Two Clicks Away: Piano Music of Our Time

Presented by Nancy O’Neill Breth

MTNA 2023 Conference, Reno Nevada

Monday, March 27, 2:15pm–3:15pm in the Cascade 4 & 5 room.

In the summer of 2020 I put together a list of [Modern Piano Music](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1yWW8CH-HBP3NvJekb2M4HesJ4BP1k4oayoHXMM9jv04/edit#gid=477354973), pieces that I liked and that I thought would appeal to others. I sent the list to my students and asked them to choose their favorites. All they had to do was click a link and listen. I thought they'd come back with 2 or 3 selections apiece, but their lists were long and surprisingly adventuresome. I was thrilled.

Over time the list has grown to around 200 pieces. Each entry includes two links: one to a performance and one to a source of purchase. Along the way I discovered some terrific music by composers totally new to me--so I'm learning new music along with my students.

Take a look; take a listen: you can sort the list by Composer, Title, Level, Performance or Source.

The difficulty levels are approximate (and open to argument).

Pieces vary in length but none last more than 10 minutes.

The composers were all born in 1905 or later. There are women among the men, people from widely different cultures, and a number of composers who are actually still alive. Of special interest are some stunning pieces by composers of the African Diaspora: Richard Thompson, George Walker, Joshua Uzoigwe, Oswald Russell, Halim El-dabh, Mohammed Fairouz, Harold Hanson.

The presentation will feature students in recorded performances of selected short pieces from the list, plus live performances of

* Steven Hough’s Fanfare Toccata,
* George Walker’s Piano Sonata No. 2,
* Louise Talma’s Alleluia in Form of Toccata, and
* Three Homages to Ginastera by MTNA’s own Greg Presley.