



**asmta**

Arizona State Music  
Teachers Association

91st ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
ARIZONA STATE MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION  
MAY 28, 2021

Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association  
2000 MTNA State Affiliate of the Year

Music Around the World



# Az Piano

THE ARIZONA PIANO COMPANY

*“A Grand Experience”*

Arizona's Official  
**KAWAI Piano Store**

We carry Grands,  
Uprights and  
Digital Pianos!



**THE LARGEST SELECTION OF  
NEW AND USED PIANOS IN TOWN**

**4134 E. Wood St., Phoenix, AZ 85040**

**602-437-8445**

MON-FRI 10AM-6PM | SAT 10AM-5PM

**In-Store Shopping | Curbside pickup | Delivery**

"Over 30 Years Serving the Valley"

**azpiano.com**

Our Health & Safety Measures: Appointment Required | Mask Required | Staff Required to Disinfect Surfaces Between Visits

# Table of Contents

<b>MTNA Welcome Letter</b> .....	4
<b>Conference Schedule</b> .....	5
<b>ASMTA President’s Welcome Letter</b> .....	8
<b>ASMTA Conference Co-Hosts’ Welcome Letter</b> .....	9
<b>Board of Directors – Officers</b> .....	11
<b>Board of Directors – Local Association Presidents</b> .....	11
<b>Administrative and Committee Appointees</b> .....	12
<b>ASMTA Past Presidents</b> .....	13
<b>History of ASMTA</b> .....	15
<b>2021 ASMTA Honored Teacher</b> .....	17
<b>Local Association Members of the Year</b> .....	19
<b>Featured Artists/Clinicians</b>	
Leah Claiborne .....	21
Martha Hilley .....	22
Annie Jeng .....	24
Amber Yiu-Hsuan Liao .....	26
Joel Martinez Lorenzana .....	27
Astrid Morales Torres .....	28
<b>2021 Arizona National Prize Winners</b> .....	31
<b>Honors Recital</b> .....	35



MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

May 28, 2021

Dear Arizona State MTA Members:

On behalf of your MTNA colleagues across the country, we want to add our welcome to the Arizona 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 cordially invited to attend the upcoming 2022 MTNA National Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The dates are March 26–30, 2022, and the venue is the Hilton Minneapolis. During this exciting return to in-person conferences, you will also have the opportunity to attend dozens of informative sessions, inspiring master classes, and an exhibit hall with the latest music, products and innovations. The 2022 MTNA National Conference will be an unforgettable learning and sharing experience.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Thickstun".

Karen Thickstun, NCTM  
*President*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary L. Ingle".

Dr. Gary L. Ingle  
*Executive Director &  
Chief Executive Officer*

## Thursday, May 27

10:00 – 12:00 ASMTA Board Meeting



## Friday, May 28

### *Exhibitor Showcases*

8:30 – 8:40

[Southwest Pianos](#): Fazioli Pianos

8:40 – 8:50

[Faber Piano Adventures](#): Lesson Planning with the Teacher Atlas

8:50 – 9:00

[Az Piano](#): TBD

9:00 - 9:50

An Overview of Several Courses of Study and Examination Programs:  
ASP (Barbara Russell), Janet Lopinski (RCM), ABRSM (Mandarin Cheung-Yueh) and Keyboard  
Gymnastics (Charlene Jarvis)

10:00 - 10:50

Noteworthy Pedagogical Works by Female-Identifying Composers: Annie Jeng (UNCG)

### *Exhibitor Showcases*

11:00 – 11:10

[PianoFonics](#): ToolBoxes and Boom Learning Library

11:10 – 11:20

[Classics Unlimited](#): Fifty Famous Composers for Kids of All Ages

11:30 - 12:20

Pedagogical Repertoire by Black Composers: Leah Claiborne (UDC)

12:20 – 1:00

Lunch Break

1:00 - 1:20

[General Membership Meeting](#)

### *Exhibitor Showcases*

1:20 – 1:30

[FJH](#): Teaching Superpowers: Engaging Students

1:30 – 1:40

[Southwest Pianos](#): Hailun Instruments

1:40 – 1:50

[Practice Space Platform](#): How to Get Your Students to Practice More Often and More Effectively  
with Practice Space

2:00 – 2:50

Pedagogical Repertoire by Mexican and Latin American Composers (Mexican, Colombian, Cuban  
and Chilean): Astrid Morales (ASU)

### *Exhibitor Showcases*

3:00 – 3:10

[Piano Marvel](#): Keeping Students Motivated

3:10 – 3:20

[Stilwell Pianos](#): Tour of Stilwell Pianos Live Stream Concert Hall

3:20 – 3:30

[Match My Sound](#): Achieve Music Studio for In-Person & Online Lessons

3:30 – 4:20

Pedagogical Repertoire by Honduran and Costa Rican Composers: Joel Martinez Lorenzana (ASU)

4:30 - 5:20

Pedagogical Repertoire by Asian Composers: Amber Yiu-Hsuan Liao (BMCC)

5:20 - 6:30

Dinner

6:30 – 8:00

BYOM (Bring your own Meal) Gala  
Keynote Speaker: Martha Hilley  
“Being the Best of What You Can Be”  
Recognitions/Awards and Closing Concert

## Saturday, May 29

4:00

Honors Recital

# RALPH STILWELL HALL

## NOW OPEN!

WITH MULTI CAMERA LIVE STREAM CAPABILITIES

We are happy to announce the re-opening of **Ralph Stilwell Hall!** Over the past few months our family has done everything we could think of to re-open in the safest way possible. That being said, there have been a few upgrades made to the hall that we think you and your students are really going to love!

●LIVE

**All events will be Live Streamed (included in rental price)** so that your student's family can view the event from wherever they are in the world!



**4 new high def cameras installed** for amazing views of your students performance so no one misses a note.



**Brand new recording quality piano microphones** by Earthworks for superb recording and audio capabilities.



**20 person limit in the hall at all times.**



**New AV booth with recording capabilities**



**Restored 9 foot Baldwin SD-10 with Renner action** outfitted with LED lights (can be turned off for performance)



**STILWELL PIANOS**  
A Family Business Since 1956

We can't wait to host your next concert or recital!  
For more information please visit [www.StilwellPianos.com](http://www.StilwellPianos.com)  
or scan the code below with your smartphone to be taken to our website.

A close-up photograph of a cholla cactus (Cylindropuntia) with several vertical stems. The stems are green and covered in small, dark, circular areoles from which fine, light-colored spines emerge. A single, vibrant pink flower is in bloom, showing its petals and stamens. Several green, unopened buds are also visible on the stems. The background is a clear, light blue sky with some green foliage visible in the lower right corner.

*92<sup>nd</sup> Arizona State Music  
Teachers Association  
Conference*

*Tucson, Arizona  
May/June 2022*

*See you there!*

Dear ASMTA Conference Attendees,

Welcome to the 91<sup>st</sup> Arizona State Music Teachers Association Conference! We are thrilled to present our first ever virtual conference for your learning and listening pleasure.

Our conference co-chairs, Lynnette Barney and Hannah Creviston, have done an outstanding job of arranging the conference with important, relevant topics for all teachers. We are excited to offer presenters and artists of world-class caliber on topics to reflect this year's theme, *Music Around the World*.

There are also many exhibitors presenting during our time together, and I encourage you to visit their sessions to learn more about the extraordinary products and services they offer to you and your students. Many are offering specials and discounts just for conference attendees – look in this conference booklet for more details.

The closing gala and awards ceremony promise to delight and entertain. Our keynote speaker, Martha Hilley (MTNA Immediate Past President), will be speaking with us on *Be the Best of What You Can Be*. The ASMTA Honored Teacher of the Year 2021 award will be given, as well as the new Local Association Members of the Year awards. The closing concert for the gala will be music from around the world as well as Arizona MTNA national competition winners – an amazing treat for your ears!

Finally, don't miss the winners of the honor recital competition on Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon to hear the best of the best students from around the state in unforgettable performances. We are grateful for the support of the James Anthony Awards, the James Saverio Rucolo Piano Solo Awards, and Pee-Yaw Wilkes Endowment Awards for winning competitors.

We are sincerely grateful for your conference attendance and hope you have a fantastic time. I'm glad we have the opportunity to do this together, as we missed all of you last year when the conference was canceled. Now sit back, click on the conference link, and let's Zoom away!

Sincerely,  
Kassandra Weleck, NCTM  
President, Arizona State Music Teachers Association



# Welcome to the 2021 ASMTA State Conference!



While we all wish that we could be together in person, we are very excited about this year's offerings. From exhibitor spotlights to expanding your pedagogical repertoire and young student performance to national prize winners, we're delighted you are taking advantage of the convenience of this year's conference.

*Wishing you all the very best,*

Lynnette Barney, Conference Co-Host  
Hannah Creviston, NCTM, Conference Co-Host



## Your solution for online or in-person piano lessons.

pianomarvel.com



- Perfect for homeschool piano curriculum and private teachers.
- Piano Method and Technique for beginner to advanced students.
- Automated assessment with reports
- Over 20,000 pieces in the music library
- Alfred, Hal Leonard, FJH, Bach Scholar, Let's Play Music, and many more of your favorite Methods
- Upload your own music, PDFs & videos



- Compatible with Windows, Mac, iPad, iPhone (Android coming soon)
- Free PDF printing of thousands of scores
- Sight reading assessment, ear training, improvisation, scales, chords, arpeggios, transposition, harmonization and more.
- Acoustic Assessment coming soon!
- Teacher Certification and Teacher Referral Program
- Questions and comments [contactus@pianomarvel.com](mailto:contactus@pianomarvel.com)

# Board of Directors – Officers

<b>President</b>	Kassandra Weleck, NCTM	asmtapresident@gmail.com
<b>1st Vice President / President Elect</b>	Debbie Dinkel	dinkel2@cox.net
<b>2nd Vice President</b>	Dr. Yali Luo	yluo2yluo2@gmail.com
<b>3rd Vice President</b>	Hannah Creviston, NCTM	hannah.creviston@asu.edu
<b>4th Vice President</b>	Susan Traylor	suszy2@aol.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Lynnette Barney	asmtatreasurer@outlook.com
<b>Secretary</b>	Renee Saxon	ASMTASecretary@gmail.com
<b>Certification</b>	Melodie Acker, NCTM	melodieacker@cox.net
<b>Arizona Study Program</b>	Dr. Barbara Russell, NCTM	barbaraspoelman@msn.com
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	Chase Coleman	ccoleman625@gmail.com

# Board of Directors – Local Association Presidents

<b>Cochise</b>	Hope Struse	hopestruse.findmusic@yahoo.com
<b>East Valley</b>	Sherin Moustafa, NCTM	sherin0305@gmail.com
<b>Eastern Arizona</b>	Trisha Simmons	simmonstrisha@hotmail.com
<b>Northern Arizona</b>	Rebecca Cauthen	rebeccacauthen@hotmail.com
<b>Phoenix</b>	Dr. Stuart Foster	stuartdfoster@gmail.com
<b>Tucson</b>	Marie Sierra	marieasierra@msn.com

# Administrative and Committee Appointees

<b>Advertising</b>	Mary Beth Shaffer, NCTM	mbs723@shafferstudio.net
<b>Archivist</b>	Shalvi D'Arcangelo	musekplayer@gmail.com
<b>Arts Awareness</b>	TBD	
<b>Competitions – Composition</b>	Devin Gardner	devin.m.gardner@gmail.com
<b>Competitions – Performance</b>	Dr. Yali Luo	yluo2yluo2@gmail.com
<b>College Faculty Forum</b>	Hannah Creviston, NCTM	hannah.creviston@asu.edu
<b>Honors Recital</b>	Christopher Oill Tatyana Eldridge	christopher.j.oill193@gmail.com tanyaeldridge@cox.net
<b>Independent Music Teachers Forum</b>	Dr. Mandarin Cheung-Yueh, NCTM	cmk467op53@cox.net
<b>Membership</b>	Dr. Michelle Wachter	michelle.wachter@nau.edu
<b>MTNA Foundation</b>	Rosemary Isbell-Hendrickson	thepianobenchaz@gmail.com
<b>Publications Editor</b>	Susan Traylor	suszy2@aol.com
<b>Student Chapters</b>	Hannah Creviston, NCTM	hannah.creviston@asu.edu
<b>Technology</b>	TBD	
<b>Publicity</b>	Susan Traylor	suszy2@aol.com
<b>Website</b>	Susan Traylor	suszy2@aol.com

# ASMTA Past Presidents

+ Founding Members \*\* served two terms \* served partial term

1928-32 Charles F. Rogers+\*\*

1932-34 John Lowell\* / E.J. Schultz+\*

1934-36 Arthur Anderson+

1936-38 Albert Etzweiler+

1938-40 Jesse Sedberry

1940-42 Hazel Harvey Quaid+

1942-44 Eugene Redewill+

1944-48 Dixie Yost +\*\*

1948-50 Earle L. Stone

1950-52 Winifred Knight

1952-54 Victor Baumann

1954-56 Nadine Dreskell

1956-58 Margaret Thorp

1958-60 Jane Thomas Miller

1960-62 Janice McCurnin

1962-64 Beatrice Searles

1964-66 O. M. Hartsell

1966-68 Evlyn Cope

1968-70 Kathryn Pooler

1970-72 Beth Hanley

1972-74 Mary Zua Kamp

1974-76 Helene Robinson

1976-78 Barbara Buckbee

1978-80 Carol Sue Rickel

1980-82 Patty Cheek

1982-85 Evonne Beattie

1985-86 Louise Spizizen\*

1986-88 Joy Ross

1988-90 Pee-Yaw Wilkes

1990-92 Gloria Ritt

1992-95 Dr. Paul Paige

1995-97 Helen Jones

1997-99 Dr. Gail Fischler

1999-01 Louise C. Hill

2001-03 Sherry Lenich

2003-05 Dr. June Chow-Tyne

2005-07 Dorothy Kish Dungan

2007-09 Ashley Bradford

2009-11 Dr. Raymond Ryder

2011-13 Chyleen Lauritzen

2013-15 Melodie Acker

2015-17 Natalya S. Thran

2017-18 Chase Coleman\*



## ToolBox Solutions

- For All Ages
- Reproducible Curriculum Downloads
- Supplement Beginning Piano Instruction
- Curriculum + Technique *Integrated with Entrada® Piano*



# PianoFonics

TEACH PIANO NOW

## OUT-OF-THE BOX TEACHING OPTIONS

ONLINE OR INSTUDIO

### PRELUDE

PreSchool – Grade 3



Three

Pedagogical Orientations

### OVERTURE

Grades 4+



Beginning and

Intermediate Students



## Boom® Learning Cards

- For All Ages
- OnLine, Self-Grading Gamified, Feedback Theory Activities
- Fundamentals for Beginning Students
- Foundations for Intermediate Students

[www.PianoFonics.com](http://www.PianoFonics.com)

[Product Discount Code - asmta](#)

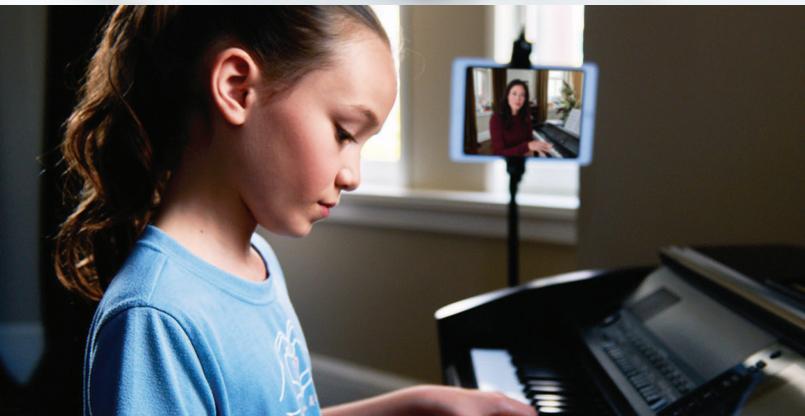
[Click for More Info and Purchasing](#)

Developed and Created by  
PianoFonics

## MCC Piano Pedagogy Program

<p><b>ELEMENTARY PEDAGOGY</b></p>	<p>Beginning Students Studio Policy Teaching Philosophy Piano Technique Methods and Repertoire Elementary Functional Skills Special Learners Group Lessons Summer Camps</p>	<p><b>TIME AND DATE</b></p> <p><b>ELEMENTARY PEDAGOGY</b> • Fall 2021 (starts on Aug 24) • Tuesdays, 8:40-10:20am</p> <p><b>INTERMEDIATE PEDAGOGY</b> • Spring 2022 (starts on Jan 18) • Tuesdays, 8:40-10:20am</p> <p><i>Additional piano and pedagogy classes available.</i></p>
<p><b>INTERMEDIATE PEDAGOGY</b></p>	<p>Intermediate and Transfer Students Piano Technique Intermediate Repertoire Scales, Arpeggios, etc. Four Periods of Music Intermediate Functional Skills Lesson Planning Artistry and Performance Technology in Teaching</p>	<p><b>CONTACT INFORMATION</b></p> <p><b>Instructor:</b> Dr. Radmila Stojanovic Kiriluk radmila.stojanovic@mesacc.edu</p> <p><b>MCC SCHOOL OF MUSIC OFFICE</b> Alma Quiros • 480-461-7575 alma.quiros@mesacc.edu 1833 W. Southern Avenue Mesa, AZ 85282</p>

The Maricopa County Community College District is committed to continue to promote a learning and work environment that is non-discriminatory. This commitment is demonstrated through the value of inclusion, the implementation of policies and regulations that serve to prohibit discrimination and by practicing non-discriminatory actions in both our employment and academic activities. This means that Maricopa will not discriminate, nor tolerate discrimination, against any applicant, employee, or student in any of its policies, procedures, or practices.



### Keep Your Student's Skills and Performance Goals On Track

RCM Remote Exams can help your student's development plan stay on schedule. With RCM Remote Exams, students can achieve the success you are preparing them for by completing their practical exams when they're ready, in their own space, and on their own instrument.

Administered by expert examiners, you can be certain your students will experience the RCM testing process you know and trust.

Learn More: [rcmusic.ca/remotexams](http://rcmusic.ca/remotexams)



**arizona state university**  
musicdancetheatre.asu.edu

Inspiring and empowering students to become creative leaders who transform society through music.

**Faculty**

- Cathal Breslin**, piano
- Andrew Campbell**, collaborative piano
- Hannah Creviston**, piano pedagogy
- Robert Hamilton**, piano
- Baruch Meir**, piano
- Caio Pagano**, piano
- Russell Ryan**, collaborative piano

**School of Music, Dance and Theatre**

**ASU** Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts  
Arizona State University

# The History of ASMTA

Written by Joanne Caudill, Janice McCurnin, & Gloria Ritt, NCTM

Updated by Cassandra Weleck, NCTM (2017 & 2021)

On February 24, 1928, one hundred private and public school music teachers met in Phoenix to organize the Arizona State Music Teachers Association. They had the cooperation of the public school administration, the state university, colleges, and the State Board of Education. Regulations and a Code of Ethics were adopted. In 1932, under the leadership of President E. J. Schultz, ASMTA presented a four-year outline of study for violin and piano. During the World War II years, the association itself was barely able to function and the project ceased to exist. In 1950, when the Western Division of MTNA was organized, Arizona was the first state to affiliate. In 1961, the ASMTA State Convention approved and adopted the Accreditation Plan for private teachers and its student section, the Arizona Study Program. Later, the "accreditation" was changed to "certification" to comply with MTNA terminology. In February 1961, the first issue of MUSIGRAM appeared. Janice McCurnin was ASMTA president and Dr. O. M. Hartsell was the editor. Nadine Desskell of Tempe became the first president of the Western Division (1963-1965) from Arizona, and later served as president of MTNA (1975-1979).

A highly successful National Convention was held in Phoenix in 1981. Beth Hanley served as president of Western Division from 1974-1978 and national chairman of the Mason-Hamlin High School Auditions from 1978-1983. In 1976, she also served as chairman of the Baldwin Junior Achievement Award Competition.

From 1974-1978, Bea Searless served as MTNA Foundation Southwest Division chairman and ASMTA Foundation chairman. MTNA established the National Certification Program in 1968 and Arizona became a part of that program. Dr. O. M. Hartsell was the first certification chairman for the Western Division. He was followed by Janice McCurnin, who served as Southwest chairman on the National Board from 1969-1975. Janice also served as national chairman of the Baldwin Junior Achievement Award from 1977-1983. In the 1990s, Arizona saw two more Southwest Division positions go to its own members: PeeYaw Lim Wilkes, president (1992-1994) and certification (1995-1997), and Jan Meyer Thompson, certification (1993-1995) and president (1998-2000). In 2019, Natalya Thran, president from 2015-2017, was appointed Southwest Division Director.

ASMTA continues with its varied program of state work and is presently divided into six local associations: Cochise, East Valley, Eastern Arizona, Northern Arizona, Phoenix, and Tucson. Each is very active with student programs, recitals, ensembles, teacher meetings, and workshops.

## Lifetime Members

(\*deceased)

**2000** James Anthony\*

**2007** Gloria Gaebe Ritt, NCTM\*

**2012** Dorothy Dungan, NCTM & Barbara Stoutenburgh, NCTM

**2016** Pee-Yaw Lim Wilkes, NCTM\*

**2017** Cecilia Whitby

**2018** Dean Elder



# Dennis Chapin

Tuner / Master Technician

(480) 702-1130

*Book Online*

## BookAPianoTuning.com

[www.ChapinPianoService.com](http://www.ChapinPianoService.com)

The very BEST in piano service and care!

*Mention the ASMTA and get \$20 off tuning or service.*

**Over 45 years experience!**

Concert Level Tuning    Repairs    Restorations    Rebuilds    Restringing    Refinishing    Piano Moving

Former technician for Liberace, Sinatra, Iglesias, MGM, Caesars Palace, Golden Nugget, many more

Former technician, artist and product specialist for several major piano and organ manufacturers

## Northern Arizona Music Teachers Association



Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association and Arizona State Music Teachers Association



## 2021 ASMTA HONORED TEACHER

### Rosemary Isbell-Hendrickson, NCTM

Shortly after the Civil War, a cargo ship set sail from NY harbor bound for San Francisco. In its hold was a Decker Brothers mahogany square grand piano. Weeks later and after the treacherous seas of Tierra del Fuego at the near tip of South America, the ship finally reached its destination. Over the years this piano made its

way first to the fertile San Joaquin Valley of California and then to Sierra Vista, Arizona, where it has a place of honor in the home of Rosemary-Isbell Hendrickson, great granddaughter of its first owner. This was the piano that Rosemary first played as a youth. Over the years she had many piano instructors but her heart was in vocal music. This changed in 1976 while living in Montrose, Colorado, when she became acquainted with Carol Altes a member of the Montrose Music Teachers Association, affectionately known as the Mixolydian group, and with whom she began again her study of piano.

Acting upon the suggestion of Mrs. Altes, Rosemary began teaching young students in rural Montrose in February of 1977, and still has contact with her very first student. She became an active member of the Montrose Music Teachers Association, serving as Treasurer and President, and was honored as Teacher of the Year in 1990. In that same year the family moved to Sierra Vista, Arizona, where she joined ASMTA, CMTA and kept a busy thriving studio of piano and Kindermusik students. She served on the CMTA board over the years as Secretary, VP, President, ASP chair, Music in the Mall chairperson, Committee for the Grand Piano at Kino Hall, and various other positions. She also served on the State board as secretary for two terms. While in Sierra Vista she studied with Dr. Kim Hayashi of Tucson and Charles Marlowe. Ten years after the passing of her first husband Dan, she remarried and moved to Whidbey Island, Washington where she set up a quaint island studio, joined the Washington State Music Teachers Association, Whidbey Island Music Teachers, and still maintained her ASMTA and CMTA membership. She studied Pedagogy with Dr. Beth Klingenstein, and received her NCTM in 2011 and her Washington State Certification. While on the island she served the Whidbey Island MTA as secretary, Vice President and President. She held dual membership with the Snohomish MTA, helping with various state and local activities.

In 2013 she and her husband, Stan, moved back to Sierra Vista and again set up her studio in her home. She continues to teach youth with a special emphasis on activities for adult students. Since her return to Arizona, she has served on the State board as Secretary and MTNA Foundation chair from 2014 until resigning in 2020 due to family health issues. Over the years she has presented various topics at her local associations, her students have actively participated in ASP, Music in the Mall, local competitions, community music events, private recitals and Arizona State Honors Recital. She is the creator of The Hymn Book Challenge a one to two year intermediate study course of LDS hymns, their history and preparation for Church service in the area of music. A teacher for 41 years and a member of MTNA for over 32 years, her mission statement is "The Piano Bench - Enriching Lives Through Music."





## **ARIZONA STUDY PROGRAM**

affiliated with  
ARIZONA STATE MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Started in 1958 by members of the Arizona State Music Teachers Association, the Arizona Study Program (ASP) is a 12-year graded course of study to provide for the development of a student's piano performance, theory and technique.

It is organized in terms of the twelve years of public school, with one level for each of the years a student would be enrolled in school. It requires continual work throughout the year and is evaluated each spring by a master adjudicator and a written theory test. From 1,500 to 2,000 Arizona students of ASMTA member teachers are evaluated each year.

### **Committee**

Dr. Barbara Russell, NCTM, Chair  
Barbara Stoutenburgh, NCTM, Immediate Past Chair  
Sherry Lenich, NCTM, Secretary  
Francisco Naranjo, Jr, Treasurer  
Carol Hill, Honorary Member  
Rita Borden, NCTM, Advisor  
Susan Traylor, Technology Coordinator  
Barbara Stoutenburgh, NCTM, Administrative Materials  
Jill Tabata, Ribbons & Plaques  
Fran Kaspar, NCTM, Certificates

### **Local Chairs**

Karen Miller, Cochise MTA  
Janice Holladay, NCTM, Eastern Arizona MTA  
Lara Heeder Holt, East Valley MTA  
Debbie Saifi, NCTM, East Valley MTA  
Dr. Andrew O'Brien, NCTM, East Valley MTA  
Rita Borden, NCTM, Northern Arizona MTA  
Barbara Stoutenburgh, NCTM, Phoenix MTA  
Karen Van Sickle, Tucson MTA  
David DeSoucey, Tucson MTA

# Local Association Members of the Year



**Diann Lopez**

*Tucson Music Teachers Association  
Local Association Member of the Year*

Diann Lopez has held most positions on the TMTA Board, including Vice President, President, Past President and Corresponding Secretary. She has also run our Barnes & Noble Fundraising Event and Kudos Recitals for many years. At the state level she worked as VP of advertising for 2 years. Diann fosters a love for music making in her students, several of whom have gone on to study music in college. Diann always welcomes a challenge and is always willing to help in any way she can. She puts out newsletters that are fun and informative. Our organization congratulates her and will honor her at our last meeting of the year in May.



**Francisco Naranjo**

*Phoenix Music Teachers Association  
Local Association Member of the Year*

Francisco Naranjo graduated magna cum laude from NAU in 2012, and has been a member of MTNA since 2008. He currently is outstanding in his role as Treasurer for both PMTA and Arizona Study Program. For the last seven years, he has also been a conductor and committee member for PMTA's Piano Ensemble. In this COVID year, he took on the daunting task of editing the videos from the 130 performers to create the first virtual version of Piano Ensemble, which took countless hours of his time. Throughout, Francisco remains calm and positive, and he could not be more kind and helpful or more competent and prompt at doing whatever is asked of him. We will be showering him with praise and gifts when we honor him as Member of the Year at our April meeting! He is talented and hard-working, and it is PMTA's great good fortune to count Francisco as one of its members.



**Janice Holladay**

*Eastern Arizona Music Teachers Association  
Local Association Member of the Year*

Janice Holladay began teaching piano 20 years ago when she saw the need for more teachers in our small community. Over the past two decades she has continuously served on the EAMTA board. She has served as President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasure and has spent many years as our ASP chair. EAMTA is grateful for Janice's many years of dedication and service and is pleased to honor her as our first Local Association Member of the Year.



**Karen Miller**

*Cochise Music Teachers Association  
Local Association Member of the Year*

Karen is a devoted piano and violin teacher in Sierra Vista. She is heavily involved with CMTA and its various events. She is also very involved with her church and various aspects within it.

Karen has been very consistent in her activity and support of CMTA and ASMTA events over the years. Her dedication and support of her students and fellow teachers is remarkable and inspiring.

Member of CMTA since 2005

Served as Treasurer (currently since 2014); ASP Chair (since 2010), Assistant ASP Chair (2008-2009); Committee involvement - Live at Kino, Inge Young Memorial Competition, Music in the Mall, Senior Recitals, Annual Teacher Recital and Potluck, Monthly CMTA meetings, Stepping Stones program, and any other events sponsored by CMTA.

A special verbal recognition will be given at our meeting in addition to a plaque of sorts.



**Rita Borden**

*Northern Arizona Music Teachers Association  
Local Member of the Year*

Ms. Borden has served several roles for NAMTA chapter during her service at Northern Arizona University as a piano faculty, including the vice president and president positions, where she played as a liaison between the NAU School of Music and Flagstaff piano teachers. She helped to set up and communicate the monthly recitals for the teachers with the School of Music office, recruit staff to serve for our chapter, and organize and encourage teachers to participate the Flagstaff Spring Piano Festival, an important piano event in the Flagstaff community that the patron Kathleen Adel established in her wishes to bring everyone who loves piano to gather together. She also served as the Piano Coordinator of the NAU Music and Dance Academy to manage the Academy recitals and pair students and teachers upon registration. Her dedication to the Flagstaff community has earned the respect from our chapter to be nominated for this year upon her retirement at NAU.



**Solveig Englund**

*East Valley Music Teachers Association  
Local Association Member of the Year*

Solveig Englund has been a dedicated piano and organ teacher in Gilbert for more than three decades. She has enjoyed teaching students of all ages in her studio, including adults and preschoolers. Her students have enjoyed a variety of "extras" including monthly themes, group activities with rhythm instruments, a sight-reading lab, duet opportunities, and recitals. She has a background in music therapy and has also worked as a church organist and professional accompanist.

As a member of EVMTA since 1997, she has volunteered in a variety of roles. Solveig has chaired the Organ Stop Pizza event since 2015. She effectively communicated with the manager to secure a date, collected registration forms and money, secured the menu items, and helped students to check in as they arrived at the venue. She also managed to successfully run the event in 2020 even as it was socially-distanced.

Solveig has also helped with the Piano Ensemble since 2013 as a committee member and a co-chair. She has conducted groups for several years, as well as helped keep other groups in time with rhythmic drumming on her bongo drums. For the last two years, she has chaired the event. Without all of her hours of dedication, this large event and student favorite could not have taken place.

A special verbal recognition will be given at our meeting in addition to a plaque of sorts.



AUTHORIZED  **YAMAHA** DEALER

Buying a new piano is a huge investment and an incredibly important step in a child's musical education. Many families who are just starting out are often intimidated by the process. Do I go new or used? Digital or acoustic? Should we purchase a small keyboard at Walmart or a cheap piano at a garage sale? What if I spend too much? What if I don't spend enough and my kids outgrow the piano? What if we make a big financial investment up front and the kids drop out of lessons? My First Piano is the perfect choice for this type of consumer because we don't require that you make a big investment up front..

#### HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

- 1 Visit our showroom and select a brand name, great sounding piano that fits your style or budget.
- 2 Take it home with you for a 6, 9 or 12 month test drive for just \$30 - \$99 per month.
- 3 After the test drive, use your credit to buy the piano, upgrade to a better piano, or return the piano no questions asked. Buying a piano is like starting a long term relationship and we feel like a test drive is the best way to get the perspective you need to make an informed decision.

My First Piano is not a rental company. We want to sell pianos just like any other dealership. We just want people to fall in love BEFORE they write a big check.

Signing up is simple - no credit checks, hidden fees, or obligations. Simply call **480-970-5222**, visit [myfirstpiano.net](http://myfirstpiano.net) or stop by our new showroom at the Gilbert Town Square to start the process. We can have your new piano tuned and delivered within 2-3 days.

# THE GRAND PIANO

**EST STORE 2018**

GILBERT, ARIZONA

We are a boutique piano store specializing in Yamaha grand pianos and affordable pre-owned grand pianos. We keep our inventory small (13-15 pieces on any given day) because we are highly selective with the pre-owned inventory we offer. We look for one owner, mint condition pianos that have acclimated to the AZ climate and have good service records. Our new inventory consists of four of the best selling Yamaha models on the market as well as Disklavier player pianos. All of our inventory can be seen at [www.thegrandpianostore.com](http://www.thegrandpianostore.com) or you can reach us for consultation at **480-795-2005**

## Featured Artists/Clinicians



### Leah Claiborne, D.M.A.

Leah Claiborne, D.M.A. promotes diversity in the arts by championing piano music by Black composers in her performances, research, and teaching. She was the first pianist at the University of Michigan to be awarded the Rackham Predoc fellowship which is the most prestigious fellowship awarded by the graduate school. This fellowship allowed her

to further research, compile, and edit piano music by Black composers.

In 2019, Leah was a prize winner in the ProMusicis International Music competition. This competition awarded her the Father Merlett Award for her high quality musical performance and commitment to social outreach. In 2018 she curated a sold out concert at the University of Michigan Museum of Art which featured instrumental and vocal music by Black American composers. In the same year, she recorded selections from Samuel Coleridge Taylor's 24 Negro Melodies for piano solo and piano trio. In 2016 she was a top prize winner in the National Association of Negro Musicians National Piano Competition. In the same year she was awarded the University of Michigan Martin Luther King Spirit Award for her creation of a free piano program for local students where the focus of study was on the impact of Black classical piano composers. Leah has performed across the United States as well as Germany, Italy, and the Czech Republic. Most recently, she performed at Hiroshima University in Japan with the Asia America New Music Ensemble.

Dr. Claiborne received her undergraduate degree from Manhattan School of Music where she received the Josephine Whitmore graduation award. This award was given to a graduating senior "whose personal qualities enriches the spirit of the school and community at large." She received her Masters of Music and Doctorate of Musical Arts degree at the University of Michigan. Dr. Claiborne currently teaches at the University of the District of Columbia where she serves as coordinator of keyboard studies and teaches the History of African American Music.



# Martha Hilley

Martha Hilley joined the faculty of The University of Texas School of Music in 1982 as coordinator of group piano and a member of the piano pedagogy faculty. Over the next 36 years she served two years as head of the keyboard division, five years as Associate Director of the School of Music as well as two different five-year terms as Director of Undergraduate

Studies. Martha retired from the Butler School of Music on August 31, 2019.

Over the last 49 years in higher education, Ms. Hilley has been an active participant in workshops, conferences and seminars on the international, national, state and local levels. She has been co-curriculum coordinator with Lynn Freeman Olson and presenter for the International Pedagogy Workshops in Italy, Belgium, Norway, Australia, Austria and Hawaii and served as pedagogy faculty for the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival in Alaska and Tunghai University's Summer Keyboard Institute in Taichung, Taiwan. She was keynote speaker and presenter for the 2013 Encontro Internacional de Piano ed Grupo in Goiania, Brazil. In September of 2014, Hilley was fortunate enough to be an attendee at the Polofonia Conference held at the Royal Conservatory of the Hague. The theme of the conference was "The Musician as Creative Entrepreneur." In more recent years Martha has been a co-presenter at CEPROM, a pre-conference meeting to ISME and a co-presenter at the following ISME Conference in Glasgow, Scotland. She was also a keynote speaker at the 2018 SEMPRE Conference in London, England.

Professor Hilley's abilities as a teacher were recognized in 1983 when she received the Texas Excellence Teaching Award, and again in 1988 when she was awarded one of four university-wide Dad's Association Centennial Fellowships for excellence in undergraduate teaching. In 1992, Professor Hilley was recipient of the prestigious Orpheus Award presented by Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia in recognition of her contributions to the field of music. In 1997, she was awarded the Outstanding Collegiate Teacher Award by the Texas Music Teachers Association and in 1998, Hilley was awarded the William David Blunk Professorship in recognition of outstanding undergraduate teaching and research. In 2000, she was chosen for membership in Leadership Texas and was elected in September of 2000 to the Leadership Texas Alumni Board of Directors. Hilley was inducted into the Academy of Distinguished Teachers at UT Austin in 2005 and awarded the Distinguished Service Award from the Music Teachers National Association in the spring of 2008. She was named recipient of the University of Texas at Austin Civitatis Award for 2011-2012 and named the 2014 MTNA Teacher of the Year. Ms. Hilley received one of two Life Time Achievement Awards presented at the 2017 National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy. Martha served as 2019-2021 President of MTNA and assumed the role of Immediate Past President for a two-year term effective March, 2021.

Articles by Professor Hilley have been published in *Clavier*, *Piano Quarterly* and *Keyboard Companion* and within anthologies published by Routledge Press (UK). She is co-author of two college piano texts: "Piano for the Developing Musician " and "Piano for Pleasure." The texts were the first to embrace digital sequencer technology through disks furnished to teachers as well as the first to provide web-based computer tutorials, downloadable pdf and mp3 files and dedicated web sites for each text. ( [www.pfppiano.org](http://www.pfppiano.org) ) and ( [www.pdmpiano.org](http://www.pdmpiano.org) ) Both sites are under construction.



**COCHISE  
MUSIC  
TEACHERS  
ASSOCIATION**

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

**EAMTA**  
Eastern Arizona Music Teachers Association



# Annie Jeng

Annie Jeng is a pianist, educator, and collaborator. She is committed to listening, learning, and becoming a better member of society with the hopes of paving roads for justice, collaboration, and kindness in communities. She has performed widely in such settings as the Brancaloneoni International Music Festival in Italy, the Gijón International

Piano Festival in Spain, the Kennedy Center, Interlochen Arts Academy, and China. (However, she sometimes prefers to perform in intimate spaces such as living rooms, personal Zoom calls, and breweries.) Recent performances have included Beethoven's Choral Fantasy with UNCG's University Symphony Orchestra, Ravel's Piano Concerto in G major with the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, Messiaen's *La ville d'en haut* with the University of Michigan Symphony Band, and Messiaen's *Oiseaux exotiques* with the University of Michigan Contemporary Directions Ensemble. A Presser scholar, Annie has presented at Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) conferences at collegiate, state, and national levels and College Music Society (CMA) regional conferences.

Annie's essential goal as an artist is to make communities richer and more meaningful through the arts. To this end, Annie strives to make music accessible to audiences of all backgrounds by expanding and rethinking the traditional recital format to include interdisciplinary and interactive elements, all with the aim of encouraging audiences to engage with the artistic experience. Recent projects include, "Music by the Barrel," which was a concert series at the Ann Arbor Distilling Company in Ann Arbor, "Beyond the Keys: Unlocking Piano Works" which was an interactive concert on the roof of a parking deck performed by her piano pedagogy students, and "Brews-keys" which featured UNCG piano faculty and students at Oden Brewing Company in Greensboro, North Carolina. She also led music workshops that focused on group singing and music as a form of expression through the Prison Creative Arts Project at University of Michigan.

During the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Annie personally picked up and delivered keyboards to UNCG piano students in order to ensure that music within student's lives would not be stopped. As a strong believer of creating a better and more equitable "normal," she also founded A Seat at the Piano (ASAP) in the summer of 2020 ([aseatatthepiano.com](http://aseatatthepiano.com)). ASAP is a resource that is dedicated to the promotion of inclusion in the performance and study of solo piano repertoire.

Much of Annie's research is devoted to contemporary music and studying the pedagogical capabilities of contemporary piano techniques. In 2018, Annie received the Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship from the University of Michigan to create a pedagogical resource called Circles and Lines that will feature newly commissioned works by female composers that introduce unconventional piano techniques to intermediate pianists. She is also the

pianist of Khemia Ensemble (khemiaensemble.com), a contemporary chamber ensemble that is dedicated to promoting contemporary classical music by cultivating inclusive place-making, collaborative mentorships, and authentic storytelling through immersive, multimedia performances. She released the album, “World Map” with Parma Recordings as the former pianist of Four Corner’s Ensemble. Committed to supporting musicians in finding their unique career path, she also worked as a Programming Assistant at University of Michigan’s Excellence in Entrepreneurship, Career Empowerment & Leadership (EXCEL) Lab. She also serves as a member of the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy (NCKP) Career Development and Innovation Committee.

Annie received her MM in Piano Performance from the University of Michigan and her BM in Piano Performance with a minor in Public Health from New York University. She received her DMA in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Michigan in 2019. Her teachers include Logan Skelton, José Ramón Mendez, Miyoko Lotto, Anne-Marie McDermott, and Faye Bonner. She is currently the Assistant Professor of Piano and Piano Pedagogy at University of North Carolina at Greensboro.



[PhoenixMusicTeachers.org](http://PhoenixMusicTeachers.org)



## Amber Yiu-Hsuan Liao

Known for her nimble technique, nuanced tone and impeccable sense of timing, pianist Amber Yiu-Hsuan Liao has presented solo performances in venues such as Lincoln Center, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Temple Square in Utah, the National Concert Hall in Taiwan, and the Chicago Cultural Center. Her first solo album of works by Granados, Schumann and Beethoven was released by MSR Classics in 2010. MusicWeb International praised the album, describing Liao's playing as "energetic and brisk... elegant and thoughtful." Fanfare described "very impressive and well-thought-out program," and Audiophile Audition noted that her Granados "captures the folk element in the music very well, bringing color and dash to her performance."

Ms. Liao's inventive recital programming frequently includes lesser known works, and unusual pairings of compositions of contrasting styles—an early Mozart sonata followed by the last completed piano work by Schumann, or pairing suites by Fauré's with one of Handel's. Some of her recent themed programs featured works by Eastern European composers from the beginning of the Twentieth Century and music inspired by the evening/night. Her latest research on music by Asian women composers was published as an article in the 2019 Autumn issue of the Piano Magazine: Clavier Companion and is presented in lecture recitals at national conferences. The works from the research will also be performed in a solo recital at National Concert Hall in Taiwan in 2021.

Amber Liao began her musical training in Taiwan and continued her studies in the U.S. with Boris Slutsky and Arkady Aronov. She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts from the Manhattan School of Music and a Master of Music from the Peabody Institute. Before joining the faculty at Borough of Manhattan Community College, The City University of New York, Professor Liao taught at Montclair State University and Seton Hall University, and was on the faculty of the Horne School of Music at Snow College as the Director of Piano/Theory. She is a certified adjudicator for the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA), and has served as a juror for numerous regional and national competitions.



# Joel Martinez Lorenzana

Joel Martinez Lorenzana is one of the leading performers and teachers in his home country of Honduras. As of 2019, he had worked for ten years as a faculty member of the Art Department at the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH for its acronym in Spanish). As university faculty, he has taught courses on Harmony, Counterpoint, Solfege, Music History, and Piano. In 2016 he was elected coordinator of the Music area, leading a team of 22 professors and over 200 students.

Mr. Martinez obtained a bachelor's degree in Music with an emphasis in Piano Performance from UNAH, under the tutelage of Maestro Wolfgang Lappenberg. Besides that, he took a semester worth of lessons with Dr. Carl Blake, Fulbright scholar, during his residency in Honduras. Joel assisted to The Master Works Festival in Indiana, on several occasions. There, where he received private instruction and master classes with renowned faculty from music schools such as Eastman, Curtis, University of Michigan and Arizona State University. In the Fall Of 2019 Mr. Martinez moved to Arizona, in order to pursue a Master of Music in Piano Performance and Pedagogy at Arizona State University, studying under Dr. Cathal Breslin and Prof. Hannah Creviston.

Tucson Music Teachers Association  
Board  
2020-2021

President:  
Marie Sierra  
Vice President:  
Jayme Bigelow  
Corresponding Secretary:  
Diann Lopez  
Recording Secretary:  
Lynn Moser  
Technology Secretary:  
Christine Harper  
Treasurer:  
Theresa Dietrich  
Member-at-Large:  
Dr. Ian Houghton  
Member-at-Large:  
Dr. Astrid Chan  
Immediate Past President:  
Gloria Singleton



Designed to enhance the professionalism, personal growth and career development of its members.

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



# Astrid Morales Torres

Born in Mexico City, pianist Astrid Morales is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance at Arizona State University with Robert Hamilton. Astrid holds Master's degrees in Piano Performance, Piano Pedagogy and a Performer's Diploma in Piano from Southern Methodist University, where she studied with Joaquín Achúcarro. In 2012, she graduated

from the National Conservatory of Music in Mexico City, where she studied with Héctor Rojas.

In 2014, Astrid won the First Prize at the General Concerto Competition at the Meadows School of the Arts in Dallas, TX. Astrid performed the Ravel Piano Concerto in G Major with the Meadows Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Dr. Paul Phillips. Morales made her solo debut when she was 8 years old at Opus 94.5 Radio Station in Mexico City. When she was 11, she was also a soloist with the Queretaro Philharmonic conducted by José Guadalupe Flores.

Since 2003, Astrid has had an intensive soloist career and has performed with well-known Mexican orchestras and conductors such as: Mexico State Symphony Orchestra (Enrique Bátiz, Virgilio Valle and Gabriela Díaz Alatraste), Nuevo León University Symphony (Eduardo Diazmuñoz), Mexico City Philharmonic (José Areán), National Polytechnic Institute Symphony Orchestra (Alfredo Ibarra), Aguascalientes Symphony (Stephano Mazzoleni), among others.

As a recitalist, Astrid has performed in the United States, Holland, Germany, Italy and Canada. In addition, Astrid has performed recitals in the most important venues in Mexico. Morales has been awarded several prizes and scholarships including the 2011 Youth Mexican Prize and Grand Prix to Exceptional Talents and Best Interpretation of Mexican Music at the Second National Piano Competition "Petrof – Symphony – Pearl River".

Astrid has always been an active and passionate performer of Mexican music. She recorded her first CD "Rimero Musical" with music of the Mexican composer Ladislao Juárez. Furthermore, Morales collaborated in "El Oficio Mío" with music of the Mexican composer Armando Rosas. As an active chamber musician, Morales has collaborated with world-renowned musicians including cellist Andrés Díaz, violinist Matt Albert, among others. In 2018 and 2019, she also served as Fellow Pianist at the NorCal Music Festival.

Astrid Morales served on the piano faculty at the Community Music School and as Faculty Associate at Arizona State University. Morales has appeared in several TV shows, newspapers and radio interviews in Mexico, Italy, The Netherlands and United States. Astrid serves as an active member of the Binational Cultural Forum of Mexican Artists, a Mexican organization where she is a representative of Phoenix, AZ. Morales is also a member of the 2021 National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy and currently serves on the Career Development and Innovation and Diversity committees.



**REPRESENTING THE  
HIGHEST STANDARDS  
OF MUSIC TEACHING  
AND PERFORMANCE**

**EVMTA.ORG**



# PracticeSpace

Motivate and Engage Your Students



**Practice Space is  
changing the way I am  
growing my online music  
studio...its a game-  
changer.**

**Vielka Kelly-Weiss  
Director, Young Singer's  
Academy**

# Free 30-Day Trial

[www.practicespaceapp.com](http://www.practicespaceapp.com)

# 2021 Arizona National Prize Winners



## **1st Place Senior Piano Duet: Rachel Dai & Nathan Lam, students of Yali Luo**

Rachel Dai and Nathan Lam are both 16-year-old high school juniors and have studied with Dr. Yali Luo since age 5. Rachel is currently attending University High School in Tucson and Nathan is currently attending Perry High School in Gilbert. They have been performing as a piano duo for the past three years and have received numerous awards, including 3rd place in the Arizona Musicfest Chamber Music Competition and 1st place in the American Protégé International Piano and Strings Competition. As a result of these two awards, they were invited to and had the honor of performing at Carnegie Hall in New York and the Musical Instrument Museum in Scottsdale.

Most recently, they were the National 1st Place winners of the 2020-2021 MTNA Piano Duet Competition. They have also won top prizes in solo competitions from the Desert Valley Music Teachers Association, East Valley Music Teachers Association, Arizona State Music Teachers Association, Music Teachers National Association, Phoenix Symphony Guild Competition and Steinway/Avanti Piano Competition.



## **2nd Place Young Artist Piano: John Solari, student of Baruch Meir**

John Solari is a pianist from Richmond, Virginia, currently pursuing a master's degree at Arizona State University under Dr. Baruch Meir. An avid soloist, John has performed nationally and internationally, appearing as a guest performer at the 2020 Walled City Music Festival and as a student participant at the 2018 White Nights festival in St. Petersburg. Lately, he has been turning toward solo competitions, and was most recently awarded 2nd prize in the 2021 MTNA Young Artist's Competition.

He was also one of the winners of the 2020 ASU Concerto Competition.

Aside from solo performance, John is very enthusiastic about collaboration and early keyboard instruments. He maintains a busy schedule playing for student recitals and competitions, and is premiering a new work for clarinet and organ in April. Prior performances have involved collaboration with live musicians and dancers, orchestra pits, and a recital with Jim Miller of the LA Philharmonic. Early in the pandemic, John was featured in a series of short music videos in various styles, and has continued to create music asynchronously where live performance has not been possible.

He has also studied under acclaimed organist Dr. Kimberly Marshall since 2016, working on music from the Renaissance and Baroque eras both on harpsichord and organ. Together, they have worked on diverse projects such as a recital spanning three separate instruments, continuo realization for large and small ensembles, and currently a project seeking to transcribe many of Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier to showcase the diverse possibilities of registration for these works.



### **3rd Place Young Artist Woodwind: Matthew Fox, saxophone, student of Christopher Creviston**

Saxophonist Matthew Fox is an avid performer and educator from New York who currently resides in the Phoenix metropolitan area. Having shared the stage with performers such as Sean Jones, Roxy Coss, Zach Shemon, Joe Lulloff and many others, Fox has performed with musicians of the highest level. Fox has given masterclasses and recitals at many public schools and universities in the Southwest Region of the United States, and strives to promote chamber music playing.

As a chamber musician, Fox has earned awards at the Coltman, North American Saxophone Alliance, and Music Teachers National Association chamber competitions, as well as earning a silver medal at the nation's largest chamber music competition, Fischhoff. He is currently the soprano player in a saxophone chamber ensemble entitled h3líos. Fox also strives to be an active solo artist, having competed and earned awards in many competitions such as the Music Teachers National Association, North American Saxophone Alliance, Vandoren Emerging Artist, and Saxiana International Solo Competitions.

The sharing and promoting of new music is of utmost importance to Fox, as he is actively commissioning new works for solo saxophone, saxophone duets, saxophone quartets, and other mixed chamber ensembles by composers such as Chris Evan Hass, Tanner Bayles, Matthew Howell, and Jeremy Rex Howell.

Fox currently studies saxophone performance at the Arizona State University School of Music under Dr. Christopher Creviston, world-renowned saxophonist and chamber musician. After graduating in the Spring of 2021, Fox will be moving to East Lansing, Michigan, to pursue his Masters and Doctoral degrees at Michigan State University under the direction of Professor Joseph Lulloff through the University Distinguished Fellowship program.



## **1st Place Elementary Composition: Saadhvi Jayaram, student of Rosa LoGiudice**

Saadhvi Jayaram, pianist and composer, is 10 years old, a resident of Gilbert, Arizona, and in fifth grade at Basis Chandler. Saadhvi began studying piano and composition at the age of three with Heidi Grimes at East Valley Yamaha Music School. She was inspired to play by hearing her older brother, Ritwik, play since she was a baby and started experimenting with piano sounds as soon as she could reach the keys. Saadhvi composed her first piano piece at age four, entitled, "Tinkerbell's Adventures."

Saadhvi has written several other piano compositions during her studies, including "The Things I Love," "Fun Trip to Canada," and her most recent piece that was her first place winning composition in the MTNA national composition competition, "Jiggley's Evolution." In addition, Saadhvi wrote a piece for piano, flute, and percussion in 2018 at the age of eight, entitled, "Under the Banyan Tree." This composition was performed in the national finals at the Yamaha National Junior Original Concert in California and was also submitted to the Yamaha Junior Original Concert in Japan.

Saadhvi has been studying piano performance and composition with Dr. Rosa LoGiudice at East Valley School of Music in Chandler since fall 2019. Saadhvi worked with Dr. LoGiudice on refining and submitting her composition for the MTNA competition. Saadhvi has also been working on piano technique, theory and performance and has had many successful performances of classic repertoire in recitals. Saadhvi entered several online competitions in 2020, including the Stilwell Piano Competition and Princeton International Competition, where she received positive feedback. She plans on entering more online competitions this year, working on new compositions, and will participate in the Arizona Study Program at Level Eight. In addition to music, Saadhvi enjoys, art, origami, dancing, and video games.

# PIANO *Adventures*<sup>®</sup>

*salutes the* ARIZONA

*Music Teachers...*

*Best wishes for a great conference*

*full of melodies, memories, and making*

*a musical difference!*



NANCY AND RANDALL FABER  
AND THE PIANO ADVENTURES TEAM

# Honors Recital

Dear Members,

We are very grateful that two awards have been generously provided for the ASMTA Honors Recital to encourage and support promising young pianists; the Pee-Yaw Lim Wilkes Endowment Award, and the James Saverio Ruccolo Solo Piano Award.

Sincerely,  
Tatyana Eldridge and Christopher Oill

## The Pee-Yaw Lim Wilkes Endowment Award

**Pee-Yaw Lim Wilkes** was a graduate of the Royal College of Music in London, where she earned her LRSM, LRAM and ACRM diplomas.

Pee-Yaw is remembered for her wonderful talent as a concert pianist and for producing the highest caliber, competitive level students. She was also much sought after as a piano adjudicator and as a national and international piano pedagogue and lecturer.

She held many leadership roles such as: Northern Arizona Music Teachers Association president, Arizona State Music Teacher Association president, and Music Teachers National Association Southwest Division president. These organizations honored her with many awards including a Music Teachers National Association 50-Year Member Award and the Arizona State Music Teachers Association Honorary Lifetime Member Award.

The Pee-Yaw Lim Wilkes Endowment Award has been established to promote support and encouragement to promising, up and coming talented young pianists.



**JAMES SAVERIO RUCCOLO**  
**1943 – 1985**

Few people arrived in mid-to-late 20th Century America equipped to accept the title of the *complete* musician more than did James Saverio Ruccolo.

Born in Akron, Ohio, James displayed exceptional gifts in music from early childhood, playing accordion, clarinet, and trombone. But it was the piano and its potential that captured his heart and mind at age 13 and the synergy they produced was wonderful to behold.

His talent matured into extraordinary skills in both the classical and jazz genres. James played with equal skill, respect and insight, with dazzling technique and musical prowess received by enthusiastic audience applause. His skills as a classical pianist and jazz artist are well documented with rave reviews throughout career performances and recordings. James Ruccolo's distinctive interpretations of jazz improvisation were living affirmations of his opinion that jazz was meant to be played freely at the moment of conception rather than as a learned skill such as in classical music literature. He stated that jazz required playing this style of music spontaneously, while it was actually being created.

His teen years gave us a glimpse of the breadth of his abilities, but it was at the piano that the depth of his creativity was truly illuminated. His musical curiosity and probing intellect emerged and expanded, leading to world-class educational opportunities and culminating in an impressive list of achievements in performance, composition and teaching.

Most notably, James' education included an Eastman School of Music Bachelors Degree in Music as a Rochester National Scholar, graduating second in his class. He then earned a Masters Degree in Music Composition, Summa Cum Laude, from Arizona State University followed by a Doctorate in Musical Arts Degree in Piano, Summa Cum Laude, as a National Defense Education Act Fellow from the University of Arizona.

Dr. Ruccolo's education further included study with many notable piano artist teachers such as Grant Johannesen, Cicile Genhart, Jose Echaniz, Armand Basile, Dalies Franz, and Ozan Marsh, along with published composition teachers Clifton Williams, Robert Muzynski and Grant Fletcher.

In addition to piano and jazz performance, James wrote music in several composition genres. Collectively, they express a unique combination of his life-experiences, his education and tremendous gifts as a creative person. Each composition allows the listener to intimately know this man as a complete musician and creator.

Dr. Ruccolo held the position of Artist-in-Residence and Music Program Director at Prescott College, in Prescott, Arizona, for four years. Until his death in 1985, he served as Professor of Music in Piano at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona. During his tenure, he taught piano majors, served as a Coordinator of Keyboard Studies, and conducted state and national master classes, adjudicated piano competitions, performed and recorded from live concerts.

James Ruccolo's success in performance, recording, and composition, enhanced by an appointment as an Artist Representative of the United States Cultural Embassy Department, are living proof that he learned from others while relying heavily on that which is spirit-born.

*"A pianist of power and imagination..."* The Phoenix Gazette

*"He is a force to reckon with, an artist and no doubt about it."* The Arizona Republic

*"...nothing short of dazzling..."* San Francisco Chronicle

The Reverend Robert P. Snyder



*Music Brings Joy  
to Everyone*

Without educators there is no music,  
thank you for all the joy you provide!



Sincerely,  
*Leo Ostrander*

Leo Ostrander  
Master Piano  
Technician  
Southwest Pianos



Phoenix' premier provider of fine pianos for  
music educators and their students.  
Staffed by professionals for professionals.

Sign up for our newsletter for the latest piano  
news, updates, and special offers

(480)955-9133

[leo@southwestpianos.com](mailto:leo@southwestpianos.com)



# FIFTY FAMOUS COMPOSERS

## FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES

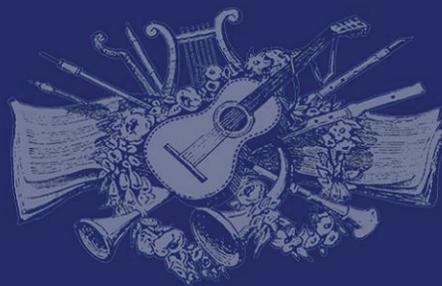


*Antonio Lucio Vivaldi*



*Elisabeth-Claude Jacquet de La Guerre*

BY  
DR. CAROLYN WATERS BROE



Enjoy thrilling stories about 25 male and 25 female composers. This book is the perfect gift for music lovers, teachers, parents, grandparents, children, and family members.

Order your Hard Cover Book for \$34.00 and \$9.50 for the Kindle version at

<https://classicsunlimitedmusic.com> or [drcarolynbroe@gmail.com](mailto:drcarolynbroe@gmail.com)