



Tennessee Music Teachers Association

www.tnmta.org

An affiliate of the Music Teachers National Association

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Letter from the President

Greetings fellow music teachers!

Today is the start of my spring break, and spring does indeed seem to be upon us. I've spotted redbuds, forsythia, saucer magnolias, and pear trees all in bloom this week, and crocuses and daffodils are almost past their prime. The weather has been warm and filled with a few of those early spring storms that can sometimes be surprisingly strong.

The coming of spring also means the coming of theory tests and performance auditions for our TMTA students. I remember vividly preparing for the big theory tests and auditions as a piano student growing up in Murray, Kentucky. I can still remember the chart Mrs. Mason drew on a large piece of posterboard to help us visualize and remember which intervals were perfect and which were major and how those changed to become minor, diminished, or augmented. Preparing for and performing in the spring auditions was a major point of growth for me as a young pianist.

Many thanks to all of the volunteers serving in local associations who are doing the hard work of gathering information and then scheduling and running the auditions and theory tests. You all do such important work and students and their teachers across the state directly benefit from your efforts. We appreciate you!

And of course, the local auditions function for us as qualifying events for the state competitions. Elaine Harris and her team are gearing up for what we know will be two inspiring days of competitions. The auditions will occur Saturday and Sunday June 3-4, on the two days preceding the state conference. I hope you can join us June 5-6 for the conference. Our wonderful colleagues in Chattanooga have been hard at work for months planning and preparing to host a great conference for us. I know the sessions will be inspiring and illuminating and I always find the friendship and camaraderie rejuvenating.

Last, the work of the TMTA Executive Board continues. As we are transitioning back to a more normal state, we are looking at overhauling the theory tests and requirements. Please send me an e-mail if you would like to help with that important work.

See you in Chattanooga!

Mark Hussung

2023 TMTA Conference Artist Announcement:

Dr. Liza Stepanova



Dear TMTA Members,

The Conference Steering Committee is pleased to announce that Dr. Liza Stepanova will be featured as our Conference Artist at the 2023 TMTA Conference held at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Join us June 5-6, 2023 for an engaging and exciting two-day conference to enjoy Presentations and an Intermediate Masterclass by Dr. E. L. Lancaster, our Conference Clinician, and a Concert, Lecture, and Advanced Masterclass by Dr. Liza Stepanova. Don't forget to book your hotel room at the DoubleTree by Hilton (conference room rate \$159/night plus tax and overnight self-parking). Check out the TMTA website for more conference information here: <https://www.tnmta.org/conference>

Praised by *The New York Times* for her “thoughtful musicality” and “fleet-fingered panache,” Liza Stepanova is in demand as a soloist, collaborator, and educator. In the fall of 2020, she was named *Musical America Worldwide's* "New Artist of the Month," a rare distinction celebrating her work and particularly the impact of her recent CD "E Pluribus Unum." In addition to performing at TMTA, other 2022-23 season highlights include a first-time invitation to perform and teach at the Brevard Music Festival, a return to the Bowdoin and Songfest music festivals, solo performances at the American Liszt Society Festival and across the Southeast, and chamber music tours with the Lysander Piano Trio at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, in New York City, Arizona, Florida, Mississippi, Wyoming, in Canada, and in Tennessee, as part of the Presidential Series at Lee University.

In August 2020, Stepanova released her second solo album "E Pluribus Unum" (Navona Records) celebrating contemporary American composers with an immigrant background. The CD, which features a commission and three world-premiere recordings, received universal acclaim with reviews in the top three British classical music journals: *Gramophone*, *BBC Music Magazine*, and *International Piano*, as well as *The Whole Note* in Canada and *Piano Magazine* in the US. The album was broadcast widely on national and international radio including "Album of the Week" on Canada's public radio, several plays in Australia, and across the US. Stepanova's debut solo album “Tones & Colors: Music and Visual Art” (CAG Records, 2018), recorded in New York City with Grammy-winning producer Adam Abeshouse, brought together music from Bach to Ligeti that was inspired by visual art. This record was also praised in international media and continues to be regularly played on American Public Media's *Performance Today*, including multiple features as a headliner. Stepanova has performed extensively in Europe, most recently, as a soloist with the Southwest-German Philharmonic and in chamber music performances at the Berlin Museum of Musical Instruments, at the Copenhagen Music Festival, and in Belgrade's Kolarac Hall. In the United States, she has appeared in Weill

and Zankel Recital Halls at Carnegie; Alice Tully Hall, Merkin and Steinway halls in New York City; at the Kennedy Center and The Smithsonian in Washington, DC; and live on WQXR New York, WFMT Chicago, and WETA Washington. Stepanova was twice featured as a soloist with the Juilliard Orchestra led by James DePreist and Nicholas McGegan and was a top prizewinner at the Liszt-Garrison, Juilliard Concerto, Steinway, and Ettlingen competitions. As a soloist and chamber musician, she has been invited to international festivals at Castleton, La Jolla, Music@Menlo, Mostly Mozart, Copenhagen (Denmark), and Davos (Switzerland), where she had opportunities to collaborate with leading artists including violinist Cho-Liang Lin, violist James Dunham, clarinetist Charles Neidich, soprano Lucy Shelton, mezzo-soprano Susanne Mentzer and members of the Berlin Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, and the Atlanta Symphony. Deeply committed to new music, she has premiered works by Jennifer Higdon and Libby Larsen and worked with composers William Bolcom, Gabriela Lena Frank, and John Harbison.

As a member of the Lysander Piano Trio, Stepanova won the Concert Artists Guild International Competition and received top prizes at the Coleman and Fischhoff Chamber Music Competitions. The ensemble recently celebrated its tenth anniversary with a new album "Mirrors" (First Hand Records, UK) dedicated to works the group either commissioned or premiered, including a world-premiere recording of a work by Jennifer Higdon. Lysander has performed at all major venues in New York City including Carnegie Hall and David Geffen Hall as part of the Mostly Mozart Festival to enthusiastic reviews in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. Highlights of Lysander's recent tours include the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts; Purdue University's Convocations Series, Los Angeles' Clark Memorial Library at UCLA and the Da Camera Society; Chicago's Dame Myra Hess Concert series and Rockford Coronado Concerts; San Francisco's Music at Kohl Mansion; and Juneau Jazz and Classics (AK). Liza Stepanova studied art song collaboration with Wolfram Rieger in Berlin and was invited by the late Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau to perform in several of his master classes including the Hugo-Wolf-Tage festival in Austria. Since 2010, Stepanova has been on the faculty at SongFest at The Colburn School in Los Angeles and also served as the festival's Associate Artistic Director and Piano Program Director for two years.

Stepanova received her DMA from The Juilliard School with a Richard F. French Award for outstanding doctoral work. Previously a graduate of the Hanns Eisler Academy in Berlin, Germany, she studied with Joseph Kalichstein, Seymour Lipkin, Jerome Lowenthal, and George Sava, and performed in master classes for Alfred Brendel, Daniel Barenboim, and András Schiff. Following teaching positions at The Juilliard School and Smith College, she is currently an associate professor of piano and piano area chair at the University of Georgia, Hugh Hodgson School of Music, where she also co-directs the biannual Chamber Music Athens festival featuring acclaimed artists performing and teaching alongside UGA faculty and students. Her UGA students have been invited to the Aspen, Bowdoin, Brevard, Chautauqua, and Salzburg Mozarteum summer programs and received scholarships to elite graduate programs. Recent student successes include top prizes at the Liszt-Ohio International Competition, GMTA, MTNA, Atlanta Music Club, and Atlanta Mozart Society competitions, and a finalist award at the Wideman International Piano Competition. For more information, visit liza-stepanova.com.

See you in Chattanooga this summer!

Lynn Worcester Jones

2023 Carson-Newman PianoFest

Carson-Newman PianoFest JUNE 19-23, 2023



**PRIVATE LESSONS and MASTER CLASSES
with Carson-Newman University Faculty**

Classes in THEORY and MUSIC HISTORY

**Collaborative Experience through
PIANO ENSEMBLE and ACCOMPANYING**

**OPEN TO STUDENTS GRADES 6-12
\$250 includes tuition and daily lunch**

Email rfogg@cn.edu for more information

MTNA Foundation Report

Congratulations to Dr. Chih-Long Hu on his Foundation Fellowship Award for 2023! Special thanks to everyone who helped make this possible.



Dr. Hu has generously donated his time to both AMTA and KMTA chapters in countless ways over the years as a conference co-chair, presenter, program chair, collaborative artist, coordinator of benefit student recitals, and master class clinician. He is a past recipient of the TMTA Teacher of the Year award and his students have consistently represented KMTA, AMTA, and TMTA exceedingly well in state and national MTNA-affiliated competitions and recitals. Hu consistently exhibits the highest character and graciousness towards his TMTA colleagues and their students and is always willing to help others in any way possible.

Now it is time to consider who you would like to nominate for this award for 2024. Please let our MTNA Foundation Chair, [Judy Warrington](#), know ASAP!

Musician's Health

The Musician's GO-TO guide for health, wellness, and injury prevention

A website with many interesting articles on the musician's health

<https://www.musicianshealth.com/>

Here are some important healthcare articles listed on the site:

Back pain in the classical Guitarist- <https://www.musicianshealth.com/back-pain-in-the-classical-guitarist>

Chiropractic care for every musician- <https://www.musicianshealth.com/chiropractic-care-important-for-every-musician>

Voice health care- <https://www.musicianshealth.com/vocaldamage>

Submitted by Sandy Triplett, Wellness Chair

2023 Belmont Summer Piano Invitational

June 4-9 at Belmont University

Belmont University's Summer Piano Invitational is a summer experience for pianists rising into 9th-12th grades. Participants may study classical or jazz piano in their private lesson with a member of Belmont's nationally-recognized piano faculty. There are also group sessions for participants that include sight-reading, ensemble playing, introduction to popular styles, and approaches to learning music.



[Click Here to Apply!](#)

Application Deadline: May 1, 2023

For more information on the Schedule & Activities, Eligibility, Costs, Faculty, and Application visit: <https://www.belmont.edu/cmpe/music/summer/piano-invitational.html>

For any additional questions please contact the Piano Invitational Director, Dr. Kristian Klefstad, at kristian.klefstad@belmont.edu or our Pre-College Music Office, Belmont Academy, at belmontacademy@belmont.edu

2023 TMTA Clinician Announcement



Biography:

Dr. E. L. Lancaster is a piano faculty member at California State University, Northridge where he teaches keyboard literature and class piano. He also serves on the board of the Frances Clark Center for Keyboard Pedagogy and is the author for the “What’s New” column for the *American Music Teacher*.

Dr. Lancaster holds degrees from Murray (KY) State University, the University of Illinois, and a Ph.D. from Northwestern University. From 1979 until 1998, he was Professor of Music at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, where he taught courses in piano pedagogy and coordinated the group piano program. Dr. Lancaster established the masters and doctoral programs in piano pedagogy at the University of Oklahoma in 1980 and served as major professor for more than 50 doctoral dissertations in that field. He taught pre-college students in the Piano Pedagogy Laboratory Program, combining group and private instruction. In addition, from 1981 to 1996, he and his wife, Dr. Gayle Kowalchuk, operated a large independent piano studio in Norman, Oklahoma.

Dr. Lancaster has served as National Chairman of Group Piano and National Chairman of Student Chapters for MTNA. He was the convention chair for the 2020 MTNA National Conference. He has held offices in the National Conference on Piano Pedagogy, including Chair of the Administration/Pedagogy Liaison Committee. Dr. Lancaster has received numerous teaching awards from the University of Oklahoma, including the Regents Award for Superior Teaching (1984), Associated Distinguished Lectureship (1987), Provost's Outstanding Academic Advising Award (1996), and Outstanding Faculty Award in the College of Fine Arts (1996). In 1991 he was awarded a David Ross Boyd Professorship, named in honor of the first OU president, given to faculty members who excel in teaching, counseling and guiding students.

In 2013 he was named a Signature Sinfonian by Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, national music fraternity. This award honors members who exhibit high standards of excellence in representing the fraternity as an alumnus. Murray State University honored him in 2014 with a Distinguished Alumnus Award, the highest honor granted by the University. At their 2016 convention, the California Association of Professional Music Teachers presented him with their Lifetime Achievement Award. He was a 2019 recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy and the Outstanding Alumnus in Fine Arts Award from Murray State University.

Dr. Lancaster has presented workshops for teachers throughout the United States, Canada, Hong Kong, China, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. He is the author or co-author of more than 400 publications designed for students of all ages including *Alfred's Premier Piano Course*, *Music for Little Mozarts*, and *Alfred's Group Piano for Adults*. He lives in the Los Angeles area.

TMTA Conference Hotel, Chattanooga, 2023

The 2023 TMTA conference hotel in Chattanooga, June 3-6, will be The DoubleTree by Hilton conveniently located at 407 Chestnut Street. There is a confirmed room rate of \$159 plus tax and overnight self-parking.

At this time there are 20 rooms guaranteed at the above price and a courtesy block of up to 60 rooms. The hope is that many will make reservations right away so the entire 60 rooms will be available at the discounted rate. Since other major music events will be taking place on the weekend of June 2,3,4 there will be a large demand for hotel rooms.

The Executive Board dinner and meeting will take place in a room at the Doubletree on Sunday evening as soon as honors recitals end. The hotel has dining facilities operating daily and other services.

Rooms must be reserved with a valid credit card and the quickest way is to call the hotel directly at (423)756-5150 and press 1 for Reservations. From there you need to reference the TMTA Conference, the dates and give the TMTA rate shown above.

Local Association News

The Chattanooga Music Teachers Association has planned a great year of meetings and activities. There will be a combination of Zoom meetings and live events.

March: Cooperative Recital

May: Scholarship Winners Recital, Teacher of the Year, Reception

SAVE THE DATE!

TMTA Conference and Competitions

June 3-6, 2023, Chattanooga

Submit Nominations for the 2023 TMTA

Teacher of the Year Award!

All local chapters are invited to submit nominations for the 2023 TMTA Teacher of the Year Award. Please be mindful of the following guidelines:

- Submit all materials by email to Susan Yang (susan.yang@vanderbilt.edu)
- Information should contain: a bio which includes the candidate's professional activity and qualifications as listed in the TMTA Handbook, a former student or parent letter of support, and a professional colleague letter of recommendation.
- Deadline is May 1, 2023

Planning Ahead

Upcoming TMTA Conferences

- 2023 Chattanooga: June 3-6
- 2024 Nashville
- 2025 Martin
- 2026 Johnson City

Upcoming MTNA Conferences

- 2023 National Conference, Reno, Nevada: March 25–29

