



# Tennessee Music Teachers Association

[www.tnmta.org](http://www.tnmta.org)

An affiliate of the Music Teachers National Association

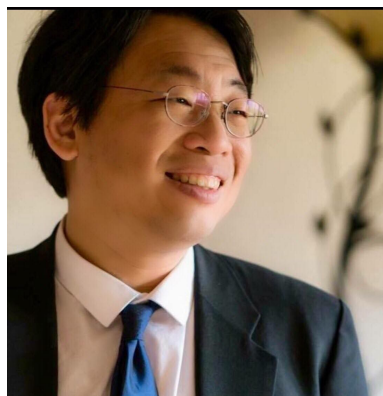
December 2020

Vol. 45, No. 4

## 2021 TMTA Conference Announcement

**Considering current and evolving CDC guidelines regarding Covid-19, a decision will be made on February 1, 2021 regarding whether the 2021 TMTA Conference will be held virtually or in person at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. In the meantime, we are excited to announce the following conference artists!**

### **2021 TMTA Conference Artist: Dr. Chih-Long Hu, Piano, University of Tennessee, Knoxville**



A native of Taiwan, pianist Chih-Long Hu's performance career was launched after receiving honors including the Taipei National Concert Hall Arising Star, the Chi-Mei Artist Award, and prizes from the Mauro Monopoli International Piano Competition in Italy, the Concours International De Piano D'Escaldes-Engordany in Andorra, the Takamatsu International Piano Competition in Japan, and San Jose International Piano Competition in California.

An active performer, Hu performs extensively in Asia, Europe, and America appearing as a concerto soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician. His recent performance highlights include concerto performances of Rachmaninov's Paganini Rhapsody, Beethoven's Emperor Concerto, Chopin's Concerto No. 2, as well as solo and chamber recitals in China, Taiwan, Indonesia, Ireland, and throughout the U.S. Hu's performances have been broadcast in "Performance Today" through NPR stations across the country and televised in Taiwan, China and Japan. His CD albums "Formosa Caprices", "Complete Rachmaninov Etudes-Tableaux", "Trifecta Trio", and "Goldberg Variations" have received critical acclaim. His latest recording of Beethoven's complete violin sonatas with violinist Miroslav Hristov will be released by Blue Griffin Recordings.

Recipient of the UT Chancellor's Excellence in Teaching Award and named "Teacher of the Year" by Tennessee Music Teachers Association, Knoxville Music Teachers Associations, and Appalachian Music Teachers Association, Hu is a committed and passionate teacher. He strives to cultivate genuine curiosity of human expressions in his students and to help them discover their individuality through music. His students have won numerous prizes from international, national, and

regional competitions, and have been accepted to major universities and conservatories after studying with him.

Hu is active in the community and has served in various professional organizations and committees. He is frequently invited to give lectures and master classes around the globe, as well as to judge international and national competitions. Hu has been the Artistic Director of St. Andrews Piano Academy and Festival International in New Brunswick, Canada.

Hu received a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in piano performance from the University of Michigan, a Master's Degree from Taipei National University of the Arts, and a Bachelor's Degree in civil engineering from National Taiwan University. His piano teachers include Arthur Greene, Hung-Kuan Chen, and Tai-Cheng Chen. Hu was previously employed by The University of Michigan and East Tennessee State University, and in 2016 he joined the faculty at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Hu is currently the Sandra G. Powell Endowed Professor of Piano and the keyboard area coordinator, as well as the program chair of Knoxville Music Teachers Association.

### **2021 TMTA Conference Guest Artist Clinician: Dr. Barbara Fast, University of Oklahoma**



Barbara Fast serves on the piano faculty at the University of Oklahoma as Director of Piano Pedagogy and Piano Area Chair, where she coordinates the group piano program as well as teaches graduate piano pedagogy. In 2020 she was the recipient of OU's prestigious David Ross Boyd Professor for excellence in teaching and previously received OU's Regents Award for Superior Teaching.

Her lifelong interest in effective teaching eventually led Dr. Fast to researching and discussing the practical applications of educational research to teaching in the private lesson and group class. A culmination of her interest in learning, practicing, and the integration with current and future technology, resulted in the book, *iPractice: Technology in the 21st Century Music Practice Room* (Oxford 2018). Frequent workshop topics include efficient practicing, technology related to practicing, sight-reading, and the brain and learning. Her webinar, *Overcoming the Brain's Negativity Bias*, is available on the MTNA website. Workshop topics also address overcoming performance anxiety, teaching ensemble music, newly published music, and historical keyboard pedagogy.

An active clinician and adjudicator, Dr. Fast has presented at Music Teachers National Conferences, International and National College Music Society Conferences, ISME International Conference, The Classical Music Festival Eisenstadt, Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities, NCKP National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy, EPTA International Conference, and

MTA state conferences. Articles and reviews have been published in Music Performance Research, American Music Teacher, Keyboard Companion, and the New School for Music Study blog. Additionally she has performed in chamber settings in England, Russia, Japan, and India as well as presented lecture recitals and master classes throughout the United States.

A devoted teacher, Dr. Fast's students have won numerous awards and secured teaching positions nationally and internationally, including the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Asia. The OU collegiate chapter won the MTNA national Chapter of the Year award in 2017, 2009, and 2007. In recognition of her guidance and mentoring of students, Dr. Fast was the recipient of the Oklahoma Music Teacher of the Year award, and OU's Irene and Julian Rothbaum Presidential Professor of Excellence in the Arts.

Dr. Fast co-founded the National Group Piano and Piano Pedagogy Forum (GP3) in 2000, a biannual conference affiliated with MTNA that focuses on group piano and piano pedagogy teaching. An active member of the Music Teachers National Association, she serves on the GP3 executive committee and currently is Immediate Past-President of the Oklahoma Music Teachers Association. She has served on numerous national and state MTNA and NCKP piano pedagogy related positions, including the Editorial Board of the MTNA E-Journal, and as Associate Editor of Piano Pedagogy Forum.

Former faculty appointments include the University of Northern Iowa, Hesston College and Woodstock International School in India. When she is not teaching, presenting workshops, or engaging in research, she enjoys hiking, traveling, and interacting with family and friends.

## Links

Watch Dr. Fast's workshop *Overcoming the Brain's Negativity Bias*, presented as a webinar on the MTNA member site: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KpIFZbyW50E&feature=youtu.be>

Read her article on practicing in the Summer Issue of The Piano Magazine, "Change it Up!: Interleaved Practice — What it is, Why it works":

<https://claviercompanion.com/change-it-up-interleaved-practice-what-it-is-why-it-works>

Read her teaching article *Questions About Teacher Observation*:

<http://www.pianopedagogy.org/questions-about-teacher-observation-by-barbara-fast/>

Read her research article about practicing in Music Performance Research (co-author Dr. Jennifer Mishra): [http://www.mpronline.net/Issues/Volume 7 \[2015\]/MPR0102 Mishra and Fast \(2015\).pdf](http://www.mpronline.net/Issues/Volume 7 [2015]/MPR0102 Mishra and Fast (2015).pdf)

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# Fall 2020 Competition Results

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## MTNA Performance Competition Results for Tennessee

### Junior Piano

|                    |                 |                          |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Winner:            | Haruki Takeuchi | David Northington (KMTA) |
| Alternate:         | Katie Wang      | Heather Conner (NAMTA)   |
| Honorable Mention: | Maya Iyengar    | Lisa Ramirez (GMMTA)     |
|                    | Colin Xie       | Heather Conner (NAMTA)   |

### Senior Piano

|                    |                  |                          |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Winner:            | Marissa Liu      | Yukiko Whitehead (GMMTA) |
| Alternate:         | Steve Silverberg | Amy Dorfman (NAMTA)      |
| Honorable Mention: | Joanne Kang      | Amy Dorfman (NAMTA)      |
|                    | Ewan Manalo      | Heather Conner (NAMTA)   |

### Senior Piano Duet

|            |                        |                          |
|------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Winner:    | Dannie Dong, Yuka Yang | Yukiko Whitehead (GMMTA) |
| Alternate: | Eric Xie, Tara Lim     | Lisa Ramirez (GMMTA)     |

### Young Artist Piano

|                    |             |                        |
|--------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Winner:            | Chih-An Lin | Chih-long Hu (KMTA)    |
| Alternate:         | Liam McBane | Arunesh Nadgir (MTMTA) |
| Honorable Mention: | Sean Yang   | Amy Dorfman (NAMTA)    |

### Junior String

|            |               |                        |
|------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Winner:    | Joshua Kovac  | Daniel Veis (Missouri) |
| Alternate: | Amanda Murias | Annie Dupre (MTNA)     |

### Senior String

|            |               |                          |
|------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Winner:    | Iris Shepherd | Cornelia Heard (NAMTA)   |
| Alternate: | Nora Wang     | Christina McGann (NAMTA) |

### Young Artist String

|            |                |                         |
|------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Winner:    | Kingston Ho    | Cornelia Heard (NAMTA)  |
| Alternate: | Samantha Hearn | Miroslav Hristov (KMTA) |

### Junior Woodwind

|                 |              |                   |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Representative: | Michelle Lee | Myung Kim (GMMTA) |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|

### Senior Woodwind

|           |              |                   |
|-----------|--------------|-------------------|
| Winner:   | Marissa Liu  | Myung Kim (GMMTA) |
| Alternate | Sophia Cheng | Myung Kim (GMMTA) |

### Young Artist Woodwind

|                 |               |                    |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Representative: | John Di Fatta | Bryan Utley NAMTA) |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|

### Senior Voice

|                 |                  |                     |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Representative: | Emma Shackelford | Yvonne Blair (AMTA) |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|

### Young Artist Voice

|                 |             |                    |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Representative: | Grace Brega | Gayle Shay (NAMTA) |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------------|

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## TMTA Collegiate Competition Results

### Strings

|            |                 |                         |
|------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Winner:    | Kristen Barrett | Miroslav Hristov (KMTA) |
| Runner-up: | Diego Nunez     | David Kovac (AMTA)      |

### Piano Solo

|            |              |                     |
|------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Winner:    | Ryan Fung    | Adam Clark (MTMTA)  |
| Runner-up: | Dexter Woods | Jerome Reed (NAMTA) |

### Piano Ensemble

|         |                                  |                     |
|---------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Winner: | Dingxuan Gao/<br>James Shawcross | Yi-Yang Chen (AMTA) |
|---------|----------------------------------|---------------------|

## Memphis International Piano Festival and Competition 2020 Winners

### Young Artists (Ages 14-19)

|                      |                  |                         |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| First Prize Winner:  | Elizabeth Yang   | Grace Yang/Spencer Myer |
| Second Prize Winner: | Marissa Liu      | Yukiko Whitehead        |
| Third Prize Winner:  | Sean Yang        | Amy Dorfman             |
| Honorable Mentions:  | Fyodor Rudchenko | Jasmine Arakawa         |
|                      | Tian Lam         | Naoki Hakutanis         |
|                      | Grace Peng       | David Fung              |
|                      | Dannie Dong      | Yukiko Whitehead        |

### Young Stars (Ages 10-13)

|                      |                     |                  |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| First Prize Winner:  | David Choi          | Alex McDonald    |
| Second Prize Winner: | Mana Asaka          | Alex McDonald    |
| Third Prize Winner:  | Ella Liu            | Yukiko Whitehead |
| Honorable Mentions:  | Rosalyn Bao         | Artina McCain    |
|                      | Hongkam Hollis Chan | Luann Forrell    |
|                      | Emma Oba            | Alex McDonald    |

### Bright Juniors (Ages 7-9)

|                      |              |                |
|----------------------|--------------|----------------|
| First Prize Winner:  | Yosef Tam    | Naoki Hakutani |
| Second Prize Winner: | Jaden Liu    | Grace Yang     |
| Third Prize Winner:  | Celeste Bao  | Artina McCain  |
| Honorable Mentions:  | Jaslyn Macon | Artina McCain  |
|                      | Ethan Tang   | Naoki Hakutani |

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# 2020 Distinguished Service Award

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## Rachel Acuff

**Adjunct Instructor of Piano and Oboe at Maryville College  
Suzuki Piano School of Knoxville Faculty**



Rachel Acuff serves as adjunct instructor of piano and oboe at Maryville College and as a faculty member of the Suzuki Piano School of Knoxville. Her degrees include a Bachelor of Music degree in Oboe Performance and a Master of Music degree in Collaborative Piano from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. From 1966-2006 she directed the Preparatory Piano Program at Maryville College and for several years served in adjunct positions at Carson-Newman University and Walters State Community College. She is a former member of the Maryville College-Community Orchestra and the Oak Ridge Symphony and served as a staff coach/accompanist at the University of Tennessee for ten years.

Ms. Acuff was the recipient of the Knoxville Music Teachers Association's Teacher of the Year award in 2001 and 2012 and was named the Tennessee Music Teachers Association's Teacher of the Year in 2001. In 2018 she was presented with the MTNA Foundation Fellow Award at the MTNA National Conference in Orlando, FL. She also is a six-time recipient of the Tennessee Governor's School of the Arts Outstanding Teacher Certificate. Over thirty of her students have received TMTA competition awards in woodwind and piano areas and four of her students have represented the state of Tennessee in the MTNA Regional Southern Division Competitions. Her students have performed as concerto soloists with several local community/youth orchestras and as featured soloists with orchestras in the Minneapolis, Washington D.C. and Boston areas. Students from her studio have been selected to perform in master classes and concerts at national conferences of the Suzuki Association of the Americas and have participated in Suzuki workshops and summer festivals throughout the country.

She has served KMTA as President, Vice-President, Program Chair, Theory Chair, Hospitality Chair, and Honors Recital Chair. Service to TMTA includes IMTF Chair, Junior High Auditions Chair, Senior High Auditions Chair, Convention Co-chair, State Auditions Accompanist, and East Tennessee Representative. She is currently a member of the TMTA Diversity Committee and has been a member of multiple TMTA board committees. Ms. Acuff has presented sessions for twelve TMTA conferences

and has conducted multiple master classes/presentations for KMTA and CMTA teachers as well as for students of TMTA members at various colleges and universities. She served as an official accompanist for two MTNA Southern Division competitions and has accompanied TMTA winners at seven additional Southern Division competitions.

In addition to her work with TMTA, she is an active member of the Suzuki Association of the Americas, National Federation of Music Clubs, American College of Musicians, and the Blount County Keyboard Teachers Association.

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## MTNA Foundation Fellow Award Nomination

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### Melissa Rose

**Professor and Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at  
Vanderbilt's Blair School of Music**



Dear Tennessee Musical Colleagues,

Tennessee TMTA has nominated Melissa Rose (Professor and Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at Vanderbilt's Blair School of Music) to receive the MTNA Foundation Fellow Award. Melissa was our 2015-2017 state President and also served on the executive board of TMTA from 2005- 2019. She needs our help in order to reach \$1500 and that money goes toward MTNA musical development, toward a scholarship, in her name. More below on Melissa and how to make a donation (she is at about \$890 right now, so she's half way there. Here's hoping you all can add to this number, or know someone who can).

I know Melissa would be truly honored by this national distinction, and no one deserves it more. It would be a wonderful gesture of support to Melissa if you could donate. Melissa will be honored at the virtual MTNA 2021 Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

**A. You can donate when you renew your membership, or follow these directions:**

1. Go to [mtnafoundation.org https://www.mtnafoundation.org/contribute/contribute-now/](https://www.mtnafoundation.org/contribute/contribute-now/)
2. Enter your name, etc.



3. After entering your phone and email information, check the second box labeled: "Foundation Fellow (enter name below)"
4. Scroll down to "Donation in honor of" and/or "Endowment fund in progress for" and add Melissa Rose here.
5. Then, scroll down and add your payment/donation information.
6. Hit submit and wait for a thank you. It's that easy :)

**B. You can also send a check to:**

Music Teachers National Association

600 Vine St., Ste. 1710

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

(513) 421-1420 or (888) 512-5278 (call if you have any questions)

**C. Here's Melissa's bio:**

Melissa Rose is a Nashville-based pianist with a 30-year career partnering with instrumentalists and singers in concerts throughout the United States and at venues in Argentina, Malta, Santorini, and Russia. For twenty-five years she has performed with the Summerfest Chamber Music Series in Kansas City. In Nashville she is a member of ALIAS Chamber Ensemble, which performs innovative chamber concerts to benefit educational outreach in the community. As a pianist keenly interested in performing contemporary music, Melissa has participated in numerous premieres and residencies with leading American composers, with chamber music recordings on Naxos, Centaur, Blue Griffin, Delos, Good Child Music, and Navona Records labels. She has recorded and edited arrangements for viola/piano of the Tonadillas by Granados (Viola Sound), one of which was included in *The Music of Strangers*, the 2017 Grammy-nominated film about the Silkroad Ensemble. As a member of MTNA, Melissa served for more than a decade in coordinating voice, instrumental, and chamber music auditions at the state level in both Missouri and Tennessee. She is currently a member of the Nashville Area Music Teachers Association and the Tennessee Music Teachers Association. While president of the Northeast Missouri Area Music Teachers Association she coordinated a rural outreach program for chamber music performances through a local association grant from MTNA. She served on the executive board of TMTA from 2005-2019 and was president from 2015 to 2017. Melissa is honored to have received distinguished service awards from both NAMTA and TMTA. Melissa received the M.M. in piano performance from the Yale School of Music and the D.M.A. in collaborative piano from the University of Michigan. She is Professor of Piano and Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at the Vanderbilt University Blair School of Music, where she teaches courses in collaborative piano and chamber music. Her former students have established successful careers as collaborative pianists in both the United States and Europe.

Again, thank you for your support!

From the TMTA Board Members

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# TMTA Endowment Fund

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## Giving to the Endowment Fund:

Members,

Please remember to give to the TMTA Endowment fund before the end of the year! Donations are down this year and we hope to be able to continue supporting our budding young artists.

Please send your checks to:

Heather Conner

TMTA Endowment Chair

707 Roantree Dr

Brentwood, TN 37027

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## Planning Ahead

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### Upcoming TMTA Conferences

2021 Knoxville

2022 Jackson

2023 Chattanooga

2024 Nashville

2025 Martin

2026 Johnson City

### Upcoming MTNA Conferences

2021 Atlanta

2022 Minneapolis