier gems, while also seeing images of her manuscripts and world.

- Jocelyn Swigger

Igniting Passion: Repertoire as the Key to Sustaining Piano Interest in High School and Young Adult Students

Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/Michigan State Room

This presentation addresses maintaining piano enrollment among high school and non-major college students. This session proposes a pedagogical shift focusing on strategically selected piano repertoire to maintain student interest and foster lifelong engagement.

- Linda Li-Bleuel, NCTM

SESSION FOR ALL

The Optimal Theory: Optimizing Motor-Skill Learning and Performance for Musicians

Chicago Ballroom G

The Optimal Theory of Motor Learning explains that enhanced expectations, autonomy, motivation, and external focus of attention optimize motor-skill performance for music. Learn how to use these key factors to optimize your practice and performance.

- Amy M. Simpson

Setting the Stage for Duet Success: Pre-Ensemble Strategies for Young Pianists

Northwestern/Ohio State/Purdue/Wisconsin Room

Discover engaging, developmentally appropriate strategies to help young pianists build pre-ensemble skills. Explore creative ways to teach steady beat, rhythm, and ensemble coordination using Orff-inspired techniques, ostinati, and accompaniments—setting the stage for confident duet playing.

- Kay Lowry, NCTM

Strategies for Working with Students Who Rarely or Never Practice

Chicago Ballroom AB

This presentation will outline several strategies to work with students who rarely practice, to keep their lessons enjoyable and productive as opposed to frustrating and tedious!

- Benjamin Kapilow

3:30–5:00 P.M.

Winners Concert: National Winners of the MTNA Senior Performance and Composition Competitions

Chicago Ballroom D

Featuring winners of the MTNA Senior Performance Competitions

Competitions Sponsors:

- Chopin Foundation of the United States
- Ebony Music, Inc.
- Evelyn Lindblad Folland Endowment Fund
- MTNA FOUNDATION FUND
- Weekley & Arganbright
- Yamaha Corporation of America

4:05–4:25 P.M.

SESSION FOR ALL

Conducting Change: How Coaching Transformed My Leadership

Northwestern/Ohio State/Purdue/Wisconsin Room

Discover how leadership coaching transformed my journey from music teacher to leader. This session offers practical strategies to enhance communication skills, emotional intelligence, and strategic thinking—empowering you to lead with confidence.

- Meggie Young, NCTM

SESSION FOR ALL

Motivation Memos: Engaging Students Throughout the Week

Chicago Ballroom AB

Maintaining engagement with successful daily practice allows students to progress throughout the semester. This session explores how learning memos, games, and mini milestones can increase student self-efficacy, autonomy, and relatedness in the music studio.

- Pamela D. Pike, NCTM

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL TRACK

New Professionals Panel: Engaging Conversations, Real Answers!

Los Angeles/Miami/Scottsdale Room

Hear from new faculty and recent graduates who have launched successful professional careers. Come ask questions, be regaled with stories, and gather advice from emerging leaders in the field.

- Katherine Benson; David Mach; J. P. Murphy, NCTM; Hannah Roberts, NCTM; Susan Yang; Jenna Klein Young, NCTM; Mimi Zhang

Pedagogical Analysis of Selected Six-Hand Piano Repertoire

Denver/Houston/Kansas City Room

Delve into the musical world of unique Romantic-era six-hand piano selections through an engaging performance and interactive discussion about the benefits and pedagogical challenges of teaching and playing from this underrepresented repertoire.

- Amy Chen; Sidney Johnson; Caroline Rocha

The Pedagogy of György Sebök: Letting Go of the “Unnecessary”

Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/Michigan State Room

This session will explore the pedagogical principles of this distinguished Hungarian pedagogue to understand how his principles of physical economy and elegance extended from everyday life to the piano keyboard.

- David Cartledge, NCTM

SESSION FOR ALL

***Recalibrating Our Pedagogical
Compasses***

Chicago Ballroom G

Teaching styles swing around, reacting to what is and what came before, sometimes perpetuating old behaviors, sometimes rebelling. This presentation suggests that recalibrating to a compassionate and honest pedagogy helps teachers better serve their students.

- Arthur Campbell

4:30–5:30 P.M.

**MTNA Collegiate Member/Young
Professional Reception**

Kane/McHenry

Sponsored by The RCM Certificate Program

5:00–6:00 P.M.

**Announcement of Young Artist
Performance Competitions Winners**

Chicago Ballroom AB

6:00–7:00 P.M.

Pre-Gala Cocktail Reception
Grand Ballroom Salons I/II Foyer

Open to all attendees.

7:00 P.M.

MTNA Gala: Dinner and Recognitions
Grand Ballroom Salons I/II

MTNA FOUNDATION Fellows and members of the Legacy Society will be recognized at this gala event.

 *An additional fee is required in advance.*

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TUESDAY, MARCH 24



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

TUESDAY

8:00 A.M.

National Finals: MTNA—Stecher and Horowitz Two Piano Competition
Chicago Ballroom E

- Jacqueline Herbein, NCTM, coordinator

8:00 A.M.–3:00 P.M.

MTNA Registration
7th Floor Registration Area

9:00 A.M.–5:30 P.M.

Exhibit Hall
4th and 7th Floors

EXHIBITOR SHOWCASES

8:00–9:00 A.M.

Alfred Music

Alfred Music: The Joy of Discovering and Teaching Rare Recital Treasures: Lesser-Known Repertoire from All Style Periods
Los Angeles/Miami/Scottsdale

Discover lesser-known piano gems from every style period in *Rare Recital Treasures*, a dynamic three-book anthology celebrating diversity and artistry. Ingrid Jacobson Clarfield and Kevin Chance reveal how these works captivate students and dazzle audiences.

- Kevin T. Chance, NCTM; Ingrid Jacobson Clarfield, NCTM

eNovativePiano

Hidden Dimensions of Piano Technique: Exploring the Interplay of Movement, Sight, and Sound
Denver/Houston/Kansas City Room

This session explores piano technique through coordinated movement, keyboard visualization, and tonal awareness grounded in theoretical understanding. Through embodied, multisensory practice, students develop skills that are efficient, expressive, and deeply connected to musical meaning.

- Susanna Garcia, NCTM; Chan Kiat Lim, NCTM

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INSIGHTS & Piano Study: Connecting Performance, Pedagogy, and the Developing Mind
Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/Michigan State Room

INSIGHTS & Piano Study debuts at MTNA Chicago—years in development, grounded in current research. Designed for developing minds, it cultivates musical understanding, sound, artistry, and teacher growth from the beginning. Guest performances are featured.

- Tom Gerou; George Lopez; Gulimina Mahamuti; Evan Mitchell, NCTM; Scott Price, NCTM

Willis Music Company

Unleash the Dragons! Explore Willis Music's Newest Releases
Northwestern/Ohio State/Purdue/Wisconsin Room

Unleash your students' imagination with music that sparks excitement and enthusiasm. Join Jason and Glenda for this engaging showcase featuring dragons, Gillock, Ikeda, duets, and even some crowd rhythm exercises! Can't wait to see you!

- Glenda Austin; Jason Sifford, NCTM

9:15–10:15 A.M.

From Keys to Memory: Teaching Students to Memorize with Confidence
Los Angeles/Miami/Scottsdale Room

Learn how to guide beginner and intermediate piano students through the memorization process using practical strategies. Explore types of memory and tools that foster confident, independent musicianship and more effective, self-directed practice.

- Fanarelia Guerrero López

It Is Truly Never Too Late
Chicago Ballroom AB

For you, the teacher, and for them, the older adult piano students, the experience can be something that will change all of your lives. Let me share my last three years with you.

- Martha F. Hilley, NCTM

SESSION FOR ALL

Untangling Copyright: Navigating Legal Hurdles in Music Creation, Performance, and Promotion
Northwestern/Ohio State/Purdue/Wisconsin Room

Explore copyright's complex impact on musicians through case studies, legal insights, and real-world strategies. Panelists address barriers to promoting underrepresented composers and offer guidance on protecting, monetizing, and sharing creative work legally and effectively.

- Erin Bennett, NCTM; Angelin Chang; Chris Madden, NCTM; Alexandria Mueller; Sue Ruby, NCTM; Noreen Wenjen, NCTM

When Clapping and Counting Are Not Enough: Improving Rhythm Through Vocalization, Movement, and Rhythm Solfège

Denver/Houston/Kansas City Room

This session explores innovative approaches to improve rhythm through vocalization, movement, and rhythm solfège. Participants will learn how these approaches deepen rhythmic understanding, moving beyond clapping and counting to foster more intuitive, embodied rhythm skills.

- Hannah Mayo, NCTM; Joy Morin

9:15–10:45 A.M.

Advanced Piano Master Class
Grand Ballroom Salons I/II

- Alan Chow

10:30–10:50 A.M.

Creative Method for Teaching Pop-Chord Improvisation in Group Piano
Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/Michigan State Room

This session explores adaptable group piano activities that build pop-chord improvisation skills for non-piano majors. Emphasizing collaboration, creativity, and progressive exercises, the framework equips students with practical tools for teaching practicum, rehearsal, and application.

- University of Kansas Collegiate Chapter: Zhongyan Cao; Cassie Chen; Cindy Ting-Yu Lu; Nawaporn Ruangthap

From Ukraine with Love: Works for Piano Duet by Ukrainian Composers
Los Angeles/Miami/Scottsdale Room

The EStrella Piano Duo, comprised of Svetlana Belsky and Elena Doubovitskaya, performs and discusses works for piano duet, celebrating Ukrainian music and culture for all levels, from intermediate to virtuoso.

- EStrella Piano Duo

Memory and Music: Empowering Older Piano Students

Denver/Houston/Kansas City Room

This session details the story of one older adult student's personal quest to learn to play "by heart." This session focuses on a step-by-step process to help students with memorization using a variety of strategies.

- Amy Glennon

11:05–11:25 A.M.

America 250: Filling in the Gaps
Los Angeles/Miami/Scottsdale Room

In celebration of the United States' semiquincentennial, this session draws on a recital presented by the American Music Project and seeks to address significant gaps in standard programming by elevating the work of American composers.

- Emiko Edwards

Cultivating Self-Diagnosis: Goal-Oriented Video Review Strategies for Effective Music Practice

Denver/Houston/Kansas City Room

Explore how goal-oriented video reviews cultivate self-diagnosis in music practice, empowering students to critically assess and improve their performance through structured checklists and progress-tracking tools.

- Se-Hee Jin

SESSION FOR ALL

Finding Your Way by Discovering Your "Why"

Northwestern/Ohio State/Purdue/Wisconsin Room

Your "why" is defined as the deeper purpose behind what you do. This workshop uses tools from Simon Sinek's *Start with Why* to develop greater professional satisfaction, curb burnout, and better serve the whole student.

- Sarah Rushing, NCTM

“Here’s What I Got:” The Key to Honest Performance Feedback that Can Bring Music to Life

Chicago Ballroom AB

It’s fine to improve anyone’s performance by tweaking it this way or that, but meaningful feedback goes further. Did the music come to life as a human exchange? These simple words can take us there.

- William Westney

Melodies of Home: Cultural Inspirations in Piano Duet Repertoire Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/ Michigan State Room

This session explores how composers from China, Argentina, and Australia weave their cultural inspirations into piano duet repertoire, deepening appreciation for the distinct musical elements inspired by rich cultural legacies.

- University of Wisconsin-Madison Collegiate Chapter: Megan Angriawan; Dominik Cambeis; Carmen Julia Lemos Gonzalez; Yuxuan Li; Sung-Eun Ryu; Zac Wang; Kate Yanying Zhu

11:40 A.M.–12:00 NOON

Czerny Off the Beaten Path: Duets Rediscovered

Los Angeles/Miami/Scottsdale Room

Discover Carl Czerny’s overlooked four-hand masterpieces in this engaging lecture-recital exploring the polonaise, rondo, and variation forms. Includes live performances, historical context, and strategies for community engagement through rarely heard repertoire.

- Samuel Gingher, NCTM; Pei-I Wang, NCTM

Group Piano Class as a Tool for Advancing Student Well-Being: A Pilot Case Study from a Liberal Arts Institution

Northwestern/Ohio State/Purdue/ Wisconsin Room

This session presents a pilot group piano course integrating Recreational Music Making and well-being practices. Findings suggest increased student well-being, self-efficacy, and belonging—highlighting group piano’s potential as a holistic mental health intervention.

- Grace Xia Zhao

Unlocking South American Rhythms in Piano Repertoire

Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/ Michigan State Room

Discover the rich rhythmic language of South American piano music. This session demystifies traditional grooves from Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, and Colombia, offering practical tools for interpreting and teaching these rhythms with authenticity and confidence.

- UMKC Conservatory Collegiate Chapter: Grace Ho; Daniel Eduardo Corredor Silva; Naren Palomino Pardo

SESSION FOR ALL

A Winning Practice Technic from the Sports World: Visualization! **Chicago Ballroom AB**

Employing visualization alongside physical practice has long been recognized in the sports world for its superiority over physical practice alone. Along with audiation, visualization technics to augment practice and improve performance are discussed.

- Barbara Fast, NCTM

Women, Nationalism, and the Piano: Romantic-Era Composers in 19th-Century Brazil

Denver/Houston/Kansas City Room

This presentation explores how 19-century Brazilian women composers engaged with Romantic style and national identity through piano music, highlighting the overlooked contributions of Gonzaga, Bilhar, and Leonardo to Brazil’s musical and cultural history.

- Ísis Cardoso

12:00 NOON–1:00 P.M.

Exhibit Hall-Only Time

4th and 7th Floors

Use this time to explore the Exhibit Hall—without missing any sessions!

12:00 NOON–1:00 P.M.

Poster Sessions

5th Floor Lobby

See pages 40–41 for details.

1:00–2:00 P.M.

Announcement of the MTNA— Stecher and Horowitz Two Piano Competition Winners **Chicago Ballroom E**

Annual Business Meeting of the Association **Chicago Ballroom AB**

EXHIBITOR SHOWCASES

1:00–2:00 P.M.

Red Leaf Pianoworks

Branching Out with Red Leaf Pianoworks' Six Anthologies & More! Denver/Houston/Kansas City Room

A fast-paced tour of Red Leaf Pianoworks' six anthologies, representing 17 international composers: *Seedlings* for early readers; *Sprouts, Saplings, & Branches* for elem/intermediate; *Woodlands & Ancient Forests* for advanced. Guest composer appearances along the way!

- Martha Hill Duncan; Ayumi Okada; Amy Stephens, NCTM

The Royal Conservatory of Music

The RCM Certificate Program: Decoding the Evaluation Process Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/Michigan State Room

Join us for a look behind the scenes of The RCM Certificate Program exams. Discover how exams are conducted, gain clarity on the evaluation process, and learn how feedback aligns with student scores. Deepen your understanding of the examination process to enhance your student's preparation and support their success.

- Janet Lopinski, NCTM; Kent McWilliams, NCTM; Stephen Pierce

2:15–3:15 P.M.

SESSION FOR ALL

The Business Digest Game Show (with Questions You've Been Afraid to Ask) Northwestern/Ohio State/Purdue/ Wisconsin Room

Part game show, part Q&A, this "live" version of the MTNA *Business Digest* explores compelling business questions asked by independent teachers of all career stages. Predict what "the survey says ..." in a fun, informative format.

- Deborah H. How; Andrea Miller; Heather Smith, NCTM; Karen Thickstun, NCTM; Jennifer Walschap, NCTM

The Ensemble Edge: The Power of Chamber Music in Private Piano Education

Los Angeles/Miami/Scottsdale Room

Give your studio the edge! Multi-instrument chamber music fosters crucial collaborative skills and deeper musical understanding but is often not explored for young pianists! Enrich your students' learning through ensemble experiences, including repertoire recommendations!

- Karali Hunter, NCTM

From Noodle to Masterpiece: A Go-To Toolkit for Composing Great America I/II

What if creativity weren't a rare spark but a skill you could develop? In this interactive session, discover practical strategies, improvisation tools, and mindset shifts to help you and your students confidently improvise and compose.

- Leila Viss

It's All in the Wrist: Discovering its Magic for Technique and Artistry Denver/Houston/Kansas City Room

Nearly any physical or artistic objective at the keyboard requires complete command of the wrist. Come explore the technical precepts that will allow your students to unlock the magic of this most important joint!

- Evan Mitchell, NCTM

Motivation, Mindset, and Grit: Fostering a Culture of Excellence Chicago Balloom AB

This session will distill the significant body of motivation theory and research and will present robust strategies to foster a culture of excellence and inspire joyful and purposeful music making in your studios.

- Christopher Fisher, NCTM

Pop Star Pedagogy: Teaching Keyboard Skills to Songwriters and Music Producers
Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/
Michigan State Room

Do you have students who dream of producing beats, scoring for video games, or leading an indie band? Discover how to support students interested in music industry activities by rethinking familiar routines of piano instruction.

- Andy Villemez

3:30–4:30 P.M.

From Bench Time to Bottom Line: The Financial Power of Group Piano
Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/
Michigan State Room

Discover how group piano teaching can boost your income, reduce burnout, and grow your studio. Learn practical strategies in methodology, marketing, and mindset to confidently teach multiple students without sacrificing musical quality or connection.

- Paul J. Myatt; Debra Pérez

SESSION FOR ALL

From Injury to Insight: A Holistic Guide to Healing and Prevention
Denver/Houston/Kansas City Room

Injuries can derail musicians, but recovery is possible. This session offers science-based, compassionate strategies for healing, prevention, and resilience—drawing on more than 15 years retraining pianists and personal recovery to support long-term health and return to music.

- Benjamin Steinhardt

Like a Chef That Creates a Stupendous Meal, How Do Teachers Help Their Students Foster Artistic Personality at the Piano?

Los Angeles/Miami/Scottsdale Room

How does a student learn to play classical music with musicality, love for the music, and confidence? Helen Marlais will demonstrate 14 skills to nurture artistic personality, including listening, imagination, and reflection.

- Helen Marlais, NCTM

SESSION FOR ALL

Marketing 101 for Music Teachers: Attract Students, Stand Out, and Fill Your Studio with Confidence
Chicago Ballroom AB

If marketing your studio feels overwhelming, you're not alone. This session will make it simple. Learn how to define your value, attract the right students, and build a thriving studio—with strategies built for real teachers.

- Jonathan Roberts

Representation & Advocacy | We Have A Dream: The MTNA of the Future
Great America I/II

We envision an MTNA that empowers teachers to elevate their crafts and celebrates the diversity of career options for becoming an artist citizen. This open session provides members an opportunity to hear about potential initiatives and vision from the Vice President for Representation and Advocacy and Representation and Advocacy Committee members and their hopes for the future.

Tenacity, Perseverance, Grit: Nurturing Resiliency in Music Students
Northwestern/Ohio State/Purdue/
Wisconsin Room

In recent decades, resiliency has decreased among many students. This session will explore the causes, offer teaching strategies, and explore action steps that music teachers can incorporate in their teaching to nurture resiliency in students.

- Ann M. Gipson, NCTM

3:30–5:00 P.M.

Winners Concert: National Winners of the MTNA Young Artist Performance, Composition, and MTNA—Stecher and Horowitz Two Piano Competitions

Grand Ballroom Salons I/II

Featuring winners of the MTNA Young Artist Performance, Composition, and MTNA—Stecher and Horowitz Two Piano Competitions

Competitions Sponsors:

- Ebony Music, Inc.
- MTNA FOUNDATION FUND
- Melvin Stecher and Norman Horowitz
- Steinway & Sons

5:00–6:00 P.M.

Certification Reception
Chicago Ballroom E

8:00 P.M.

Piano Recital
Grand Ballroom Salons I/II

- Angela Hewitt

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Showcases:

**The Royal Conservatory of Music:
A Home for Lifelong Music Learning**

Sunday, March 22 1 PM - 2PM

Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/
Michigan State Room

**The RCM Certificate Program:
Decoding the Evaluation Process**

Tuesday, March 24 1 PM - 2 PM

Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/
Michigan State Room

Boost Your Credentials

Refine your techniques, explore innovative methods, and join a supportive community with one of our comprehensive RCM teacher courses:

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- Online Theory Study Guides
- Online Advanced History

Premium Publications

Fuel student progress with our expertly leveled repertoire, etudes, theory, and technical requirements. From beginner to virtuoso, our meticulously curated publications offer diverse musical selections you will both enjoy.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY

8:00–10:00 A.M.

MTNA Registration
7th Floor Registration Area

8:00–9:00 A.M.

Chicago 1920s: Musical Encounters with Gender and Race

Los Angeles/Miami/Scottsdale Room

Many early 20th-century women musicians have inextricable connections to Chicago. We'll look at Ruth Crawford Seeger, Florence Price, Margaret Bonds, Nora Holt, and Maude Roberts George, and examine their city and their struggles.

- Catherine Kautsky

Cooking from the Same Hot Pot: Building Stronger Communication in Musical Collaborations
Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/ Michigan State Room

Strategies and language for effective chamber music rehearsal, coaching, and performance, including impactful language and imagery, score shorthand notation, group warm-up and team-building exercises, and shared leadership/negotiation techniques are shown through musical and real-life examples.

- Jeffrey Savage, NCTM; Karen Hsiao Savage, NCTM

CPR: A Practical Guide to Saving and Building Communication with Neurodivergent Music Students
Northwestern/Ohio State/Purdue/ Wisconsin Room

Tara L. Mock will share her unique perspective as a piano instructor of neurodivergent students and as a parent of neurodivergent young adults to unravel common misunderstandings. Her daughter, Savannah Mock, will provide insight from a student's perspective.

- Savannah Mock; Tara L. Mock

Études to Études: From Czerny to Chopin
Chicago Ballroom AB

This presentation examines the effectiveness of Czerny's progressive studies in preparing the pianist for Chopin's concert études. Distinct topics in Chopin will be observed before discussing how Czerny can be studied under the same mindset.

- Alan Woo

9:15–10:15 A.M.

American Idioms at the Keyboard: Rediscovering Dello Joio, Muczynski, Thomson, Creston, Adler, and Griffes
Northwestern/Ohio State/Purdue/ Wisconsin Room

This session will explore the diverse American idioms in 20th-century piano music by Dello Joio, Muczynski, Thomson, Creston, Adler, and Griffes, offering unique repertoire and pedagogical insights to enhance technique, expression, and creativity in students.

- Vicente Della Tonia, Jr., NCTM

Jazz Without Fear: A Teaching Framework for Non-Jazz Musicians
Indiana/Iowa/Michigan/ Michigan State Room

For teachers who feel apprehensive about introducing students to jazz keyboard skills, this practical and flexible approach will help teach jazz improvisation to novice or advanced piano students through scale-based frameworks.

- Alex Heitlinger; Douglas Jurs

A Multisensory Approach to Teaching Music to Students with Disabilities: From Theory to Practice
Los Angeles/Miami/Scottsdale Room

This presentation will address considerations for how the sensory domains may interact to pose challenges to the acquisition of music learning. With simple accommodations, these experiences may be made more accessible for students with disabilities.

- Angela Guerriero

Say It in Five Notes or Less
Chicago Ballroom AB

In this session, various five-note pedagogical duets intended for student and teacher will be explored, focusing on the pedagogical merits of the pieces as well as their construction and musical value.

- Sujung Cho; Jacob Clark

10:30 A.M.–12:00 NOON

Awards Brunch
Grand Ballroom Salon I

 An additional fee is required in advance.



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CONFERENCE POSTER SESSIONS

Monday

11:30 A.M.–1:00 P.M.

5th Floor Lobby

Adapting Chinese Southwestern Folk Music to Cello: An Analysis and Performer's Guide to Chen Yi's Three Bagatelles from China West (for Cello and Piano)

- Yongqi Lao

AI in Music Teaching

- Catalina Arteaga; Gloria Chae, Kyle Cornelison; Aleksandra Julia Czerniecka; Svetlana Eminova; Brian Gao; Annika Jonson; Jessica Sutadjji; Elizabeth VanDam; Kaitlynn Yardley

AI in Piano Teaching: How ChatGPT Can Help with Lesson Planning

- Xiao Liang, NCTM; Huixian Wu, NCTM

Are You Ready to Play? Checkpoint Learning: Leveling-Up Piano Education with Video Game-Inspired Strategies

- Cody Davis; Katey Kidd; Hannah Ye

Beyond Professions: The Piano as a Lifelong Companion a Multiple Case Study of Adult Pianists

- Carla Salas-Ruiz, Molly Sanford

Beyond The Page ... Supporting Dyslexic Students in Piano: Through Rote, Improvisation, and IEP Strategies

- Danielle M. Whitman

Bridging Cultures: A Comparative Overview of Piano Pedagogy in the U.S., Korea, and Japan

- Chee Hyeon Choi, NCTM; Mayumi Kikuchi

Emerging Technology: Motion Capture for Enhanced Learning and Accessibility

- Karen Kan-Walsh; Lam Wong, NCTM

Expanding Teaching Possibilities: MIDI, Notation Software, and Looping in Music Education

- Barry Tan, Alexander Zhu

Tuesday

12:00 NOON–1:00 P.M.

5th Floor Lobby

Expanding Ukraine into the Piano Repertoire: The Music of Yakiv Stepovy

- Holden Meech

From Memory Lapse to Secure Memory: Structural Mapping & Matrix Diagramming for Piano Memorization

- Stephanie Lauwrencia Christianto, NCTM

From Touch to Technology: A Tactile Feedback Device as a Pedagogical Tool in Piano Education

- Miri Park

Get Your Reps In: Low-Cost, High-Impact Tools for Motivating Piano Practice

- Jessie Welsh, NCTM

Integrating Choctaw Heritage into the Piano Studio: Choctaw Animals for Piano by Charles Shadle

- Anna Dunbar, NCTM

Matching the Gen-Alpha Vibe: Utilizing Culturally Relevant Media for Teaching Gen-Alpha Students

- Kaitlyn Clawson-Cannestra; Henry James Mauser; Helen Nebeker

Music, Diversity, & Inclusion

- Genki Michael Kondo; Shinko Kondo; Anamarie Sabbagh

Neural Effects of Contrapuntal Versus Single-Melody Playing in a Novice Pianist Using Numerical Notation

- Ting Ting Goh, NCTM

Perfect Harmony: Healthy Habits for Music Teachers

- Leigh Amanda Papagno

Preschool Piano Teacher Training: Group Teaching for Creative Play

- Lingjun Hao; Lynn Worcester Jones; Yajiao Liang; Seohee Yang

Recoding Practice Habits with 3-3-3 method

- Yi Yun Chin; Chuan Choy

Resonances of Beijing Opera: Transforming Pihuang into Pianistic Sound

- Hong Yao

Supporting Every Student: Trauma-Informed Pedagogy in the Music Studio

- Christopher Harbeson-Borgelt

Teaching Improvisation in Group Piano Classes: Inclusive Strategies for Diverse Learners

- Lily Jiaxuan Wang

Teaching Piano with Mindfulness: A Pedagogical Model for Enhancing Focus and Reducing Anxiety

- Cassie Chen

Teaching Whole Body Piano Technique

- Alan Fraser

Threads in Motion: Minimalist Process as Feminine Expression in Selected Piano Works of Ann Southam

- Eva Nikolaidou

Three Generations of Piano Music by Three Female Ecuadorean Composers

- Erick Cabrera; Melissa Patino

Unlocking the Mysteries Behind Eye-Hand Coordination

- Grace Ho, NCTM

The Unmeasured Prelude: A Historical Approach to Improvisation, Aural Awareness, and Harmonic Fluency

- Devon Shifflett

Visual Gateways to Piano Music: Measuring the Promotional Impact of Visual Carriers on Contemporary Piano Compositions

- Jinnan Liu, NCTM

Who Stays and Who Leaves? Exploring Elementary-Aged Student Retention and Motivation in Piano

- Qi Zheng

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NATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

Dennis Alexander has more than 450 publications and recordings, earning him an international reputation as one of the world's most prolific and popular composers of educational piano music for students at all levels.



Rebecca C. Bellelo, PhD, NCTM, teaches piano to students of all ages in her multi-teacher studio, Piano Pathways, and piano pedagogy and group piano at Louisiana State University. She has presented research regionally and nationally and serves in state and local MTAs.



Emily Book McGree, DMA, NCTM, is head of piano pedagogy and the piano preparatory program at the Lamont School of Music in Denver. She teaches adult and child RMM classes and presents frequently on RMM programs and group teaching strategies.



Glenda Austin is an arranger, composer, pianist, and church musician from Joplin, Missouri. She enjoys walking, talking, accompanying for the local university, and doing Facebook Lives!



Erin K. Bennett, NCTM, is keyboard area coordinator at the University of North Florida. Her research into composer Irene Britton Smith has been funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Kate Boyd, NCTM, serves as professor of piano at Butler University. For 11 years, she served on the faculty of Interlochen Arts Camp. She is the creator of the YouTube channel "The Piano Prof."



Charisse Baldoria is a pianist, composer, and educator. She has won awards in international piano competitions, performed on five continents, and taught prize-winning students. She teaches piano and composition at Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania.



Katherine Benson serves as assistant professor of piano at Penn State and artistic director of The Paramount Chamber Players. She regularly gives performances and masterclasses nationally and internationally and is passionate about interdisciplinary collaboration.



Jenna Braaksma is assistant professor of collaborative piano and piano pedagogy at the University of Northern Colorado, where she teaches collaborative piano, piano pedagogy, and class piano. She is an active presenter, adjudicator, and collaborative pianist.



Beth Bauer, NCTM, is a pedagogy instructor at Wheaton College Conservatory. She is the founder of Beethoven's Buddies, a music program for students with developmental delays. She has presented at NCKP and MTNA.



Gail Berenson, NCTM, Ohio University professor emerita of piano and a renowned presenter on musicians' health, is past president of MTNA and recipient of the 2015 MTNA Distinguished Service Award and the Frances Clark Center's 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award.



Eric Branner is the founder of Fons and currently vice president of business development for private markets. A lifelong educator, he helps music teachers build sustainable, professional studios that support meaningful teaching and artistry.



Nancy O’Neill Breth

teaches piano and chamber music in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. She travels widely to interact with teachers and students around the country. Her videos and publications on practicing are in use worldwide.



Jorge Briceño González

is an active performer and teacher who is passionate about Latin American composers. An avid chamber musician, he teaches piano and music appreciation at the University of Costa Rica pre-college music program.



Eden Esters Brown, NCTM,

is a doctoral candidate in music education and piano pedagogy at Louisiana State University. Her research interests include piano education access and motivating pre-college piano students through culturally inclusive studio curricula.



Arthur Campbell has

decades of internationally recognized studio success. His career proves compassion and the pursuit of excellence can coexist, and that diverse backgrounds and interests strengthen creative practice.



Carrie Campbell is the

director of customer experience and events at the Royal Conservatory of Music and a member of the College of Examiners. She has a history of growing programs as both a teacher and music school administrator.



Sara Campbell is a coach for

independent music teachers who are tired of cookie-cutter business advice. She blends strategy, mindset, and a lot of honesty to help teachers build bold, sustainable studios.



Andrew Cannestra is

a pianist, composer, and chamber musician pursuing his DMA at the University of Oregon. His discography includes a release of works by Józef Wieniawski on the Naxos label in 2025.



Ísis Cardoso is a first-year

DMA candidate in piano pedagogy at the University of South Carolina, where she also serves as a teaching assistant. Her research focuses on Brazilian music and piano pedagogy.



David Cartledge, NCTM,

is professor of piano and director of graduate studies at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. He performs, gives master classes, serves as a juror, and presents at conferences.



Paul Casiano, a Filipino

pianist, is completing his DMA in piano performance and pedagogy at the University of Iowa. He is a staff pianist at Western Illinois University and teaches at Black Hawk College.



Kevin T. Chance, NCTM,

serves as associate professor of piano at the University of Alabama, where he chairs the Gloria Narramore Moody Piano Area. He holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music and Louisiana State University. He has performed throughout the United States and abroad and maintains an award-winning studio spanning the ages of 5 to doctoral candidates.



Angelín Chang is the first

American woman classical pianist to win a Grammy award. She serves as professor of music and law at Cleveland State University, where she is also coordinator of keyboard studies and advisor to the Entertainment & Sports Law Association.



Amy Chaplin supports

studio teachers through her *Piano Pantry* blog, podcast, and digital organization coaching. She holds a master’s in piano pedagogy from Ball State. Her Indiana-based piano studio has been thriving for 15 years.



Amy Chen received her

bachelor’s degree in music education from Capital Normal University. Eventually, she earned her master’s and doctoral degrees from Ball State University in piano performance, piano pedagogy, chamber music, and accompanying.



PRESENTERS

Ellena Chen, NCTM, enjoys dual careers in teaching and finance. As a financial professional, she serves clients' financial needs and hosts regular seminars to provide financial education to the public.



Yi-Yang Chen, a Taiwanese pianist and winner of the 2012 MTNA Young Artist Competition, is a Steinway artist and associate professor at the University of Kansas, performing and adjudicating internationally across four continents.



Alison Chiang, DMA (Eastman), has an international studio of more than 80 students, online and in-person. She serves on the piano faculty at the Eastman Community Music School (ECMS), where she also coordinates the ECMS World Campus program.



Sujung Cho, a pianist, is a native of Korea and holds her master's degree and DMA in piano performance from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. She joined the faculty of Lamar University in 2016 as an instructor of collaborative piano.



Euyjong Choi, a pianist, has dedicated her career to performing, educating, and accompanying. She loves to share her expertise at the MTNA conference and connect with music educators.



Alan Chow, professor of piano and chair of the piano department at the Eastman School of Music, holds a master's degree from the Juilliard School. He is a first-prize winner of several competitions and has presented master classes throughout the world.



Brian Chung has a diverse career that includes experience as a performer, composer, arranger, author, speaker, and 31 years as senior vice president of Kawai America Corporation.



Leah Claiborne, DMA, is assistant professor of music at the University of the District of Columbia. She is a pianist, scholar, and educator committed to diversity through performing, researching, and teaching piano music by Black composers worldwide.



Ingrid Jacobson Clarfield, NCTM, is a nationally recognized performer, clinician, and author who has presented workshops and master classes in 175 cities. She has written 29 books and is the recipient of numerous awards for her teaching.



Jacob Clark, a pianist, is currently serving as associate professor of piano at Lamar University. He frequently performs with his wife, Sujung Cho, as Duo Korusa and has recorded two duet CDs on the Centaur label.



Linda Cockey, DMA, NCTM, professor emerita at Salisbury University, is a frequent presenter on musicians' health issues. She taught a wellness course for 25 years and has served on national committees on the topic.



Olivia Colomaio, NCTM, directs the Center for Piano Studies at the University of South Carolina. While her research focuses on dyslexia and piano study, her inclusive studio welcomes learners of all neurotypes.



David Córdoba-Hernández, pianist, has performed across the Americas and Europe, including solo appearances with the Memphis Symphony and Eafit-Iberacademy Orchestra. Recent highlights include premiering Juan Cardona's *Piano Concerto No. 1*, coaching in Chile, and launching pianocolombia.com.



Tracy Cowden, NCTM, is associate professor of piano and chair of music in the School of Performing Arts at Virginia Tech. She holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music and Western Michigan University.



Stephanie Davies Devlin, occupational therapist, is dedicated to the unique needs of professional musicians. Owner of SD Rehab, she works with the Chicago Symphony and the New York Philharmonic on the treatment and prevention of injuries.



Vicente Della Tonia, Jr., NCTM, has performed across the Americas, Europe, and Asia. He currently teaches and coordinates keyboard studies at Georgia State University/Perimeter in Clarkston, Georgia, and is an active performer and educator.



Emiko Edwards, 2024 winner of The American Prize, is a staunch advocate for American music. Edwards' recent programming includes recitals presented by the National Museum of African American Music, American Music Project, and Lincoln Center.



Barbara Fast, NCTM, David Ross Boyd Professor Emeritus at the University of Oklahoma, is a frequent clinician on practicing and teaching group piano. She co-authored *iPractice: Technology in the 21st-Century Music Practice Room* (Oxford).



Rosetta Dingle is a music educator who specializes in the preparation of music teachers. Among others, her research activities include topics related to music integration. She also coordinates the music programs at South Carolina State University.



The EStrella Piano Duo, Elena Doubovitskaya and Svetlana Belsky, dazzles with virtuosic, profound performances. Critically acclaimed for their "astonishing" rapport and "tonal beauty," they captivate global audiences with beloved masterpieces and rare works.



Christopher Fisher, DMA, NCTM, professor of piano at the Ohio University School of Music, is internationally recognized as a pianist, teacher, author, composer, and workshop clinician.



Davis Dorrough, NCTM, is an author, teacher, and piano editor at Alfred Music. He is co-author of the *Easy Piano Lead Sheets and Chord Charts* series, created to help students master essential contemporary music skills.



Elizabeth Davis Everhart, DMA, specializes in teaching students with disabilities and is a frequent adjudicator and presenter. Davis Everhart runs a private studio, leads online pedagogy courses, and hosts the *Creative Piano Pedagogy Podcast*.



Katherine Fisher serves on the piano faculty of the Ohio University School of Music in Athens, Ohio, where she teaches applied piano and piano pedagogy. She is co-author of the internationally acclaimed method, *Piano Safari*.



Leah Drake is an independent studio owner in San Jose, California. She teaches primarily in groups with both same-level and multi-level formats and loves to incorporate technology into her teaching and business administration.



Randall Faber is the recipient of the Roland Lifetime Achievement Award in Education and a Steinway artist. With his wife, Nancy Faber, he is co-author of *Piano Adventures*, which received the MTNA-Frances Clark Keyboard Pedagogy Award.



Shane Foster, OD, is an optometrist from Athens, Ohio, who focuses on the connection between vision and learning. He is an advocate for children's vision issues, including increasing access to eye care for the underserved.



Diana Dumlavwalla, NCTM, is associate professor of piano pedagogy at Florida State University's College of Music. She serves as an examiner for the Royal Conservatory and has performed across three continents.



Aubrey Faith-Slaker, NCTM, is a Suzuki Piano Teacher Trainer and an international educator whose work focuses on creative pedagogy, teacher development, and fostering connection through music across cultures.



Brendan Fox is classical publications manager at Hal Leonard, based in Milwaukee. He has edited many publications, including a new edition of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, and is active as a pianist and writer.



PRESENTERS

Susanna Garcia, NCTM,

professor emerita at the University of Louisiana–Lafayette and co-author of eNovativePiano, is a 2025 Frances Clark Center Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, recognized for her contributions to piano pedagogy, performance, and multimedia teaching.



Samuel Gingher, DMA,

NCTM, serves as assistant professor of piano pedagogy at East Carolina University. His research interests include improvisation and unknown repertoire. His world-premiere recordings include Czerny's piano trios and four-hand piano fantasies (Naxos).



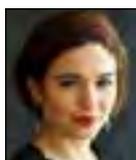
Fanarelia Guerrero López,

a Nicaraguan pianist and pedagogue, advocates for Latin American music. She teaches at Texas Woman's University, co-directs the North Texas International Piano Symposium, and serves as full-time faculty at the Centre for Musical Minds in Frisco, Texas.



Patricia García Gil is a

postdoctoral associate and artist in residence at Cornell University's Center for Historical Keyboards. An internationally acclaimed pianist and fortepianist, she performs, teaches, researches, and promotes underrepresented composers worldwide through inclusive, interdisciplinary artistry.



Ann M. Gipson, NCTM,

serves as associate professor of music and director of piano pedagogy studies at Texas Christian University. She previously served as MTNA president and received the 2018 MTNA Distinguished Service Award.



Angela Guerriero, PhD,

MT-BC, is a board-certified music therapist, director of Tempo! Music Therapy Services in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and professor of music education and music therapy at West Chester University of Pennsylvania.



Aaron Garner completed

his graduate studies in performance and pedagogy at the University of North Carolina and is CEO of Piano Marvel. He entertains audiences worldwide with topics such as teaching online, group teaching, student motivation, sight-reading, technique, and composition.



Amy Glennon is the

educational director at the New School for Music Study in Kingston, New Jersey. She is the co-author of the *Side by Side* elementary duet series. Her articles have appeared in *Clavier Companion*.



Eleanor Gummer, MM, is a

researcher of forgotten and underrepresented women composers. She is the CEO of One Eye Publications and is an active workshop clinician with a large teaching studio in Whitby, Ontario.



Tom Gerou is a composer, pianist, educator, and founder of TOMGEROUMUSIC.COM. Gerou creates pedagogically sound music across skill



levels. Recent series include *Novellas*, *In Style Romantique*, and *Duettinis*. He chairs NFM's Junior Composers Contest, advancing young composers nationwide.

Taylor Glomb, a first-year

DMA candidate in piano pedagogy at the University of South Carolina, is a performer, teacher, collaborative pianist, and church organist with degrees from Northern Arizona University and Drake University.



Aya Hagelthorn is a piano

pedagogy lecturer at the University of Michigan, integrating music technology and immersive learning in teaching, research, and performance. She also serves as director of class piano and coordinator of PPLP.



Immanuela Gruenberg,

DMA, Manhattan School of Music, is a pianist, teacher, lecturer, and editor who performs, presents, and teaches nationally and internationally. She has edited and recorded eight volumes for Hal Leonard and Boosey and Hawkes.



Jennifer Hayghe, a

pianist, is on the faculty at the University of Colorado Boulder and received her degrees from the Juilliard School. She is sought after as a soloist, collaborator, and teacher throughout North America, Europe, and Asia.



Po Sim Head, DMA, NCTM, is a pianist and researcher specializing in Latin American music. She performs internationally and is dedicated to connecting scholarship and performance through culturally informed programming and community engagement.



Alex Heitlinger, a band leader and educator, serves as assistant professor and director of jazz studies at Elon University in Burlington, North Carolina. His third album, *Slush Pump Truck Stop*, is available on Steeplechase Records.



Martha Hill Duncan, a composer, is known for her imaginative piano, vocal, and choral compositions. A founding member of Red Leaf Pianoworks, her latest projects include *The Pianist's Guide to the Universe* and *Prehistoric Piano*.



Martha Hilley, NCTM, retired from the University of Texas at Austin Butler School of Music in 2019 as professor emerita of group piano and pedagogy. In January 2023, she opened her first group studio in her home.



Robert Hjelmstad works as assistant teaching professor at the University of Colorado Boulder. He teaches piano literature, keyboard harmony, and applied piano and plays in the collaborative piano area. Hjelmstad also performs regularly as soloist and collaborator.



Deborah H. How, MBA, PhD, is a connection-builder and fundraising architect for nonprofit music organizations. She frequently presents on studio management and pedagogy topics and is a member of the MTNA Business Resource Network.



Brian Hsu, NCTM, is associate professor of piano at the University of Oregon. He frequently appears as a guest artist/teacher and jury member in various MTNA competitions.



Karali Hunter, NCTM, loves shoes, shopping, and the occasional piano practice session. Owner/founder of Hammer & Strings Conservatory and chamber group Salonnières, she does tons of admin work and has two children with her amazing husband.



Ivan Hurd, NCTM, is assistant professor of piano pedagogy at the University of Texas-San Antonio. His work has been featured at MTNA, GP3, NCKP, and CMS. He holds a DMA in piano performance-pedagogy from the University of Oklahoma.



Annie Jeng is associate professor of piano and piano pedagogy at UNC Greensboro. She is the founder of A Seat at the Piano (ASAP) and pianist of contemporary group Khemia Ensemble.



Hyeseon Jin, a pianist, is an adjunct professor at Anderson University and faculty member of Indiana University's Young Pianists Program and Blossom Piano Camp. Her career spans performance, competition, teaching, arts administration, and community engagement.



Se-Hee Jin is assistant professor of piano at Texas Tech University. She holds DMA and MM degrees in piano performance and literature, with a minor in music theory, from the Eastman School of Music.



Jess Johnson, NCTM, is praised for her "warm lyricism" and "eloquent advocacy" of contemporary music on her album *Sojourn*, featuring 21st-century works performed on the DS 5.5 keyboard. She is a professor of piano and pedagogy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Mikhail Johnson is a Jamaican pianist, composer, and consultant. An advocate for preserving cultural heritage and using privilege to serve underrepresented communities, Johnson holds degrees from Northern Caribbean, Bowling Green State, and Texas Tech Universities.



René Wolthuis Johnson, NCTM, is an active member of NVMTA and currently serves as recording secretary for VMTA. She has published articles on music education and presented at VMTA and MTNA conferences.



PRESENTERS

Sidney Johnson, MT-BC, graduated with a bachelor's degree in music therapy in 2022 and is earning a master's in piano pedagogy at Georgia State University. Johnson currently teaches a large private piano studio in Atlanta, Georgia.



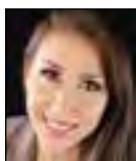
Catherine Kautsky, keyboard chair at the Lawrence Conservatory, has performed on six continents and is the author of *Debussy's Paris*. Her series of 24 lecture-recitals, "Great Piano Works Explained," was recently released by Great Courses.



Penny Lazarus, NCTM, runs a studio that has raised \$20,000 for music schools such as Rapa Nui on Easter Island, Lincoln Arts in Albania, the Hamilton-Garrett School for Preservation of Black Music in Boston, and the First Americans Music Camp in Oklahoma.



Lynn Worcester Jones, DMA, is a dedicated artist-educator and serves as associate professor of piano pedagogy and chair of secondary piano and piano pedagogy at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.



Sun Min Kim is associate professor of music (piano) at Denison University and artistic director of the Denison International Piano Competition. He holds BM, MM, and DMA degrees from the Eastman School of Music.



Mary Leaf, originally from Minnesota, received her music education degree from the University of Washington, is a member of NDMTA, MTNA, NFMC, the National Guild of Piano Teachers, and ASCAP. She has been an exclusive writer for The FJH Music Company Inc. since 1999.



Thomas Jung has a doctorate in physical therapy and is a violinist and violist. He joined the SD Rehab Team four years ago and leads the Performing Artists in Training Injury Prevention Programming.



Midori Koga has commissioned multiple new compositions as founding member of HAVEN. A passionate educator, she serves as director of graduate programs in piano pedagogy at the University of Toronto.



Ka-Young Lee, NCTM, is an assistant professor at South Carolina State University. Her research centers on inclusive music education and the works of underrepresented composers. She lives in Columbia, South Carolina, with her husband and two children.



Douglas Jurs serves as associate professor of piano and piano pedagogy at Elon University in Burlington, North Carolina, and as piano area chair of the North Carolina MTA.



Leonidas Lagrimas, NCTM, serves as associate professor of piano and piano pedagogy at Western Carolina University. He serves on the editorial committee of MTNA's magazine, *American Music Teacher*, and has taught public school music for 10 years.



Marie Lee is the owner of Musicality Schools in Nevada, author of *The Group Teaching Blueprint*, and co-producer of the GroupIlluminatED online conference. Lee has presented at MTNA and state conferences. Podcaster and blog guest writer, she is past president of the Nevada MTA.



Benjamin Kapilow is assistant professor at SUNY Cortland. He has published pieces with Alfred, Chorister's Guild, and Heritage Press, and has presented at NCKP and the Pennsylvania MTA conference.



Ben Laude is a concert pianist, music educator, podcaster, and video creator. He has created hundreds of video lessons and interviews with world-class pianists and is a recipient of a YouTube Silver Creator Award.



Martin Leung, acclaimed as “a brilliant pianist” (*The Times* of London), is internationally recognized as the pioneering Video Game Pianist, bridging gaming and classical music. He performs worldwide and teaches at Mt. San Antonio College.



Linda Li-Bleuel, NCTM, is a professor of music in the department of performing arts at Clemson University, where she teaches applied and collaborative piano and music history. She maintains an active solo and chamber music career.



Tiantian Liang, NCTM, maintains a career as a pianist, harpsichordist, organist, and teacher. She currently serves as assistant teaching professor of piano pedagogy and class piano at Northern Arizona University.



Chan Kiat Lim, NCTM, is distinguished professor of piano at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette and co-author of *eNovativePiano*. He is a recipient of the Louisiana MTA Outstanding Teacher Award and the MTNA *American Music Teacher* Article of the Year Award.



Fanya Lin is a Steinway artist and associate professor of practice in piano at the University of Arizona. Her concerto album *Rhapsodic* with the Lublin Philharmonic was selected as *textura's* “2024 Top 20 Classical Picks.”



George Litterst is a nationally known music educator, clinician, author, performer, and music software developer. A classically trained pianist, he is co-author of the intelligent music display app, SuperScore, and other software products from TimeWarp Technologies.



George Lopez, Beckwith Artist-in-Residence at Bowdoin College and half of DuoMundi, is a dynamic performer, sought-after pedagogue, and lecturer of more than 30 years, praised by the *Los Angeles Times* for “kaleidoscopic colors and clarity.”



Janet Lopinski, NCTM, has enjoyed a multifaceted career as a pianist, teacher, adjudicator, clinician, and author. As a passionate advocate for music education, she has inspired and mentored students and teachers across North America.



Kay Lowry, NCTM, a seasoned music educator and pianist, draws on decades of teaching experience to help young musicians develop ensemble skills. Her background includes public school instruction, choral directing, private teaching, and MTA leadership.



Sigrid Luther, DMA, NCTM, is professor emerita at Bryan College. She is active as a collaborative pianist and was named an MTNA FOUNDATION Fellow. Luther is a former MTNA senior competitions coordinator as well as national vice president.



David Antonio Mach serves as director of music at St. Anastasia Catholic Church in St. Augustine, Florida. He has received prizes internationally as a soloist and chamber musician and has presented at CMS, MTNA, NCKP, and GP3.



Peter Mack, NCTM, was born in Dublin, Ireland, and now calls Seattle, Washington, home. Winner of several international piano competitions, he is in high demand as a performer, teacher, adjudicator, conference artist, and clinician.



Chris Madden, NCTM, is assistant professor of piano pedagogy at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory. He is co-author of *Technique through Repertoire* and editor of the forthcoming *Cambridge Companion to Piano Pedagogy*.



Gulimina Mahamuti concertizes across the United States, China, Europe, and Central and South America as half of DuoMundi. She teaches at Bowdoin College and presents frequently at MTNA, NCKP, and EPTA conferences.



Adam Maness is the managing director of Open Studio, developing the curriculum for all courses in addition to teaching his own popular courses such as The Harmony Games, Magic Voicing System, and more.



PRESENTERS

Christopher Marella is a parent and advocate who has spent more than 19 years supporting his son, who has autism. Now in college, his son's journey inspires Marella to share experiences, offer support, and connect with others navigating the autism spectrum.



Helen Marlais, NCTM, teaches piano in a joy-filled, practical way. She has given hundreds of presentations and master classes and has created more than 200 books to support piano teachers as they guide their students.



Melissa Martiros, DMA, EdD, is a pianist, educator, and founder of OpporTUNEity, a community-based nonprofit dedicated to dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline through music. Holding an MS in special education, she is a sought-after consultant in special needs music education.



Richard Masters is an associate professor of piano and collaborative piano at Virginia Tech. His research focuses on recordings, opera, piano music, and pedagogy.



Hannah Mayo, NCTM, holds music degrees from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and is an independent piano teacher, a piano faculty member of the Gordon Institute for Music learning, and co-host of the *Keys to Music Learning* podcast.



Lesley McAllister, DMA, NCTM, is professor of piano and director of keyboard studies at Baylor University. Winner of two MTNA Article of the Year Awards, she is author of two books, *The Balanced Musician* and *Yoga in the Music Studio*.



Rebecca McGuire is a DMA student at the University of Memphis, studying with Artina McCain. She is the president of UofM's MTNA collegiate chapter and is passionate about the local music scene.



Kent McWilliams, NCTM, the senior piano specialist for the Royal Conservatory of Music, recently joined the Main Street Chamber Players in Fairfax, Virginia. Previously, he served as professor of piano at St. Olaf College and director of the School of Music at Kent State University.



Lorenzo Medel, DMA (Eastman), is chair and piano faculty at the Eastman Community Music School. A native of the Philippines, he actively supports Filipino music by performing Filipino works in concerts and lectures.



José Ramón Méndez is a Spanish-American pianist. Former faculty at UT Austin, NYU, Penn State University, Northwestern University, and Northern Arizona University, he is now a piano professor at Oberlin Conservatory of Music.



Marceline Merrill is a performing artist and pedagogue based in Boston. She specializes in the mechanics of playing piano, tone production and colors, uplifting under represented voices, and removing financial barriers for students of music.



Andrea Miller is the piano teacher and entrepreneur behind the *Music Studio Startup* podcast and blog. She talks about all things business and coaches musicians who want to build financially sustainable studios.



Evan Mitchell, NCTM, a Steinway artist and concert pianist, is acclaimed for performances notably at Steinway Hall and Carnegie Hall. At TOMGEROUMUSIC.COM, he brings historical insight as editor of five titles in the Etude Editions Series.



Savannah Mock enjoys advocating for neurodivergent students like her. She co-presents to various groups about what learning is like from the perspective of students with disabilities as well as life with a service dog.



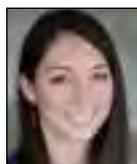
Tara Mock has been teaching for 30 years and owns an independent piano studio in Raleigh, North Carolina. She earned a master's degree in piano pedagogy from the University of South Carolina (2001).



Patricio Molina, acclaimed by *The New York Times*, is a Yamaha artist, composer, and educator with a double doctorate. He currently serves as senior director at NJPAC and founder of the Pan-Global Music Initiative.



Joy Morin is a teacher, pianist, speaker, composer, and lifelong learner based near Ann Arbor, Michigan. She hosts Retreat at Piano Manor, a three-day getaway for growth-minded piano teachers, and writes at ColorInMyPiano.com.



Melody Morrison, PhD, NCTM, is an independent piano teacher and serves as vice president for membership for the Florida State MTA. She enjoys teaching students of all ages and explores jazz, classical, and pop music in her virtual/in-person studios.



John Mortensen is one of the world's leading experts on historic improvisation, having authored *Improvising Fugue* and *The Pianist's Guide to Historic Improvisation*. He teaches at Cedarville University and the Curtis Institute.



Alexandria Mueller is the "composer at law." Mueller's legal practice focuses on entertainment law, particularly matters related to copyright, and she has extensive experience presenting on legal topics in the music industry.



J. P. Murphy, DMA, NCTM, is assistant professor of piano and piano pedagogy at the University of Oklahoma, where he teaches applied piano and graduate piano pedagogy.



Paul J. Myatt is a passionate piano teacher, author, and presenter. He cofounded the worldwide network of Forte Music Schools & Teachers (established in 1994), Whole Body Learning, and Piano Teaching Success. He is completing a PhD.



Helen Nebeker is a pianist and teacher studying at the University of Oregon (DMA), with previous degrees from the Manhattan School of Music (MM) and the Cleveland Institute of Music (BM).



Ayumi Okada is a New York-based composer, pianist, and educator originally from Kyoto, Japan. Since joining Red Leaf Pianoworks in 2024, she has contributed three collections to the collective's catalog—with more underway.



Gregório Oliveira is a DMA candidate in piano performance at the University of Southern Mississippi and is a graduate of Georgia State University and the University of São Paulo.



Kevin Olson is on the faculty at Utah State University, coordinating the piano performance and pedagogy program and directing the nationally recognized USU Youth Conservatory. He has been a writer for The FJH Music Company Inc. since 1994, with more than 200 published books and solos.



Jéssica Pacheco Hjelmstad, NCTM, is an active piano teacher with a studio in Northern Colorado, as well as a chamber music collaborator, presenter, and adjudicator. During the summer, she is a collaborative pianist for the Sphinx Academy at CU Boulder.



Alexis Faye Bermas Pal holds a master's degree in piano pedagogy from Western Illinois University and is pursuing a second master's degree in performance at Illinois State University, where she teaches group piano and accompanies musical theatre.



Julia Parker is the owner and director of Parker Piano, where she teaches full-time while managing and collaborating with 12 other instructors. She received her BM and MM degrees in piano from Texas Christian University.



Curtis Pavey, NCTM, assistant professor of piano pedagogy and performance at the University of Missouri, is a pianist, harpsichordist, and educator. He also serves on the staff of the Frances Clark Center.



PRESENTERS

Janna Peña, a Filipina pianist and teacher, champions Philippine repertoire and inclusive pedagogy. A DMA student at the University of Michigan, she has performed and presented internationally, with teaching experience across the U.S. and the Philippines.



Pamela D. Pike, NCTM, is the Spillman Professor of Piano Pedagogy and research dean as well as a top teaching and research award winner at Louisiana State University. A sought-after speaker, her published books include *Dynamic Group-Piano Teaching* and *The Adult Music Student*.



Mona Rejino is a pianist, composer, arranger, and educator dedicated to inspiring lifelong musicianship. Co-author of the Hal Leonard Student Piano Library, she has presented workshops nationwide and composed acclaimed works for students and professionals.



Rebecca Mergen Pennington serves as the administrative director of the New School for Music Study. She holds a doctorate from the University of Kansas, where she studied with Jack Winerock.



Clinton Pratt, NCTM, owns a multi-teacher piano studio in Cincinnati, Ohio. He is an RCM examiner, serves on several boards and committees, and has presented more than 40 teacher workshops at local, state, and national conferences.



Sarah Rhee, Canadian-Korean pianist, is on the faculty at Nazareth University and serves as president of the Rochester Piano Teacher Guild. She holds degrees from Eastman and Julliard.



Debra Pérez is a creative entrepreneur who develops and distributes group piano curriculum, offers mentoring to new teachers, has built two multi-teacher schools, provides summer group piano training, and enjoys sharing her love of music with her students.



Scott Price, NCTM, the Carolina Distinguished Professor at the University of South Carolina, is a leader in piano pedagogy and inclusive education, author of *Autism & Piano Study*, founder of the Carolina LifeSong Initiative, and an acclaimed composer-clinician.



Casey Robards, a Korean-American adoptee, is a pianist, music director/conductor, vocal coach, and pedagogue at home in chamber music, opera, art song, and musical theatre. Robards serves on the faculty at the University of Illinois.



Daniel Pesca, a pianist-composer, is assistant professor of composition at the Eastman School of Music. He has premiered over 150 works and appears on 17 commercial recordings, including a solo album, *Promontory*.



Elvia Puccinelli serves on the collaborative piano faculty at the University of North Texas College of Music and the vocal coaching faculty of AIMS in Graz, Austria. She also coaches as part of the OperaWorks program in Los Angeles.



Hannah Roberts, DMA, NCTM, serves as assistant professor of piano at the University of Alabama. She holds a DMA degree from the University of Oklahoma and is an advocate for the music of forgotten female composers.



Stephen Pierce teaches piano at the University of Southern California, serves as an RCM Academic Ambassador, and maintains a private studio in Pasadena. He has presented at GP3, NCKP, and the MTNA National Conference.



Ben Raznick is past president of Denver Area MTA and vice president for teacher enrichment for the Colorado State MTA. He is a four-time recipient of Steinway & Sons Top Music Teacher Award.



Jonathan Roberts is the owner of the South Shore Piano School in Quincy, Massachusetts, serving more than 400 students with 13 faculty members. He is also immediate past-president of the Massachusetts MTA.



Caroline Rocha holds a master of music in piano pedagogy and a bachelor of music in piano performance. She teaches at Musik21 and the Atlanta International School and has presented research at NCKP, Piano Inspires Collegiate Conference, and the Ohio University Piano Pedagogy Seminar



Catherine Rollin, NCTM, is a pianist, composer, clinician, author, and dedicated teacher of prize-winning students. Rollin has presented master classes and workshops internationally. Her 450 works are published with Alfred Music and Catherine Rollin Music.



Penelope Roskell is professor at Trinity Laban Conservatoire in London and author of award-winning *The Complete Pianist* and *Essential Piano Technique*. She is chair of the European Piano Teachers Association and a world leader in injury prevention.



Sue Ruby, NCTM, co-owns K&S Conservatory of Music and teaches at MacPhail Center for Music in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She has published several piano music anthologies focusing on the women that music history forgot.



Sarah Rushing, NCTM, is assistant professor of piano at West Texas A&M University, where she teaches piano and piano pedagogy. She also co-directs the Grace Hamilton Piano Festival and co-coordinates the WT Music Academy.



Ross Salvosa, NCTM, is an accomplished pianist and dedicated educator, and president/CEO of Concordia Arts & Music Academy in Tukwila, Washington. He is also on the piano faculty at the Interlochen Summer Arts Camp and served as lecturer of piano performance and piano pedagogy at Central Washington University.



Michael Santucci is the founder of Sensaphonics, a hybrid musicians hearing clinic and in-ear monitor laboratory headquartered in Chicago. He is a member of the World Health Organization's Make Listening Safe Initiative.



Jeffrey Savage, NCTM, a faculty member at the UMKC Conservatory, holds DMA and MM degrees from Juilliard and has performed internationally. His duo has premiered and recorded two-piano works by Lowell Liebermann and other internationally known composers.



Karen Hsiao Savage, NCTM, holds a DMA and two master's degrees from Juilliard. She is professor of collaborative piano and coordinator of chamber music at the UMKC Conservatory. Her duo, 88SQUARED, won the Ellis Competition.



Paola Savvidou, DMA, is wellness program manager and lecturer at the University of Michigan. Author of *Teaching the Whole Musician*, Savvidou has also won the MTNA Article of the Year award three times.



Adam Schumaker is an arts leader, composer, and educator dedicated to inclusive music education, team development, and sustainable arts careers. He currently serves as director of education at the Gilmore Piano Festival.



Sonya Schumann, NCTM, teaches at San Diego State University and coordinates the SDSU Piano Academy. She proudly serves in leadership positions for nonprofit organizations such as AmateurPianists, CAPMT, and the Concert Truck.



Spring B. Seals, NCTM, teaches at Parker Piano Studios in Fort Worth, Texas, and is past president of the Fort Worth MTA. She received an MM degree in piano pedagogy from Texas Christian University.



Charmaine Siagian is originally from Sabah, Malaysia, but currently calls Milwaukee home. She is editor of educational piano at Hal Leonard.



Yuet-Yang Siew, originally from Malaysia, is currently pursuing a DMA in piano performance at the University of Oregon. Alongside his responsibilities as a graduate employee, he maintains a private studio of approximately 25 students.



PRESENTERS

Jason Sifford, NCTM, lives in Iowa City, where he teaches a wonderful group of devoted students, performs regularly with immensely talented local artists, and composes music for his inner child.



Amy M. Simpson, author of *Music on Your Mind*, is a pianist and speaker on neuromusic techniques. She is an adjunct instructor at West Virginia University and an instructor at the CMU Preparatory School.



Jeremy Siskind, a faculty member at Fullerton College, is the author of the *Jazz Piano Fundamentals* series. As a pianist and arranger, he has collaborated with luminaries Julia Bullock, Lara Downes, and Arturo Sandoval.



Heather Smith, MM, MBA, NCTM, is the former MTNA secretary-treasurer and serves on the MTNA FOUNDATION FUND Development Committee and the MTNA Business Network. She is the director of development and advancement for the Frances Clark Center.



Scott McBride Smith, NCTM, is an internationally recognized teacher of prize-winning students. He is co-author of the widely used pedagogy text, *The Well-Tempered Keyboard Teacher*, and the artistic director of the International Piano Professionals Association (IPPA) Conero Festival.



Glory St. Germain, an internationally best-selling author and TEDx speaker, empowers music teachers worldwide through Ultimate Music Theory. She inspires educators to teach with passion, build six-figure studios, and transform lives with engaging theory club classes.



Benjamin Steinhardt, a pianist, is known internationally for his innovative teaching. He is the program director of The Well-Balanced Pianist, offering programs that integrate musicianship, the Taubman Approach, bodywork, mindset, and pedagogy for pianists and teachers.



Amy Stephens, NCTM, Red Leaf Pianoworks composer, writes for pianists from primer to artist, fusing classical form with jazz language in her piano collections. She has taught jazz and classical for 35 years.



Lois Svard, DMA, NCTM, is the author of *The Musical Brain*, published by Oxford. She has lectured extensively in the United States and Europe on brain science for musicians and is professor emerita of piano at Bucknell University.



Elizabeth Swift, NCTM, is a nationally recognized piano composer and teacher whose imaginative, teen-friendly music blends lyricism, rhythmic drive, and strong pedagogical concepts. Her works inspire creativity, storytelling, and expressive performance in students and teachers alike.



Jocelyn Swigger is a music professor at the Gettysburg College Sunderman Conservatory, on the piano faculty at Interlochen Arts Camp, and an Agnes Tyrell performer and scholar. She holds DMA, MM, and MA degrees from Eastman as well as BM and BA degrees from Oberlin.



Shannon Switzer is a music industry audiologist, clarinetist, and the director of the Musicians Hearing Clinic at Sensaphonics in Chicago. She specializes in the prevention and treatment of sound-induced hearing disorders and loves Tchaikovsky.



Chee-Hwa Tan, NCTM, a composer, pianist, and teacher, is published by Piano Safari, RCM, and ABRSM. She has taught undergraduate and graduate piano pedagogy at the University of Denver, Oberlin Conservatory, and Southern Methodist University.



Siok Lian Tan, NCTM, is a professor of piano at Miami University in Ohio. She is the recipient of the 2011 Ohio MTA Teacher of the Year and the 2020 Miami University Crossan Hays Curry Distinguished Educator Awards.



Susan Tang is professor of piano at Northeastern Illinois University and artistic director of the Chicago Chamber Music Festival. She holds degrees from Eastman and the Manhattan School of Music.



Gloria Tham, NCTM, is a Trust-Based Relational Intervention practitioner. She is passionate about trauma-informed education and trauma recovery. Tham owns a private studio in Edmond, Oklahoma.



Karen Thickstun, NCTM, coordinates the MTNA *Business Digest* and the MTNA Business Network. Thickstun formerly authored the “Everyday Entrepreneur” column for *American Music Teacher*. She holds degrees in music, economics, and business.



Carolyn E. True, NCTM, is a compassionate and challenging professor at Trinity University and an engaging performer. In addition to an active solo career, she is a member of SOLI Chamber Ensemble and the Beckman/True Duo.



Charles Turon holds degrees from the University of North Texas and the University of Oklahoma. Formerly coordinator of keyboard studies at State College of Florida, he maintains an independent teaching studio in Hendersonville, North Carolina.



Natalie Vanegas-Escobar advocates for Colombian composers. In 2025, she released her album *Preludios Colombianos*, featuring music by Uribe-Holguín and Mejía. She currently works as a freelance artist and collaborative pianist at the University of Mississippi.



Victoria van Laarhoven is the chief operating officer and co-founder at Clefer. She oversees product vision and marketing strategy and coordinates the team’s work with teachers’ feedback to ensure Clefer evolves alongside their priorities and needs.



Andy Villemez is an educator, author, and composer based in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he serves as associate professor of piano and piano pedagogy at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.



Leila Viss generates innovative resources for her piano studio and website and hosts Composiums coaching pianists their creativity. Known for engaging presentations, she was honored to be recognized as Colorado’s 2024 MTNA FOUNDATION Fellow.



Jennifer Walschap, MME, NCTM, is the founder and director of Imagine Music and Arts, a multi-teacher studio in Norman, Oklahoma, where she also teaches piano.



Pei-I Wang, NCTM, is assistant professor of music and coordinator of keyboard studies at Millikin University. Wang is a frequent performer, presenter, and adjudicator and serves as competitions director for Illinois State MTA.



Janice Wenger is professor emerita of piano and former associate director and keyboard area coordinator at the University of Missouri. She served two terms on the MTNA Board of Directors and co-chaired the Collaborative Music Commissioning Project 2011–2022.



Noreen Wenjen, NCTM, is author of *Two-Year Waitlist: An Entrepreneurial Guide for Music Teachers*, MTNA vice president for membership, 2025 MTNA National Conference chair, and past president of the California Association of Professional Music Teachers (CAPMT).



William Westney, DMA (Yale University), is winner of the Geneva International Competition and has concertized widely. Westney is internationally known for The Un-Master Class workshop and his best-selling books, *The Perfect Wrong Note* (2003) and *Eros at the Piano* (2023).



Christina Whitlock, MM, NCTM, operates a lively independent studio in Indiana and oversees the piano pedagogy program at Taylor University. A past Indiana MTA president, Whitlock also hosts a weekly podcast, *Beyond Measure*.



Alan Woo teaches as assistant professor of piano at the University of Georgia. An active performer, he has appeared internationally as both a soloist and chamber musician. He holds degrees from the Juilliard School and Peabody Institute.



PRESENTERS

Brenda Wristen, NCTM, is professor of piano and piano pedagogy at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She co-authored *Adaptive Strategies for Small-Handed Pianists* and is widely published on topics of musician wellness, biomechanics, and piano pedagogy.



Susan Yang teaches at Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music. An advocate for social impact through music, she is cofounder of A Seat at the Piano and faculty director of Blair's Community Scholars Program.



Jenna Klein Young, PhD, NCTM, serves as assistant professor of piano at Mississippi State University, where she coordinates the group piano and secondary piano programs and teaches piano pedagogy. She is also a passionate researcher.



Meggie Young, NCTM, is a professor of music and dean of The Ohio State University Lima campus. Her research focuses on curricular development for group piano classes and the use of technology by music teachers.



Mimi Zhang is pursuing a DMA degree in piano performance and pedagogy at the University of Oklahoma. She is an active teacher, performer, and collaborator in her community.



Grace Xia Zhao is professor of music and department chair at the University of La Verne. Her interdisciplinary research explores music's role in human flourishing, informed by her work in music and positive psychology.



Shiyi Zhu is a teaching assistant and DMA student in piano performance at the University of Florida School of Music, who also serves as an active board member for the Gainesville MTA.



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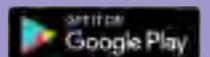
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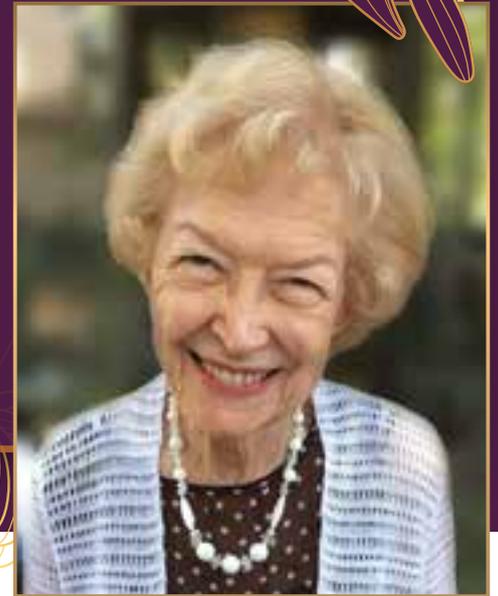


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Carolyn Shaak

Join us in congratulating Carolyn Shaak, a 2026 **MTNA Foundation Fellow**. She will be recognized at this year's Gala. Carolyn has been a member of MTNA for over 50 years and at the State Conference this past October, she received Colorado's "Teacher of the Year" award. Carolyn is looking forward to seeing everyone in Chicago!



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Clefer
Booth 310 • 7th Floor
cleferpiano.app



Clefer is a piano practice app co-developed with teachers to support students between lessons. With real-time feedback, guided exercises, and progress tracking, it turns solo practice into progress, helping every player build confidence and motivation.



***eNovativePiano**
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enovativepiano.com

eNovativePiano is a multimedia online curriculum designed to teach piano and musicianship skills at the pre-collegiate and collegiate levels. Through multisensory lessons and teaching tools, it supports group classes, individual lessons, and online learning.



***Faber Piano Adventures**
Booths 103, 105, 204 • 7th Floor
pianoadventures.com

Led by Nancy and Randall Faber, in cooperation with the Faber Piano Institute and Hal Leonard, Faber Piano Adventures offers publications, events, and digital media to support student-centered teaching and to promote piano study benefits.



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ficksmusic.com

Ficks Music is a premier sheet music retailer offering an expansive catalog for solo performers and large ensembles, alongside expert customer support and a 100% happiness guarantee.



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fjhmusic.com

The FJH Music Company, Inc. is a premier educational music publisher featuring a comprehensive curriculum of piano teaching material, including methods, supplemental repertoire, and more!

EXHIBITORS



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fons.com

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fromthetop.org

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International Piano Professionals Association
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ippa.cc

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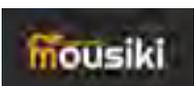
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musicstudiostartup.com

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musicalgiftsandtreasures.com

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musiclinkfoundation.org

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nfmc-music.org

The National Federation of Music Clubs is a large nonprofit organization dedicated to music education and the promotion of creative and performing arts in America. We offer over \$750,000 in awards and scholarships each year.

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National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, Library of Congress

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loc.gov/nls/

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oneeyepublications.com

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Piano Life Saver by Damp-Chaser

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pianolifesaver.com

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pianomarvel.com

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pianoonthespectrum.com

Piano On The Spectrum helps piano teachers reach and teach students on the autism spectrum through proven instruction, evolving learning pathways, and business-smart, guidance-aligning teaching, caregiving communication, and studio success.



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Booths 209, 211 • 7th Floor

pianosafari.com

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ptg.org

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pianotexas.org

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redleafpianoworks.com

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roosevelt.edu/colleges/ccpa

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rcmusic.com

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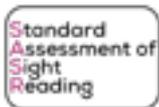
Skills for the Modern Pianist empowers students and teachers with innovative resources blending traditional foundations with creative arts and personal identity. It inspires pianists to embrace modern musicianship across today's diverse and evolving musical landscape.



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EXHIBITORS



Standard Assessment of Sight Reading Booth 606 • 4th Floor

pianomarvel.com/feature/sasr

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TOMGEROUMUSIC.com Booths 701, 703, 800 • 4th Floor

Founded by composer-educator Tom Gerou, TOMGEROUMUSIC.com brings together distinguished authors and rising voices to publish imaginative, pedagogically sound music that elevates learning and artistry for students, teachers, and lifelong learners across instruments and stages.



Ultimate Music Theory Booth 600 • 4th Floor

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willispianomusic.com

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a harmonic minor scale

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3. Play the scale every day.



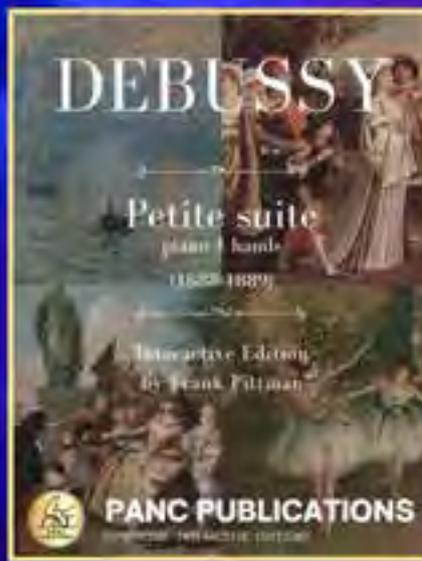
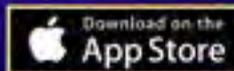
4. Notice the lower \flat is going to the 1st interval

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5. Notice the minor \flat is now becoming the major \sharp because the 7th scale degree is raised

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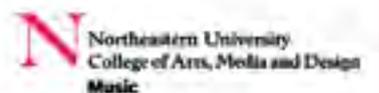
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Hilary Poriss
 Professor and Chair
 Department of Music
 College of Arts, Media and Design
 351 Ryder Hall
 Northeastern University
 Boston, MA 02115
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by Pamela D. Pike, NCTM

October/November 2025 Issue

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Envisioning a Future Musical Self: Identities of Dropout and Continuing Adolescent Piano Students

by Karen Gerelus

April 2025 Issue

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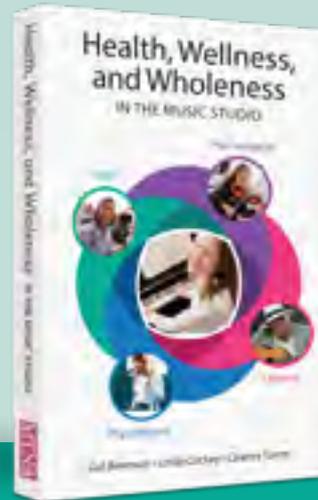
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Lenard Robinson Martin, Americus; Piano
Ashley Nicole Wilson, Athens; Piano

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Karen Watanabe, Waipahu; Piano

Idaho

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Cindy L. Franson, Wichita; Piano

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Sunjoo Lee, Louisville; Piano

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Kwok Chee Katherine Chung, Lafayette;
Piano
Qifan Wu, Metairie; Piano

Maryland

Patrice Donnelly, Columbia; Piano
Lyubov Paskova Anderson, Salisbury; Piano

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Jia Shi, Needham Heights; Piano

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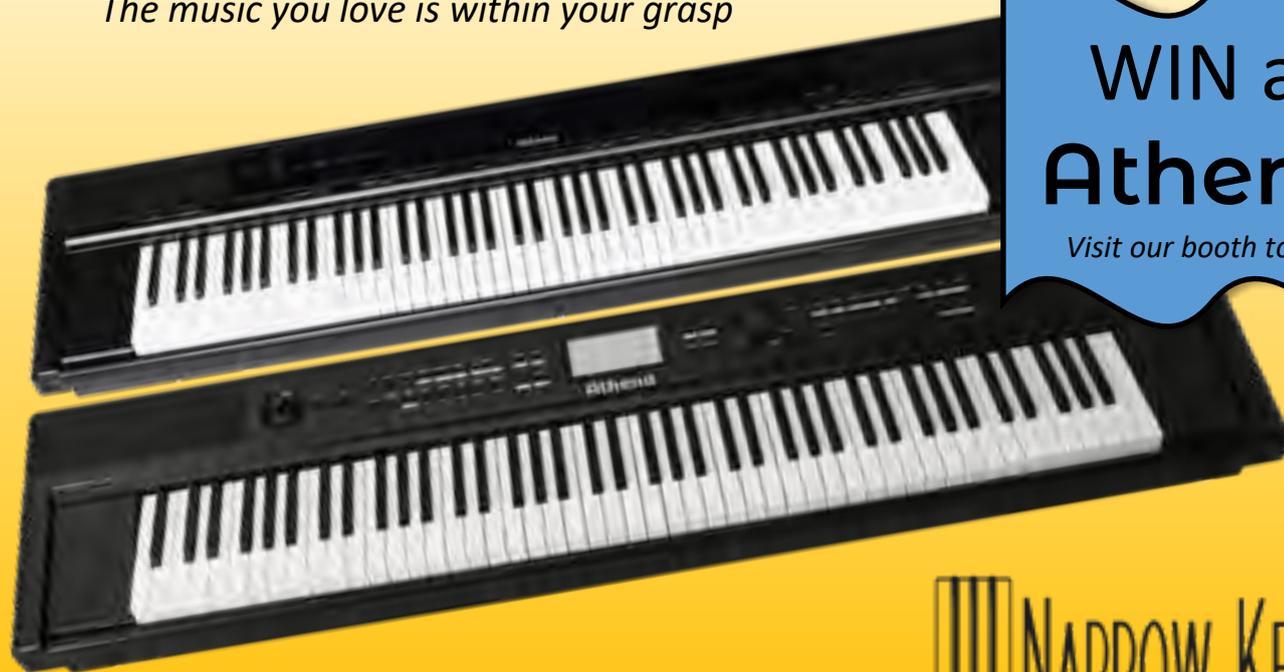
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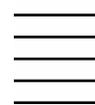
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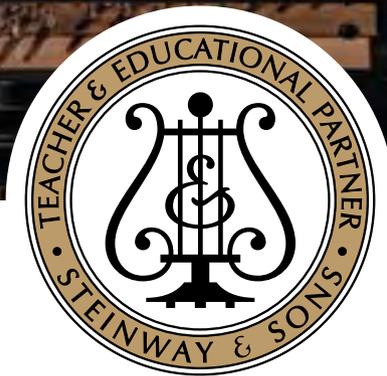
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