
MTNA
COLLEGIATE SYMPOSIUM
January 17–18, 2026
School of Music
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
For Students
By Students
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
South Carolina's top global university
U.S. NEWS

MTNA

MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Greetings!

Welcome to the 2026 MTNA Collegiate Symposium! We're delighted to have you with us as we celebrate the 15th year of this gathering. Since its beginning, the Symposium has offered students, faculty, and emerging professionals an opportunity to meet, exchange ideas, and walk away energized. It has grown into one of MTNA's most beloved programs, and we're so glad you're here to take part in it.

Throughout the weekend, you'll find countless opportunities for connection and professional development—from exploring new teaching strategies to forming meaningful relationships with colleagues. No matter where you are in your journey as a music educator, you have a place in MTNA and at MTNA events.

A sincere thank you goes to the many volunteers who make this event possible. We are especially grateful to the students, faculty, and staff at the University of South Carolina and to the Symposium Planning Committee, led by Anna Dunbar, NCTM, for crafting such an engaging program. Please take a moment to thank them—as well as the MTNA staff—for their dedication and hard work.

Here's to a wonderful weekend together. Enjoy every moment of the Symposium!

Best wishes,



Kevin Chance, NCTM
President



Brian Shepard
Chief Executive Officer

FOUNDED
1876

School of Music
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Dear participants of the MTNA Collegiate Symposium,

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and students of the University of South Carolina School of Music, I am delighted to welcome you to our marvelous and historic campus for the 15th annual MTNA Collegiate Symposium. I trust you will also wish to join me in thanking MTNA for their enduring support of this gathering, and for its consistent devotion to this noble profession and to the development of our young professionals.

The ideas and work presented throughout this Symposium will articulate a variety of exciting new initiatives in the field of piano study at a time when the relevancy of active music-making among our youth continues to decline. The University of South Carolina is honored to observe your commitment and your passion for music study and music teaching, aligning with our own goals. We are excited that the Symposium will help us enjoy a healthy present as well as create a bright future for our field. It is a privilege to have you with us.

The University of South Carolina has a long and distinguished history in piano pedagogy, inaugurated by the innovative work of Dr. Max W. Camp and continued through the extraordinary leadership of Carolina Distinguished Professor of Music Scott Price. We are home to the only comprehensive graduate program in piano pedagogy in the nation, and our fine body of students and alumni includes a long roster of presenters at the national meetings of MTNA, NCKP, CMS, and other international organizations.

Our USC Collegiate Chapter of MTNA is very active in the community, observing many of the principles of our vision of music for the public good. Our chapter has presented at numerous national conventions and even received the MTNA Collegiate Chapter of the Year award in 2023. Many of our students are published authors in American Music Teacher, Piano Magazine, and the College Music Society Symposium, and have been winners of the American Music Teacher and the MTNA e-Journal Article of the Year awards.

The USC School of Music sustains the spirit of innovation that both created our program and has distinguished it by focusing on constantly evolving course offerings in the performance and pedagogy of keyboard improvisation and in teaching students with autism and other special needs. Our comprehensive Center for Piano Studies includes offerings for students of all ages and levels of ability and includes group classes for beginners and adults in recreational music-making. USC is home to the Southeastern Piano Festival and Arthur Fraser International Piano Competition, and we offer opportunities for chamber music study at all levels.

This event would not have been possible without the fine work of our collegiate chapter. I am especially grateful to the leaders of our chapter and their extraordinary work in the planning of the event. Our chapter officers and other volunteers have made invaluable contributions and are here to help make your visit inspiring and enjoyable. I trust you will enjoy your visit, be challenged and inspired by your colleagues, depart poised to both uphold meaningful conventions as well as blaze new trails in the discipline, and be motivated to continue your service to our talented and very deserving new generations of young people.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tayloe Harding
Dean, USC School of Music

MTNA
Collegiate Symposium

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

8:15–9:00 A.M. — **Registration**
Atrium

9:00–9:15 A.M. — **Welcome**
Recital Hall Room 206
- Kevin Chance, NCTM; Dr. Tina Stallard, University of South Carolina; Anna Dunbar, NCTM, MTNA Collegiate Symposium Chair

9:15–9:50 A.M. — **Your Hidden Syllabus: The Unspoken Skills for a Music Career**
Recital Hall Room 206
Move beyond the practice room and transform your talent into a thriving career. This session provides the essential toolkit to build a powerful professional portfolio that gets you noticed and hired.
- Jackie Yong, NCTM, Palm Beach Atlantic University

9:50–10:00 A.M. — **BREAK**

10:00–10:25 A.M. — **SPLIT SESSION**

Big Solutions for Small Hands: Repertoire and Resources for Pianists
Room 210
Small-handed pianists often face challenges with modern key width and standard performance literature. This session explores technological, technique, and repertoire solutions, providing performers and teachers with resources to overcome physical limitations and play with confidence.
- University of Georgia: Timothy Berry, Jet Stephen Chong, Mengyuan Li, Evanthia Panagou, Tiffany Yin

Engaging Gen Z and Gen Alpha: Asian Popular Music in the Modern Piano Lesson
Room 232
Discover how incorporating K-pop, C-pop, J-pop, and J-anime music into piano lessons can boost student motivation, foster cultural connections, and develop musicianship through approachable arrangements and creative activities for Gen Z and Gen Alpha students.
- Mingzi Hu, University of South Carolina

Integrating Improvisation into Piano Lessons: From Score to Creative Expression
Room 110
This interactive session introduces four practical strategies for integrating improvisation into piano lessons using standard repertoire. Participants will learn and practice approaches that foster creativity while supporting musical and technical goals.
- Agnieszka Lasko, University of South Carolina

Parental Attitudes and Expectations Regarding Piano Study for Their Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder
Room 215
This study explores parental perspectives on piano instruction for children with autism spectrum disorder, revealing motivations, expectations, benefits, and challenges, while also highlighting the importance of individualized, inclusive teaching and program design.
- Lin Zhong, University of South Carolina

Unveiling the Pedagogical Treasures in Mario Ruiz Armengol's Piezas Infantiles (Children's Pieces)
Room 214
This presentation offers an introduction to and leveled guide of Mexican composer Mario Ruiz Armengol's *Piezas Infantiles*, a collection of teaching pieces for children that incorporates elements from many diverse styles.
- Victor Anselmo Mata Zepeda, Northwestern State University of Louisiana

10:25–10:35 A.M. **BREAK**

10:35–11:00 A.M. **SPLIT SESSION**

Dynamic Duets: Innovative Sight Reading for Collegiate Classrooms
Room 110
This session explores strategies for teaching sight reading through duet repertoire in class piano. Presenters will demonstrate repertoire choices, collaborative techniques, and teacher–student engagement strategies for making sight reading practice both approachable and musically meaningful.
- University of Michigan: Lindsay (Yun Li) Bui, Elizabeth Low, Janna G. Peña, Ayunia Saputro, Lingjia Zhang

Level the Playing Field: The Issue with a Standard Piano Keyboard Size and the Ergonomic Size's Effect on Note Accuracy
Room 214
Piano keys have proven too wide for the average pianist's hands, so why are ergonomic keyboards not more commonly available? This session addresses hesitation in adjusting between sizes. It may be easier than you think …
- Abby Terrill, independent music teacher

Rediscovering Zoltán Kodály: Piano Works Beyond the Method
Room 210
This session explores the underrepresented piano works of Zoltán Kodály, highlighting their artistic value. Discover how these rarely heard compositions offer fresh insight into his ethnomusicological roots and extend his legacy beyond the renowned Kodály Method.
- Florida State University: Thadyn Du Pont, Fernando Garcia, Soohyun Lee, Gabriella Medeiros Dias

Resonances of Nusantara: Original Pedagogical Piano Works Inspired by Indonesian Folk Tunes
Room 215
Explore Indonesian musical traditions through *Resonances of Nusantara*, a collection of eight original piano works I composed for intermediate students. This session blends performance, pedagogy, and cultural insight using folk-inspired melodies, rhythms, and timbral effects.
- Megan Angriawan, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Unveiling the Mysteries of Movement: How Joints Shape Pianistic Freedom
Room 232
This session explores how joint anatomy shapes pianistic movement, revealing why some motions feel effortless while others are limited. Attendees will understand the mechanics of the wrist, elbow, shoulder, and thumb to enhance freedom in playing.
- Ziyue Gao, University of South Carolina

11:00–11:10 A.M. **BREAK**

11:10 A.M. –12:10 P.M. **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

What is Healthful Technique & What is Not? The Urgent Need to Find Commonality

Recital Hall Room 206

Far too many piano students of every age struggle with pain and injury. How can we all work together—aided by sound science—to agree on the basics of injury-preventive technique? Once and for all!
Barbara Lister-Sink, NCTM

12:10–2:30 P.M. **LUNCH (on your own)**

1:55–2:25 P.M. ***Career Mentoring Workshop***

Room 210

- Jackie Yong: Masters, doctoral research, and recital programming; Annie Jeng: Wellness, managing burnout, and performing post-graduation; Lynn Worcester Jones: Dissertating and publishing; Andy Villamez: Interview preparation and job applications

2:30–3:30 P.M. **RECITAL**

Recital Hall Room 206

Borobudur in Moonlight, from Java Suite Part II — Leopold Godowsky (1870–1938)
Ayunia Saputro, University of Michigan

"كارول عيد الميلاد" *(karul eid almilad-Carrol of Christmas)* — by Benjamin Naman (2003-)
Benjamin Naman, University of Mobile

A Calendar Set-July, the Glorious Fourth! — Judith Lang Zaimont (b. 1945–)
Chin-Hsuan (Sharon) Cheng, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Malikmata (Transfiguration) — Antonio Molina (1894–1980)
Denzel Abarquez, James Madison University
Jet Stephen Chong, University of Georgia

Moment Musical in E minor, Op. 16, No.4 — Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873–1943)
Zarina Akayeva, University of Mobile

Sixth Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman — Joan Tower (1938–)
Katie Larson, University of Oklahoma

Hochzeitstag auf Troldhaugen (Wedding Day at Troldhaugen), Op. 65, No. 6 — Edvard Grieg (1843–1907)
Shealee Bryn Griffith, Jacksonville State University

The Enchanted Garden: Preludes, Book II (2009) — Richard Danielpour (1956–)
There's a Ghost in My Room
SoYoung Bae, Texas Tech University

3:30–3:40 P.M. **BREAK**

3:40–4:25 P.M. **POSTER SESSIONS**
Room 016

AI in Music Teaching
- Texas Christian University: Gloria Chae, Aleksandra Czerniecka, Svetlana Eminova, Carlie Toliver, Kaitlynn Yardley, Elizabeth VanDam

The Application of Syncopated Rhythms in the Development of Sight-Reading Skills for Non-Keyboard Music Majors
- Ronald Rodriguez, Samford University

Beyond the Page: Supporting Dyslexic Students in Piano Through Rote, Improvisation, and IEP Strategies
- Danielle Whitman, West Chester University

Diary of a Child: A Pedagogical Exploration of Ernesto Lecuona's Children's Suite
- Emma Marie Fernández, Texas Woman's University

Expanding Ukraine into the Piano Repertoire: The Music of Yakiv Stepovy
- Holden Meech, University of Oklahoma

The Influence of the Vocal Spiritual Tradition in Classical Music
- Fisk University: Nathalie Best, Amara Frazier

Integrating Choctaw Heritage into the Piano Studio: Choctaw Animals for Piano by Charles Shadle
- Anna Dunbar, NCTM, University of Oklahoma

Pathways into Contemporary Music: Emma Lou Diemer's Intermediate Piano Works
- Katie Larson, University of Oklahoma

Sound Body, Sound Performance: A Guide to Injury Prevention for Musicians
- Jacksonville State University: Hannah Chandler, Elisabeth Rea

4:25–4:35 P.M. **BREAK**

4:35–5:10 P.M.

From Anxiety to Resilience: Practical Strategies from Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy for Managing Music Performance Anxiety
Recital Hall Room 206
This session introduces Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy (REBT) strategies for addressing music performance anxiety, presenting cross-cultural research findings and practical tools piano teachers can use to help students manage irrational beliefs and emotions.
- Hanqiu Xu, Abilene Christian University

5:10–5:20 P.M.

BREAK

5:20–5:55 P.M.

LIGHTNING SESSIONS
Recital Hall Room 206

Tiny Pieces, Big Impact: Inclusive Piano Teaching with G. Kurtag's Játékok I
- SoYoung Bae, Texas Tech University

Breaking the Chains of Memorization: Toward a More Liberating Approach in Piano Performance
- Yucong Ma, Arizona State University

Does Music Study Help or Hinder Students with ADHD?
- University of Missouri-Kansas City: Hyunji Park, Clara Rowden Patten

Exploring Norwegian Identity Through 3 Piano Works by Agathe Backer Grøndahl
- Soyoung Jeong, University of Georgia

Fostering Creativity and Artistry: Chee-Hwa Tan's Compositions for Pianists
- Lynnae Hurst, University of Oklahoma

From Scores to Comics: Teaching with Takashi Yoshimatsu's Music and Publications
- Weiming Shi, University of South Carolina

5:55–6:00 P.M.

Daily Wrap Up
Recital Hall Room 206

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

8:15–9:15 A.M.

Registration
Atrium

Coffee and Conversation
Atrium

9:00–9:15 A.M.

Launchpad MTNA: Boost Your Career with Opportunities for Young Professionals
Recital Hall Room 206
- Ryan Greene, MTNA Director of Membership Development

9:15–9:50 A.M.

Building Community Through Sound: Sensory-Friendly Concerts
Recital Hall Room 206
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: Lindsay (Yun Li) Bui, Elizabeth Low, Janna G. Peña, Ayunia Saputro, Lingjia Zhang

9:50–10:00 A.M.

BREAK

10:00–10:35 A.M.

NETWORKING SPLIT SESSIONS

Business Technology Skills
Room 210
- Gracie Godsby, University of Texas at Austin

Career Planning
Room 232
- Jackie Yong, NCTM, Palm Beach Atlantic University

College Faculty
Room 016
- University of South Carolina: Phillip Bush, Scott Price, NCTM, Omar Roy, Nicholas Susi

Dyslexic and Neurodivergent Students
Room 215
- Olivia Colomaio, University of South Carolina

Self-Taught Pianists
Room 214
- Justin Johnson, Southern Virginia University

10:35–10:45 A.M. **BREAK**

10:45–11:10 A.M. **SPLIT SESSION**

From Touch to Technology: A Tactile Feedback Device as a Pedagogical Tool in Piano Education
Room 214
This presentation explores a tactile feedback device developed for piano education. A case study demonstrates how the device can support piano lessons by providing immediate guidance and strengthening teacher–student communication in technology-mediated settings.
- Miri Park, Texas Tech University

Teaching Toddlers Triumphantly: Challenges and Rewards of Teaching Preschoolers
Room 210
This presentation addresses the challenges of teaching private piano lessons to preschool-aged children (ages 3–5) and provides instructors with plenty of experience-tested activities, games, and teaching methods designed to engage young learners.
- Washington State University: Tanner Burns, Kate Gordon, Rebecca Kelley, Zachariah Mayberry

Thinking Outside the Book: New Ideas and Exercises for Building Functional Piano and Musicianship Skills in the Group Piano Classroom
Room 110
This session presents creative, off-the-page strategies for developing functional keyboard skills in group piano, emphasizing improvisation, aural skills, and real-world applications to foster confident, expressive, and musically fluent students.
- Jenna Braaksma, University of Northern Colorado

11:10–11:20 A.M. **BREAK**

11:20 A.M.–12:20 P.M. **TEACHING MASTER CLASS**
Recital Hall Room 206
- Clinician: Scott Price, NCTM

12:20–2:45 P.M. **LUNCH (on your own)**

2:10–2:40 P.M. ***Career Mentoring Workshop***
Room 210
- Jackie Yong: Masters, doctoral research, and recital programming; Annie Jeng: Wellness, managing burnout, and performing post-graduation; Lynn Worcester Jones: Dissertating and publishing; Andy Villamez: Interview preparation and job applications

2:45–3:45 P.M. **KEYNOTE PANEL**
Life After the Degree
Recital Hall Room 206
- Kevin Chance, NCTM; Megan Hall, NCTM; Annie Jeng; Nicholas Susi

3:45–3:55 P.M. **BREAK**

3:55–4:20 P.M. **SPLIT SESSION**

Bringing Teresa Carreño into the Piano Studio: Technical Development and Cultural Connection
Room 215
Going beyond the canon, this lecture-recital rediscovers the pedagogical value of Teresa Carreño's piano music. The works of this often-neglected composer provide practical technical training and a rich cultural language for global, inclusive teaching.
- Qize Liu, Arizona State University

Engaging Concerts: Practical Strategies for Young Professionals
Room 232
Practical frameworks and creative strategies for audience engagement are presented through case studies and interactive examples, guiding young musicians to expand their artistry and reimagine concerts as vibrant, community-centered experiences.
- Hyeongji Choi, Arizona State University

Introduction to Indeterminacy: Teaching Deep Listening and Creative Exploration through Pauline Oliveros's Thirteen Changes
Room 210
This session explores teaching indeterminacy through Pauline Oliveros's *Thirteen Changes*. Presenters will demonstrate prompts and invite audience participation, offering practical strategies to foster creativity, deep listening, and inclusivity in music lessons for all ages.
- University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music: Aidan Hedrick, Maxwell Hinton, Qi Liang, Rena Wu

Our Body is Our Instrument: Breathing and Singing Exercises for Pianists
Room 214
This session is designed for pianists to explore the benefits of breathwork and singing in practice sessions. Singing and breathing exercises cultivate musicianship and help pianists attain greater concentration and muscle relaxation during practice and performance.
- Myungeun (Linda) Jung, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music

4:20–4:30 P.M. **BREAK**

4:30–4:55 P.M. **SPLIT SESSION**

The Athlete at the Piano: How Sports Movements Can Impact Pianists
Room 214
This session explores the transferability of athletic motions into the teaching of pianistic skills by promoting body awareness and healthy practice habits.
- Lingxi Xu, Texas Tech University

Cultivating Musicianship: The European and Russian Piano Methods

Room 232

This session explores two influential piano methods—Fritz Emons' European Piano Method and Alexander Nikolaev's Russian School of Piano Playing—highlighting their philosophies and pedagogy and offering practical strategies to cultivate expressive, well-rounded pianists from day one.

- University of Southern Mississippi: Gregório Oliveira, Johanna Tarcson

Exploring Diversity and Role Models in Early Piano Education: Works by Nadia Boulanger and Nkeiru Okoye

Room 110

This lecture-recital features Nadia Boulanger's *Three Little Pieces* and Nkeiru Okoye's *African Sketches* for piano, demonstrating their musical, educational, and cultural value and promoting broader inclusion of women composers.

- Arizona State University: Muyuan Liu, Chun-Ya Pien, Maoning Wang

Relax, Please!

Room 210

How do you teach a student to relax when they have been playing with tension for years? We will discuss signs of tension, demonstrate possible solutions, and provide original etudes focused on relaxation.

- Baylor University: Sara Araujo Gutierrez, Amanda Caceres, Annette Amely Kenneth, Sadam Rabadan Trejo

The Rubato in Chinese Music: Zhang Zhao's Pi Huang
Room 215
Is rubato just for Chopin? No! Its basic principles apply to all music. Join expert Ruizhe Zhong to learn about Zhang Zhao's *Pi Huang* and how to use rubato in various styles.
- Ruizhe Zhong, University of Kansas

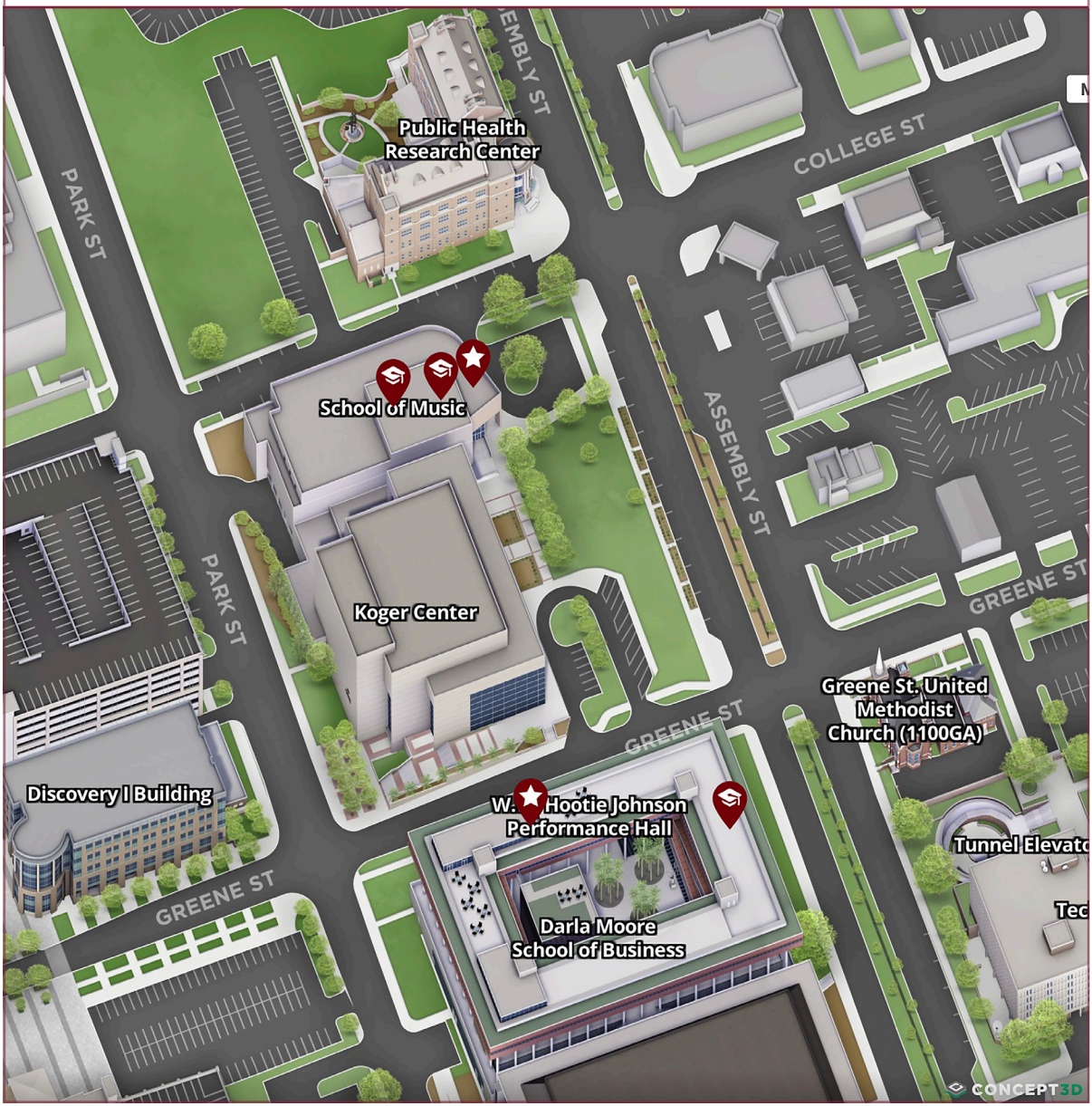
4:55–5:05 P.M. **BREAK**

5:05–5:40 P.M. ***Culturally Diverse Piano Repertoire for Elementary and Intermediate Levels: A Global Pedagogical Approach***
Recital Hall Room 206
This session introduces elementary and intermediate piano repertoire from different countries, highlighting authentic national idioms, cultural traditions, and teaching guides that broaden piano pedagogy through diverse global perspectives.
- University of South Carolina: Elias Blake, Ísis Cardoso, Michail Chalkiopoulos, Taylor Glomb, Mingzi Hu, Agnieszka Lasko, Hong Yao

5:40–5:55 P.M. **CLOSING**

6:00–7:30 P.M. **GALA DINNER** *(Advanced Registration is Required)*
Room 016

School of Music
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA



AREA RESTAURANTS

***Denotes restaurants within a 1–2 block radius of the School of Music. All other restaurants are within a 10–15 minute walk.**

Local Restaurants

Saluda's
The Gourmet Shop
929 Kitchen & Bar
The Hollow
Boku Kitchen & Bar
Blue Marlin
JJ Tea House
Sahara On Main
Poke Bros

Sit-Down Restaurants

Hickory Tavern
Tupelo Honey
M Vista
Saluda's
Halls Chophouse
Panera Bread
Hendrix
California Dreaming
The Devine Cinnamon Roll Deli
MOA Korean BBQ & Bar
Immaculate Consumption
LongHorn Steakhouse
Publico

Fast Food

Wendy's*
Subway*
Five Guys Burgers and Fries
Chick-fil-A
QDOBA
Panda Express
Groucho's Deli
Cava
Chipotle
Panera Bread

Desserts

Kaminsky's Dessert Cafe
Rosewood Dairy Bar
Insomnia Cookies
Sweet Cream Co.
Pelican's
Snoballs

Coffee Shops

Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea*
Cool Beans Coffee Co.*
Bitty and Beau's Coffee
Drip
smallSUGAR
Indah Coffee
Knowledge Perk Coffee Company



MTNA NATIONAL CONFERENCE
APRIL 2–6, 2027

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS
PRESENTATION OPPORTUNITIES

CONFERENCE SESSIONS
MTNA will begin accepting proposals for the
2027 National Conference Sessions on February 10, 2026.
Deadline for submissions is April 11, 2026, 3:00 P.M. Eastern Time.

COLLEGIATE CHAPTER SESSIONS
Proposals for Collegiate Chapter Sessions at the 2027 MTNA
National Conference will be accepted beginning April 14, 2026.
Deadline for submissions is October 1, 2026, 3:00 P.M. Eastern Time.

POSTER SESSIONS
Poster Session proposals for the 2027 MTNA National Conference
will be accepted beginning April 14, 2026.
Deadline for submissions is October 1, 2026, 3:00 P.M. Eastern Time.

FOR SUBMISSION DETAILS, VISIT MTNA.ORG

MTNA
Collegiate Symposium

Thank you to all who make this weekend possible:

The RCM Certificate Program
Jovanni-Rey V. de Pedro Endowment Fund

University of South Carolina
Tayloe Harding, Dean, USC School of Music
Scott Price, NCTM, Professor of Music
University of South Carolina Support Staff and Student Volunteers

MTNA Collegiate Chapter Leadership

Mingzi Hu, President
Hong Yao, Vice President
Elias Blake, Treasurer
Taylor Glomb, Secretary
Ísis Cardoso, Community Outreach Coordinator

MTNA Collegiate Chapter Members

Michail Chalkiopoulos
Justin Hettlage
Agnieszka Lasko
Moe Takamatsu
Ruxi Wang
Lin Zhong

Symposium Planning Committee

Anna Dunbar, NCTM, Chair
Mingzi Hu
Jannina Eliana Gonzaga Peña
Elizabeth Schumann, NCTM
Kevin Chance, NCTM (ex officio)
Brian Shepard (ex officio)

Guest Presenters

Kevin Chance, NCTM
Ryan Greene
Megan Hall
Annie Jeng
Lynn Worcester Jones
Barbara Lister-Sink, NCTM
Nicholas Susi
Jackie Yong
Andy Villemez



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RCM Voice Series, 2025 Edition. Dig into the Voice Series, 2025 Edition with Dr. Victoria Holland.

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