

# 2019 GMTA STATE CONFERENCE

## GEORGIA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Columbus State University  
Schwob School of Music  
November 7-9, 2019





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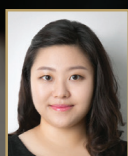
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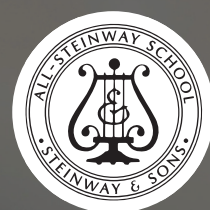


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# Georgia Music Teachers Association

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*Joy Poole*  
GMTA President

Welcome to the 2019 GMTA State Conference! GMTA Vice-President, Programs, Dr. Owen Lovell, has worked tirelessly in all aspects of planning our conference. You will not be disappointed that you joined us this year. Congratulations and much appreciation to Dr. Lovell for an outstanding job!

A special thank you to the faculty and staff of the Schwob School of Music at Columbus State University for serving as the conference host this year. GMTA appreciates your continued support over the years. I would also like to thank the Columbus Music Teachers Association for providing hospitality during the conference and serving as our local host.

During the conference you will have many opportunities to attend wonderful concerts and student recitals. Thank you to GMTA Vice-President, Auditions, Yien Wang and GMTA Vice-President, Competitions, Ashley Craig-Diaz, for their excellent work in organizing the competitions and the recitals. This year we are pleased to have the Schwob Philharmonic, under the direction of Paul Hostetter, performing with the 2019 GMTA Concerto Winners.

As you look through the conference program, take note of our advertisers and exhibitors. GMTA is grateful that they join with us to support music education across the state. During the conference, make sure you take time to stop by the exhibits to show our appreciation of their support.

It is encouraging to see how the members of GMTA work together to continue to offer excellent programs for both the teacher and the student. Thanks to each of you who volunteer at the local and state level. I would especially like to thank the Executive Board, the FAC and Mandy Reynolds, Executive Director, for their excellent service to GMTA.

Each member has so much to offer. Over the years in GMTA I have gained treasured friends. While at the conference, I encourage you to connect with your colleagues and hope that you leave inspired by all that the conference offers.

Joy Poole  
GMTA President



*Dr. Owen Lovell*  
Vice President, Programs



## MEET ERICA CALHOUN

Wesleyan Class of 2023

Macon is Erica's hometown, but ten years of piano performances and competitions have taken her to many venues around the southeast.

Erica has competed in the local and regional levels at Georgia Music Teachers Association, received superior rankings in hymn and solo playing at The National Federation of Music Clubs Festival, and was runner-up in the Joseph Maertz Scholarship competition. In 2017 she toured 12 cities in Italy as a selected participant of the Grumo Festival. As a first-year student at Wesleyan, Erica won the Atlanta Steinway Society Scholarship that carried a prize of \$1,000.

This piano performance major, who was homeschooled, plans to continue her education to the graduate level and earn her doctorate in music. Erica's career goals include teaching piano at the university level and as a private instructor.

Erica says she chose Wesleyan because, "The faculty, and especially the music faculty, are really hands on. They genuinely care about each student and they teach us life lessons along with academics. The close and friendly environment of Wesleyan's small campus is also a great fit for me."

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**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Students regularly present or compete at events held by organizations such as Georgia Music Teachers Association, Georgia Music Educators Association, the National Association of Teachers of Singing, Music Teachers National Association, and others.



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Dear Georgia Music Teachers Association Members and Guests:

On behalf of all my colleagues at the Joyce and Henry Schwob School of Music, it's a pleasure to welcome you to our CSU RiverPark campus and the RiverCenter for the Performing Arts. We are delighted to serve as this year's host for the Georgia Music Teachers Association Annual Conference. The long relationship between our school and GMTA goes back to the early Columbus College days. As we celebrate our 50th Anniversary this year, we're reminiscing about the many connections we share, including Rex Whiddon's service as President of MTNA.

With an exceptional teaching and performing faculty, strong levels of private support for student scholarships, and world-class facilities, the Joyce and Henry Schwob School of Music at Columbus State University attracts students from across Georgia, the United States, and increasingly from all parts of the world. With an abundance of opportunities for students to flourish here as artists, creators, thinkers, and doers, it's not surprising that, as you look across campus, you'll see us described as "Creative to the Core." Please know that you and your students have an open invitation to visit our campus at any time to see that creativity in action.

Thank you for the vital work you do to inspire people of all ages to dig deeper, learn more, and expand their experience with this wonderful and inexhaustible art. I hope your time at the GMTA conference is filled with exciting music, great conversations, good food, many discoveries, and a renewed sense of the joy of making music together.

Sincerely,

Scott Harris  
Director

The Joyce and Henry Schwob School of Music



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**Audition Dates**  
February 22, 2020  
March 21, 2020  
April 25, 2020

**Faculty**  
**Robert Henry, Coordinator, Piano Studies**  
Tyrone Jackson, Jazz Piano  
Judy Cole, Julie Coucheron, Eric Jenkins,  
Huu Mai, John Marsh, Erika Tazawa

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MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

November 7, 2019

Dear Georgia MTA Members:

On behalf of your over 20,000 MTNA colleagues across the country, we want to add our welcome to the Georgia 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 continuing education, 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 continuing education and networking, you are cordially invited to attend the upcoming 2020 MTNA National Conference in Chicago, Illinois. The dates are March 21–25, 2020, and the venue is the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile. The Opening Session on Saturday evening will feature the winner of the 2020 National Chopin Piano Competition. Tuesday night's recital features Anton Nel. In addition, you will also have the opportunity to attend dozens of informative sessions, inspiring master classes, and an exhibit hall with the latest music, products and innovations. The 2020 MTNA National Conference will be an unforgettable learning and sharing experience.

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

Sincerely,

Martha Hilley, NCTM  
President

Sincerely,

Gary L. Ingle  
Executive Director & CEO

## 2019 Georgia Music Teachers Association Conference Columbus State University, Columbus, Georgia

### Thursday, November 7, 2019

12:00-5:30 Registration & Exhibits  
*South Lobby*

12:30-1:20 Conference Split Session

#### **Embracing an 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Musical Mindset in a 21<sup>st</sup>-Century World**

Dr. Monique Arar, NCTM, Presenter

Jan Adams, Presider

*Studio Theatre*

Regarding classical-period repertoire, is an understanding of sonata-allegro form really enough? Rather than continue to approach this repertoire through anachronistic lenses centered on harmonic analysis, we can place ourselves in the composers' shoes. By studying "schamas" (Gjerdingen, 2007), compositional building blocks composers had been trained to use starting in the world's first conservatories, I will demonstrate how students can not only accelerate their learning of this repertoire, but even be inspired to create their own.

#### **Liszt's Selected Songs and Ballade No. 2**

Dr. You Ju Lee, NCTM & Dr. Youngmi Kim, Presenters

Rebekah Boles, Presider

*Choir Room 1714*

Frans Liszt's values of form, harmony, and thematic development as the essential musical elements, leads to detailed assessment of Liszt's output such as texture in sensible structural elements, interpretation and his typical virtuosic devices. The Ballade is Liszt's most proficient and comprehensible essay in pianistic texture, demonstrating instrumental developments in his work.

1:30-2:20 Conference Split Session

#### **Pianist-Composers**

Dr. Benjamin Warsaw, Presenter

Dr. Katrin Meidell, Presider

*Studio Theatre*

There is a standing tradition that concert pianists have been improvisers and composers in addition to interpreting the classic repertoire. This presentation will explore Romantic, Twentieth Century, and Contemporary pianist-composers and their repertoire and will touch on improvisation as well. New repertoire ideas for students will be discussed as well as ways to introduce improvisation into the traditional concert program.

#### **Who Came Up With These Fingerings, Anyway? Piano Scale Sense**

Dr. Carol Payne, NCTM, Presenter

Dr. Beibei Lin, Presider

*Choir Room 1714*

Have you ever thought about who came up with the traditional keyboard scale fingerings? We've all had students who correctly played a scale with the hands separately only to stumble when they attempted to play the hands together. Of course, coordination difficulties abound, but could another problem be awkward fingering demands? And most importantly, why do we require students to repeatedly practice scales with fingerings that would be actively avoided in repertoire performance?

2:30-3:20 Conference Split Session

#### **Rachmaninoff's Solo Piano Works: Interpretive and Technical Aspects**

Dr. Raffi Besalyan, Presenter

Dr. You Ju Lee, Presider

*Studio Theatre*

We will take a look at Rachmaninoff's solo piano works and the advantages of teaching his music to students of various levels. Session will include a musical performance and discussion of the interpretive and technical challenges found in Rachmaninoff's solo compositions.

#### **Teaching the Littlest Fingers: Research and Materials for the Youngest Beginners**

Shorter University MTNA Student Chapter, Presenters

Dr. Monique Arar, NCTM, Presider

*Choir Room 1714*

Most piano teachers have an ideal "starting age" in mind. But what happens when a younger sibling asks to take lessons too? How young can children begin their piano study? What are some of the particular challenges and benefits of teaching younger beginners? What are the best materials to use with children ages 3-6? This session will present research and materials that prepare you to teach the littlest fingers.

3:30-4:45 Conference Headliner

#### **Rote Teaching: A New Paradigm**

Katherine Fisher and Dr. Julie Knerr Hague, Presenters

Dr. Benjamin Warsaw, Presider

*Studio Theatre*

Learning by rote allows students to develop their memory, aural skills, and technique without the added complication of reading the notation. This workshop will explore the elements of what makes a good Rote Piece and present practical strategies to assist teachers in introducing Rote Pieces to students.

4:45-5:00 Visit Exhibits, Hospitality, Awards and Foundation Tables  
*South Lobby*



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## AUDITION DATES

Friday, February 7, 2020  
Saturday, February 22, 2020  
Saturday, February 29, 2020



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5:00-5:50 **Presentation of GMTA Broadhurst Award and GMTA Composition Awards  
GMTA/MTNA Competition Winners Recital  
GMTA Auditions Winners' Recital - College Level**  
Ashley Craig-Diaz and Yien Wang, Presiders  
*Studio Theatre*

### PROGRAM

Piano Sonata No. 26 in Eb Major, Op. 81a  
III. Das Wiedersehen: Vivacissimamente Ludwig van Beethoven  
(1770-1827)

**Piano - Lower College**  
**Caleb Esmond**  
Townsend School of Music at Mercer University  
From the studio of Professor Ian Altman

Piano Sonata Hob. XVI: 37 in D Major  
I. Allegro Franz Joseph Haydn  
(1732-1809)  
II. Largo  
III. Presto

**Piano - Middle College**  
**Valentina Qishan Huang**  
Wesleyan College  
From the studio of Dr. Chenny Gan

Scherzo No. 2 in C Minor, Op. 14 Clara Schumann  
(1819-1896)  
"pour les degrés chromatiques" from Douze Études, L136 Claude Debussy  
(1862-1918)

**Piano - Upper College**  
**Tsai-Wei Li**  
Hugh Hodgson School of Music at the University of Georgia  
From the studio of Dr. Liza Stepanova

6:00-7:15 Dinner on your own

7:30-8:30 **Schwob Philharmonic featuring 2019 GMTA Pre-College Concerto Winners**

Paul Hostetter, Music Director and Conductor  
*The Ethel Foley Distinguished Chair in Orchestral Activities*  
 Legacy Hall

Suite from Der Rosenkavalier

Richard Strauss  
 (1864-1949)

**Schwob Philharmonic**

Cello Concerto in B Minor, Op. 104, I. Allegro

Antonín Dvorák  
 (1841-1904)

**Evan Nicholson, cello**

From the studio of Martin Gueorguiev

Piano Concerto Op. 11 in E Minor, I. Allegro Maestoso

Frédéric Chopin  
 (1810-1849)

**Alice Zhang, piano**

From the studio of Lois Finlay

**Friday, November 8, 2019**

9:15-5:30 Registration & Exhibits  
 South Lobby

9:45-10:35 Conference Split Session

**Preparing Students for Debussy**

Dr. Martha Thomas, NCTM and Dr. Pete Jutras, NCTM, Presenters  
 Dr. Carol Payne, NCTM, Presider  
 Studio Theatre

The music of Claude Debussy is an important part of the piano repertoire, yet Debussy himself did not write much that is appropriate for early-level students. This engaging session introduces elementary and intermediate repertoire that establishes a solid

foundation for the techniques, touches, and sounds found in Debussy's works. Through live demonstration and score analysis, teachers will see how they can help students effectively learn the skills and techniques needed to play in this style.

**An Elephant's Memory: Constructing, Securing, and Stabilizing Memorization for Piano Students**

Dr. Beibei Lin, Presenter  
 Amy Neal, Presider  
 Choir Room 1714

The fear of memory-slips is among a pianist's greatest obstacle to enjoying the performance process. We can all conjure up real or imagined scenarios of "blanking" at the piano on stage; or worse, watching our students battle these same fears, while wondering how we can mentor and fortify them against such fears. This presentation will delve into memory research and present ideas for helping our students construct, secure, and stabilize their memory work.

10:45-11:35 Conference Split Session

**The Leap from Intermediate to Advanced**

Prof. Ian Altman, Presenter  
 Pam Asberry, Presider  
 Studio Theatre

A close look at Chopin's Polonaises, Op. 26, showing technical and musical difficulties and how to solve them. These two works prepare the piano student for such advanced works as Chopin's Scherzos and Ballades as well as advanced works by Schumann, Brahms, and other romantic composers.

**Schwob School of Music Viola Ensemble**

Dr. Katrin Meidell, Director  
 Dr. Yumi Patterson, NCTM, Presider  
 Choir Room 1714

A group comprised solely of violas might not be one's first choice for a chamber music ensemble. However, such an ensemble builds solidarity and friendship within an oft-overlooked string section, that, it turns out, sounds quite phenomenal. A surprisingly large catalogue of viola ensemble repertoire caters to a wide range of abilities, meaning studio mates can play together and learn from one another in a fun and low-stress environment. This session will present such compositions.

**Lend Me Your Ears: Teaching note reading to students who play by ear and aural skills to students who have difficulty hearing pitches**

Kennesaw State University MTNA Student Chapter, Presenters  
 Dr. David Gross, Presider  
 Classroom 1713

Students who play by ear often lack the motivation to learn note reading because it is simply easier for them to play what sounds good to them. We will present tips and tricks to

**NORTH DEKALB MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

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allow them to play by ear and be creative, while also motivating and helping them to focus on note reading. We will also discuss teaching aural skills to students who have difficulty hearing pitches.

11:45-12:00 Visit Exhibits, Hospitality, Awards and Foundation Tables  
*South Lobby*

12:00-1:30 Lunch on your own, downtown Columbus (see area map)

1:30-2:50 Conference Headliner

**Excellence from the Start: Foundations of Piano Technique**

Katherine Fisher and Dr. Julie Knerr Hague, Presenters

Dr. Martha Thomas, NCTM, Presider

*Studio Theatre*

Even the youngest student can learn to play with excellent technique. Based on Dr. Julie Knerr Hague's doctoral research, the exercises designed for Piano Safari focus on essential motions for developing proper technique. The presenters will explore strategies for teaching fundamental concepts such as arm weight, rounded hand shape, rotation, and fast repeated notes. A suggested sequence for the presentation of articulations such as *staccato*, *legato*, and slurs will also be addressed.

3:00-3:50 Conference Split Session

**Not Für Elise Again!**

Dr. David Gross, Presenter

Ian Altman, Presider

*Choir Room 1714*

Popularity amounts to approval--one reason why students gravitate to certain repertoire. And familiarity provides comfort--one reason we like to teach what we know best. Yet, many of us seek relief from the old warhorses. An exploration of noteworthy alternatives by lesser-known masters, such as Cimarosa, Voríšek, Gade, Kirchner, Fibich, Novák, Tajcevic, Martinu, Tansman, and Carol. This presentation will assign levels of difficulty and draw comparisons to standard repertoire.

**William Gillock: A Fresh Look**

Dr. Yumi Patterson, NCTM, Pam Asberry, Lois Simon, NCTM, and Cathy Thacker, NCTM, Presenters

Dr. Pete Jutras, NCTM, Presider

*Classroom 1713*

William Gillock (1917-1993) was an innovative composer of piano repertoire with long-lasting appeal. His music spanned elementary through advanced levels. You will learn about Gillock's life and his compositions, and gain teaching tips on the pieces performed. Solos, duets, and an exciting 8-hand performance of *Champagne Toccata* will round out the program. The William Gillock USA Society invites you to celebrate this composer's music!

4:00-4:50 General Session  
*Studio Theatre*

**Commissioned Work Performance**

GETTING AWAY WITH IT

Terry Lowry, composer

Carrollton Jazz Orchestra, performers

The 2019 commissioned work is funded by Music Teachers National Association and GMTA.

**Annual Business Meeting and the President's Report**  
**Presentation of Steinway Piano Galleries Educator Grants**

**Presentation of GMTA Music Teacher Grants**

Joy Poole, GMTA President





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5:00-5:30 Visit Exhibits, Hospitality, Awards and Foundation Tables  
South Lobby

5:30-7:00 **GMTA Conference Banquet Honoring MTNA/GMTA President Emeritus Rex Whiddon and our 2019 GMTA Teacher of the Year**  
Corn Center for the Visual Arts, Bay Gallery

7:30-8:45 **GMTA Conference Recital**  
**Wendy Warner, cello, The Linda D. Hamer Distinguished Chair in Cello**  
**Henry Kramer, piano, The L. Rexford Whiddon Distinguished Chair in Piano**  
Rex Whiddon, Presider  
Legacy Hall

**PROGRAM**

Polonaise-fantasia in A flat Major, Op. 61 Frédéric Chopin  
(1810-1849)

Mazurkas, Op. 50  
I. G Major  
II. A-flat Major  
III. C-Sharp Minor

Ballade No. 4 in F Minor, Op. 52

Sonata for cello and piano in G Minor, Op. 65  
I. Allegro moderato  
II. Scherzo  
III. Largo  
IV. Finale. Allegro

8:45-9:30 **Post Concert-Reception, sponsored by CSU/Schwob School of Music**  
**Dr. Scott Harris, Director**  
**Carrollton Jazz Orchestra, performers**  
South Lobby and Studio Theatre

**Saturday, November 9, 2019**

8:30-10:30 Registration  
South Lobby

8:30-12:45 Exhibits  
South Lobby

9:00-9:50 Conference Headliner

**Piano Safari: The Journey Begins**

Katherine Fisher and Dr. Julie Knerr Hague, Presenters  
Cathy Thacker, NCTM, Presider  
Choir Room 1714

In this workshop, the defining pedagogical characteristics of Piano Safari will be presented. Learn how this series integrates technique, reading, improvisation, and rote teaching to develop comprehensive musicianship skills in the young pianist.

10:00-12:00 Conference Split Session

**GMTA Piano Master Class with Henry Kramer**

Henry Kramer, The L. Rexford Whiddon Distinguished Chair in Piano, Presenter  
Yien Wang, Presider  
Legacy Hall

**PROGRAM**

Etude de Concert, Op.36 Edward MacDowell  
(1861-1908)

**Daniel Pan, Piano, Grade 9**  
From the studio of Ping Xu, North Dekalb

Etude in C-Sharp Minor, Op. 25 No. 7 Frédéric Chopin  
(1810-1849)

**Alice Zhang, Piano, Grade 10**  
From the studio of Lois Finlay, North Dekalb



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**GMTA String Master Class with Wendy Warner**

Wendy Warner, The Linda D. Hamer Distinguished Chair in Cello, Presenter  
Dr. Owen Lovell, Presider  
*Studio Theatre*

**PROGRAM**

Violin Concerto No. 1 in D Major, Op.6  
I. Allegro maestoso

Niccolò Paganini  
(1782-1804)

**Kelly Hanna Jeong, Violin, Grades 8/9**  
From the studio of William Pu

Zigeunerweisen, Op. 20

Pablo de Sarasate  
(1844-1908)

**Danielle Najarian, Violin, Grades 8/9**  
From the studio of Sonja Foster

Violin Concerto in D Minor, Op. 47  
I. Allegro moderato

Jean Sibelius  
(1865-1957)

**Erin Cho, Violin, Grades 10/11**  
SY Hwang, Piano  
From the studio of Nadir Khashimov

The Violin Concerto No. 3 in B Minor, Op. 61  
I. Allegro non troppo

Camille Saint-Saëns  
(1835-1921)

**Zoe Gotlin, Violin, Grades 10/11**  
From the studio of Sonja Foster



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12:10-1:15 **Prize Drawings for GMTA Award Fund and MTNA Foundation  
GMTA Pre-College Auditions Winners Recital**  
Yien Wang, Presider  
*Studio Theatre*

**PROGRAM**

Sicilienne and Rigaudon in the Style of Francoeur  
I. Sicilienne - Tempo di Allegretto  
II. Rigaudon - Allegro

Fritz Kreisler  
(1875-1962)

**Charlotte Jeong, Violin, Grades 2/3**  
Yi-Fan Wu, piano  
From the studio Amy Chang

Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum (from the *Children's Corner*)

Claude Debussy  
(1862-1918)

**Nelson Solon Liu, Piano, Grade 4**  
From the studio of Hwee Boon Ng, Atlanta

from Romanian Dances  
I. Jocul cu bătă  
II. Brâul  
VI. Mărunțel

Béla Bartók  
(1881-1945)

**Angelina Lu, Violin, Grades 4/5**  
Yi-Fan Wu, piano  
From the studio of William Pu

Prelude in C Minor, No. 7, Op. 23

Sergei Rachmaninoff  
(1873-1943)

**Ethan Palmer, Piano, Grade 5**  
From the studio of Dr. Robert Henry, Cobb County

Etude, No. 6, Op. 111

Camille Saint-Saëns  
(1835-1921)

**Nathan Liu, Piano, Grade 6**  
From the studio of Dr. Joanna Kim, Northeast GA

Original theme with Variations, Op. 15

Henri Wieniawski  
(1835-1880)

**Claire Cho, Violin, Grades 6/7**  
SY Hwang, piano  
From the studio of Nadir Khashimov

Etude pour les cinq doigts d'après Monsieur Czerny

Claude Debussy  
(1862-1918)

**Erin Li, Piano, Grade 7**  
From the studio of Dr. Alexander Wasserman, Cobb County

English Suite No. 2 in A Minor, BWV 807  
I. Prelude

J.S. Bach  
(1685-1750)

**Jonathan Xue, Piano, Grade 8**  
From the studio of Dr. Robert Henry, Cobb County

The Suite for Viola and Orchestra (Pianoforte)  
I. Prelude  
VIII. Galop

Ralph Vaughan Williams  
(1872-1958)

**Jason Seo, Violin, Grades 8/9**  
Yi-Fan Wu, piano  
From the studio of Amy Chang

Le Cygne

Camille Saint-Saëns  
(1835-1921)

**Julia Pearson & Anna Nyugen, Piano, Middle Division**  
From the studio of Ping Xu, North Dekalb

Love Went a-Riding, H. 114

Frank Bridge  
(1879-1941)

**Andrew Boyacigiller, Voice, Grade 9**  
Huu Mai, piano  
From the studio of Huu Mai

from Six Pictures  
I. Improvisation  
II. Traditional Dance  
III. Toccata

Arno Babajanian  
(1921-1983)

**Grace Peng, Piano, Grade 9**  
From the studio of Dr. Raffi Besalyan, Atlanta

Sonata No.2 in B-flat Minor, Op. 35  
I. Grave - Doppio movimento

Frédéric Chopin  
(1810-1849)

**Skylar Feng, Piano, Grade 10**  
From the studio of Ping Xu, North Dekalb

Violin Sonata No.1 in G Minor, BWV 1001  
I. Adagio

J.S. Bach  
(1685-1750)

**Jennifer Deng, Violin, Grades 10/11**  
From the studio of Sonja Foster

Il mio bel foco

Benetto Marcello  
(1686-1739)

**Grace Rivord, Voice, Grade 11**  
Eric Eason, piano  
From the studio of Elizabeth Castillo

Polonaise in A-flat Major, Op.53

Frédéric Chopin  
(1810-1849)

**Michelle Wang, Piano, Grade 11**  
From the studio of Ping Xu, North Dekalb

Serenade, Op. 48

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky  
(1840-1893)

**Michelle Wu & Daniel Pan, Piano, Upper Division**  
From the studio of Ping Xu, North Dekalb

The **Piano Duet Event** was introduced successfully at the 2019 GMTA State Auditions with 42 students participating. Congratulations to the winners of this event.

**Upper Division Winners**  
Michelle Wu & Daniel Pan                      Teacher, Ping Xu

**Lower Division Winners**  
Julia Pearson & Anna Nyugen                      Teacher, Ping Xu

**Upper Division 1st Alternate**  
Annabel Shue & Shirley Chen                      Teachers, Lois Finlay & Hwee Boon Ng

**Lower Division 1st Alternate**  
Christina Zhang & An-Khoi Hoang                      Teacher, Joanna Kim



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## PEDAGOGY HEADLINER

### Dr. Julie Knerr Hague



**Dr. Julie Knerr Hague** teaches piano at her home studio in Windsor, Connecticut. She was formerly on the piano faculty at the Hartt Community Division in West Hartford, Connecticut. Before returning to her home state of Connecticut, Julie taught applied piano, piano pedagogy, and group piano as a faculty member at the University of Missouri, Oklahoma City University, and Ohio University.

Julie holds a PhD in Music Education with an Emphasis in Piano Pedagogy from the University of Oklahoma, where her dissertation on elementary level piano technique was nominated for the Best PhD Dissertation Award in 2006. Additional degrees include MM degrees in Piano Performance and Piano Pedagogy

from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where Dr. Knerr studied piano and harpsichord; and a BM in Piano Performance from the University of Puget Sound. Her mentors in Piano Pedagogy include Jane Magrath, Barbara Fast, Christos Tsitsaros, and Reid Alexander.

As an accomplished collaborative pianist, Julie enjoys performing with both instrumentalists and singers. Her former piano teachers include Duane Hulbert, James Barbagallo, William Heiles, Timothy Ehlen, and Edward Gates. Julie is a frequent adjudicator at festivals and competitions throughout the United States. Her current research interests include elementary level piano technique, lesser known pre-college piano repertoire, and group piano pedagogy.

## PEDAGOGY HEADLINER

### Katherine Fisher



**Katherine Fisher** is on the faculty of the Athens Community Music School at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. Her responsibilities include teaching private piano lessons as well as coordinating the Piano Safari Program (group lessons) for children who are beginners at the instrument.

Katherine Fisher and Dr. Julie Knerr developed the Piano Safari Method during their time in school together at the University of Oklahoma. While graduate students, they realized they had a mutual dream of writing a piano method that would incorporate the best elements of the various techniques they had been using in their teaching.

Katherine is a member of the Fisher Piano Duo with husband, Dr. Christopher Fisher. The duo has performed throughout the United States. They are co-authors of the revised and expanded edition of Piano Duet Repertoire (Indiana University Press, 2016). A native of Ohio, Katherine received her degrees from the University of Oklahoma (MM in Piano Performance and Pedagogy) and the Wheaton College Conservatory of Music (BM in Piano Performance). Her former teachers include Jeongwon Ham, Jane Magrath, Barbara Fast, Karin R. Edwards, and Nancy Bachus.

## COMMISSIONED COMPOSER

### Terry Lowry



**Terry Lowry** is the composer of over 200 works, including piano concertos, oratorios, symphonies, chamber works, song cycles and numerous works for solo instrument, especially piano. His iTunes podcast, “Tone Poem”, through which he often releases new compositions, has subscribers in over 100 countries.

As both pianist and conductor, Mr. Lowry maintains a very busy performing schedule. A Steinway Artist, he has performed over 600 solo piano recitals throughout North America and Europe and he has appeared over 300 times on the podium in the United States, Germany, Austria, Spain, and Italy. He is the Conductor and Music

Director of the Carroll Symphony Orchestra, the Carroll Community Wind Ensemble and the Carrollton Jazz Orchestra. He is also the Organist-Choirmaster at St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church in Atlanta, and the pianist of the chamber ensemble Atlanta by Six. He has released 15 albums and will release a new album of piano works by Franz Liszt this summer.

In 2012 he co-founded the online community Musical Overture and continues to serve as its CEO.

He is the Creator and Executive Producer of the public television series, “Hear Us”, which premiered across North America in 2018, and he worked as producer on over 50 episodes of the syndicated radio program “The Hymn of the Week with Larry Frazier”.

He is the volunteer chairperson of the Harmonies for Healing music therapy program at Tanner Medical Center and volunteers each week at Carrollton Elementary and Sharp Creek Elementary Schools, teaching music to PreK students. He lives with his wife, Tara, and their four children in Carrollton, a suburb of Atlanta.

### Carrollton Jazz Orchestra

The **Carrollton Jazz Orchestra** is a twenty piece jazz band in residence at the Center for the Arts in Carrollton, Georgia. Constructed in the traditional instrumentation of the “big band”, with saxophone, trombone, trumpet and rhythm sections augmented as need by additional reeds, brass and percussion, the CJO is a collective of selected musicians including soloists, ensemble players and composer/arrangers who value the creative opportunity to rehearse and perform



of a contemporary jazz orchestra format. Our musicians come from a broad spectrum of musical and personal backgrounds including professional musicians (both civilian and military), music educators and other professionals, all of whom share a love and respect for this music. Our members have played virtually every genre of music from the sacred to the profane, in virtually every type of musical ensemble from chamber orchestras to funk bands, and in virtually every venue from international concert halls to nightclubs (complete with chicken wire protecting the stage).

The CJO is part of an ongoing partnership between the Carroll Symphony Orchestra and the Carrollton Center for the Arts, which includes the CSO, CJO, the Carroll Community Wind Ensemble and the CSO Music Academy.

The Carrollton Jazz Orchestra is available for performance engagements.

## CONFERENCE RECITALIST

### Wendy Warner



**Wendy Warner** soared to international attention in 1990, winning top prize at the International Rostropovich Cello Competition at age eighteen. Her career took off with concerts conducted by Mstislav Rostropovich and debuts in Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Köln, Düsseldorf, Berlin and New York at Carnegie Hall. A Chicagoan from a musical family, Warner studied with Rostropovich at the Curtis Institute of Music from which she graduated. She has collaborated with prominent conductors Vladimir Spivakov, Christoph Eschenbach, Andre Previn, Jesús López Cobos and Michael Tilson Thomas, among others. And has appeared with leading U.S. orchestras and internationally—from Paris and London to Serbia and Russia.

Warner, as a part of the Beethoven Project Trio, played the 2009 world premiere of a newly discovered Beethoven piano trio.

She and pianist Irina Nuzova recently performed the complete

Beethoven cello sonatas on tour, with a special appearance at the U.S. Supreme Court. Other collaborators have been Vadim Gluzman, Gideon Kremer, the Fine Arts Quartet and Chicago Chamber Musicians. Warner, who has given recitals in Milan and Tokyo, is a frequent guest on WFMT in Chicago.

Hailed by *Strings* magazine for her “youthful, surging playing, natural stage presence and almost frightening technique,” Wendy Warner can be heard on recordings for Cedille, including *Haydn & Myslivecek ; Russian Music for Cello & Piano ; Popper & Piatigorsky ; Double Play ;* and *Eclipse* . She has recorded Hindemith’s chamber works on Bridge Records; Barber’s Cello Concerto for Naxos; and compositions by Dalit Warshaw on Albany Records. An Avery Fisher Career Grant recipient, Warner holds the Leah D. Hamer Distinguished Faculty Chair at the Schwob School of Music, Columbus State University. She plays a 1772 Joseph Gagliano cello.



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## CONFERENCE RECITALIST

### Henry Kramer



Praised by *The Cleveland Classical Review* for his “astonishingly confident technique” and *The New York Times* for “thrilling [and] triumphant” performances, pianist **Henry Kramer** is developing a reputation as a musician of rare sensitivity who combines stylish programming with insightful and exuberant interpretations. In 2016, he garnered international recognition with a Second Prize win in the Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels. Most recently, he was awarded a 2019 Avery Fisher Career Grant by Lincoln Center one of the most coveted honors bestowed on young American soloists.

Kramer began playing piano at the relatively late age of 11 in his hometown of Cape Elizabeth, Maine. One day, he found himself entranced by the sound of film melodies as a friend played them on the piano, inspiring him to teach himself on his family’s old upright. His parents enrolled him in lessons shortly thereafter, and within weeks, he was playing Chopin and Mozart.

Henry emerged as a winner in the National Chopin Competition in 2010, the Montreal International Competition in 2011 and the China Shanghai International Piano Competition in 2012. In 2014 he was added to the roster of Astral Artists, an organization that annually selects a handful of rising stars among strings, piano, woodwinds and voice candidates. The following year, he earned a top prize in the Honens International Piano Competition.

Kramer has performed “stunning” solo recital debuts, most notably at Alice Tully Hall as the recipient of the Juilliard School’s William Petschek Award, as well as at Amsterdam’s Concertgebouw. At his Philadelphia debut, Peter Dobrin of *The Philadelphia Inquirer* remarked, “the 31-year-old pianist personalized interpretations to such a degree that works emerged anew. He is a big personality.”

A versatile performer, Kramer has soloed in concertos with the Bilkent Symphony Orchestra, Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra, Indianapolis Symphony and the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, among many others, collaborating with conductors such as Marin Alsop, Gerard Schwarz, Stéphane Denève, Jan Pascal Tortelier and Hans Graf. Upcoming performances in the 2019-20 season include a return engagement with the National Orchestra of Belgium performing Beethoven’s Concerto No. 4, as well as debuts with the Columbus and Hartford Symphony Orchestras playing Rachmaninoff’s Piano Concerto No. 3.

His love for the chamber music repertoire began early in his studies while a young teenager. A sought-after collaborator, he has appeared in recitals at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the Mainly Mozart Festival, the Mostly Mozart Festival, and La Jolla Music Society’s Summerfest. His recording with violinist Jiyoung Lee on the Champs Hill label received four stars from *BBC Music Magazine*. This year, *Gramophone UK* praised Kramer’s performance on a recording collaboration (Cedille Records) with violist Matthew Lipman for “exemplary flexible partnership.” Henry has also performed alongside Emmanuel Pahud, the Calidore and Pacifica Quartets, Miriam Fried, as well as members of the Berlin Philharmonic and Orchestra of St. Luke’s.

Teaching ranks among his greatest joys. Since 2018, Kramer has held the L. Rexford Distinguished Chair in Piano at the Schwob School of Music at Columbus State University in Columbus, Georgia. Throughout his multifaceted career, he has also held positions at Smith College and the University of Missouri Kansas City Conservatory of Dance and Music.

Kramer graduated from the Juilliard School where he worked with Julian Martin and Robert McDonald. He received his Doctorate of Musical Arts from the Yale School of Music under the guidance of Boris Berman. His teachers trace a pedagogical lineage extending back to Beethoven, Chopin and Busoni. Kramer is a Steinway Artist.

## THURSDAY EVENING CONDUCTOR



Conductor **PAUL HOSTETTER** is The Ethel Foley Distinguished Chair in Orchestral Activities for the Schwob School of Music/Professor of Music at Columbus State University, the Conductor and Artistic Advisor for the Sequitur Ensemble, the Principal Conductor of Ensemble Flageolet, and conductor of Pixar Live at Disney's Hollywood Studios. As a guest conductor he has appeared with the New York City Opera, Opera Theatre of Pittsburgh, Genesis Opera, Peak Performances, the Orlando Philharmonic, New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, American Composers Orchestra, Philharmonia Virtuosi, Naples Philharmonic, Syracuse Symphony, San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, Florida Lakes Symphony,

Music from China, Stony Brook Summer Music Festival, PAI Festival Orchestra, Da Capo Chamber Players, Washington Square Contemporary Music Society, Delaware Symphony Orchestra, and has served as an assistant to James Levine at the Metropolitan Opera. He served as the Associate Conductor for Broadway productions of *Candide* and *The Gershwins' Fascinating Rhythm*, the Music Director of the Colonial Symphony and NY Concerti Sinfonietta. His discography includes 53 commercially released recordings on the Telarc, Koch, Mode, CRI, Albany, Tzadick, Naxos, Argo, Decca, Delos, Deutsche-Grammophon, New World, Polygram, Pro-Arte, RCA Victor, Sony Classical, and Warner Brothers labels, and these have received numerous honors including a Grammy Award, a Downbeat Critics Award, five stars for performance in the BBC Music Magazine, two NY Times Top Five annual listings, and a best of 2014 in Fanfare Magazine. His book, *OnMusic Conducting: Connect to the Sound*, published by Connect4Education has been adopted by over 25 universities nationally, and he is a frequent conductor of honor orchestras around the world. He also gives speeches on effective leadership strategies with institutes such as the Jim Blanchard Leadership Forum along with Steve Wozniak, founder of Apple, Inc. He lives in Columbus, GA with his wife Elizabeth and daughters Vivian and Asha.

## THURSDAY EVENING CONCERT PERFORMERS



**ALICE ZHANG** is a 16 year old pianist from Suwanee, Georgia. She has played the piano since the age of five, and currently studies with Lois Finlay. A prizewinner of numerous piano competitions, she appeared with the DeKalb Symphony Orchestra at age 15, and will also perform with the Kennesaw State University Symphony Orchestra in February 2020. In addition, Alice has received scholarships to attend the Indiana University Piano Academy for four years. She has participated in several masterclasses taught by world-renowned pianists, including Nikolai Lugansky and Edward Auer.

After a brief stint on violin, **EVAN NICHOLSON** began studying cello at the age of four. His primary teachers have been Pamela Devenport, Avi Friedlander, Martin Gueogueiev, and Wendy Warner. He spent four summers at Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival studying with Alan Rafferty, Sarah Kim, and Alison Wells. This past summer Evan attended the Bowdoin International Music Festival and studied with Stephen Doane and David Ying. Evan has participated in cello workshops in Cincinnati, Birmingham, Memphis, and Jacksonville and has played in the Franklin Pond Chamber Music program and the Emory Youth programs including AJCO, EYCP, and EYSO. Evan greatly enjoys chamber music and currently plays in the Sycamore Trio. He also volunteers at Atlanta Music Project, tutoring young cello students. Evan is currently a junior at the Midtown International School.





## PRESENTERS



Pianist **IAN ALTMAN'S** concerts have taken him coast to coast in the U.S. and Canada. His wide repertoire ranges from Scarlatti and Mozart to Schoenberg and Prokofiev, including contemporary composers. He appears as recitalist, soloist, and chamber player. His training was from the Eastman School and CCM.

**DR. MONIQUE ARAR, NCTM**, is originally from Columbus, Ohio. She runs a private studio teaching all ages ([www.MusicWithMonique.com](http://www.MusicWithMonique.com)) and is an AMTA board member. In addition to Piano Performance degrees, she holds degrees in Nonprofit Management and Russian and has studied French, Historical Keyboard Performance, and Harp.



**PAM ASBERRY, M.M.**, has over forty years of professional experience as an educator, performer, recording artist, author, speaker, composer and arranger. She was awarded Best New Artist 2018 by Enlightened Piano Radio and can be found online at [www.pamasberry.com](http://www.pamasberry.com).

Associate Professor of Piano at GSU, **DR. RAFFI BESALYAN** toured worldwide and received international accolades for his solo albums "Dance, Drama, Decadence" (IMC Music, Japan) and "The Return" (Sono Luminus, USA). Besalyan holds degrees from the Yerevan State Conservatory in Armenia, Rowan University and the Manhattan School of Music (NYC).



Professor of Piano at Furman University, **DR. DAVID GROSS** holds degrees from München, Yale, Hannover (Artist's Diploma), and Illinois (DMA). He has recorded for German public radio, Centaur Records, and Signum. An active solo and concerto performer, he is a member of the Poinsett Piano Trio and presenter for MTNA groups.

## PRESENTERS



**DR. PETE JUTRAS, NCTM**, is Professor of Piano and Associate Director at the Hugh Hodgson School of Music of the University of Georgia. He is the former Editor-in-Chief for Clavier Companion and Keyboard Companion. He is an accomplished author, writer, and presenter.

**DR. YOUNGMI KIM** has appeared as a soloist with the Richmond Symphony, Flint Symphony, Honolulu Symphony, Kentucky Symphony, Lebanon Symphony, Seoul Philharmonic, and she performed frequently with the Korean Broadcasting Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Kim is an Assistant Professor of Music and Vocal Department Coordinator at Georgia College.



**DR. YOU JU LEE, NCTM**, has won numerous awards and performed recitals in Europe, Asia and the United States. Press stated, "Her playing is exceptionally strong, forthright, and tonally beautiful, with elegant and poetic phrasing throughout." Dr. Lee serves as Professor of Music (piano) at Toccoa Falls College in Toccoa, Georgia. [www.youjuleepiano.com](http://www.youjuleepiano.com)

**DR. BEIBEI LIN** is Valdosta State University's newly-appointed Assistant Professor of Piano. Dedicated to the development, growth, and success of her students, she considers teaching her highest calling and greatest privilege. She seeks to nurture qualities that allow her students to become well-rounded musicians and thoughtful citizens of their community.



**DR. YUMI PATTERSON** received her DMA from the University of North Texas. A past President of Gwinnett County MTA, she has many student winners, one of whom performed at DiMenna Center, NYC. Dr. Patterson is the founder of the William Gillock USA Society and adjudicates throughout Georgia. Yumi was 2019 GCMTA Teacher of the year.

## PRESENTERS



**DR. CAROL WALLACE PAYNE, NCTM**, holds a PhD in Piano Pedagogy, and presented her research at MTNA National Conferences in Milwaukee and New York, as well as conferences in Florida and Georgia. Her articles have appeared in *American Music Teacher* and *Clavier Companion*. Carol has performed extensively and recorded four CD's.

**LOIS SIMON, NCTM**, (French horn, Piano, Voice) holds a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Arizona. She is founder of the GCMTA student Piano Ensemble event and is a past president of GCMTA. Lois also serves as Music Director at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church in Lawrenceville and is a member of ACDA.



**CATHY THACKER, NCTM**, is the VP of Newsletters for Georgia Music Teachers Association, a past President of Gwinnett County Music Teachers Association and their 2018 Teacher of the Year. Cathy's private studio has 45+ students of all ages. She is an adjudicator for piano events throughout Georgia.

**DR. MARTHA THOMAS, NCTM**, has given concerts and presentations across five continents. She is the Despy Karlas Professor of Piano and Associate Director for Undergraduate Studies at UGA's Hodgson School of Music. A former GMTA President and Southern Division Director, Martha received the GMTA Teacher of the Year Award in 2012.



American pianist, **DR. BENJAMIN WARSAW, NCTM**, is Assistant Professor at Georgia Southern University, Armstrong campus, Savannah, Georgia. As a soloist, teacher, chamber musician, and composer, he has performed numerous concerts throughout North and South America and Europe. Benjamin's debut recording, "Warsaw plays Warsaw" features a cycle of 24 Preludes for piano.



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**KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY MTNA STUDENT CHAPTER** was nominated 2018 Collegiate Chapter of the year.

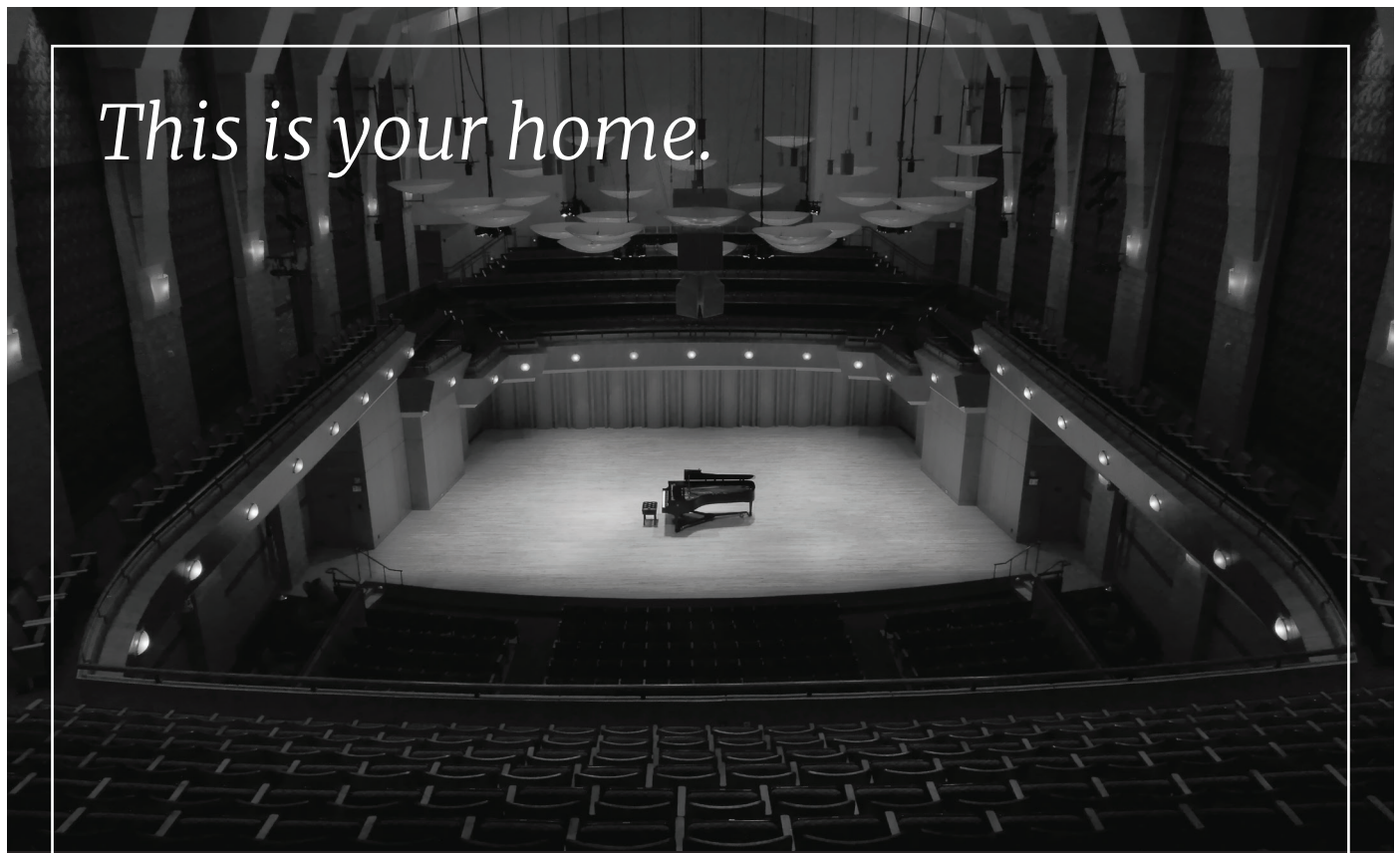


Established in 2010, members of the **SHORTER UNIVERSITY MTNA STUDENT CHAPTER** regularly attend both GMTA and MTNA conferences. They were previously selected to present at the GMTA conferences in 2013 and 2017. In addition to their piano studies, members also participate in service projects for the university and local community.



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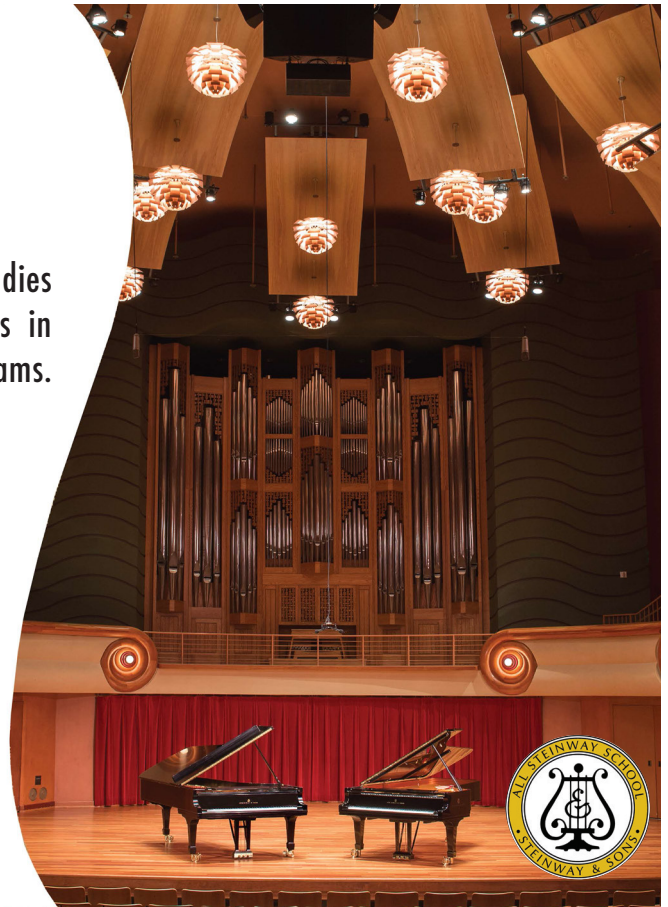
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