



**Kristi Baker-Lampe—Rare Gems: Exploring Great Music That Rarely Gets Played  
Friday, Sept. 22, 12:30 p.m., White Concert Hall**

Kristi Baker-Lampe holds BME and M.Mus. degrees from Kansas State University and a DMA in Piano Performance from the University of Kansas. She currently operates KBL Piano, LLC in Topeka, Kansas. She previously served as Adjunct Professor of Applied Piano at Ottawa University and as a secondary-school choral director. She is a Past President of KMTA and holds permanent professional status as a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music. Her travels as a concert artist, lecturer, adjudicator, and clinician include multiple appearances at the Piano Texas International Festival and at the World Piano Conference in Novi Sad, Serbia.

In this session, we will explore lesser-known works at the late elementary through advanced levels. Musical examples a handout siting resources will be provided.



**Sally Buxton—The Art of Music: Exploring the Language of the Arts: Elements of Design  
Friday, Sept. 22, 12:30 p.m., Choral Room**

Sally Buxton is an NCTM with MTNA. She has operated an independent piano studio for over 40 years. She holds a B.M. in Piano Performance from Friends University. She is a past officer and president of the Wichita MMTA, KMTA, and a past board-member of the WichitaAPTL. She has co-chaired many Wichita MMTA festivals, and edited and recorded KMTA's "Music Progressions." She is organist for St. Michael's Western Rite Orthodox Church. She conducts private lessons, theory classes, and music day-camps in her home studio. Students perform care-home recitals, KMTA auditions, KSHAA festivals, WMMTA festivals, and KMTA's Music Progressions.

Plans for any level to guide students' imaginations to think more deeply, listen more attentively and experiment more creatively.



**Curtis Pavey—Beyond Bach: Reimagining the Baroque  
Friday, Sept. 22, 1:30 p.m., White Concert Hall**

Dr. Curtis Pavey, praised by Peter Jacobi of the Herald Times as "an artist of considerable finish and even more promise," is a harpsichordist, pianist, and educator. Originally from Highlands Ranch, Colorado, Pavey serves as Assistant Professor of Piano Pedagogy and Performance at the University of Missouri and previously taught at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and Oberlin Conservatory. He plans to publish *An Introduction to Early Music and the Harpsichord*, a textbook designed to introduce undergraduate pianists to the harpsichord. Pavey has studied with pianists James Tocco and Edward Auer as well as harpsichordists Elisabeth Wright and Michael Unger.

In this session, participants will go “Beyond Bach,” learning about repertoire, historical context, and creative activities to inspire a new fascination with the Baroque period.



**Meg Gray—Rote Learning: A Tasty Supplement to Traditional Notation  
Friday, Sept. 22, 1:30 p.m., Choral Room**

Meg Gray is Associate Professor of Piano Pedagogy at Wichita State University. Previously, she taught at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and Lincoln University of Missouri. She has presented at Music Teachers National Conference, the National Association of Schools of Music Conference, and the National Group Piano and Piano Pedagogy Forum. Summer 2023, she will perform as a duo pianist at the Mu Phi Epsilon International Conference. She has been an MTNA member since 1985, participating in local chapters in Washington, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Illinois, Missouri, and Kansas. Gray holds graduate degrees in Piano Pedagogy from the University of Oklahoma.

Musicians can use rote learning in many ways and may not realize they are doing so. Methods for rote teaching pianists at all levels, available materials, and application of rote techniques will be presented.



**Timothy Shook—Why Certify? Why Not?... We have nothing to lose and  
EVERYTHING to gain!  
Friday, Sept. 22, 1:30 p.m., Garvey 220**

Timothy Shook is Professor Emeritus of Music at Southwestern College where he has taught since 1988. He operates the Creative Keyboard Studio in Wichita, Kansas. Shook has presented workshops for piano teachers throughout the Mid-West United States, Norway, New York, Malaysia and Singapore. He has written several articles for American Music Teacher and other music journals. Shook served on the MTNA Board of Directors and has been the chair of several

MTNA committees.

The MTNA designation National Certified Teacher of Music (NCTM) honors teaching excellence. Learn why and how independent music teachers, young professionals, and collegiate teachers become certified.

Why Certify? Why not?...we have nothing to lose and EVERYTHING to gain!



**David Pickering—The Organ: Friend or Foe?  
Friday, Sept. 22, 2:30 p.m., White Concert Hall**

Active recitalist, recording artist, scholar and author David Pickering is Professor of Music and Chair of the Keyboard Division at Kansas State University. His career as a performer has carried him across the United States as well as to Austria, Canada, England, Finland and Germany. Pickering’s multifaceted research has focused on the composers, pedagogues, music, and organs of the American organ scene in addition to creating hymn trios for the new organist. Pickering completed his degrees from the University of Kansas.

and Brigham Young University in organ performance and musicology; he has also pursued technical studies with pianist Sheila Paige.

Many churches, particularly those in medium-sized and smaller communities, are facing an organist shortage. This session will address these questions and concerns and discuss the additional opportunities for musical growth and employment that organ study provides.



**Qianwen Cen and Song Lyu—Musical Convergence and Divergence in Classical Music Traditions of China and Japan**  
**Friday, Sept. 22, 2:30 p.m., Choral Room**

Qianwen Cen is a D.M.A. student at the University of Kansas. She is a distinguished member of Pi Kappa Lambda Honor Society and serves as the music and communication director at KU Chamber and Vocal Music Organization. Recently, she participated as a presenter at the 71<sup>st</sup> Midwest Conference of Asian Affair in 2022. Her opera roles include Miss Silberklang in Mozart's *Der Schauspieldirektor*, Pamina in *The Magic Flute*, Sister Genovieffa in Puccini's *Suor Angelica*, Drusilla in Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea* and solo soprano in Handel's *Messiah*. She also has been recognized as the *Best Performer* of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Acupuncture Legalization Day in California.



Song Lyu, is a DMA student in voice major at KU. She is the president of KU Chamber and Vocal Music Organization. Her performing experience includes Lauretta in *Gianni Schicchi*, The Second Knitter in *Game of Chance*, solo soprano in the world Premiere of *Psalm Symphony, H.175* by Leo Sowerby, Fortuna in *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, and Miss Jessel in *The Turn of the Screw*. As a director, she produced two chamber voice concerts at KU from 2022, organizing the voice section for KC Lunar New Year Gala in 2023, and directing the chorus for KC Chinese Language School.

This session explores the classical music traditions of China and Japan in-depth, by examining their musical styles, instruments, and performance practices. Through comparative analysis, it explores the distinctive features of each tradition and sheds light on cultural and historical influences that have shaped their development.



**Natalie Weber—Technology Treasure Trove**  
**Friday, Sept. 22, 2:30 p.m., Garvey 220**

Natalie Weber, NCTM, has operated a private music studio in Derby, Kansas since 1998. She teaches a wide range of ages in private and group lessons and loves dreaming up creative ways to motivate and inspire her students. She loves exploring the latest in technology and looking for ways to incorporate it in her studio. Natalie is a former KMTA Technology Chair and a past president of the Wichita Metropolitan MTA. She currently serves as Treasurer for the South Central Kansas MTA. Natalie founded and runs [MusicMattersBlog.com](http://MusicMattersBlog.com), and is devoted to inspiring creativity in music education.

Jam-packed with the latest in business tools, student resources, AI, and more, this session will explore ways to implement technology in your studio. You'll leave inspired to operate your business more professionally, efficiently, and creatively.



**Gloria Tham-Haines—Trauma-Informed Pedagogy:  
Connection and Regulation  
Friday, Sept. 22, 3:30 p.m., White Concert Hall**

Dr. Gloria Tham-Haines, DMA (NCTM), has taught privately for 20 years and loves working with students of all ages and abilities. She is an alumna of Southwestern College, KS; Wichita State University, and the University of Alabama. She is a Trust-Based

Relational Intervention® Practitioner and is an avid presenter on trauma-informed strategies for the piano studio. She is also a part of the ergonomically-sized smaller piano keyboard international initiative and owns a DS 5.5 keyboard. She maintains a private studio in Edmond, OK. Currently, she serves as the Certification Commissioner for the South Central Division.

This trauma-informed pedagogy session will explore the concepts of neuroception and regulation, and how these affect both the teacher and student. The session will give teachers a practical toolkit of connection and regulation strategies.

**Curtis Pavey and Helena Hyesoo Kim—What We Say Matters: A Discussion of  
Communication Practices of Music Instructors  
Friday, Sept. 22, 3:30 p.m., Choral Room**



Dr. Curtis Pavey is a pianist, harpsichordist, and educator. Serving as Assistant Professor of Piano Pedagogy and Performance at the University of Missouri, Pavey previously taught at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and Oberlin Conservatory. Pavey serves as Manager of Online Publications at the Frances Clark Center for Keyboard Pedagogy.



Dr. Helena Hyesoo Kim has performed in Europe, South Korea, and the United States. She holds degrees from the University of British Columbia (BSc. & BMus), McGill University (MMus), Montreal University (AD), and the College-Conservatory of Music (DMA). She previously worked as Coordinator of Accompanying at the University of Akron.

This presentation informs teachers of ongoing research into communication practices that can improve the ways feedback is offered. Mindset types, microaggressions, unconscious biases, and more will be discussed in this interactive presentation.



**Alexander Pack—Fitting In – Collaborative Piano in a Large Ensemble Setting**  
**Friday, Sept. 22, 3:30 p.m., Garvey 220**

Alex Pack is a passionate piano instructor who has taught students of all levels and backgrounds, while striving to instill a love of music in all. With a piano and percussion background he believes that music is an essential part of life and works to create a supportive and inclusive environment for his students and colleagues. Recently graduated from Wichita State University with a Master of Music with a concentration in Piano Pedagogy, Alex is an active performer regularly playing with large ensembles and collaborating with other musicians.

An exploration of piano within large ensembles, this presentation aims to demonstrate the challenges and learning experiences gained from collaborative piano playing in a less-encountered but still very beneficial setting.

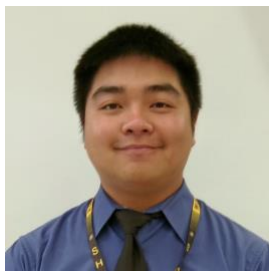


**Christina Liu—Level Up! Gamification in Music Lessons**  
**Friday, Sept. 22, 4:30 p.m., White Concert Hall**

Dr. Christina Liu, NCTM has given numerous performances as a soloist, collaborative pianist, and chamber musician in the United States and internationally. As a soloist and chamber musician, she was the prize winner in numerous competitions, and made her first orchestral debut at the age of 17. Her appearances include broadcast performances on Spokane Public Radio and Kansas Public Radio. Dr. Liu is active as a local collaborative pianist, playing for musical theater and opera productions. and has served as music director for various non-profit organizations. She currently serves as Associate Professor of Music at Bethel College in North Newton, Kansas.

Discover how gamification strategies can enhance piano instruction, boost student engagement, and foster a love and deeper understanding of music through interactive play. Join for a fun session filled with innovative approaches and practical tips!

**Wichita State University MTNA Collegiate Chapter—Using Contemporary Music to Teach Intermediate Piano Technique**  
**Friday, Sept. 22, 4:30 p.m., Choral Room**



Joefirkus Giat earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree with Emphasis in Music from Southwestern College in 2021 and is currently working towards a Master of Music Degree concentrating on Piano Pedagogy at Wichita State University, under the tutelage of Dr. Meg Gray and Dr. Julie Bees. Joefirkus has been involved in various organizational events, such as adjudicating for the *2023 SMTA Elementary Piano Festival* and performing at the “*A Weekend with Dennis Alexander*” event at Friends University. Most recently, he was part of planning and presenting for the inaugural *WSU Pop Forum* run by Dr. Frank Nawrot.



Xin Wei is an active pianist, collaborator and educator from Inner Mongolia, China. She holds third prize from the Santa Cecilia International Piano Competition. As a collaborator, she's worked with the Westlake High School Choir and LA Harmony non-profit organization in Los Angeles, and recently with the Wu & Shocker choir along with the WSU symphony in Wichita, Kansas. As an educator, she encourages students to learn music from competitions and festivals. Her students have passed the RCM Piano Examinations and won piano competitions. She earned her Bachelor's degree from California State University and continues studying in Wichita State University.

The Contemporary period is home to many pedagogical composers, and by identifying the teaching components of these pieces, we intend to showcase how it can be used as an alternative to the typical exercise piece.



**Chris Madden—Teaching with Excerpts: Benefits, Strategies, and Results**  
**Saturday, Sept. 23, 8:30 a.m., White Concert Hall**

Dr. Christopher Madden is Assistant Professor of Piano Pedagogy at the UMKC Conservatory, where he teaches piano pedagogy, applied piano, and oversees the keyboard skills curriculum. His playing has earned him numerous scholarships and grants, allowing him to perform throughout the United States, Canada, and Italy. Active in both publishing and presenting, his most recent work includes *Technique through Repertoire*, a two-volume series of excerpt books for intermediate pianists co-authored with Dr. Jani Parsons. He has published articles in *American Music Teacher* and *The Piano Magazine*, and in 2021, he received “Article of the Year” for a co-authored publication in the *MTNA e-Journal*. Christopher regularly presents workshops for the College Music Society, MTNA national conference, and National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy.

This session begins with a simple question: “Many instrumentalists study excerpts to address technical challenges, so why don't pianists?” Learn how to incorporate excerpts into your piano studio, along with practical strategies for teaching them.



**Yi-Yang Chen—Playing a Different Tune: The Evolution of Piano Training through Meaningful Projects**  
**Saturday, Sept. 23, 8:30 a.m., Choral Room**

Taiwanese pianist, Yi-Yang Chen is an assistant professor of piano at the University of Kansas. Chen shot onto the international stage with back-to-back victories in Sussex (2018), Washington (2017), and the Waring (2017) International Piano Competition. As a winner of the 2012 MTNA National Young Artist Competition, Chen was awarded a Steinway piano and two concerts in Miami sponsored by the Chopin Foundation/USA. He has performed on four continents in acclaimed venues including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center in New York, Melbourne Recital Centre, National Concert Hall in Taipei, Banff Music Centre in Canada, and the Assembly Hall in

Worthing, UK, with such orchestras as the Worthing Symphony Orchestra, Brevard Music Center Orchestra, Avanti Orchestra, Eastman Philharmonic Orchestra, National Chinese Orchestra, and the Thailand Philharmonic Orchestra. Chen is an active adjudicator and the recipient of piano pedagogy awards/grants and has presented lectures, workshops, and masterclasses in Europe, Australia, Asia, and the U.S.

The presentation explores the necessity for thoughtful design in piano teaching through cultural context. This session's toolkit will lead to artistically meaningful, respectful, authentic, and fulfilling performances and educational experiences.



**Po Sim Head—Explore Piano Teaching Pieces from Asia  
Saturday, Sept. 23, 9:30 a.m., White Concert Hall**

Po Sim (D.M.A., NCTM) is an educator, musicologist, and a pianist. She is interested in discovering lesser-known musicians and promoting their works. Besides serving as an adjunct instructor at Metropolitan Community College- Kansas City, she has a thriving studio whose students are active participants in recitals and local music events.

This presentation aims to introduce a few sets of teaching pieces written by several contemporary Asian female composers. The selected works, ranging from beginner to early advanced level, will be discussed in the pedagogical approach.



**Helena Hyesoo Kim—Extended Piano Techniques in  
Intermediate Repertoire: Enhancing Musical Engagement in  
Piano Lessons  
Saturday, Sept. 23, 9:30 a.m., Choral Room**

Dr. Helena Hyesoo Kim enjoys connecting with communities through her performances, teaching, and outreach. She has appeared in various venues to perform solo and chamber recitals in Europe, South Korea, and the USA. Helena has won numerous national and international prizes, including in the Robert Beardsley Piano Prize Competition, the Hanguk-Ilbo and Eum-Yeon competitions, and others.

She received her musical training at Ye-Won Art School, Saint Petersburg Pre-Conservatory, University of British Columbia (BSc.&BMus), McGill University (MMus), Montreal University (AD), and the College-Conservatory of Music (DMA). She served as a collaborative pianist and Coordinator of Accompanying at the University of Akron.

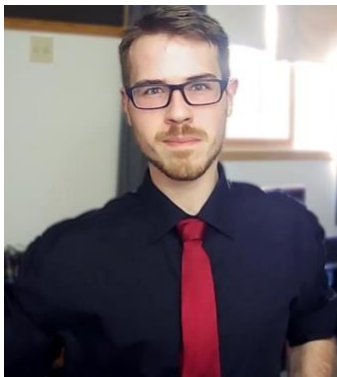
This presentation explores common extended techniques for intermediate-level students and introduces repertoire that teachers can use in their curriculum. The session will be interactive and will address the needs of varied levels of students.



**Jessica Koebbe—Addressing Music Performance Anxiety in Collaborative Partnerships**  
**Saturday, Sept. 23, 9:30 a.m., Garvey 220**

Dr. Jessica Koebbe is active as a performer, clinician, and educator. Her love of music and travel has resulted in opportunities to work and perform throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, Taiwan, France, and Germany. She is director of the Puerto Rico Center for Collaborative Piano, a summer festival that provides opportunities for pianists to learn from some of the world's leading collaborative pianists and chamber musicians ([www.prccp.org](http://www.prccp.org)). She holds degrees in piano performance, receiving her DMA from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance, her Master of Music from Texas Christian University, and her Bachelor of Music from the University of Kansas.

Music Performance Anxiety affects most performers according to multiple surveys of professional musicians. This presentation explores common MPA symptoms and behaviors and provides tools for beginning safe, inviting conversations with our colleagues about this topic.



**Matthew M. Honas—KMTA/MTNA Commissioned Composer Session**  
**Saturday, Sept. 23, 2:00 p.m., White Concert Hall**

A native of Wichita, Kansas, Matthew M. Honas has been lauded for his emotional sensitivity, dramatic lyricism, and seamless integration of new techniques. Matthew received his doctorate in composition at UW-Madison and his bachelor's in music from Kansas State. He studied composition with Laura Schwendinger and Craig Weston. Recently, Matthew won the 2022 WiSH award, honorary mention in the UW-Madison Concerto Competition, and the 2020 Mullen Prize. He has been performed at the New York Flute Fair, the Madison Flute Festival, the Boston Conservatory at Berklee, the Moreau Center for the Arts, and the Hamel Music Center.

**Commissioned Work Title and Instrumentation**

*Sculptures from an Amber Plain*  
Solo Piano

*Sculptures from an Amber Plain* was conceived as a way to convey the pride and love that local and global artists have for Kansas. Therefore, the piece is designed to take listeners on a tour of Kansas through the lens of different artists and their artworks. Each of the three movements is based on an artwork with ties to different cities to allow listeners to journey throughout the state. The first movement looks at the iconic imagery of Wichita through Blackbear Bosin's *The Keeper of the Plains* and how the sculpture brings together many cultures and traditions similar to the city itself. The second movement explores the creativity and talent of local artists such as Maury Berggren and his stained glass that is featured prominently throughout Lindsborg and Manhattan. The final movement takes listeners to Manhattan through Dale Chihuly's *Chandelier* which uses Kansas weather and field burnings as inspiration for adaptation of our surroundings and culture into new mediums. Through each of these movements, I hope listeners will feel inspired to interact and engage with each artist and sculpture in new and exciting ways.





### **KMTA premiere performance by Jacob R. Thomas**

Jacob is a pianist and composer, currently studying at UMKC for a masters in composition. In addition to composing, he also works as a collaborative pianist, accompanying for dance at KC Ballet and UMKC as well as playing with several community and professional theatre companies in the Kansas City area. He has written several pieces for dance with local choreographers and has recently scored for filmmakers in the Kansas City area. Jacob frequently premieres local/student composers' pieces, including both solos and works for ensembles—he loves collaborating with other artists and growing as a musician and artist throughout each process.

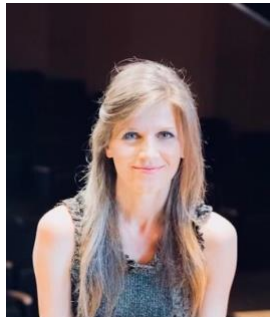


### **Agnieszka Lasko—Using Contemporary Compositional Techniques in Teaching Improvisation to Children**

**Saturday, Sept. 23, 2:00 p.m., Choral Room**

Pianist, composer, educator, consultant at the Art Education Center under Poland's Ministry of Culture. The author of *First Class Piano* ('Warmly recommended' - EPTA UK), 'Little Stories' ('A sheer delight' - EPTA UK, 'Natural winner' - Pianodao, 'Outstanding' - Pianist Magazine). She lectured in Poland, Serbia, Portugal, North Macedonia, Colombia, the UK, the US.

Improvisation based on clearly defined rules will help guide the spontaneous activities of beginners. This lecture will include simplified versions of improvisational techniques known from the works of composers of the 20th and 21st centuries.



### **Eneida Larti and Tatyana Roytshteyn—Hot or Cool: Strategies for promoting self-regulation in music learning**

**Saturday, Sept. 23, 3:00 p.m., White Concert Hall**

Dr. Eneida Larti enjoys an exciting career as a performer, educator, and chamber musician. Currently, she serves as an assistant professor at the University of Idaho. As a soloist, Dr. Larti has earned prizes in numerous competitions and has performed throughout the United States, in Europe, and more recently, in Southeast Asia, Albania, France, Switzerland, Thailand, and Turkey. Dr. Larti completed her Doctoral studies at the University of Colorado with Dr. Andrew Cooperstock, her Master of Music in performance with Dr. Karen Shaw at Indiana University, and her undergraduate studies with Ernestine Scott at Oklahoma City University.



Tatyana Roytshteyn began her piano studies in Odessa, Ukraine. She received her BM in piano performance from Florida Atlantic University with Judith Burganger and her MM in piano performance from Indiana University, Bloomington with Dr. Karen Shaw.

Ms. Roytshteyn has been teaching for over 20 years and maintains an active private studio in Pennsylvania. Her students regularly participate and earn awards and superior ratings in competitions and festivals. In addition, she has developed workshops for parents of music students and authored an article on the neurological basis for metacognition and the tip of tongue states and their application for music study.

As music teachers we are confronted with the challenge of pacing young fingers and minds. This presentation will relate Walter Mischel's research on self-control and provide strategies that help to redirect our students' impulsive habits.

**Dawn Ivers—Business Strategies for Independent Music Teachers**  
**Saturday, Sept. 23, 3:00 p.m., Choral Room**



A regular contributor to the Piano Parent Podcast, who has also been featured on the TopMusic podcast, and the Alfred blog, Dawn Ivers is passionate about using creative approaches to both teaching and business. She currently serves as the president of the McPherson Area Piano Teachers League, and the KMTA Technology Chair and IMTF Chair. Dawn began her piano teaching career as a travel teacher in 2006 in Southern California while attending UCLA, and now runs a thriving hybrid online & home studio in McPherson, KS.

Ideas to help independent piano teachers to implement sound business strategies in their own studios, and in doing so promote professionalism throughout the industry.



**Gordon McNelly—Piano Care and Maintenance 101 – The Essentials of Caring for your Instrument**  
**Saturday, Sept. 23, 4:00 p.m., White Concert Hall**

Gordon McNelly is Co-Owner of Steinway Piano Gallery of Kansas City. Prior to opening the gallery in 2021, he was an executive at Steinway, NY for over 15 years. Before joining Steinway & Sons in 1999 as a technician, Gordon was an independent Piano Technician, Rebuilder, and Mover in Central New Jersey. Shortly after joining Steinway & Sons at the former Steinway Hall on 57<sup>th</sup> street, he became the company's service manager for the greater NY, NJ, CT metro area managing a staff of 15 technicians in the then-famed and historic Steinway Basement.

In this session we will review the 5 basic and essential elements of proper care and maintenance of any acoustic piano in your home, studio, school, or church: Regulation, Tuning, Voicing, Cleaning, and Environment.

**University of Kansas MTNA Collegiate Chapter—Fast and Furious: Unlock the Music Reading Code**  
**Saturday, Sept. 23, 4:00 p.m., Choral Room**

We are a dedicated group of six KU doctoral students in piano performance and pedagogy. Our team is passionate about piano teaching, seeking to provide practical ideas and useful resources.



Born in Taipei, Taiwan. Szu-Chia Lin received professional music training from the age of nine. Her journey in music was initiated in the Music Talented Class in Taiwan. Lin holds her master's degree from Boston University and bachelor's degree from the University of Taipei. Her principal teachers include Tanya Gabrielian, Cheng-Yao Lee, and San-San Wang. She is currently pursuing her

Doctoral of Musical Arts degree at the University of Kansas under the guidance of Dr. Yi-Yang Chen. Lin has been selected as a Graduate Teaching Assistant, being a music instructor and a collaborative pianist at the University of Kansas.



Dan (Lori) Luo, born in Guangzhou, China, is currently pursuing a DMA degree in piano performance under Dr. Yiyang Chen at the University of Kansas. As a cross-disciplinary musician, she holds a bachelor's degree in musicology and dancology, as well as a master's degree in music pedagogy from Guangzhou University, and a second master's degree in piano performance from the University of Kansas. Dan (Lori) was a prize winner in several international piano competitions and paper competitions, including the 2023 Orbifold Global Music Competition (second place) and the China Research Papers Competition on Music Pedagogy (second place).



Jue Wang (born October 18, 1993) is a Chinese pianist. He was born in Shanxi, began studying piano there at age five, and went on to study at the Affiliated High School of Shanghai Conservatory. Jue Wang finished his bachelor and master's degree in Manhattan School of Music from 2012 to 2018. By the age of 24, he was already a nationally recognized pianist, giving recitals and lectures around China. Jue Wang is currently pursuing his Doctoral of Musical Art degree in University of Kansas, studying with the prestigious Dr. Scott McBride Smith.



Yunqiu Xu is a Chinese pianist born into a musician family. Xu began her classical training at an early age and since then, she has been regularly invited to play solo recitals in her hometown. Xu has been awarded numerous international prizes, such as the winner of the concerto part of the CIA International Artist Competition. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the Manhattan School of Music, where she studied with Alexandre Moutouzkine. She is currently pursuing the Doctor of Musical Arts in piano performance degree at the University of Kansas with Dr. Scott McBride Smith.



Danlei Yang, born in Chengdu, China, is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts in piano performance degree under Dr. Scott McBride Smith at KU, where she is a graduate teaching assistant and the director of KU Community Music School. She holds a master's degree in piano performance and literature from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a bachelor's degree in piano performance from Texas Christian University. Yang has performed internationally, and she is a prize winner in international competitions, such as the Franz Liszt Center Piano Competition (first prize) and Charleston Winter Music Competition (second prize).



Xiang Zhang began at age 6 when he started learning the piano. He received guidance from esteemed professors, including Professor Lv Xiaoliang during high school and Professor Shuai Zhao at Xi'an Conservatory of Music. Xiang Zhang's talent and dedication led him to enroll in the graduate school of Piano Performance at Mannes School of Music, where he had the privilege of studying under Professor Vladimir Valjarevi, a leading authority in the field. He is currently pursuing a DMA degree at

the University of Kansas under the mentorship of Professor Scott McBride Smith, while also learning piano pedagogy from him.

Research has indicated that good music - reading skills enhance piano learning, fostering efficiency and increasing enjoyment. Join us to explore research-based strategies and become an expert in teaching music - reading!