



Tennessee Music Teachers Association

www.tnmta.org

An affiliate of the Music Teachers National Association

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Letter from the President

Spring is well underway here in East Tennessee. The rose bushes I planted last year have started to bloom, and the lettuce seed I tossed out in the raised beds over spring break has grown to where we are now harvesting and enjoying it as part of salads on our dinner table. I've got tomato plants that need planting and the weeds in our flower beds are already starting to get ahead of me. I love this time of year when spring is starting to turn into summer.

And, with the coming of summer we can also look forward to the upcoming TMTA Conference. Thanks in advance to our wonderful colleagues in the Greater Memphis and West Tennessee Music Teacher Association chapters for all their hard work in putting together what I know will be a wonderful conference. I look forward to the conference more and more with each passing day.

While I am grateful for the modern technology that allowed us to continue professional development sessions and meetings during the pandemic, after two years of meeting online I am eager for our organization to meet face-to-face, to hear wonderful performances by students, to be inspired during live masterclasses by our guest artist and clinician, and to enjoy the warm friendship that is such an integral part of TMTA.

See you in Memphis!

Mark Hussung
2021-2023 TMTA President

69th Annual TMTA Conference, June 6 & 7, 2022

Hosted by Greater Memphis & West Tennessee MTA

*We hope you will join us for our first in-person conference since 2019!
Please read about the Guest Clinician and Artist, and view the schedule below.*

www.tnmta.org/conference.

Leah Claiborne, Guest Clinician



Dr. Leah Claiborne took the competitive stage at an early age as a top prize winner in the National Association of Negro Musicians Piano Competition (2015) and winner of the IBEX scholarship at the University of Michigan.

Pianist, scholar, and educator, Dr. Claiborne promotes diversity in the arts by championing piano music by black composers in her performances, research, and teaching. In 2017, Dr. Claiborne was the first pianist to be awarded the Rackham Predoc Fellowship at the University of Michigan, which allowed her to further her research in compiling, editing, and recording piano music by black composers.

Dr. Claiborne has performed across the United States, as well as in Germany, Italy, and the Czech Republic. Most recently, she performed at Hiroshima University in Japan with the Asia/American New Music Institute. Dr. Claiborne received her undergraduate degree from the Manhattan School of Music, where she received the Josephine C. Whitford graduation award.

Dr. Claiborne was a scholarship student at the Manhattan School of Music where she earned her Bachelor of Music degree. She received her Master's of Music and Doctorate of Musical Arts degrees from the University of Michigan.

Currently, she is an Assistant Professor of Music in the Division of Arts and Humanities in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of the District of Columbia.

Igor Lipinski, Guest Artist



Polish-born pianist Igor Lipinski made his orchestra debut with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra on NPR's Performance Today and performed with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Cape Cod Symphony Orchestra, Butler County Symphony Orchestra, Woodstock Mozart Festival Orchestra, Lakes Area Music Festival Orchestra, and Paderewski Symphony Orchestra at Chicago's Symphony Center.

At age 12, Lipinski won the Grand Prix and the First Prize at the Paderewski Competition for Young Pianists in Tuchów, Poland. At 17, he played the role of a pianist in Kazimierz Braun's theatre play "Paderewski's Children" at the University at Buffalo. A year later, he graduated from the Paderewski Music High School in Tarnów, Poland where he studied piano with Jaroslaw Iwaneczko.

Lipinski earned his Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance and Musical Arts and Master of Music in Piano Performance and Literature from the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester where he studied piano under the tutelage of Douglas Humpherys. As a teaching assistant of Vincent Lenti and Tony Caramia, he received Eastman's Teaching Assistant Prize for Excellence in Teaching. Lipinski continued his graduate studies at Northwestern University Bienen School of Music earning his Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance under the tutelage of Alan Chow. Upon graduation from Northwestern, Lipinski joined the piano faculty at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville as the Lecturer of Piano where he received the KMTA Teacher of the Year award. In Fall 2017, Lipinski joined the piano faculty at the University of Oklahoma.

Lipinski's research interests focus on the history of recital programming. Recognized for his own creative programming, he unified two of his lifetime passions, classical music and magic, in a unique recital program "Piano Illusions." Lipinski collaborated on the program with Teller of Las Vegas duo Penn & Teller and won the WQXR Classical Comedy Contest at Caroline's on Broadway. In light of his success in New York, Lipinski presented "Piano Illusions" at renowned concert series and festivals including Gina Bachauer International Piano Foundation in Salt Lake City and Musica del Cuore Concert Series in Hong Kong.

His upcoming 2022 release features an album of piano music by Czech composer Leoš Janáček.

Conference Schedule

Sunday, June 5

6:30 pm TMTA Board Meeting/Dinner
University of Memphis Holiday Inn, 3700 Central Ave, Memphis, TN

Monday, June 6

8:30 am Welcome (University of Memphis Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music)

8:40 – 9:40 Piano Music by Black Composers for all Skill Levels
Dr. Leah Claiborne, conference clinician

10:00 – 11:30 Masterclass – Dr. Claiborne

12:00 – 1:30 IMTF Luncheon/Program, Rachel Acuff
Amro Music Store, 2918 Poplar Ave, Memphis, TN

1:30 – 4:00 Amro Open House

2:00 – 2:45 Scheidt Family Music Center Tour

3:00 – 3:45 Q & A Session: Diversifying Your Piano Studio – Dr. Claiborne (Harris)

4:00 Business Meeting (MU G008)

5:30 College Faculty/Local Presidents dinner (Ciao Bella, 565 Erin Dr, Memphis, TN)

7:30 – 10:00 Conference Artist Recital/Reception – Dr. Igor Lipinski, conference artist
Harris/Holiday Inn

Tuesday, June 7

7:00 – 8:00 Past Presidents breakfast (Holiday Inn)

8:15 – 9:00 Presentation (TBA) – U of M Collegiate Chapter (Harris)

9:15 – 10:15 Leoš Janáček Presentation – Dr. Lipinski (Harris)

10:30 – 12:00 Masterclass – Dr. Lipinski (Harris)

12:30–2:00 Awards Luncheon (Ridgeway Country Club, 9800 Poplar Ave, Germantown, TN)

IMT Forum 2022: Ensemble and Collaborative Skills for All Ages!

Giving our high school, middle school and elementary students the tools they need to become confident duo/duet partners, church pianists and classical/jazz ensemble players.

Panel: Rachel Acuff, Sandy Triplett, Susan Yang

We have allotted time at the end of our session for members to share ideas from their own studios with the group. Please email Rachel Acuff at racuffribble@hotmail.com by May 31st if you would like us to reserve a few minutes on the program for you to briefly share ways that you work with your young students to best prepare them for a lifelong love of collaboration. We would love to have your input!

2023 MTNA Foundation Fellow Nominations

Please send nominations for the 2023 MTNA Foundation Fellow to Judy Warrington. Any member can nominate. Members across the state will contribute so one local doesn't have to raise the entire \$1500. We need to get a nomination ASAP because many members contribute when they pay their dues. If they know the name of the nominee, they can designate it to them and TMTA will get the credit.

Judy Warrington, jfwnctm@gmail.com
423-488-1588 (text and voicemail)

Chattanooga Music Teachers Association

After 2 years of Zoom meetings, the Chattanooga Music Teachers Association is looking forward to our first "in-person" gathering on May 12, for our Annual Recital of Scholarship Winners and Teacher of the Year Recognition. We are already busy planning to host the TMTA conference in Chattanooga in 2023.

Submitted by Wanda Webb Everett, CMTA President

Music at St. Mary's Concert Series

St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral
700 Poplar Avenue
Memphis, TN 38105
901-527-3361
www.stmarysmemphis.org

Sunday June 5th at 2:00 pm
Concerts are FREE

Cello-piano duo Anthony Lu and Richard Townley perform the complete viola da gamba sonatas of Johann Sebastian Bach. Additionally, other works by Dmitri Shostakovich, Ludwig van Beethoven, and Florence Price are included.



Memphis International Piano Competition

October 14-15, 2022
Hosted at The University of Memphis
Competition ages: 4-collegiate

Submitted by Artina McCain

Membership News

Northeast State Community College donated a Yamaha digital piano to the school's Johnson City, Tennessee campus. This teaching instrument is in memory of Amy Fortune (1961-2014), who attended the Interlochen Academy, the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and the University of Southern California. She was a founding member of the Pacific Saxophone Quartet, performed with the Los Angeles Symphony Orchestra, and the Los Angeles production of "Phantom of the Opera".

Submitted by Craig Campbell (CMTNA). Mr. Campbell is a graduate of The Juilliard School and has held church positions in New York City, Louisiana, Connecticut and Los Angeles, prior to joining the Northeast State Community College.

Planning Ahead

Upcoming TMTA Conferences

- 2022 Memphis (West Tennessee & Greater Memphis): June 6-7
- 2023 Chattanooga: June 3-6
- 2024 Nashville
- 2025 Martin
- 2026 Johnson City

Upcoming MTNA Conferences

- 2022 Group Piano/Piano Pedagogy Forum (GP3), University of Arizona: August 5-6
- 2023 National Conference, Reno, Nevada: March 25–29