



FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

SCHEDULE

Opening Social, Baroque Recital, and Reception

BEAM MUSIC CENTER

Doc Rando Hall and Lobby

12:00-2:00 pm Organist Rehearsal

3:00 pm Setup

Rehearsals On Stage in Doc Rando

6:30 pm LVMTA Opening Social

Doc Rando Lobby

NMTA General Membership Election

7:00 pm Baroque Recital

Doc Rando Recital Hall

8:15 pm Opening Reception and Leadership Recognition

Doc Rando Lobby

8:45 pm End of day and Setup for Day Two



SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

SCHEDULE

9:30 am Continental Breakfast and Registration

Doc Rando Lobby

10:00-10:25 am Welcome and Greetings

Kassandra Weleck, Southwest Division Director

Doc Rando Recital Hall

Track 1: Doc Rando Recital Hall

10:30-11:00 am Advanced Collaborative Masterclass

Paige Brown, flute Heather Tomlinson, piano Damaris Morales, coach

11:00-11:30 am Collegiate DMA Masterclass by Xinyu Pan

Baroque keyboard realization, Zhenyu Yang

Bach and Handel, Adea Badivuku Dr. Spencer Baker, coach

Track 2: HFA 212

10:30-11:00 am Parental Guidance Suggested by Shelle Soelberg

11:10-11:40 am Home Studio Recording by David Skouson

Track 3: HFA 213 Piano Lab

10:30 am Collaboration Ensemble Event

Emma Pease-Byron, coordinator

10:30-10:50 am Voice with Dr. Valeria Sokolova-Ore

10:50-11:10 am Strings with Dr. Gregory Maldonado

11:10-11:30 am Flute with Bonnie Buhler-Tanouye



SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

SCHEDULE, CONT.

Doc Rando Lobby

11:30 am Collegiate Poster Presentations:
Role of Pianist as Entrepreneur in Contemporary Art

11:45 am Baroque Petting Zoo by Dr. Jonathan Rhodes Lee
Groups of ten in 10-15 minute guided tours of the historical instruments
Meet in Doc Rando Lobby and walk together to HAB1 Room 105
Collegiate volunteers assist younger students

12:00 noon Lunch

12:30 pm NED Notes: Suzanne Clayson, moderator
Julian Lam, Terri Miller, Damaris Morales

Doc Rando Recital Hall

1:00-1:50 pm Using Bach to Improve Sightreading by Dr. Timothy Hoft

2:00-2:50 pm Cross-Cultural Journey Through Authentic Chinese
Instruments by Mr Hong Wang

3:00-3:25 pm Extended Piano Techniques by Adea Badivuku

3:25-3:50 pm Memories in Watercolor: Chinese
Elements and Eastern Philosophy in Tan Dun's Piano Music
by Zhenyu Yang

3:50 pm Conference Concludes

MTNA

MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

MTNA WELCOME

August 23, 2024

Dear Nevada MTA Members:

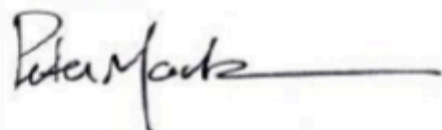
On behalf of your MTNA colleagues across the country, we want to add our welcome to the Nevada State Conference. Gathering with your friends and colleagues from around the state is a very special benefit of membership—a benefit that offers multiple educational and social opportunities for you to grow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

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

As you consider additional opportunities for professional development and networking, you are invited to attend the next MTNA National Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 15-19, 2025. During this event, you will be able to attend more than 100 informative sessions, inspiring master classes, and an exhibit hall with the latest music, products and innovations. You'll be treated to the artistry of *Michelle Cann*, keynote speaker *Libby Larsen* and insightful master classes with *Lynda Lybeck-Robinson* (elementary piano), *Jennifer Linn* (intermediate piano), *Michelle Cann* (advanced piano), and *John Bloomfield* (piano technique). The 2025 MTNA National Conference will be an unforgettable time to learn and share, so visit the MTNA website later this year for more details!

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

Sincerely,



Peter Mack, NCTM
President

Sincerely,



Brian Shepard
Chief Executive Officer



August 23, 2024



PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Welcome *Bach to School*! It is with great excitement and anticipation that we greet each of you to the 56th annual Nevada Music Teachers Conference. We are incredibly grateful for the commitment, creativity, and tireless hours that our conference committee has devoted to the 2024 Conference. President-elect, Spencer Baker, and committee members Cheryl Thornton, Damaris Morales, Emma Pease-Byron, Zhenyu Yang and Suzanne Clayson have curated a dynamic program designed to invigorate your teaching practices, broaden your horizons, and connect you with fellow educators who share your commitment to the art of music.

As music educators, you are the heartbeat of creativity and inspiration, nurturing the next generation of musicians and shaping the future of music education. This conference is a celebration of your dedication, passion, and the incredible impact you have on your students and the community.

Whether you're here to gain fresh perspectives, deepen your understanding of music education, or simply connect with old friends while making new ones, we hope this conference will exceed your expectations.

We look forward to sharing this experience with you and to the many inspiring conversations and discoveries that await!

Warmest regards,
Marie Lee
NMTA president



ELECTIONS 2024-2026

PROPOSED BOARD OF OFFICERS

President

Spencer Baker, Las Vegas

President-Elect

Damaris Morales, Henderson

Immediate Past President

Marie Lee, Henderson

1st Vice President - Membership/MTNA Foundation

Allison Olson, Las Vegas

2nd Vice President - Local Associations

Amy Homer-Smith, Henderson

3rd Vice President - Competitions

Bonnie Buhler-Tanouye, Henderson

4th Vice President - Social Media/Publicity

Tanya Hambourg, Henderson

5th Vice President - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

Alexandria Le, Las Vegas

Secretary

Emma Pease-Byron, Henderson

Treasurer

David Skouson, North Las Vegas

Silver State Chairs

Theresa Schmauder, Reno

Michelle Lee, Las Vegas

Silver State Co-Chairs

Suzanne Clayson, Las Vegas

Marie Lee, Henderson

MTNA Competition Co-Chair

Zhenyu Yang, Las Vegas



ELECTIONS 2024-2026

Piano Chair

Suzanne Clayson, Las Vegas

String Chair

Gregory Maldonado, Las Vegas

Woodwind Chair

Open

Brass Chair

Open

Voice Chair

Open

Certification Chair

Laurie Swain, Las Vegas

Young Professionals Chair

Open

NNMTA President

Bryan Chuan, Reno

NNMTA Representative

Amy Jahn, Reno

LVMTA President

Julian Lam, Las Vegas

UNRMTA President

Adea Badivuku, Reno

UNLVMTA President

Zhenyu Yang, Las Vegas

Newsletter

Karen Sampson Hudson, Reno

Hospitality Chair

Cheryl Thornton, Las Vegas

Community Outreach

Marie Lee, Henderson

PROPOSED BOARD OF OFFICERS, CONT.



LIST OF PAST PRESIDENTS

Howard Chase 1966-1968
Margaret Presley 1968-1970
Wanda Wasden 1970-1972
Betty Henderson 1972-1974
Beth Burkiser 1974-1976
Ronald Williams 1976-1978
James Stivers 1978-1980
Kim Wynant 1980-1982
Josephine Williams 1982-1984
Ruth Brewer 1984-1986
Sonnet Johnson 1986-1988
Kathleen Legere 1988-1990
Josephine Williams 1990-1992
Carol Stivers 1992-1994
Brach Thomson 1994-1996
Mallie Riecken 1996-1998
Suzanne Gillman 1998-2000
Nancy Tedford 2000-2002
Doris Chase 2002-2004
Kathleen Legere 2004-2006
Pierce Emata 2006-2008
Mary Straub 2008-2010
Cheryl Thornton 2010-2012*
Hanah Waterman Shields 2012-2014
Farida Jamin 2014-2016
Lynette Cook 2016-2018
Suzanne Clayson 2018-2020
Cheryl Thornton 2020-2022 *second term
Marie Lee 2022-2024



YEAR 2024

25/30/50/55 YEAR MEMBERS

55 Year Members

Ethelyn Peterson

50 Year Members

Kathleen Legere

30 Year Members

Becky Gamett

Karen Hudson

In Young Lee

Mykal Oranges

25 Year Members

James Winn



YEAR 2023

25/30/50/55 YEAR MEMBERS

50 Year Members

Deidre Smith

30 Year Members

Cynthia Ferris

David Kancsar

Laurie Swain

25 Year Members

None



CERTIFIED MUSIC TEACHERS

Piano

- Spencer J. Baker
Valerie Bates
Margarita G. Bryant
Bryan Chung Chieh Chuan
Carol L. Coppola
Maren Elizabeth Daynes
Cindy Harris
Amy C. Jahn
Michele E. Johnson
Sonnet Johnson
Juliana Kuo
Julian Ho Ting Lam
Kathleen A. Legere
Linda McDermott
Kathryn Mickey
Bruria Perlberg
Ethelyn Peterson
Mary B. Piser
Mallie Riecken
Denise M. Smith
Laurie T. Swain
Nancy Tedford
Chad S. Twedt



Piano, continued

Kathleen C. Waite
Karen Rae Waltman
Meredith Whelan
Katherine Elaine Wilkinson
James F. Winn
Jui Hsuan Won
Jee K. Wong

Theory

Sonnet Johnson
Bruria Perlberg

Flute

Emma June Pease-Byron

Organ

Bryan Chung Chieh Chuan
Ethelyn Peterson
Laurie T. Swain

Saxophone

Lindsey Nicole O'Connor

RECITAL

Friday, 8.23.24

NMTA BACH TO SCHOOL BAROQUE RECITAL

Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor, Organ *Johann Sebastian Bach/Van*
Amy Smith, NXLH Adjunct Professor

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring *Johann Sebastian Bach/Van*
Bella Box, Marie Gubler, Avery Law, Olivia Law, Cecily Schelin
Students of Cheryl Thornton, NMTA Immediate Past-President

Sheep May Safely Graze *Johann Sebastian Bach/Van*
Canton in D Major *Johann Pachelbel*
Lulu Hardy, Gideon Schelin, Aria Walker, Eve Walker, Reed Walker, Madeleine Wall
Students of Cheryl Thornton, NMTA Immediate Past-President

Flute Sonata in E-flat Major, BWV 1031 with Organ,
Two Movements- Allegro and Siciliano *Johann Sebastian Bach*
Emma Pease-Byron, Flute- NMTA Secretary
Amy Smith, Organ-NXLH Adjunct Professor

Sonata No. 3 for Two Violins *John-Marie Leclair*
Ben Snead and Damon Hernandez
Students of Shakeh Ghoukasian

RECITAL

Friday, 8.23.24

NMTA BACH TO SCHOOL BAROQUE RECITAL

Trio Sonata in F, BWV 1021, No.1

Jan Dismas Zelenka

I. Adagio III. Larghetto III. Allegro Assai

Dr. Jonathan Rhodes Lee, Harpsichord- NMTA Professor

Dr. Richard Krauchak, Baroque Oboe- CSX Dean School of Arts and Letters

Ka-wai Yu, Viola da Gamba

Dr. Gregory Maldonado, Baroque Violin

Kaffeeekantate, BWV 211

Johann Sebastian Bach

"Ei! Wie Schmeckt der Coffee Süße"

Xinyu Pan-Herrington, Soprano-NMTA Collegiate Chapter

Dr. Spencer Baker, Piano-NMTA President

Prelude in G Major, Organ

Nicolaus Bruhns

Dr. Bryan Chuan, Assistant Professor NMTA

Organist-Trinity Episcopal Church

Brandenburg Concerto No.3 in G Major

Johann Sebastian Bach/Bardone

First Movement-Piano Ensemble

Piano One, Primo: Dr. Spencer Baker, NMTA President

Piano One, Secondo: Amy Smith, NMTA Past-President

Piano Two, Primo: Julian Lam, NMTA President

Piano Two, Secondo: Damaris Morales, NMTA President-Elect



KASSANDRA WELECK



PRESENTER

Kassandra Weleck, NCTM, an Ohio native, is currently an adjunct instructor of music at Pima Community College and piano instructor in her private studio. She earned a MM in piano performance & pedagogy from Arizona State University, where she also served as a teaching assistant to Jan Meyer Thompson, and a BM in piano performance with University Honors from Bowling Green State University.

Kassandra has performed as a soloist, collaborative artist, and chamber musician in recitals, master classes, workshops, and music festivals in the United States, Canada, England, and Austria. She is very active with Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) on the local, state, and division levels, has served MTNA in many varying positions, and has presented at state and national conferences on piano-related topics. Kassandra currently serves as the MTNA Southwest Division Director, the Arizona State Music Teachers Association membership chair, and coordinates the MTNA Composition Competition's Southwest Division. She has taught piano, music, and music theory for 25+ years.

Kassandra is also certified through MTNA as a nationally certified teacher of music (NCTM) in piano, and the Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) as an elementary and intermediate piano teaching specialist.

She lives with her husband, two teenage daughters, and two rambunctious dogs in northwest Tucson, Arizona. When not doing musical or motherly things, Kassandra enjoys running, reading, and traveling.



BRYAN CHUAN



PERFORMER

Bryan Chuan is lecturer of piano at the University of Nevada Reno and maintains an active career as a performer, collaborative artist and pedagogue. He has been a featured soloist with the Denver Pops Orchestra, Reno Chamber Orchestra, UNR Symphony Orchestra, Harvard Pops Orchestra and Northeastern Wind Symphony. His recent solo recitals have included the works of Enrique Granados and a survey of Basque organ music. As music director at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, he directs the Pipes on the River concert series, which features guest organists from around the country and collaborative performances with local musicians and organ. He is part of a recent album release by BIS records featuring the world premiere of vocal and chamber music works by Kaikhosru Sorabji.

Bryan received his DMA in piano performance from the University of Colorado Boulder, with previous education at the University of Nevada Reno and Harvard University.



JONATHAN RHODES



PRESENTER

Jonathan Rhodes Lee has performed as harpsichord soloist and continuo player across North America and Europe. He can be heard on the MSR, Equilibrium, and Navona labels and has appeared with ensembles such as Mercury Baroque (Houston), the New Century Chamber Orchestra (San Francisco), the Las Vegas Sinfonietta, the Nevada Chamber Orchestra, the San Antonio Symphony, and others.

Lee holds degrees from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and the University of California, Berkeley, and he was a Fulbright Scholar at the Royal Conservatory of Music in The Hague, Netherlands. His teachers have included Laurette Goldberg, Joscelyn Godwin, Davitt Moroney, and Jacques Ogg.

Lee serves as Associate Professor of Music at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where his work as a musicologist focuses on eighteenth-century repertoires and film music. His book, *Film Music in the Sound Era*, appeared with Routledge in 2020, and his articles have appeared in the *Journal of Musicology*, *Eighteenth-Century Music*, *Cambridge Opera Journal*, *Music and Letters*, and elsewhere. His edition of previously undiscovered harpsichord music of Pierre-Nicolas La Font appeared with A-R Editions in 2016. Lee is also Director of the Arnold Shaw Popular Music Research Center and the university's Early Music Ensemble.

You can learn more about his activities at his website: www.jonathanrhodeslee.com.



KA-WAI YU



PERFORMER

Cellist and viol player Ka-Wai Yu is Associate Professor of Music at Utah Tech University, where he teaches cello and directs the string chamber music program. Originally from Hong Kong, he has performed as a soloist and chamber musician at many major concert halls in Canada, China, Germany, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and the United States, and is currently the Principal Cellist of Southwest Symphony Orchestra. A recipient of scholarships from Early Music America and the Viola da Gamba Society of America, Dr. Yu has performed with such period-instrument ensembles as Cosmopolitan Baroque, La Réunion Musicale, Concentus, and the Viol Consort of Champaign-Urbana, and has performed at the American Bach Soloists Academy, Early Music Vancouver, and the Boston Early Music Festival Fringe.

He directs the bi-annual Southern Utah Early Music Festival. Dr. Yu holds a D.M.A. in Cello Performance and Literature from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and B.A. and M.M. from the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music. He has studied with baroque cellist Jaap ter Linden and viola da gambist Wendy Gillespie. He has also worked with Tanya Tomkins, Elisabeth Reed, Robert Mealy, Wilbert Hazelzet, and Sandra Miller, among others.



GREGORY MALDONADO



PRESENTER

Gregory Maldonado has 40 years' experience conducting professional ensembles, and has also performed on the violin and viola for over 45 years in many professional orchestras, including Philharmonic Baroque Orchestra, Los Angeles Opera, Long Beach Opera, Santa Fe Pro Musica/Santa Fe Opera, Monterey Symphony, Fresno Philharmonic, and the Las Vegas Philharmonic. He also worked as a violinist and violist accompanying popular artists such as Glen Campbell, Carol Channing, Sammy Davis, Jr., Liza Minnelli, Frank Sinatra, Jackie Evancho, as well as Martin Fontaine as Elvis Presley in "The Elvis Experience." Additionally, he was Principal Conductor and Leader of the Los Angeles Baroque Orchestra, a critically acclaimed period-instrument ensemble, for two decades.

He holds a doctorate degree from USC, a master's from CSULB, and a bachelor's from UCLA. He taught for over 25 years at many universities and colleges, including UCLA, USC, CSULB, UNLV, and CSN. Dr. Maldonado teaches in the Clark County School District—he is Director of Orchestra at West Career and Technical Academy, Las Vegas, and was a Finalist for the 2022 and 2023 "Heart of Education Award." He served as Director of the Las Vegas Youth Orchestra Concert Strings division from 2016 to 2019 and has been a judge and clinician for music festivals and competitions in California, Nevada, and Utah for over 30 years. Maestro Maldonado is Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Nevada Chamber Orchestra and also served as Guest Conductor of the Nouveau Chamber Ballet and the San Diego Chamber Orchestra. He is an AFM Local 369 member and has recorded on the Harmonia Mundi, RCM, Centaur, and Rococo labels.



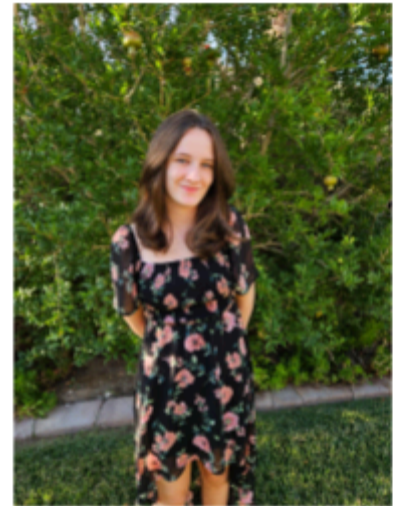
LULU HARDY



PERFORMER

Lulu Hardy is a freshman in high school and has been playing piano for 7 years. She also enjoys reading, going to the beach, and looks forward to joining the basketball team this year.

ARIA WALKER

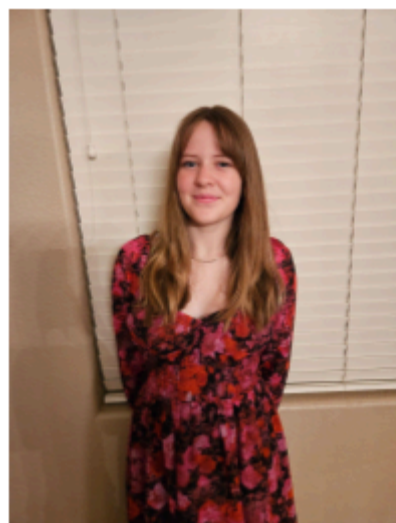


PERFORMER

Aria Walker is in her 5th year of private piano. She also participated in the Let's Play Music musicianship program from ages 4-6 and the Bridge program from 6-7. Aria passed level 7 of the Chase-Reicken Musicianship Exams this year. Aria also likes to read books, dance, be surrounded by friends, learn new moves for Color guard, and play games. Aria is in 8th grade at Faiss Middle School. She sings in their chamber choir and plays the violin in their chamber Orchestra.



EVE WALKER



PERFORMER

Eve Walker is in her 7th year of private piano. She participated in the Let's Play Music musicianship program from ages 4-6. Eve passed level 9 of the Chase-Reicken Musicianship Exams this year. Eve also likes to read, dance, bake treats, talk with friends, play the flute, shop and see friends. Eve is a sophomore at Sierra Vista High School and enjoys being in their culinary program.

REED WALKER



PERFORMER

Reed Walker is currently in his 8th year of private piano. He also participated in the Let's Play Music musicianship program from ages 5-7. Reed passed level 10 of the Chase-Reicken Musicianship Exams this year, finishing the highest level. Reed also likes to play soccer and volleyball, read books, drive, see friends, and participate in his school's JROTC program. Reed is a junior at Sierra Vista High School and plays the cello in their chamber orchestra.



AVERY LAW



PERFORMER

Avery Law is 17 years old. She loves playing the piano. She especially loves ragtime tunes. When she is not playing the piano you can find her reading, painting, or sewing.

OLIVIA LAW



PERFORMER

Olivia Law is 16 years old. She loves playing music from her favorite video games. She hopes to be a published author. In her free time she loves playing switch, reading, and writing.



EMMA PEASE-BYRON



PRESENTER

Emma Pease-Byron, NCTM, is a flute specialist, playing, teaching, and writing about flute. She can be heard playing flute, piccolo, and flute-like instruments, including pennywhistle, Baroque recorder and fife, around the Las Vegas Valley with ensembles like the Nevada Pops Ensemble and Vegas City Opera. Starting in the 2022-2023 season, Emma can also be heard playing flute and piccolo with the Billings Symphony Orchestra and Helena Symphony Orchestra in Montana. As a certified Suzuki teacher, Emma runs Studio Flute, developing the beautiful heart and noble spirit of her students through the study of music and teaching her preschool music classes, Preschool Music Adventures, at the Silver Springs Recreation Center. Emma's most recent article, about systematically developing a historical context for music study, was published in the Suzuki Association of the America's Journal in spring of 2022. Emma is on the board of the Nevada Music Teachers Association and the Las Vegas Federation of Music Clubs. When not teaching or practicing herself, she can be found practicing with her daughters, running and baking.



XINYU PAN



PERFORMER

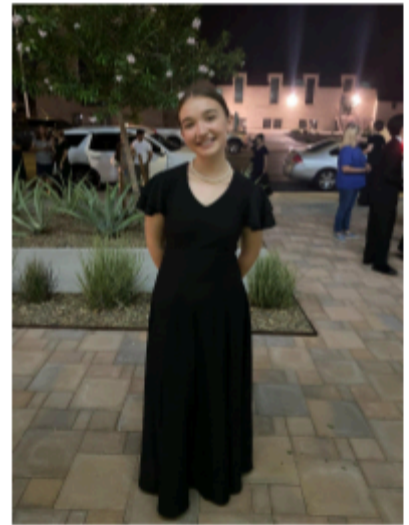
Xinyu Pan is a 1st year DMA student in Vocal Performance and a part-time voice instructor at UNLV, studying with Dr. Alfonse Anderson. She was born in Jiangsu, China. She achieved her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Vocal Performance from University of Central Oklahoma.

She has worked with UNLV Opera, Opera Las Vegas, Painted Sky Opera, Vox Opera, and UCO Opera. Her opera experiences include *Le Comte Ory* (Countess Adèle), *Die Fledermaus* (Rosalinda), *Die Zauberflöte* (Pamina), *The Consul* (The Foreign Woman), *Coffee Cantata* (Lieschen), *Madama Butterfly* (The Aunt), *Cendrillon* (Maguelonne); Scenes include *Candide* (Cunegonde), *Die Zauberflöte* (Papagena), *Prima Donna* (Fiammetta); Chorus in *Behold the Man*, *Martha*, *Pirates of Penzance*.

Xinyu has won the 1st Place of NATS Competition in Oklahoma District; Gold award in classical category and Silver reward in No-age-limit category of World Classical Music Award Competition; Gold Award and Expressive Performance Special Award in London Young Artist Competition. Xinyu also has recorded a song in CD "ASA" with Grammy-winning cellist Tess Remy-Schumacher in 2021, and she was honored to be selected as an Ambassador of UCO School of Music in 2019-2020.



MADELEINE WALL



PERFORMER

Madeleine Wall has studied piano with Cheryl Thornton since she was 7, and has participated in piano ensembles since she was 9. She is a 10th grader at Las Vegas Academy of The Arts studying voice. She also participates in dance at school and enjoys musical theater.

BEN SMEAD



PERFORMER

Ben Smead has been playing violin since 2nd grade. He is currently under the tutelage of Ms. Shakeh Ghoukasian, and has formerly studied under Eliane Mahlanghu. Ben is a senior at Green Valley High School, where he is an active member and leader in both the orchestra and choir departments. He has been a part of the Las Vegas Youth Orchestras since 4th grade, as well as performed with the Nevada Chamber Orchestra since 9th grade. After high school, he plans to study Music Education with a Choral Emphasis as well as Violin Performance. In his spare time, he likes to play with his cats, bake, and hang out with his friends!



DAMARIS MORALES



PERFORMER

Damaris Morales- Holds Bachelor and master's degrees in Piano Performance from the University of Miami, Teaching and Performance Diploma from the National Conservatory of Music in the Dominican Republic, and Diploma Studies at Manhattan School of Music, in New York, USA. Other educational achievements include, winning a scholarship from the Spanish government to participate in the International Course of Spanish Music in Santiago de Compostela, Spain; and participating in competitions and Master classes with such artists as Antonio Montesinos, Manuel Carra, Nina Svetlanova, Rosalyn Tureck, Santiago Rodriguez among others.

Her professional experiences include teaching and performing as chamber musician, as soloist and accompanist in Latin America and the United States. She has performed as soloist with the Florida Chamber Orchestra, the National Symphony Orchestra of Santo Domingo, the Nevada Chamber Symphony, and the CSN Studio Orchestra. She has also collaborated as chamber musician in the "Alvarez Piano Duo" with Venezuelan pianist Victor Hugo Alvarez, the "Eldala Trio" & the "Zirna Trio."

Damaris Morales also serves as adjudicator in numerous competitions in the US and Latin America and has been a State Conference presenter, and a master-class clinician for the Florida, Texas, New York, and Nevada Music Teachers Association. Damaris has taught piano and a diversity of music courses at the Inter American University of Puerto Rico, University of Miami, the College of Southern Nevada, the Sanford Brown College, and the Nevada School of the Arts.

Damaris Morales is the creator of the classical lecture/recital series Hidden, The Secret Genius of Female Composers, advocating women's music and the creator and executive producer of, Diapason, sounds of the worlds, a captivating TV show which journeys around the world in search of historic musical instruments. Mrs. Morales is the past president of the Las Vegas Music Teachers Association and the proprietor of a successful piano studio in Las Vegas, Nevada which produces high caliber musicians often winners at national and international levels. Additionally, she chairs the National Guild of Piano Teachers piano playing auditions.



JULIAN LAM



PERFORMER

Julian Lam is a National Certified Teacher of Music (NCTM) based in Las Vegas, with a Bachelor of Music and a Master of Music in piano performance from UNLV studied under Dr. James Giles and Dr. Mykola Suk. During his years of keyboard studies, he was a winner of the James Huntzinger concerto competition and performed with the UNLV symphony orchestra.

Julian's passion for music started at a young age, inspired by his grandparents who were both Chinese Opera stars in Guang Zhou, China. Julian's musical journey began with singing Chinese opera music at the age of three, and he later went on to study piano at the age of five, learning from renowned teachers in Hong Kong.

Julian currently teaches piano and voice, is co-chair of the NFMC music festival, and is also the official accompanist for the Las Vegas Harmony Chorus. He was co-chair for the 2020 MTNA competition. In 2024, Julian is the president of Las Vegas Music Teacher Association.



GIDEON SCHELIN



PERFORMER

Gideon Schelin is 16 and entering 11th grade in the fall. He has been playing piano since he was six. He serves in his church class presidency and is an avid long-distance runner.

CECILY SCHELIN



PERFORMER

Cecily Schelin is 11 and entering 7th grade in the fall. She has been playing piano since she was five. She began studying the organ last year and also enjoys playing guitar and ukulele as well as singing and songwriting.



DAVID SKOUSON



PRESENTER

David Skouson teaches piano and is active as a conductor, composer and arranger. He has served in various capacities in LVMTA and NMTA, and currently serves as NMTA state treasurer. David is artistic director for Zion's Youth Symphony and Chorus, a performing arts organization for young musicians.



DR TIMOTHY HOFT



PRESENTER

Dr. Timothy Hoft is an Associate Professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where he teaches solo and collaborative piano. A pianist of unique versatility, Timothy Hoft has been praised for his recent performances. “Hoft’s objective approach to performing new music was especially successful...[his] precise control of dynamics and quiet approach to the keyboard with a perfect technique led to a beautiful, automatic sense of music making...” (Michael Lodico, Ionarts.org). His debut CD, *Reflections on Ukrainian Piano Music Vol. I*, has also been favorably reviewed. “Here is piano music that needs to be known, piano music that abounds with visceral vibrancy and expressive intensity, not to mention being skillfully and subtly wrought for the instrument. Timothy Hoft’s ardent and caring virtuosity is captured in superb, lifelike sonics. You can’t ask for a more auspicious start to what promises to be an important series.” (Jed Distler, Gramophone critic).

Hoft has given performances as soloist and chamber musician in the concert halls of Ukraine, Russia, Poland, France, Italy, the Czech Republic, England, Scotland, and the U.S., including Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall, the John F. Kennedy Center, the Phillips Collection, the Yamaha Piano Salon, the Ukrainian Institute of America, the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, and the Smith Center. He has performed with ensembles such as the Lviv Philharmonic, Phillips Camerata, Peabody Camerata, Peabody Wind Ensemble, UNLV Symphony Orchestra, UNLV Wind Ensemble, Henderson Symphony Orchestra and the Detroit Civic Symphony Orchestra.

Hoft is currently exploring and performing solo piano repertoire of 20th and 21st century Ukrainian composers, including the Nocturnals of Virko Baley, the piano sonatas of Valentin Silvestrov, the monumental cycle of 34 Preludes and Fugues by Valentin Bibik, the piano sonatas of Boris Lyatoshynsky, and others, for a series of recordings entitled *Reflections on Ukrainian Piano Music*, to be released on the Troppe Note/Cambria label.

A graduate of the University of Michigan and the Peabody Conservatory, Hoft holds Bachelor’s, Master’s, and Doctoral Degrees in piano performance. His primary teachers were Logan Skelton and Benjamin Pasternack. During his graduate studies, Hoft was awarded a fellowship through the La Gesse Foundation, giving him numerous performances in Europe and in the U.S. He was also granted the Earl Wild Scholarship of the Ivory Classics Foundation, allowing him to study with the legendary pianist, Earl Wild.



DAMON HERNANDEZ JR



PERFORMER

Damon Hernandez Jr. is a violinist born in Henderson Nevada. He began the violin at the age of 11. His formal violin studies started with Ms. Shakeh Ghoukasian at The String Connection at the age of 14. Damon is currently a junior attending Green Valley High School and is a part of the Symphony orchestra. He has been a part of the LVYO for one year, and has participated in high school CCSD honor orchestra since freshman year. Damon looks forward to playing the violin for the rest of his life. He plans to attend a college or university to continue his studies of the violin.



HONG WANG

PRESENTER



Erhu and Chinese Wind Instruments Soloist, he also serves as Special Researcher for China Conservatory of Music's Oriental Music Research Institute. Wong is passionate about promoting new music from Asian American composers and finds unique ways to connect different genres of music together.

Mr. Wang is also one of the most active internationally touring multi-instrumentalists of his time. Mr. Wang graduated from Nanjing Normal University's Music Department where he mainly studied the erhu (two-string bowed instrument), composition and also studied the oboe at Nanjing Arts Academy. After graduating, he taught songwriting and oboe at the music department for about five years. In time he became music editor at Jiangsu Province Institute of Arts. He then studied for eight years on traditional songs and folk music.

Hong has been living in the United States for more than twenty years. Hong has established himself as a sought-after musician for film scores, notably contributing to major productions such as "Avatar", DreamWorks "Kung Fu Panda Legends of Awesomeness episodes.", and "Legend of Korra" episodes. His deep knowledge of Chinese folk instruments and traditional music, honed through years of research and performance, makes him a valuable asset in preserving and promoting his cultural heritage.



DR SPENCER BAKER



PRESENTER

Dr. Spencer Baker is a distinguished Las Vegas pianist, conductor and teacher. Spencer has been a soloist with several regional orchestras. He has performed nationally and abroad in the Southwest, Washington DC, Disneyland, Niagara Falls, Montreal, Italy and China. Dr. Baker is currently Assistant Professor of Music at the UNLV School of Music. In addition, he is in his eleventh season with Perform Opera in Italy in Mercatello sul Metauro, Italy as faculty pianist and assistant music director. This past year, Spencer was the guest artist-in-residence and soloist at for the Truman State University 40th annual piano festival and maintains an active teaching and performance career.

He is the principal pianist for the UNLV Opera Theater and Vegas City Opera. Spencer recently was the invited guest conductor and pianist for Vegas City Opera's production of Gianni Schicchi, Opera Three Way, and The Face on the Barroom Floor. Dr. Baker has appeared in recital with the American Guild of Organists and is currently organist/pianist at University United Methodist Church. Spencer is a Liberace scholar and professional competition winner, serves on the State Board of the Nevada Music Teachers Association as State President and faculty advisor to their collegiate chapter, UNLVMTA. www.unlv.edu/people/spencer-baker



ADEA BADIVUKU



PRESENTER

A native of Kosovo, distinguished pianist Adea Badivuku has performed in major concert halls throughout Europe, the Balkans, and the U.S., including at the Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall. Born in Vushtrri, she is the first pianist from her country to pursue a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at an R1 Institution in the United States. A graduate teaching assistant to Dr. James Winn at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), Ms Badivuku has a deep passion for contemporary music. She is the director of the Shadows Contemporary Art Festival in Kosovo and in Reno, co-founder and pianist for the ADEDUO ensemble, and serves as president of the UNR Chapter of the Music Teacher's National Association.

Beginning her music studies at the Prenke Jakova Music School in Prishtina, Kosovo, Badivuku continued her piano studies at the University of Prishtina before moving to Michigan to earn her Master of Music degree from Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant. A recipient of numerous awards, Ms. Badivuku most recently won First Prize at the 2021 New York International Piano Competition, and in 2023, she became a certified teacher and educational partner with Steinway & Sons. Recognized as the Most Outstanding International Graduate Student at UNR in 2022/2023, Ms. Badivuku has also been chosen to perform in master classes with such world-renowned pianists as Alfred Brendel, Giovanni Belluci, Derek Han, and Jon Nakamatsu, among others.



SHELLE SOELBERG



PRESENTER

Shelle Soelberg is passionate about music education. She holds a BS in Music Education from Brigham Young University and is currently pursuing a MM in Music Learning and Teaching at ASU. She is active in the Arizona Kodaly Teacher's association, is certified in Levels I, II and III, and has presented at Kodaly conferences at the local, state, and regional levels. She is also active in presenting at state and local chapters of the Music Teacher's National Association. She is the founder of Let's Play Music, a foundational piano course for children, which now employs over 450 teachers and 13,000 students in the U.S. and Canada. Shelle and her husband, Dave, have five children and 2 grandchildren and operate the Let's Play Music business as she continues to educate and inspire music teachers in their various teaching capacities.

BONNIE BUHLER-TANOUYE



PRESENTER

Bonnie Buhler-Tanouye holds a Master of Music degree (Flute Performance) from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where she studied with Dr. Richard Soule. Upon graduation, Mrs. Buhler-Tanouye became an adjunct faculty member at UNLV teaching music history, theory, and aural skills classes for four years. She is the founding Program Director of Southern Nevada Homeschool Performing Arts, a non-profit organization thriving in its tenth year. She is the flutist for Duo Mystique Flute and Harp and is an active freelance flutist in the Las Vegas area. She has performed with such groups as the Las Vegas Philharmonic, the Nevada Ballet Theater, Sin City Opera, Opera Las Vegas, the Nevada Pops, Phantom: The Las Vegas Spectacular, Evita National Tour at the Smith Center, Andrea Bocelli, Evanescence, Il Divo, Imagine Dragons, Daniel Emmett, Sara Brightman, and was the flutist for the Las Vegas Wind Quintet for three seasons. Mrs. Buhler-Tanouye was a founding director for the Las Vegas Desert Suzuki Institute, was on the Board of Directors for the Las Vegas Flute Club, served on the Pedagogy and Long-Range Planning Committees for the National Flute Association, and has presented or performed on four different National Flute Conventions. She currently works on the boards for the Nevada Music Teachers Association and the Las Vegas Federation of Music Clubs. She is a Suzuki certified flute instructor and runs an active private flute studio.



VALERIA ORE



PRESENTER

Valeria (Sokolova) Ore is a native of Ekaterinburg, Russia. She graduated from the Tchaikovsky Musical College and received her bachelor of arts degree with a dual major in music education and music. She is a graduate of the Mussorgsky Ural State Conservatoire, where she received a master of arts degree in music. She has performed as both a choir director and a member of choral groups, including Municipal Choir, ensemble Ascension, ensemble Choral, and folk-jazz ensemble Ekaterina, touring the former Soviet Union, Germany, and France. Ore has been teaching piano since her college days.

In 2006, Ore graduated from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, receiving a Master of Music with a dual emphasis in vocal performance and piano accompaniment.

Ore has performed numerous concerts in Las Vegas, Nevada, Los Angeles, California, Boston, Massachusetts, Paola, Kansas, and Graz, Austria. She provided the piano accompaniment for students participating in the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS and NATSAA), played for solo & ensemble contests; the competitions for the Classical Singer Convention, the auditions for the Summer Program of the American Institute of Musical Studies, and several master classes with renowned pianists and singers, such as Denyce Graves, Barbara Bonney, Luana De Vol, Gabriele Lechner, Mark Thomsen, Norman Shetler, and Walter Moore.

Valeria Ore resides in Las Vegas, where she performs as both a collaborative pianist and a singer.



AMY HOMER-SMITH



PRESENTER

Amy Homer-Smith is entering her 30th year in private teaching, and she is so excited to be involved with this year's NMTA conference. Being born and raised in Las Vegas, she had many teachers in her life, who guided her into the world of music education and performing arts. She has enjoyed serving on the LVMTA Board, as Silver-State Competition Chairperson, Vice President of Programs, and President. After her term as LVMTA President, she served as Sub Dean for the AGO Southern Nevada Chapter and she is honored to be nominated to run for Vice President of Local Associations for NMTA. Amy serves as the Director of Music at Christ Church Episcopal and she teaches part time at UNLV. Her newest endeavor as of this summer is returning college student, working toward a Bachelor of Arts in Multidisciplinary Studies, with dual focuses on music and psychology. She is eternally thankful for the love and support of her husband Mike and son Aaron, who are her biggest cheerleaders.

RICHARD KRAVCHAK



PERFORMER

Dr. Richard Kravchak is one of America's most exciting oboists and accomplished academic administrators. He has been heard as an oboe soloist, chamber and orchestral musician worldwide, performing throughout Europe, Asia, and the Americas. He specializes in contemporary music, with over 100 compositions written for him, and HIP (Historically informed practice) frequently performing period music on oboes of the Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and early 20th century. Dr. Kravchak has appeared as a soloist with ensembles as diverse as The Dubuque Symphony, The University of Hawaii Wind Ensemble, The Carson Symphony, Banda Espinia de Portugal and the Orquesta Sinfonica de El Salvador. The Dubuque Telegraph Herald has written "Kravchak's playing revealed a real beauty of tone, not monolithic, but always changing in color and intensity. He makes even the most difficult lines seem almost effortless." The Florida Flambeau raves "Kravchak made a good case for his virtuosity." Dr. Kravchak has been invited to present solo performances at conferences and festivals including The International Double Reed Society, The North American Saxophone Alliance, Festival Forfest, the International Clarinet Society, and many others. Kravchak holds performance degrees from the Eastman School of Music, the Juilliard School, and Florida State University. He has been Chair of Music at CSU Dominguez Hills and was the founding Director of the School of Music and Theatre at Marshall University as well as the Director of the School of Music at the University of Southern Mississippi. Currently Dr. Kravchak serves as Dean of the School of Arts and Letters at the College of Southern Nevada, our nation's 5th largest Community College.

GET INVOLVED

MUSICLINK FOUNDATION

BRINGING MUSIC LESSONS TO CHILDREN IN NEED IN NEVADA

www.musiclinkfoundation.org

Any child who has musical potential deserves the opportunity to nurture this talent to its full extent. Many children lack the chance to receive music lessons due to financial need. The MusicLink Foundation reaches out to low income families by linking these students with professional music teachers willing to reduce their fee to make the lessons more affordable for the child.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Students (18 yrs. of age or younger) who show an interest in taking music lessons, but cannot afford full fee lessons, are linked with qualified music teachers willing to reduce their fee by at least half to make the lessons more affordable. MusicLink teachers are able to take advantage of a variety of offers and discounts from our growing list of Business Partners as well as additional benefits directly from our foundation.

MusicLink teachers are qualified, professional teachers seeking to share their love of music with a deserving child. All MusicLink teachers are required to pass a criminal background check paid for by the foundation.

Students are nominated by music specialists, youth coordinators, choir directors, parents or anyone who has a knowledge of the musical potential of the child. Parents are asked to provide documentation to verify financial eligibility.

[SIGN UP TO BE A MUSICLINK TEACHER HERE](http://www.musiclinkfoundation.org/tchrinfo.php)

www.musiclinkfoundation.org/tchrinfo.php

NEVADA EDUCATOR NOTES

PERSONAL NOTES AND BALLOT



Julian Lam: *Imagination*, how to teach young children to use their imagination and apply it to music learning and performance.

Terri Miller: *Positively Teaching Piano*

Damaris Morales: *Orna-Mental Challenge*, on Bach and the ornaments of the Baroque.

I can't wait to put all these teaching tips to work in my own studio, but my favorite NED note today is: _____