

Presenter Bios



Dr. Kiyono M. Bernier, pianist, teacher and adjudicator, was born in Okinawa, Japan and began studying piano at age 3. After moving to the United States at the age of 9, she won several competitions performing Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue. She began teaching her own students at age 16.

Kiyono has had the privilege of studying with some outstanding teachers, including Joseph Banowetz, Constance Keene, Tong-Il Han, Martin Canin and Joseph Bloch in Hawaii and New York.

After graduating in 2000 with Honors from the University of Arizona, she had a very successful teaching studio in Palo Alto and San Francisco, CA. In 2006 she moved to Oro Valley, Arizona where she continues to teach and adjudicate.



Denny Coiro

Many of you know Denny from his long time association in the piano business in the greater Phoenix area. What you may not know is that he has been helping good folks learn to make music at the piano since 1968, starting in Pennsylvania , and also in cities ranging from Tulsa to San Francisco to Anchorage , Alaska !

Denny graduated with a BS in Music (Voice and Piano) from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He taught Music at Knox College , Jamaica working with "Men in Action", a mission organization to the West Indies .

Upon returning to the USA in 1974 he started a teaching studio and has helped 100's of students, both children and adults discover the joy of making music at the piano. Denny is a member of MTNA, ASMTA, and PMTA and has conducted many seminars at state conventions on the use of technology in the modern teaching studio.

In addition, Denny has also spent time training with Dr. Barry Bittman, MD, neurologist, author and international speaker, to become a facilitator for "Wellness Thru Music" classes. Science has proven, thru DNA studies published in major medical journals, that making music at the piano reduces stress and thereby brings a greater quality of life to those who participate in making music.

Church Music has also been a big part of Denny's career including touring with "Joy Unlimited", a 60's Gospel Folk-Rock group, to being a Paid Soloist, Choir Director, Minister of Music, and Festival Director at large multi-church music festivals.

Denny enjoys playing his collection of Native American Flutes. He has written many tunes and takes great joy playing and recording in his home music room and recording studio.



Dr. Cathy Hauan is professor of voice and music theatre at Mesa Community College, where she has taught for 22 years. She has served as conductor/pianist for over 30 musicals since 2001. Dr. Hauan's private voice students have been winners in the Arizona Metropolitan Opera auditions and the Maricopa Community College District Artists of Promise scholarship competition. She is active in the National Association of Teachers of Singing, and has had winners in both classical and music theatre auditions. Dr. Hauan is also in demand as an adjudicator and clinician for high school Regional festivals.



As Keyboard Editor for Supplementary Piano Publications (1988-present) for Alfred Music Publishing, **Dr. Gayle Kowalchyk** selects and edits music for the supplementary piano catalog. She holds degrees from Ohio University (piano performance, 1977), Northwestern University (piano performance and pedagogy, 1979) and an Ed.D. from Teachers College, Columbia University (piano pedagogy, 1989).

Dr. Kowalchyk was formerly on the faculty of Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, where she coordinated the class piano program, directed the piano preparatory program and taught graduate piano pedagogy. During the summers of 1979-1982 she taught class piano and piano ensemble at the National Music Camp in Interlochen, Michigan. She has also taught piano pedagogy and class piano at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, and the University of Oklahoma, Norman.

A frequent clinician and adjudicator, Dr. Kowalchyk has presented sessions for national conventions of the Music Teachers National Association and the Music Educators National Conference, as well as for the National Group Piano Symposium, the National Piano Teachers Institute, the International Pedagogy Workshops, the National Conference on Piano Pedagogy and the World Piano Pedagogy Conference. She is a consulting editor for *Clavier* magazine.

With her husband, [Dr. E. L. Lancaster](#), she is the co-author of more than 275 educational piano books, including Alfred's *Premier Piano Course*, which they have co-authored with Dennis Alexander, Victoria McArthur and Martha Mier.

From 1981 until 1996 Dr. Kowalchyk and her husband taught students of all ages at their independent piano studio in Norman, Oklahoma. She now lives in the Los Angeles area with her husband and two children, where she works full-time on writing and editing projects for Alfred.



A native of Kharkiv, Ukraine, Dr. Natalya Shkoda is one of today's most dynamic and exciting young artists, teachers and competition adjudicators. Since presenting her first solo recital and winning her first National Composer's Competition in Kiev, Ukraine, at the age 13, Natalya Shkoda performed numerous recitals in Ukraine, Russia, Latvia, Lithuania, the Czech Republic, France, and throughout the U.S. She has appeared as a soloist with the MasterWorks Symphony in New York and Symphony of the Southwest in Arizona. She won numerous awards in performance, composition and musical criticism. Dr. Shkoda's performances and compositions were widely broadcast by the Radio and TV Companies in her native Ukraine as well as in the U.S.A., Great Britain, Belgium, Sweden, Australia and the New Zealand.

Natalya Shkoda holds degrees and diplomas from Arizona State University (Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music in Piano Performance), Kharkiv State University of the Arts (Diplomas with distinctions in Piano & Musicology) and Kharkiv Special Music School for Gifted Children (Diploma with a Gold Medal in Piano & Composition) in Ukraine. Her major piano teachers included Bella Yukht, Dr. Sergei Polusmiak and Professor Walter Cosand.

Dr. Shkoda is Assistant Professor of Piano and Coordinator of Keyboard Studies at California State University, Chico. She is also Artistic Director of the annual Kruschke Prize in Piano Performance Competition.

Natalya Shkoda's debut commercial CD featuring the first Western recording of "Eleven Etudes in the Form of Old Dances," Op. 19, by Viktor Kosenko was released on the "Toccat Classics" label in London, U.K., in 2006 and received critical acclaim in the U.S. and abroad, including reviews in *Fanfare*, *Classical Music Guide*, *Music Web International*, *All-Music Guide*, *Classical Source*, *Ukrainian Weekly* and *International Piano*.
<http://myweb.csuchico.edu/~nshkoda/homepage>



WILLIAM WESTNEY is a concert pianist, educator, and author known for his refreshing impact on music performance and pedagogy. Winner of the Geneva International Competition, he is Artist-in-Residence and Distinguished Professor at Texas Tech University. Educational honors include the Yale School of Music's "Certificate of Merit," the Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching Award (2008) at Texas Tech (its highest honor), and a faculty Fulbright grant to Asia (2006). His innovative "Un-Master Class" workshop, which was profiled in a New York Times article, has been held in Vienna, Beijing, London, Seoul, Melbourne, Toronto, and other prominent music centers worldwide. Dr. Westney's book *THE PERFECT WRONG NOTE* (2003) received enthusiastic reviews internationally and is now in its second printing.