

**Music Teachers National Association
Michigan Music Teachers Association
2016 Performance Competition**

November 11-13, 2016

Western Michigan University, Dorothy U. Dalton Center
Van De Giessen Road, Kalamazoo Township, MI 49006

Judges:

Dr. David Abbott, Piano

<http://www.albion.edu/academics/music/3252-david-abbott>

Dr. J. Adam Briggs, Saxophone

<http://www.hope.edu/directory/people/briggs-adam/index.html>

Dr. Ruth Goveia, Piano

See below.

Adam Graham, Low Brass

Doctoral Fellow

<http://www.hope.edu/directory/people/graham-adam/index.html>

Dr. Louis Nagel, Piano

<http://louisnagel.net/>

Dr. Silvia Roederer, Piano

<https://wmich.edu/music/directory/roederer>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silvia_Roederer

Dr. Kenneth Tse, Saxophone

<http://www.kenneth-tse.com/>

<https://music.uiowa.edu/people/kenneth-tse>

Eric Van de Vort, Piano

<http://www.vandevortpianostudio.com/>

Susan Wiersma Uchimura, Piano

<https://wmich.edu/music/directory/uchimura>

<http://www.merlingtrio.com/susan.html>

See below.

Dr. Sylvia Wang, Piano

<http://sylviawang.com/site/>

<http://www.music.northwestern.edu/faculty/profiles/sylvia-wang.html>

Ruth Goveia earned her D.M. (Piano) degree from the Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University-Bloomington, M.Mus. (Piano) from the College-Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati, B.Mus. (Ed.) degree from the Odeion School of Music, University of the Free State (South Africa) and a Performers Licentiate Diploma (LRSM) in Piano Performance from the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music in the UK. She has performed and taught at Indiana University and Albion College and has held senior faculty teaching positions at universities in Pretoria, Durban and Bloemfontein in South Africa. Recital performances include the Musica Viva Performance Series in Illinois and the Artur Balsam Chamber Music Project at Wabash in Indiana as well as at Kalamazoo College, Albion College, and Western Michigan University, and performance tours in Ohio, Kentucky and Georgia. She has also been featured as concerto soloist with major South African orchestras and as recitalist and chamber musician for South African radio and television. She has adjudicated for South African International and National Piano Competitions and currently serves as juror for state and local competitions in Michigan. Her foremost piano mentors include the late Edmund Battersby as well as Béla Siki, Frank Weinstock, and Nils Kayser. She received chamber music training from cellist Micu Szigeti and violist Peter Kamnitzer (La Salle Quartet) with more informal but esteemed coaching from Jean-Louis Hagenauer, Miriam Fried, Mauricio Fuks, Isabella Stengel, and last but certainly not least, the late Steven de Groote and Dorothy DeLay.

SUSAN WIERSMA UCHIMURA is a resident artist with the Merling Trio and a member of the piano faculty and staff accompanist at Western Michigan University. Previously she served on the piano faculties of the Cleveland Institute of Music and Augusta College in Georgia, and the accompanying faculties of the Meadowmount School of Music and the Aspen Music School.

Ms. Wiersma Uchimura graduated as class valedictorian from the Cleveland Institute of Music, where she received bachelor of music degrees in theory and piano as a student of Jack Radunsky and Eunice Podis. Ms. Uchimura earned the master of music degree in pedagogy from the University of South Carolina, where she studied under Max Camp and Charles Fugo. She has also studied at the Banff School of Fine Arts and in New York with Dorothy Taubman and Edna Golandsky.

Ms. Wiersma Uchimura has performed with major young artists as resident collaborative pianist for the Stulberg International String Competition, the Music Teacher National Association-Wurlitzer Collegiate Artist Competition, and the Pensacola Summer Music Festival. As a faculty member at the acclaimed ENCORE School for Strings for 20 years, she performed with such esteemed alumni as Robert Chan, concertmaster of the Chicago Symphony, violinists Stefan Jackiw and Soovin Kim, and Sheryl Staples, Principal Associate Concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic. She recently concertized with violinists Scott St. John, Jun-Ching Lin, and Ivan Chan. She is currently official accompanist for Cello An American Experience in Minnesota, where she collaborates with such prestigious cellists as Anthony Ross, principal cellist of the Minnesota Orchestra, Turtle Island String Quartet cellist Mark Summer, and Joshua Koestenbaum, Associate Principal Cellist of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. In the summer of 2012, she was resident collaborative pianist for the Carlos Prieto International Cello Competition in Morelia, Mexico.

As a member of the renowned Merling Trio, Uchimura has performed in 40 states, as well as Canada and the United Kingdom. The trio has appeared on prestigious series at venues such as Merkin Hall, the Cleveland Institute of Art, and the Columbus Museum of Art, to broad critical acclaim. Their latest CD, *postcards in e*, featuring works of Dvorak and Shostakovich, was recently released by MSR Classics to rave reviews. The Sierra Vista Herald said, "The Merling Trio possesses tremendous talent, ingratiating tone quality, and unlimited technique. They are formidable." The 2016-17 season will include tours to Iowa, New York, Massachusetts, Florida, North Carolina, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, and Illinois, as well as the trio's first tour of China.

Ms. Wiersma Uchimura maintains an active private studio. Her students have won major competitions throughout the United States, and she is widely in demand as a clinician and adjudicator.