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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Letter from Béatrice Ellis, MMTA President	4
Letter from MTNA Karen Thickstun and Gary Ingle	5
Letter from Elena Tsai, Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild	6
North Campus Venues of University of Michigan	7
MMTA Board of Directors, Officers, and Committee Chairs 2021	8
List of Advertisers	9
Conference Schedule	11
Norman Krieger, Conference Artist	14
William H. Chapman Nyaho, Conference Clinician	17
Heather Nelson Shouldice, Conference Clinician	18
Guest Presenters	20
2021 Commissioned Composer - Stephen Mitton	24
Gala Concert Program	27
Masterclass with Guest Artist Norman Krieger	32
2021 MTNA/MMTA Competition Winners Recital Program	34
The Performers	37
2020 Distinguished Service Award Recipient - Adrienne Wiley	46
2021 Distinguished Service Award Recipient – Yelena Wells	49
2021 Teachers of the Year	51
MMTA SAT Piano Final Winners	58
MMTA Concerto Competition Winners	59
2020 MTNA Michigan Composition & Performance Competitions	61
East Central Division MTNA Competition, Michigan Results	66



The Michigan Music Teachers Association

September 2, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 135th Michigan Music Teachers State Conference! During this time last year, because of the pandemic, I was scrambling to create an event online to honor the long held tradition of an annual fall gathering of our organization. I felt it was important to give members a sense that MMTA could ride the wave of uncertainty and keep up with its mission regardless of the circumstances. But what a relief it has been to know back in March that there was a good chance the University of Michigan School of Music Theater and Dance could host us.

Planning this event was probably quite unsettling for MMTA Vice President, Dr. Derek Polischuk. Until the very end of July, it was still unclear if and where we would be allowed to have social events besides concerts and presentations or what the safety measures would entail. So producing a schedule was a real predicament!

Now we are about to celebrate new beginnings with a hybrid conference allowing more members to join across Michigan, in a venue perfectly suited to our needs. We will also try out a new time frame - Friday and Saturday - leaving our Sunday clear. Thank you Dr. Polishuk, for taming the wave of uncertainty and pulling together a wonderful series of events with the support of a dynamic team: MMTA Arts and Advocacy Chair Michael Zutis, AAAPTG President Elena Tsai, and the amazing MMTA Communication Chair Yelena Wells. I also would like to acknowledge MMTA summer intern Tina Chou, who helped develop our social media as well as Karin Polischuk who dedicated countless hours to coordinate the production of the conference. Finally MMTA is deeply grateful to Pr. Harding for his continual support and to the Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild for their part in making the conference welcoming to all.

Let's enjoy this unique moment of camaraderie and the opportunity to meet new colleagues while we attend inspiring presentations and recitals. I look forward to greeting all of you!

Béatrice Ellis
President



MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

October 8, 2021

Dear Michigan MTA Members:

On behalf of your MTNA colleagues across the country, we want to add our welcome to the Michigan State Conference. Gathering with your friends and colleagues from around the state is a very special benefit of membership—a benefit that offers multiple educational and social opportunities for you to grow as a music teaching professional.

At conferences like this, you, the music teacher, become the music student. And as you participate in professional development, new information and techniques are learned, which ultimately become the basis for new ways to teach your students. This enriching relationship, of constantly receiving and giving away, is vital to your success as a music teacher as well as to the success of your students.

As you consider additional opportunities for professional development and networking, you are invited to attend the upcoming MTNA National Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 26–30, 2022. It promises to be the most inclusive conference ever. During this long-awaited return to in-person conferences, you will be able to attend more than 100 informative sessions, inspiring master classes, and an exhibit hall with the latest music, products and innovations. Highlights of the conference include evening recitals by violinist Adrian Anantawan, the Cann Sisters Duo, the Formosan Duo and pianist Ursula Oppens. In addition to a full face-to-face experience, MTNA will offer a virtual option for attendees that will include curated content from the in-person event. The 2022 MTNA National Conference will be an unforgettable time to learn and share whether you attend in Minneapolis or from your home or studio!

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Thickstun".

Karen Thickstun, NCTM
President

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary L. Ingle".

Dr. Gary L. Ingle
*Executive Director &
Chief Executive Officer*



October 8, 2021

Dear fellow MMTA members,

I am so pleased to welcome you all to my alma mater, the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance. Ann Arbor is a rapidly growing community and SMTD is right there with them, with their building expansions and innovative and inclusive programming. We are so grateful for their support!

More importantly, I'd like to thank Derek and Karin Polischuk for their leadership in creating this event. So much was unknown a few months ago (and still is!) but they have been so committed to making this conference happen safely. They have been balancing our needs and wants as music teachers with the ever-changing Covid safety standards. Wow.

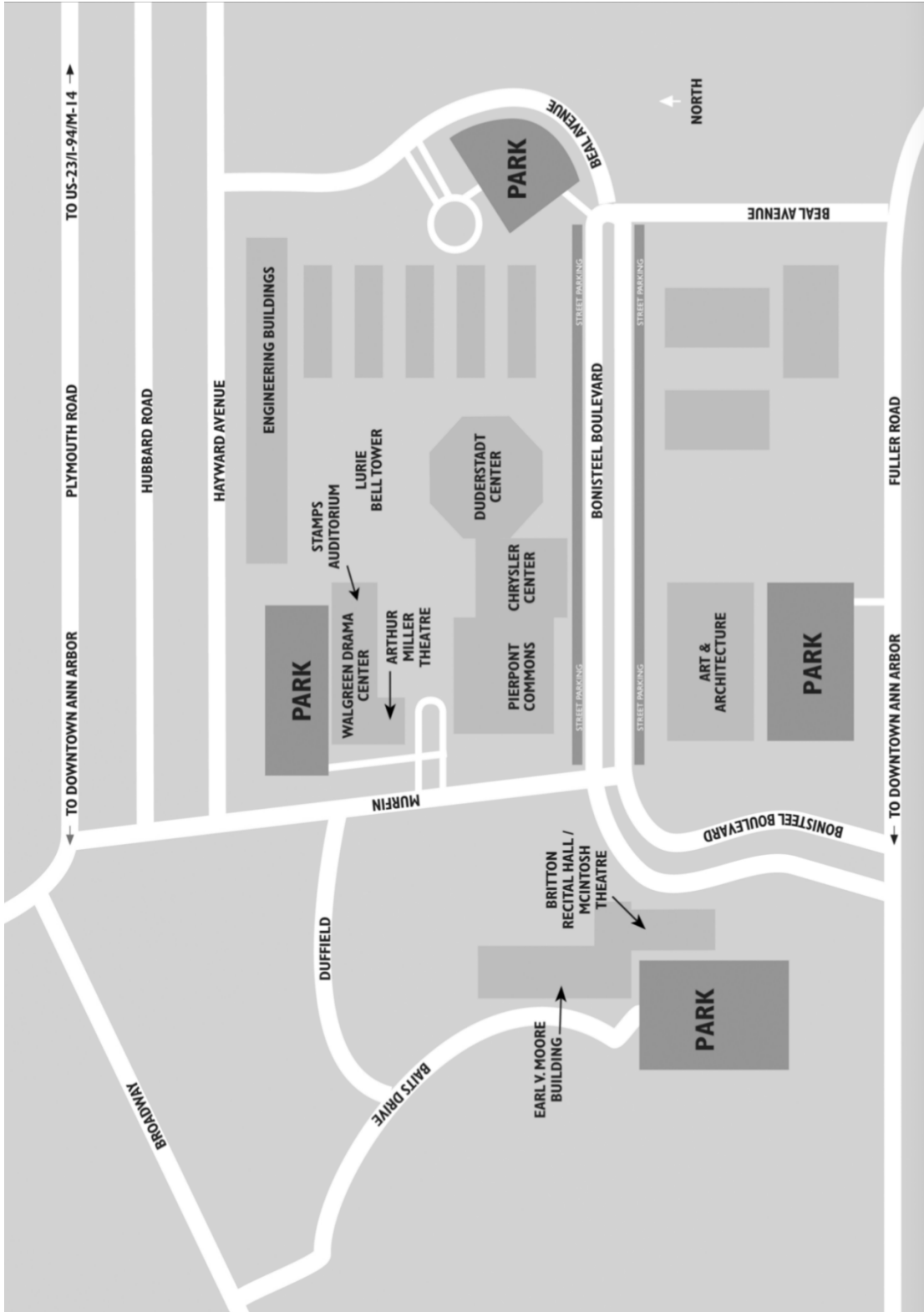
Ann Arbor is a terrific town with great people and great places to visit. And, we have great piano teachers too! My 80+ person team of Guild members is a warm and dedicated group of top-notch teachers. Our Guild is vibrant, and I love having each one of our teachers in our chapter. Thanks, AAAPTG!

Enjoy the conference and don't forget to stop and say hello!

Best,
Elena Tsai
President, Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild

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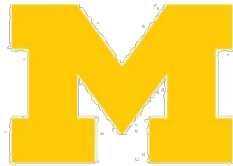
MMTA Conference Book Advertisers

	<u>Page</u>
American Liszt Society	45
Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild	65
Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild Foundation	48
Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp	23
Capital Area Music Teachers Association	30
Color In My Piano	17
Evola Music Center	25
Faber Piano Adventures & Faber Piano Institute	68
Grand Valley State University	19
Great Lakes Performing Artist Associates	2
Interlochen Academy.	67
King's Keyboard House	47
Lansing Community College	26
Lansing Symphony Orchestra	50
Michigan State University	29
Piano Safari	16
Reeder Pianos	60
Schoolcraft College	13
Steinway Piano Gallery	57
University of Michigan	31
Western Michigan University	33
Westfield Center For Historical Keyboard Studies	36

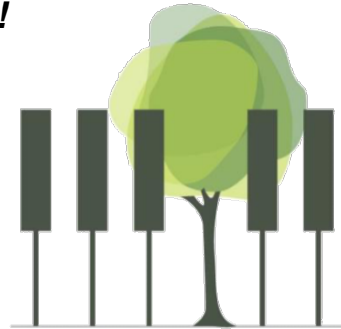
MMTA would like to acknowledge Faber Piano Adventures/Faber Piano Institute, University of Michigan, and Ann Arbor Piano Teachers Guild for their generous support of the 135th MMTA Conference!



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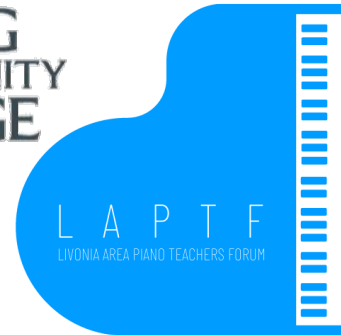


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2021 MMTA FALL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8 10:00 AM ~ 8:30 PM

- 9 AM – 10 AM: Executive Board Meeting **[Closed session]**
- 10 AM - 10:30AM: Registration (Atrium)
- 10:30 AM - 10:45 AM: Opening Remarks (Britton Recital Hall)
- 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM: Norman Krieger Presentation (Britton Recital Hall)
- A Pianist's Life in Music: Norman Krieger discusses the practical skills required of a pianist for a successful and sustained career in music.
- 12 PM - 1:15 PM: Lunch
- 12 PM - 1:15 PM: SAT Lunch **[Closed session]**
- 1:15 PM - 2:30 PM: William Chapman Nyaho Presentation (Britton Recital Hall)
- Expanding the Canon of Music: Exploring Piano Music from Africa and its Diaspora. William Chapman Nyaho will discuss piano music by composers from the African continent, the Caribbean, Europe and Americas, ranging from early intermediate to festival and competition-level pieces.
- 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM: Break
- 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM: Full Board Meeting **[Closed session]**
- 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM: Presentations by Teachers (Watkins Recital Hall)
- 4:30 PM- 4:50 PM: **Heather Vedder**: Practice Success for Parents: Creating Workshops to Equip the Parents of Music Students
 - 4:50 PM - 5:10 PM: **Adrienne Wiley**: Functional Skills for Intermediate Pianists? You BET!
 - 5:10 PM- 5:30 PM: **Sophié van der Westhuizen**: Two Minds as One: how playing piano duets changed my performance and informs my teaching
- 5:30 PM – 6 PM: Full Meeting (Watkins Recital Hall)
- 6 PM – 8 PM: Break
- 6 PM – 8 PM: Chapter Presidents Dinner **[Closed session]**
- 8 PM: Recital featuring 2021 Commissioned Composition and Conference Artist Norman Krieger (Britton Recital Hall)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9 8:30 AM ~ 8:00 PM

- 8:30 AM - 9:15 AM: Presentations by Teachers (Britton Recital Hall)
- 8:15 AM - 8:35 AM: **Debora DeWitt**: Rhythm Makes You Move!
 - 8:35 AM- 8:55 AM: **Yelena Wells**: Social Media 101: Complete Guide to Marketing Your Studio.
 - 8:55 AM - 9:15 AM: **David Keep**: Why Does Brahms's Piano Music Feel Awkward to Play?
- 9:15 AM - 10:30 AM: Norman Krieger Presentation (Britton Recital Hall)
Teaching the Piano Concerto: Norman Krieger gives practical advice on teaching difficult passages in some of the most famous piano concertos
- 10:45 AM - 12 PM: Heather Shouldice Presentation (Britton Recital Hall)
Heather Shouldice: What does it mean to be musically literate?
- 12 PM - 1:30 PM: Lunch
- 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM: Norman Krieger Masterclass (Britton Recital Hall)
- 2:45 PM - 4 PM: William Chapman Nyaho Presentation (Britton Recital Hall)
Dealing with Performance Anxiety: A Holistic Approach. William Chapman Nyaho's presentation will discuss several ways to combat performance anxiety through preparation on physical, mental, aural and psychological levels. He will incorporate references to other cultures, the role of the artist, the approach to performance and suggest ways to integrate them to produce a healthy, anxiety-free musical experience.
- 4:15 PM - 5:45 PM: Student Recital (Britton Recital Hall)
- 6 PM - 8 PM: The Awards Dinner

**The 136th MMTA Conference will be held in
Kalamazoo in October 2022**



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Conference Artist: Dr. Norman Krieger



Norman Krieger is professor of piano at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music.

A native of Los Angeles, he is one of the most acclaimed pianists of his generation and is highly regarded as an artist of depth, sensitivity, and virtuosic flair. He previously served as professor of keyboard studies at the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music since 1997.

Zubin Mehta, Marin Alsop, Myung-Whun Chung, Miguel Harth-Bedoya, JoAnn Falletta, Jeffrey Kahane, Donald

Runnicles, Leonard Slatkin, Michael Tilson Thomas, Keith Lockhart, Jaap van Zweden, and Carl St. Clair are just a few of the conductors with whom Krieger has collaborated.

Krieger regularly appears with the major orchestras of North America, among them the New York, Los Angeles, Buffalo, Dayton and Rochester Philharmonics, the Minnesota Orchestra, Boston Pops Orchestra, National Symphony, Pacific Symphony, and the Symphony Orchestras of Austin, Baltimore, California, Chicago, Cincinnati, Columbus, El Paso, Florida, Grand Rapids, Hartford, Honolulu, Indianapolis, Jacksonville, Kansas City, Long Beach, Milwaukee, New Haven, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Richmond, Saint Louis, San Antonio, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Fe, Santa Rosa, Spokane, Stockton, Syracuse, and Virginia, among others, as well as Mexico's Orquesta Filarmónica de la Ciudad de México and Orquesta Sinfónica de Xalapa.

Abroad, he has been guest soloist with Germany's Philharmonisches Orchester Augsburg, Holland's Orkest van het Oosten, Prague's Czech National Symphony Orchestra, Turkey's Presidential Symphony Orchestra, New Zealand's Auckland Philharmonia, Taiwan's National Symphony Orchestra, the Shanghai Symphony, and the Hong Kong Philharmonic. In September 2014, he recorded the Brahms Piano Concerto No. 2 with the London Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Philip Ryan Mann.

In recital, Krieger has appeared throughout the United States, Europe, Mexico, and Asia, while chamber music collaborations have included appearances with sopranos Beverly Hoch and Sheri Greenawald, cellists Jian Wang and Zuill Bailey, and the Tokyo and Manhattan string quartets. His debut at New York City's prestigious Carnegie Hall and Mostly Mozart Festival earned him an immediate invitation to Lincoln Center's 2005-06 Great Performers Series.

In 1987, Krieger made headlines by being named the Gold Medal Winner of the first Palm Beach Invitational Piano Competition. Earlier, in 1984, he earned selection to the distinguished roster of Affiliate Artists, where he participated in the Xerox Pianists Program from 1984 to 1986. He is also the recipient of the Paderewski Foundation Award, Bruce Hungerford Memorial Prize, Victor Herbert Memorial Prize, Buffalo Philharmonic Young Artists Competition Prize, and Saint Louis Symphony Prize.

Krieger's first piano teacher was his uncle, Rudy Hadda. Later training began in Los Angeles under the tutelage of Esther Lipton. At age 15, he became a full-scholarship student of Adele Marcus at The Juilliard School, at which he earned both bachelor's and master's degrees. Subsequently, he studied with Alfred Brendel and Maria Curcio in London and earned an Artist Diploma from the New England Conservatory, where he worked with Russell Sherman. A champion of contemporary music, he features the music of John Adams, Leonard Bernstein, John Corigliano, Daniel Brewbaker, Donald Crockett, Judith St. Croix, Lukas Foss, and Lowell Liebermann among his active repertoire.

Krieger's solo recordings include five albums available on the Artisie 4 label: Norman Krieger: Transformations, comprised of Liszt's two piano concertos and his Totentanz, with the Prague Radio Orchestra; Gershwin in Prague, including "Rhapsody in Blue" and Concerto in F, with the Prague National Symphony Orchestra, and Tomas Svoboda: Piano Concertos with the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra, both under the baton of Neal Gittleman; Norman Krieger: Piano Recital, with music by Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, and Chopin; and American Piano Concertos, featuring works by MacDowell and David Wiley with the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra conducted by Wiley.

Krieger's chamber music collaborations include Raising the Roof, an album of chamber music by Haydn, Bloch, Bruch, and Martinů (Artisie 4); The Prince Albert Chamber Music Festival, including works by Barber, Beethoven, Bizet, Chopin, Schubert, and Tchaikovsky (Artisie 4); Voices Through Time, works of Brahms and Schubert with flutist Emily Skala (Summit); and Summerdays, music of Barber, Berg, Bernstein, Gershwin, Glazunov, Lehár, and Mozart, from the Musical Masterworks Festival at Old Lyme (Well-Tempered).

In 2013, he performed Gershwin's Piano Concerto with the New West Symphony, Beethoven's Concertos Nos. 4 and 5 with the Dayton Philharmonic and Ravel's Concerto for the Left Hand with the Brevard Music Center Orchestra. He regularly gives master classes around the world.

Krieger is the founding artistic director of The Prince Albert Music Festival in Hawaii. Since 2008, he has served on the summer faculty at the Brevard music festival in North Carolina.



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Conference Clinician: Dr. William H. Chapman Nyaho



William H. Chapman Nyaho is a Ghanaian American concert pianist specializing in solo piano music by composers from Africa and the African diaspora.

He graduated from the Achimota School in Achimota, where he studied piano with John Barham. He holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in music from St Peter's College, Oxford University, an M.M. from the Eastman School of Music, and a D.M.A. from the University of Texas at Austin. He has also studied at the Conservatoire de Musique de Genève. He has taught at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Colby College and Willamette

University. He currently teaches privately and performs nationally and internationally giving recitals, masterclasses and workshops.

His repertoire includes music by Gamal Abdel-Rahim, Margaret Bonds, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Robert Nathaniel Dett, Halim El-Dabh, Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson, Gyimah Labi, and Joshua Uzoigwe. He has performed throughout the U.S., Canada, and Europe, as well as in China.

He has compiled and edited a five-volume anthology Piano Music of Africa and the African Diaspora published by Oxford University Press.

He lives in Seattle, Washington.

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The graphic features a light blue and purple gradient background. On the left, there are two circular images: one showing a close-up of piano keys with colorful markers, and another showing a worksheet with various musical activities. On the right, there is a circular image of a wooden surface with several colorful ice cream cones, each representing a different grade level from 2nd to 6th. The text is centered and uses a clean, sans-serif font.

Conference Clinician: Dr. Heather Nelson Shouldice



Heather Nelson Shouldice, associate professor of music education, teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in music education, supervises student teachers and serves as coordinator of the music education program at EMU. She also serves as faculty advisor for EMU's collegiate chapter of the National Association for Music Education and directs the early childhood music program through the EMU Community Music Academy. During her doctoral studies, Dr. Shouldice was a recipient of MSU's prestigious Excellence-in-Teaching Citation and also was awarded a Leadership Endowment Fellowship from the MSU Council of Graduate Students and a Dissertation Completion Fellowship from the MSU Graduate School.

Prior to arriving at EMU, Dr. Shouldice taught elementary general music in Michigan public schools for 8 years, and she continues to teach early childhood music classes, which she has been doing for over 15 years. She has presented workshops and conference sessions for music educators across the country on topics such as early childhood music, effective sequencing of instruction, music literacy, improvisation and composition in the elementary music classroom. Dr. Shouldice is currently serving as president of the Gordon Institute for Music Learning (GIML) and also serves as a GIML faculty member, teaching summer professional development courses on music learning theory for music educators.

Dr. Shouldice's research interests include music teacher beliefs and their relationships to teaching practice, music teacher identity development and musical development and musical identity in young children. Her research and writing have been published in the *Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education*, *Research Studies in Music Education*, *Music Education Research*, *Journal of Research in Music Education*, *Journal of Music Teacher Education*, *GIML Audea*, *Michigan Music Educator*, and *Antiphon: The Magazine of the Arizona Chapter American Choral Directors Association*. Dr. Shouldice has presented her research at the Suncoast Music Education Research Symposium, the Desert Skies Symposium on Research in Music Education, the Symposium on Music Teacher Education, the NAFME Music Research and Teacher Education Conference, the Instrumental Music Teacher Educators Colloquium and the MMEA Research Symposium.

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Guest Presenters



Sophié van der Westhuizen

Sophié van der Westhuizen is a Steinway Artist and performs internationally with a specialization in piano duo with her husband Pierre, as the Westhuizen Duo. The duo made their New York debut at Steinway Hall, and regularly appear in residence as guest artists and teachers at various major festivals and institutions throughout the USA. Sophié currently serves on the faculty at Kalamazoo College, maintains a large private studio, and teaches at Interlochen Arts Camp in the summer.

Yelena Wells

Yelena Wells, DMA is a Digital Marketing Strategist at Elite One Media. She serves as the Communications and Technology Chair for Michigan Music Teachers Association and Piano Teachers' Forum of Grand Rapids. Her passion is to keep music studios, schools, and affiliate MTNA organizations competitive, credible, and connected in the digital world.





Debora DeWitt

Debora DeWitt teaches piano and composition to students of all ages. A believer of lifelong learning, she is currently working toward her Dalcroze Certificate at the Dalcroze School of the Rockies. Debora has taught at Iowa State University and Manchester College. She currently teaches piano and theory at Grand Rapids Community College and serves as Secretary on the MMTA Executive Board. Debora earned her Ph.D. (composition) and M.M. (performance) from Michigan State University.

Adrienne Wiley

Adrienne Wiley is currently Professor of Music at Central Michigan University where she teaches and administers the piano pedagogy program at the bachelor's degree level, and teaches class piano. Wiley has held numerous positions in MMTA and for MTNA. She is a frequently invited reviewer of piano music and books for the Music Teachers National Association's American Music Teacher magazine and Piano Magazine, and recently joined Piano Magazine as a staff reviewer.





David Keep

David Keep is an Assistant Professor of Music at Hope College. He holds a PhD in music theory from the Eastman School of Music, an MM in Piano Performance from the Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University, and a BM in Piano Performance from Lawrence University. His research focuses on Brahms, musical meaning, and the connections between analysis and performance.

Heather Vedder

Heather Vedder has been teaching private piano lessons for twenty years and received her Bachelor of Music in Keyboard Pedagogy from Cedarville University. She is Nationally Certified through MTNA and has presented at the Washington State Music Teachers Conference. Currently, she serves as the Capital Area Music Teachers Association's Corresponding Secretary. Heather also enjoys accompanying services at her local church, playing the flute in her community band, and spending time with her family.





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2021 Commissioned Composer – Stephen Mitton



Stephen Mitton (b. 1991) is a composer, performer, and educator based in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He is currently pursuing his Doctorate in Music Composition at the University of Michigan where he has studied composition with Bright Sheng and Michael Daugherty. Stephen also holds a Master's degree in Music Composition from Arizona State University where he studied with Jody Rockmaker, James DeMars, and Rodney Rogers. Stephen has written socially and environmentally conscious music for a wide variety of genres ranging from contemporary dance to full orchestra. He

is the recipient of numerous awards and grants and was most recently named MMTA's Commissioned Composer for the year 2021. He has received commissions from various performers across the country, as well as several groups and organizations including Winona State University, Chicago Public Schools, the Arizona State University Bands and Orchestras, the Arizona State University BioDesign Institute, and the Arizona Flute Society.

In his compositions, Stephen aims to grab audiences' attention by generating short, memorable motifs and melodies that serve an overarching narrative or concept and is intrigued by the possibilities that open up when a variety of harmonic languages converge to this end: lush tonality interspersed with harmonies built on open fourths and fifths; Debussian flourishes juxtaposed with twelve-tone rows. His music is frequently centered on exploring the mental landscapes where memories, dreams, and obscure emotions overlap, often working with concepts like nostalgia, liminality, and the development or perception of one's sense of self as time passes. Mitton is also deeply engaged in music about humankind's impact on the environment and the Earth's immense biodiversity, having written music about plastics pollution in the oceans and wildlife conservation, among similar topics.

Stephen is also an active performer, with a bachelor's degree in cello performance from Utah State University where he studied chamber music with the Fry Street Quartet. He has participated in master classes with such groups as the Emerson, Ying, and Brentano String Quartets, and has given well-received performances throughout the country. As an educator

and pedagogue, Stephen has taught music at both the K-12 level and the collegiate level for over a decade, having held teaching appointments at Utah State University, Arizona State University, BASIS Charter Schools, and the University of Michigan. Much of Stephen's current work centers on championing emerging composers by facilitating commissioning projects with local ensembles and school districts through his publishing company, Leading Tones Music.



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Gala Concert featuring 2021 MMTA Commissioned Composition and Guest Artist Norman Krieger

Britton Recital Hall
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Friday, October 8, 8 pm

Liminal Spaces

Stephen Mitton
(b. 1991)

Isabella Amador, violin I
Xenia St. Charles Gilbert, violin II
HeeJo Yang, viola
Maxwell Remmer, cello
Allison Shinnick, piano

From the composer:

Liminal Spaces are sometimes defined as the physical spaces between one destination and the next, including places like stairwells, hallways, etc., but they are so much more than that. They include places like airports and hotel rooms; they include the spaces between childhood and adulthood, dating and marriage, finishing coursework and graduation; and yes, even the odd space between “pandemic life” and “normal life” during which the bulk of this piece was written. I have been thinking a lot about liminality. We all experience in-between spaces. They can be uncomfortable and awkward. They can be spooky (especially if one is or feels alone); but they can be incredibly beautiful, challenging us to grow and bringing out a vast range of emotions—intense nostalgia, deep longing, fear, and inexpressible joy. In this piece, composed in three distinct sections, I chose to embrace all definitions of liminality and the feelings evoked, celebrating the suggestion of constant motion in the in-between spaces that makes us who we are as we cross thresholds of time, space, and awareness.

Brief Pause for Stage Reset

Norman Krieger, Pianist

Sonata in C Major, K. 330
Allegro moderato
Andante cantabile
Allegretto

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Sonata Op. 31, No. 2 "Tempest"
Largo-Allegro
Adagio
Allegretto

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

Prelude 2020 "The Strangest Year"

Don Freund
(b. 1947)

2 Preludes

Henri Lazarof
(1932-2013)

Nocturne, Op. 9, No. 1

Frédéric Chopin
(1810-1849)

Etudes
Op. 25, No. 1 "Aeolian Harp"
Op. 10, No. 12 "Revolutionary"

Frédéric Chopin
(1810-1849)

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The following two members joined in 1971:

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Vivian Kleinhuizen	Grand Rapids

The following eight members joined in 1996:

Holly Bolthouse	Battle Creek
Lia Jensen-Abbott	Kalamazoo
Hyesook Kim	Grand Rapids
Emilie Lin	Ann Arbor Area
Alicia Operti	Midland and Livonia
Teresa Pash	Battle Creek
Susan Rye	Mid-Michigan
Victoria Sterzick	Grand Rapids

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Masterclass with Guest Artist Norman Krieger

Britton Recital Hall
University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance
Saturday, October 9, 2021, 1:30 PM

Dark Matter

Chrissy Ricker

Ai Hiraga

Student of Elena Tsai
Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild

Sonata in A Major, Op. 59, No. 1
I. Allegro

Friedrich Kuhlau
(1786-1832)

Rudradip Ray

Student of Ceren Su Şahin
Piano Pedagogy Laboratory Program (PPLP), U-M SMTD

Prelude from the B-Flat Major Partita

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

Charles Platt

Student of Renee Robbins
Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild

Feux d'artifice

Claude Debussy
(1862-1918)

Sarah Li

Student of Amy I-Lin Cheng
Lecturer of Piano, U-M SMTD



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2021 MTNA/MMTA Competition Winners Recital

Britton Recital Hall
University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance
Saturday, October 9, 2021, 4:15 PM

MMTA Concerto Competition, Division II Piano Winner

32 Variations in C Minor, WoO 80 Ludwig Van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Ethan Mihaescu, piano

Catherine Rollin, teacher

MMTA SAT Intermediate Division Winner

Nocturne in D-flat Major, Op. 27, No. 1 Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

Bryna Sullivan, piano

Marta Pietrzyk, teacher

MMTA SAT Junior Division Piano Winner

Sonata No. 6 in A Major, Op. 82. Allegro Moderato Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953)

Aaron Wang, piano

Catherine Rollin, teacher

MMTA MTNA Junior Division String Winner

Silent Woods, Op. 68, No. 5 Antonin Dvorak (1841-1904)

Bhargava Kulkarni, cello

Amir Eldan, teacher

MMTA Concerto Competition, Division III Strings Winner

Violin Concerto No. 3 in B Minor, Op. 61. Saint-Saëns(1835-1921)

I. Allegro non troppo Camille

Madeline Cha, violin

Sunmi Chang, teacher

MMTA/MTNA Senior Winds Winner, Third Prize MTNA National Competition

Lamento et Rondo pour Saxophone alto Mib et Piano. Pierre Sancan(1916-2008)

Zachary Costello, saxophone

Joseph Lulloff, teacher

MMTA SAT Senior Division Winner

Andante Spianato and Grand Polonaise, Op. 22. Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

Tejas Shivaraman, piano

Catherine Rollin, teacher

MMTA Concerto Competition, Division IV Piano Winner

Grand étude de Paganini No. 6 in A Minor, S. 141. Franz Liszt (1811-1886)

Richard Gao, piano

Michael Coonrod, teacher

MMTA/MTNA Senior Division Strings Winner

Polonaise Brillante, Op. 3 Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

Benjamin Deighton, cello

Amir Eldan, teacher

MMTA/MTNA Young Artist Division Brass Winner

Euphonium Concerto. Philip Wilby (b. 1949)

II. Dance Zeibekikos,

III. Andante

Christopher Warren, euphonium

Kenneth Kroesche, teacher

MMTA/MTNA Senior Piano Winner

Sonata in F Minor, Op. 57. Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

III. Allegro ma non troppo-Presto

Aleks Shameti, piano

Christopher Harding, teacher

MMTA/MTNA Young Artist Piano Winner

6 Klavierstücke, Op. 118, No. 1 & 2 Johannes Brahms(1833-1897)

Nhi Luong, piano

Christopher Harding, teacher

MMTA/MTNA Young Artist Woodwinds Winner, First Prize MTNA National Competition


Flute Concertino in D Major, Op. 107 Cécile Chaminade (1857-1944),

arr. Valentin Kovalev

Valentin Kovalev, saxophone

Liz Ames, piano

Timothy McAllister, teacher



Welcome to the Diversity & Belonging: Unsung Keyboard Stories conference at the University of Michigan, January 26–30, 2022!

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- Engage with critical stories of social injustices of our time told through keyboard music
- Receive the keepsake program book, filled with resources, editions, video links, and information to diversify your keyboard repertoire and pedagogy

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The Performers



Ethan Mihaescu is 10 years old and in fifth grade at Roeper School. When he was 7, he won the first place award in the Crescendo International Competition resulting in a performance at Carnegie Hall. That year he also won the Michigan Steinway Competition Division I first place award. Ethan has won the first place awards in the concerto competition sponsored by the MMTA in 2019 and 2021 in divisions I and II respectively. Those years he also won the first place awards in the MDML Young Artist Competition division I and II as well. In the fall of 2020 Ethan was one of only six pianists (out of over 300) to be recognized in the Steinway International Virtual (U.S. and Canada)

Competition. Additionally, in 2020- 21, Ethan placed in a number of other prestigious competitions. Among them: The Chopin International Hartford, Musicale Romantic Competition and International Rocky Mountain Competition. Ethan also won the third place award for the MMTA State Solo Competition in 2021. Ethan has been featured by the Tuesday Musicale of Detroit where he most recently was featured as a soloist as well as collaborative pianist with his father, baritone Dan Mihaescu. Ethan studies piano with Catherine Rollin. In addition to piano, Ethan loves reading and studying history and math.

Bryna Sullivan, a seventh-grade student from Rochester Hills, was drawn to music at an early age. At age six she began taking piano lessons with Ms. Marta Pietrzyk who immediately discovered her talent in musical comprehension and expression.

Bryna started to play pieces from classical composers like Mozart and Bach after only a couple years of study. At age 7, she began to compete at various piano contests and won several awards. Those included the AGM national age championships in 2017 and 2018. In the spring



of 2018 and 2019 she won two consecutive first-place awards in the Metro Detroit Musicians League Young Artist Competition. In the same year, Bryna also took the 1st place in Division I of the Steinway competition.

In February 2020, Bryna was invited to perform at the prestigious Tuesday Musicale of Detroit. In early 2021, Bryna won 1st place in the Intermediate division of the MMTA SAT piano competition.

Besides piano, Bryna is also a great dancer and enjoys performing dance. Her favorite sports include swimming and skating. She loves reading and is an outstanding student at Van Hoosen Middle School. She hopes one day she could attend the University of Michigan on her journey to becoming a concert pianist.



Aaron Wang, pianist, is 14 years old and studies with Catherine Rollin. He won the 2020 MTNA junior piano state and regional competitions and was named one of the seven national finalists for MTNA in 2021. Aaron also was selected as the junior division first place winner of the MMTA state finals in 2021. Additionally, he won the junior division first place of the MDML Young Artists Competition in

2021. Aaron was honored to be selected as the winner of the prestigious Slotkin Music Scholarship for Cranbrook Schools where he commenced high school studies this fall. Prior to the 2020-21 season, Aaron had the privilege to be awarded honorable mention and alternate of MTNA state division, and first places in both the MMTA intermediate division state finals and concerto competition. Additionally, he was a finalist in the Kaufman International Piano Competition in N.Y. As a composer, Aaron was a three-time national finalist in the MTNA composition competition, placing 2nd nationally in 2018.



Bhargava Kulkarni is a 12-year-old eighth grade student at the Chippewa middle school in Okemos, Michigan. Bhargava started learning cello as a four-year-old with Molly Rebeck. Since then, he has studied cello with Horacio Contreras and Richard Aaron. For the past three years, he is studying with Amir Eldan, a professor of cello at the University of Michigan. His repertoire includes cello concertos by Kabalevsky, Saint-Saens, Elgar and others as well as many chamber music pieces.

As a participant at the Indiana University Summer String Academy, he performed Gavotte by Popper and the Goltermann cello concerto no. 4. He has won local string performance competitions. He has also participated in several masterclasses including that by Susan Moses (ASTA national conference).

Madeline Cha lives in Midland Michigan and is currently in 10th grade this school year. She is currently studying violin with Sunmi Chang. She received an honorable mention in the Walgreens National Concerto Competition in 2018. In the following year she was the category winner of the Open Strings Junior Division in the Walgreens National Concerto Competition. Madeline was also named the state winner and Nationals alternate for the competition held by MTNA in 2018 and 2019. She won the Royal Oak Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition and Rochester Symphony Young Artist Competition. Afterwards, she won 1st place in the Michigan Music Teachers Association Young Artist Competition. During May in 2021, Madeline performed with the Royal Oak Symphony Orchestra. Madeline has also won 3rd place in the National Symphony Orchestra Summer Music Institute Solo Competition. During



this fall, she became a finalist for the Ronald Sachs International Competition taking place soon, and won the 2nd prize in the Sherer International Violin and Piano Competition.

Aside from her solo activities, she loves to play in the Michigan Youth Symphony Orchestra at U of M. Her hobbies include playing golf and reading books.



Zachary Costello is a rising saxophonist and artist hailing from Baltimore, Maryland. He is currently studying classical saxophone at Michigan State University under Professor Joseph Luloff. Zachary also plays soprano saxophone in the Pulse Quartet, based out of East Lansing, MI.

Zachary has accumulated several notable awards in the past few years. Most recently, he took third place in the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) National Senior Young Artist Competition. In 2020, Zachary won the non-strings division of the U.S. Army Young Artist Competition and was named a finalist in the North American Saxophone Alliance (NASA) High School Solo Competition. Additionally, he was named a finalist for a vacancy in the U.S. Army Field Band in 2019. He was also a

2019 National YoungArts Foundation Winner in Classical Music. Zachary has performed at the New World Center, Carnegie Hall, and the Interlochen Center for the Arts.

Tejas Shivaraman is a senior at Cranbrook H.S. where he is the recipient of the prestigious Slotkin Music Award. He plans to attend the University of Michigan in the Fall. He currently studies with Catherine Rollin. Tejas has been honored to perform in various reputed venues in Europe and the U.S including Sterns and Weill Halls at Carnegie Hall in N.Y.



City. He has won 1st place award from the Metropolitan Detroit Musicians League Young Artist Competition in 2019. He was a 2nd place statewide winner in the Michigan Music Teachers Association State Finals in 2019 and was honored to receive the 1st place at this event in April of 2021. In addition to winning the MFMC's annual Piano Award, Tejas was awarded with 3 national awards from the NFMC in 2020. In addition to his Classical piano studies, Tejas actively performs as a duo in the specialty of Carnatic music. Tejas has developed the piano as an equal partner in this music form. His concerts that combine solo Classical works with his Carnatic music trio have raised thousands of dollars for charitable organizations. Last summer, one of these concerts broadcast live in the U. S. and India raised over \$10,000 for Covid Relief.



Richard Gao is a prize winner of multiple international youth piano competitions. Richard made his Carnegie Hall debut at the age of 7, and has performed with Toronto Symphony Orchestra at Roy Thomson Hall, and has also performed with Ukraine Kharkiv Philharmonic Orchestra, Oakville Chamber Orchestra and Toronto Mandolin Orchestra.

Richard has won many competitions. He won 1st Prize of Canadian Music Competition National Final, 2nd Prize of Kaufman International Youth Piano Competition, 1st Prize of Oakville Youth Concerto Competition, 3rd Prize and 3 Special Prizes (Best Classical Sonata, Best Virtuoso Etude and Best Tchaikovsky Work) of XIII International V. Krainev Youth Piano Competition, 2nd Prize of MTNA Michigan Senior Piano Division, and 1st Prize of MMTA Concerto Competition. Richard played master classes for renowned pianists such as John O'Connor, John Perry, James Anagnoson, Ronan O'Hora and Steven Spooner.

Richard studied piano with Dr. Coonrod at Interlochen Arts Academy (IAA) in his junior and senior years. He was a George and Joyce Kempton Academy Piano Scholar and a recipient of Young Artist Award from IAA. Prior to IAA, as a full scholarship student, Richard studied in The Phil and Eli Taylor Performance Academy for Young Artists, The Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM), Toronto for 7 years in Junior and Senior Piano Programs. Richard currently studying at Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University with Prof. Shtarkman.



Ben Deighton is a student of Amir Eldan at the University of Michigan, and has played the cello since he was four years old. His previous teacher was Carol Lyon, with whom he studied for 12 years. He was principal cello of the Central Pennsylvania Youth Orchestra from 2014-2017, and from 2017-2020 was a member of the Nittany Valley Symphony. In the Fall of 2018, Ben received third prize in the Williamsport Young Artist competition, and was the first prize winner in the Phyllis Triolo competition in Spring 2019. In 2019, he was the winner of the Williamsport Symphony Young Artist competition, performing the second movement of Dvorak's Cello Concerto in B minor. Ben has twice won first place in the Nittany Valley Symphony's Ann Keller Concerto Competition, first in 2017 when he performed the third movement of St. Saëns' Cello Concerto No. 1, and again in 2019 playing the

first movement of St. Saëns' Concerto No. 2. In the summer of 2020, Ben attended the Académie Orford Musique and for the past two summers also attended the Bowdoin International Music Festival. He enjoys spending as much time as possible outside in nature, playing guitar, and skiing.

Christopher Warren, born 1999, is a student from New Baltimore, Michigan. Christopher is a Senior Music Education and Instrumental Performance major at Oakland University, where he studies euphonium under Low Brass Professor Dr. Kenneth Kroesche. Christopher performs in a variety of ensembles at Oakland, including the school's Wind Symphony, the award-winning Oakland University Brass Band, and a British-style brass quartet. In his free time, Christopher enjoys attending concerts, working with students in local K-12 schools, composing and performing in community ensembles. After completing his undergraduate degree, Christopher plans to earn his MM in Euphonium performance



overseas, where he will study the Brass Band style and become a voice of advocacy for Brass Banding in America. In addition to being a National Finalist in the 2021 MTNA Young Artist Brass Competition, Christopher has had the honors of taking part in the 2021 New Zealand International Brass Festival, as well as serving as the principal baritone in 2019 for the Inaugural year of the National Youth Brass Band of America.



Aleks Shameti was born on June 14th, 2003, and started playing piano around the age of 10. Soon after he enrolled in the Jordan Misja School of Music in Tirana, Albania and competed & succeeded in several national, and international competitions. After performing twice with the Albanian National Orchestra, Aleks moved to the USA in 2018. Since then he has been

under the tutelage of Christopher Harding, and has participated in multiple competitions, winning the 2019 Steinway Jr. Piano Competition, and most recently placing as a finalist in the 2020 MTNA Competition Senior Piano category. In his spare time Aleks enjoys writing, producing, and singing his own songs. Aleks is currently studying for a degree in Piano Performance from the University of Michigan SMTD.

Vietnamese pianist **Nhi Luong** has enjoyed an international career spanning over three continents. Born and raised in a musical family, Nhi started playing piano at the age of four. In 2014, Nhi was the only candidate who got chosen to study in Kunstuniversität Graz (Austria) with full scholarship, after a series of auditions which were held by the



ASIA-Uninet and OeAD in the South-East Asia region. During her time in Austria, she was engaged in numerous performances throughout Europe, such as Bad Goisern (Austria), Karlsruhe (Germany) and Aarhus (Denmark).

Nhi has received First Prize in the Yong Siew Toh Concerto Competition in 2017 and MMTA Performance Competition in 2020. In recognition of her exceptional potential, she has been the recipient of the Steven Baxter Memorial Scholarship, Lyra Foundation Grant and the Yong Siew Toh Artistic Development Grant.

Nhi obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Piano Performance with full scholarship at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music (Singapore), her Master of Music Degree in Piano Performance and Chamber Music at the University of Michigan. Nhi is currently pursuing DMA in Piano Performance under the tutelage of Prof. Christopher Harding.

During his first year of studies in the US, **Valentin Kovalev** won the Concerto Competition, MTNA Young Artists competition, Saxiana Online International competition, and the National Saxophone Museum Competition, National Audition of the Astral Artists Roster. The most reputable foundations in France, the US, and Russia have awarded Valentin, including The Mstislav Rostropovich Foundation, La Fondation Marcel Bleustein-Blanchet, Fonds de Tarraz, Legs Edward Jabes, L'Or du Rhin, Eugene Bossart prize winner. Valentin has earned awards from the President of the Russian Federation and won a grant from the mayor of Moscow City.



As a soloist, he has performed with major orchestras, such as the New Russia Orchestra, the Orchestra of Galina Vishnevskaya Opera Center, and the Tchaikovsky Big Symphony Orchestra. In 2019 Valentin performed in the live-broadcast concert on the "Radio France Musique." Valentin is a prize winner of many international competitions in the US, Andorra, France, Israel, Malta, Ukraine and Russia.

As the soprano saxophone chair of the saxophone quartet "Triton," he had a concert tour in China, which performed 10 concerts in 9 cities in April 2019.



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2020 Distinguished Service Award Recipient

Adrienne Wiley



Adrienne Wiley is currently Professor of Music at Central Michigan University where she teaches and administers the piano pedagogy program at the bachelor's degree level, and teaches class piano. Dr. Wiley received her bachelors and master's degrees in piano performance from the University of Kansas, and her doctor of musical arts in piano performance and pedagogy from the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Wiley's dual focus on performance and pedagogy keeps her active in both areas: she maintains an active performance career as a soloist and collaborative pianist, and also has given

workshops, presentations, and lectures throughout the state, mid-west, national, and international levels.

Dr. Wiley is certified through the Music Teachers National Association at the state and national levels. She has served MTNA (national level) in many capacities: most notably the Local Associations Awards Chair, the MTNA Senior Performance Competitions Chair, and other select committees. Currently she is the East Central Division Competitions Coordinator for the MTNA Competitions. She has been active in the Michigan Music Teachers Association as well, holding various offices since she came to Michigan.

Dr. Wiley received the nomination for Teacher of the Year for the MTNA national level (2013); received the Teacher of the Year Award from the Michigan Music Teachers Association (2013); and received the Touchstone Award (2014) through the Michigan Music Teachers Association and the Michigan Youth Arts Council. In her spare time, Dr. Wiley has authored articles that have appeared in the American Music Teacher Magazine, Keyboard Companion, Clavier magazines, and the Clavier-Companion (Clavier and Clavier-Companion are now Piano Magazine). Wiley reviewed the book, *One-Handed: A Guide to Piano Music for One Hand* for the Journal of the Music Library Association. In addition, she is a frequently invited reviewer of piano music and books for the Music Teachers National Association's American Music Teacher magazine and Piano Magazine, and recently joined Piano Magazine as a staff reviewer.

Dr. Wiley has been invited to present at the International Society of Music Education in Brazil, 2014, Glasgow, Scotland, 2016, and at the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers National Conference in Canada, 2015 and 2019 and the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy, 2019. She has presented for the College Music Society at the state, regional, and national levels, as well as the Music Teachers National Association Conferences.

Summer finds Dr. Wiley as the coordinator of the junior piano camps at the Illinois Summer Youth Music Program's piano camp, where she has been on the ISYM teaching faculty for over 14 years. In addition, she devotes her spare time to her favorite topic: one-handed piano music: she has written articles on the topic, delivered workshops at the state, mid-west, national and international levels.

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2021 Distinguished Service Award Recipient

Yelena Wells



Dr. Yelena Wells' music career is centered at Grand Rapids Community College where she taught piano lessons, piano classes, music history and music appreciation for 18 years. Recently, Yelena Wells served as a visiting piano professor at Hope College. She is an active member of the Michigan Music Teachers Association and Grand Rapids Piano Teachers' Forum where she serves as the Marketing & Technology Chair. She is a frequent adjudicator for Michigan's state and local piano competitions. Yelena received a Bachelor of Music from Grand Valley State

University, Master of Music from Western Michigan University Doctorate of Musical Arts from Michigan State University.

Yelena currently serves as the Digital Marketing Strategist at Elite One Media. She has a passion for helping musicians develop and grow their marketing strategies. Through Elite One Media, she offers a wide range of internet marketing services including web design, social media marketing, Google Street View virtual tours, and Search Engine Optimization. The marketing strategies she implements keep music professionals competitive, credible and connected in the digital world.

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Timothy Muffitt
Conductor, Music Director

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Masterworks 01
GATHERING TOGETHER
Briggs, Bernstein,
Tchaikovsky

October 09, 2021
Saturday, 7:30pm

Masterworks 02
HOPE, FROM DARKNESS
Lucia Micarelli
Plays Sibelius

November 12, 2021
Friday, 7:30pm

Pops 01
HOLIDAY POPS
Season's Greetings

December 19, 2021
Sunday, 3:00pm

Masterworks 03
FOR THE PEOPLE
Shostakovich Cello
Concerto No. 1

January 14, 2022
Friday, 7:30pm

Pops 02
BROADWAY ROCKS
Broadway Rock and Pop
From The 80's to Today

February 12, 2022
Saturday, 7:30pm

Masterworks 04
WIT & BALANCE
Haydn, Mozart,
Poulenc

March 19, 2022
Saturday, 7:30pm

Pops 03
THE MUSIC OF ABBA
MAMMA MIA!
& MORE

April 23, 2022
Saturday, 7:30pm

Masterworks 05
PASSION & EMOTION
Brahms Symphony
No. 2

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Friday, 7:30pm

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Teacher of the Year Bios 2021

Ryan Blok



Ryan Blok enjoys a multi-faceted career as a pianist and vocalist. In addition to his more than 20 piano and voice students which he teaches at his Grandville, MI studio, he also works extensively as a ballet pianist. He plays at the Grand Rapids Ballet, as well as the Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance at Grand Valley State University, where he also teaches Keyboard Musicianship to freshman music students. His other professional engagements have included serving as Assistant Director of the West Michigan Gay Men's Chorus, playing in theatre pit orchestras around West Michigan, teaching at the Knollcrest Music Camp, and singing with Opera Grand Rapids, as well as collaborating with vocalists and horn players at GVSU. He just finished a 4-year stint as the Treasurer on the Executive Board of the Piano Teachers' Forum of

Grand Rapids, and is a member of the Michigan Music Teachers' Association, as well as the Music Teachers National Association. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in music and a Piano Pedagogy Certificate from Grand Valley State University.

Mary Ann Anschutz



Mary Ann Anschutz has been an active member of the Mid-Michigan Music Teachers Association since 1972, holding all board positions throughout the years and just finished serving nine years as the co-chair of the SAT. She is the state chair for the Music Teachers National Association Composition Competition and is an active supporter of the local music scene including the Midland Symphony Orchestra.

Mary Ann's love of music was inspired by her creative and amazing teacher at the one room country school where Mary Ann attended until grade 7. This teacher led her to the music teaching profession. Mary Ann received her music education degree from Central Michigan University and has taught private piano and voice lessons in Midland for more than 40 years. She has lived in Midland since 1970, is a member of the ZOE Women's Club and enjoys tennis, cooking and gardening. She has been a presenter for Bay Radiation Oncology and Midland Cancer Service, educating individuals on ways music can be used as therapy for both patients and their family.

What Mary Ann most enjoys about teaching is the special relationship that develops between teacher and student, particularly those students who study with her for many years. She continues to receive wonderful communications from past students, which indicates the impact Mary Ann's care and encouragement has on her students. One of her most cherished comments came from a mother whose 4 children had all studied with her. "My children think of you as part of our family." That says it all!

Melanie Honnold Zimmer



Melanie Honnold Zimmer has been playing the piano since she was six years old. In fourth grade, Melanie's piano teacher told her mother she would never play the piano and would no longer waste her time teaching her. Thankfully she was wrong! Sue England was Melanie's elementary music teacher...writing the school's Christmas Program every year. Melanie studied with Carole Ingram from fifth grade through high school and credits these women with giving her inspiration and a life-long love for the piano.

Melanie started accompanying for the school choirs when she was in sixth grade and continued throughout her high school years. She attended piano camp at Eastern

Illinois University in 1969. She won first place in a talent competition with a piano solo in 1971.

In 1986, Melanie began attending Delta College and studied piano with Barbara DuRussel. She also accompanied for the Delta Choir.

In 1998, Melanie taught Drama, Music Appreciation, and all choirs and elementary music at Midland Christian School. Together, with the drama class, she wrote the Christmas musical...nearly the entire school performed. This realized the long-time dream instilled in her by Mrs. England.

Melanie started teaching piano in 2001 and continues to teach piano both in person and online.

Beginning in 2009, Melanie began accompanying for middle and high school choirs and for Solo and Ensemble throughout the Midland area and continues to do so today.

Melanie has written hundreds of worship and contemporary Christian songs, and has recorded a piano CD of original, improvised compositions that has been popular among her local and affiliated churches. She continues to minister in music in her

local church.

Melanie has been active in MMTA since 1993 and Co-chair of SAT for nine years. She has five children and fifteen grandchildren, some of whom are her students as well.

Heather Vedder



Heather Vedder has been teaching private piano lessons for twenty years. In 2008, she received her Bachelor of Music in Keyboard Pedagogy from Cedarville University which is located in Southwest Ohio. She is Nationally Certified as a Teacher of Music in Piano through MTNA.

Heather conducted research on group activities which she presented in 2013 at the

Washington State Music Teachers Association Conference, and again in 2018 at a Capital Area Music Teachers (CAMTA) chapter meeting. Currently, she is the CAMTA Corresponding Secretary which involves participating on the Executive Board, editing the newsletter, and forwarding correspondence. She has also voluntarily taken on responsibility for the CAMTA Facebook Page and a Halloween recital, Halloween Hoot. In addition to her other responsibilities, Heather enjoys accompanying services at her local church, playing the flute in the Charlotte Community Band, and spending time with her family. She currently has a studio in Charlotte, MI where she lives with her husband and two preschool aged sons.

Gaye Thomas

Gaye Thomas was born in Ogden, Utah, into a community that valued music as a practical talent. From a young age, she could often be found either singing or accompanying her choirs or musicals. Following high school, Gaye moved to New York and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Piano Performance from SUNY Albany. She received her Master of Music a few years later in Piano Performance & Pedagogy from Northwestern University. Shortly after graduating, Gaye and her husband moved to the Boston area for eight years, where she began her teaching career and also freelanced as the music director for a children's theater group named ACT/Tunes in Concord, MA.



Gaye spent the next 24 years in one spot, raising two musical sons, teaching privately, and finding great colleagues in the Oregon Music Teachers Association. She volunteered in the Oregon's student assessment testing and joined the National Federation of Music Clubs. She also earned her national MTNA certification, (NCTM), while living in Oregon.

One last move across the country in 2013 brought Gaye to Ann Arbor and the exceptional community of teachers that make up AAAPTG. She met great friends through volunteering. Eventually she helped improve the Guild's SAT registration process by introducing Leggiero, a software company she knew from her time in Oregon. In 2018 she founded the first

NFMC Junior and Senior Club in Ann Arbor. In the same year, Gaye became the President of AAAPTG, which turned out to be a highlight of her professional life. She felt especially bonded to the group during the country's struggle with civil unrest, and she served an extra year as president due to the challenges brought on by the Covid pandemic. Last year Gaye chaired the Guild's five-person SAT committee whose task was to bring SAT testing fully on-line during the pandemic.

Gaye is currently enjoying her role as Past-President for the Guild. In addition, she is serving on MMTA's new SAT Committee which is dedicated to further defining and clarifying SAT's process and purpose. In her extra time, Gaye plans to explore music by lesser known composers, figure out how to use some of the cool new apps she downloaded during the pandemic, and think more about how to create musical collaborations for students, teachers, and local chapters.

Sara Aylesworth

Sara Aylesworth, is a dynamic piano teacher and member of the Metropolitan Detroit Musicians League (MDML.) This past year Sara boldly spearheaded MDML in its first virtual-only experience due to the world-wide pandemic caused by COVID-19. She hosted MDML's monthly board member and general meetings, encouraged participation in their student recitals and young artist competition held via YouTube. She conducted their first ever Holiday party with lots of fun and prizes!

Sara studied piano at Oakland University with Dr. Rebecca Happel-Mexicotte and earned a B.A. in Music in 2009. Since then, she received the State of Michigan Teacher Certification



(2012) and National Certification (2014) in piano teaching. She enjoys challenges including the completion of the Royal Conservatory of Music, Advanced Piano Teacher Course.

Sara has a beautiful piano studio in Utica, Michigan, enriched with highly motivated students.

Many of her students have

completed the highest level of testing in the MMTA-SAT exam. She keeps her students busy with recitals, exams and competitions.

Faith and family are important to Sara being instrumental motivators for her to grow as a person and teacher. She cherishes her wonderful husband, Rick and their precious three children, Makayla 9 years old, Zachariah 5 years old and Gabriella 3 years old.

Fun fact: Her business name is Music Keys 33, inspired from a Bible verse that struck a chord in her heart to pursue a career in teaching piano.

Psalms 33:3, "Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy."

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MMTA-SAT PIANO FINAL WINNERS

May 2, 2021

Piano: Intermediate Division

Eric Van De Vort and TJ Lymenstull, Adjudicators

First Place: Bryna Sullivan, student of Marta Pietrzyk
Second Place: Spencer Sun, student of Catherine Rollin
Third Place: Ethan Mihaescu, student of Catherine Rollin
Honorable Mention: John Foster, student of Helen Marlais

Piano: Junior Division

Eric Van De Vort and TJ Lymenstull, Adjudicators

First Place: Aaron Wang, student of Catherine Rollin
Second Place: Yi-An Liao, student of Catherine Rollin
Third Place: Alexander Kwon, student of Laurie M. Marshall
Honorable Mention: Hannah Chun, student of Betty Mustert
Adahlia Xu, student of Catherine Rollin

Piano: Senior Division

Adrienne Wiley and Michael Coonrod, Adjudicators

First Place: Tejas Shivaraman, student of Catherine Rollin
Second Place: Shaun Lee, student of Nai-Wen Wang
Third Place: Fuka Somatomo, student of Sookkyung Cho
Honorable Mention: Allyson Franklin, student of Catherine Rollin

MMTA 2021 CONCERTO COMPETITION WINNERS

Division II

First Place: Ethan Mihaescu, Piano. Student of Catherine Rollin

Division III

First Place: Madeline Cha, Violin. Student of Sunmi Chang

Second Place: Brian Zhang, Piano. Student of Christopher Harding

Third Place: Allen Choi, Violin. Student of Mallory Tabb

Honorable Mention: Arianne Kim, Cello. Student of Marilyn Kesler

Division IV

1st Place: Richard Gao, Piano. Student of Michael Coonrod

2nd Place: Eric Yun, Violin. Student of I-Fu Wang

3rd Place: Fuka Somatomo, Piano. Student of Sookkyung Cho

Honorable Mention: Audrey Zhang, Piano. Student of Christopher Harding

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2020 MTNA Michigan Composition & Performance Competitions

November 2020

Junior Division

Piano:

Winner: Aaron Wang, student of Catherine Rollin
Alternate: Brian Zhang, student of Christopher Harding
Honorable Mention: Alexandra Xu, student of Mary Siciliano

String:

Winner: Bhargava Kulkarni, Cello. Student of Amir Eldan
Alternate: Allan Choi, Violin. Student of Mallory Tabb

Senior Division

Composition:

Winner: Jonah Cohen, student of Mary Siciliano
Honorable Mention: Jackson Naglick, student of Catherine Rollin
Atticus Rebmann, student of Michael Coonrod

Piano:

Winner: Aleks Shameti, student of Christopher Harding

Alternate: Richard Gao, student of Michael Coonrod

Honorable Mention: Luis Villa, student of Michael Coonrod

Khoa Ho, student of Thomas Lymenstull

Annie Tang, student of Faye Mao

String:

Winner: Ben Deighton, Cello. Student of Amir Eldan

Alternate: Kaivalya Kulkarni, Cello. Student of Amir Eldan

Honorable Mention: Eric Yun, Violin. Student of I-Fu Wang

Woodwind:

Winner: Zachary Costello, Saxophone. Student of Joseph Lulloff

Alternate: Laura Ramsay, Saxophone. Student of Timothy McAllister

Young Artist Division

Brass:

Winner: Christopher Warren, Euphonium. Student of Kenneth Kroesche

Alternate: Iyla Miller, Euphonium. Student of Kenneth Kroesche

Piano:

Winner: Nhi Luong, student of Christopher Harding

Alternate: Lyndon Ji, student of Logan Skelton

Honorable Mention: Angie Zhang, student of Logan Skelton

String:

Winner: Danqi Zeng, Violin. Student of Daniele Belen

Alternate: Jackie Hager, Cello. Student of Amir Eldan

Woodwind:

Winner: Valentin Kovalev, Saxophone. Student of Timothy McAllister

Alternate: Maria Torres Melgares, Saxophone. Student of Timothy McAllister

Honorable Mention: Alex Toth, Saxophone Teacher, John Nichol

Nathan Salazar, Saxophone Teacher, Joseph Lulloff

Lindsay Bos, Clarinet Teacher, Arthur Campbell

2020 MTNA Michigan Performance Competition Guest Judges:

Brass

Young Artist -Thomas Evans

Piano:

Junior – Andrew Le, Nick Susi, Susan Yang Walvoord

Senior – Matthew Hagle, Adam Neiman, Susan Tang

Young Artist – Eunjin Lee, George Radosavljevic, Silvia Roederer

Strings:

Junior, Senior, and Young Artist – David Lister, Bruce Uchimura, Jenny Walvoord

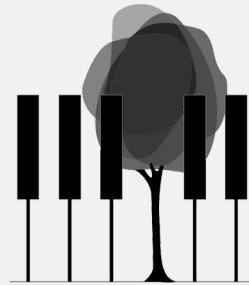
Woodwind:

Junior, Senior, and Young Artist – Heidi Johanna Radtke, Henning Schroder, Kenneth Tsa

MTNA Michigan Composition and Performance Competition Team

Mary Ann Anschutz	Composition Coordinator
Ruth Goveia	Young Artist Division Coordinator
LMM/Jordon Young	Junior Division Coordinator
Jordon Young	Technical Assistant
Karen Feilla	Senior Division Coordinator
Laurie M. Marshall	Performance Competition Chair

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for an amazing in-person and virtual 2021 conference!

2021-2022 Programs

J.S. Bach's Ornamentation, *Edward Parmentier*

September 23, 2021

Dalcroze Workshop, *Jeremy Dittus*

November 18, 2021

Trauma-informed Pedagogy and the Power to Transform, *Gloria Tham-Haines*

January 20, 2022

Promoting Inclusion in Piano Repertoire, *A Seat at the Piano (ASAP)*

March 17, 2022

"Sand Paintings for Piano"

A New Commissioned Work by Navajo Composer Connor Chee, *Joel Schoenhals*

April 21, 2022

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East Central Division MTNA Competitions

Michigan Results

Junior Performance, Piano:

Division Winner: Aaron Wang

Teacher, Catherine Rollin

Senior Performance, Piano:

Division Winner: Aleks Shameti

Teacher, Christopher Harding

Senior Composition:

Division Honorable Mention: Jonah Cohen

Teacher, Mary Siciliano

Senior Performance, Woodwind:

Division Winner, National Third Place: Zachary Costello

Teacher, Joseph Lulloff

Senior Performance, String:

Division Winner: Ben Deighton

Teacher, Amir Eldan

Young Artist Performance, Piano:

Division Alternate: Nhi Luong

Teacher, Christopher Harding

Young Artist Performance, Brass:

Division Representative: Christopher Warren

Teacher, Kenneth Kroesche

Young Artist Performance, Woodwind:

Division Winner, National Winner: Valentin Kovalev

Teacher, Timothy McAllister

Young Artist Performance, String:

Division Alternate: Danqi Zeng

Teacher, Danielle Belen



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The next generation is being affected by a technology juggernaut. We cannot let remote learning become remote relationships. Digital models offer no replacement of soul. The immediacy and richness of music study, the delayed gratification and daring stretches of skill development, along with the power of your nurture can indeed bolster a generation. Together, we offer an antidote to technology, a celebration of our humanity, and an adventurous path of human development.

For more on the art of piano teaching, please visit pianoadventures.com/blog.

