2021 MSMTA Conference

Sunday, November 14, 2021

Don’t miss this fabulous conference from the comfort of your own home!!!

Virtual on Zoom

12:00 PM  Meet and Greet

12:15 PM  “Athletes and Musicians, Commonalities” by Yoon Huh

1:30 PM  Break

1:45 PM  “In and Out of Africa: Exploring Piano music of Africa and its Diaspora” by Dr. William Chapman Nyaho

3:15 PM  Break

3:30 PM  General Membership Meeting


5:30 PM  “Real Kids - Real Solutions, Teaching to the Unique Differences of Each Student” by Diane Hidy

6:45 PM  Closing Remark – President, Dr. Junko Takahashi and Conference Co-chair, Debbie White-Bondhus
Session Descriptions

**Athletes and Musicians, Commonalities** by Yoon Huh

As a pianist, have you ever thought about the movements made by your 10 fingers each day teaching and performing? Our fingers move more in a month than traditional athletes’ larger body parts do in 12 months.

Find out the commonalities between the pianist and athletes and see why physical conditioning is necessary in order to stay in motion for a long period of time. Since pianists require delicate dexterity in all manners of speed and sound, their fingers require training of certain small muscles.

Explore physical and finger exercises that will help young piano students develop their strength, speed and flexibility.

**In and out of African: Exploring Piano Music of Africa and its Diaspora**

by Dr. William Chapman Nyaho

Dr. William Chapman Nyaho will discuss the diversity of styles of piano music, the influences of traditional musical forms, dance, jazz and blues as well as Western European compositional practices on compositions in Africa and the African diaspora.

**The Collaborative Experience: Preparing Pianists for a Lifetime of Music-Making** by Joy Schreier

Collaborative experiences provide essential life lessons, but also serve to prepare pianists for a varied career far beyond the scope of a solo pianist. This session details the vast career opportunities afforded a collaborative pianist - from working as a vocal coach and recital pianist with world-class musicians, to working with opera companies, symphonies, and choruses. We will discuss the technical foundation necessary, the many differences between collaborative and solo playing, and explore creative and contemporary ways to prepare young pianists for collaboration, even in their solo repertoire.

**Real Kids - Real Solutions, Teaching to the Unique Differences of Each Student**

by Diane Hidy

Piano lessons can be a genuine life-saver for kids outside the norm. Weekly one-on-one mentoring through music is something we’ve each valued in our own lives and a crucial reason we have chosen to become piano teachers.
Drawing on her extensive experience teaching quirky and delightful children, Diane Hidy will examine a variety of the challenges she has seen. She will explore innovative ways to adapt and tailor your teaching to connect with each child and their specific needs.

“We are in an almost unique position to change the lives of our students. Sometimes (nearly all the time) we lack the perfect set of skills to produce the perfect result, but nearly all the time we succeed in bringing light and love into our students' lives by sheer dint of honest engagement and deep humanity.” — Elissa Milne

What special concerns present themselves in piano lessons with students with ADD, visual or auditory processing issues?
What are the best materials and methods for teaching a child with these issues? What helps a child with ADD? How does that differ from what might help a child with dyslexia?

With her wealth of personal and professional experience, Hidy will give teachers practical tips to help understand and teach these wonderfully challenging students.

Presenters

Yoon Huh

A gifted teacher, noted adjudicator, and workshop presenter passes down her passion and energy to her students for over four decades. She is a graduate of Juilliard Pre-College, and a scholarship student of Seymour Lipkin and Ada Kopetz-Korf at the Manhattan School of Music (B.M.) holding a double Masters degree from Columbia University (M.A., M.Ed.).

An active member of MTNA, MSMTA, MCMTA, WMTA, NFMC, VFMC and SMC.
Huh has held over ten committee member and chair positions and is presently the V.P. of the Student Activities for MSMTA.

As an educator Ms. Huh has taught pedagogical methods of Robert Pace at the Teachers College Columbia University. She has also taught at the Carnegie Studio, Yamaha Music School and has operated a private studio for over 40 years. As an advisor for the National Federation of Music Clubs Festival Bulletin in Concerto Division, she gave several workshops and performances for Concerto judging. Huh is frequently on the panel for the “Judges Workshop” discussions on adjudication skills, communicating with constructive critiques for students and selecting proper repertoires for students. She has recently given a presentation at the NVMTA’s “Talk About Teaching” covering the topic of “Teaching Soft Fingers.” Huh has also served as an adjudicator at the World Piano Pedagogy Conference in Anaheim.

As a performer Ms. Huh has performed numerous times at the Carnegie Recital Hall and with her two brothers forming the “Auh Trio” in the Metropolitan NYC area. Concerts were performed at the Stevens Tech Institute, St. Patrick's Church in NJ, Paul Hall Juilliard School, Hubbard Recital Hall Manhattan School of Music, Carnegie Recital Hall, Carnegie Studio and the Beethoven’s Triple Concerto with the Glens Falls Symphony in NY resulted with a standing ovation.

Huh’s special way of teaching has taken deep root into her students’ hearts, by understanding the beauty, grace and the power of classical music. Students leave the studio with a depth of knowledge on how to express their thoughts and feelings into music. Teaching each student to be a poetic performer is one of the essential keys of becoming a fine musician. As a teacher, teaching students the beauty of music is the most precious gift of all.

**Dr. William Chapman Nyaho**
Dr. William Chapman Nyaho grew up in Ghana, West Africa where he attended Achimota School. He later earned his degrees from St. Peter’s College, Oxford University, the Eastman School of Music and the University of Texas at Austin. He also studied at the Conservatoire de Musique de Genève, Switzerland. He currently serves on the piano faculty at Pacific Lutheran University as well as on the summer faculty of Interlochen Center for the Arts. He also has his private piano studio in Seattle, Washington and teaches students of all levels and ages. His students have been prizewinners at competitions and have been well placed in universities and colleges.

Chapman Nyaho’s professional experience includes being a North Carolina Visiting Artist and Associate Professor of Music at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette where he held the Heymann Endowed Professorship and was the recipient of the Distinguished Professor Award. He has served as Visiting Professor of Piano at Colby College, Maine, Artist-in-Residence at Willamette University, Oregon and piano professor at Adamant Music School, Vermont.

Chapman Nyaho is an active solo recitalist, duo pianist and chamber musician giving recitals and concerts in Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean and in cities across the United States where he advocates music by composers of African descent. He actively serves as a regular guest clinician at colleges and universities around the United States and has been an adjudicator for several national and international piano competitions. He has served on national committees for the College Music Society, Music Teachers’ National Association and the National Endowment for the Arts. Chapman Nyaho also serves on the Frances Clark Center for Keyboard Pedagogy board of trustees.

Joy Schreier

Praised by Plácido Domingo as an “orchestra at the piano” and hailed by Opera News as a “superbly emotive pianist [that] wrings every nuance out,” Joy Schreier is acclaimed as an “ideal support” at the piano, “providing much of the evening’s musical nuance” (Washington Post) and “perfection itself…the dream accompanist.”

Schreier has been presented in recital at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Merkin Hall, the White House, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Corcoran Gallery, the National Gallery of Art, the National Museum for Women in the Arts, the National Portrait Gallery, the Phillips Collection, the Cosmos Club, Strathmore Hall, numerous embassies and recital halls throughout the country. She has appeared with the Marilyn Horne Foundation, the Vocal Arts Society, Partners for the Arts, Philadelphia Lieder Society, and was a featured performer at the 2016 New Music Gathering.

Schreier works regularly as the rehearsal pianist and vocal coach for soprano Renée Fleming. She is the principal coach for YAA: Classical at the Strathmore Music Center. Confessions, her 2020 CD release with soprano Laura Strickling, celebrates women’s words in song. For that release, Schmopera declared that Schreier is “an indispensable accompanist. She is either preternaturally intuitive or has achieved perfect communication…perhaps a bit of both.”

Schreier’s concert engagements include a sold-out Carnegie Hall debut with soprano Danielle Talamantes at Weill Recital Hall in 2007, a recital series with mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard for the Marilyn Horne Foundation, and a nine-performance run of Carmina Burana performed with the Washington Ballet at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. In 2009, she and Talamantes were prize winners in Thomas Quasthoff’s Das Lied competition as well as grand prize winners in the Lotte Lehmann Cybersing Competition. While at the Eastman School of Music, Schreier was the recipient of the piano prize in the Jessie Kneisel German Lieder competition.

An avid chamber musician, Schreier performs as official pianist of the Washington International String & Voice Competitions at the Kennedy Center. She has served as official pianist for the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions as well as Assistant Conductor at the
Washington National Opera and coach for the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program. She is the Assistant Conductor and Pianist of the Cathedral Choral Society. She received her Doctorate in Accompanying and Chamber Music in 2003 at the Eastman School of Music under Dr. Jean Barr where she was the recipient of the Barbara Koeng Award for Excellence in Vocal Accompanying. Former teachers include Ann Schein, Laurence Morton, and Douglas Guiles.

**Diane Hidy**

American pianist, teacher and composer Diane Hidy is the first woman to win the prestigious American Pianist Association fellowship. Drawing upon her experience as a top performer and a master teacher, she really understands how to compose appealing, imaginative piano music that also feels natural to play.

Each week thousands of piano teachers count on Diane Hidy’s practical advice. Her Sight Reading Flashcards, innovative Smart Scales, as well as her compositions are and recordings are used by teachers around the world.

She has contributed to the teaching of children with learning differences with her groundbreaking books Attention Grabbers, the first and only music written specifically for students with Attention Deficit Disorder.

She made her Carnegie Hall debut following her studies with John Perry and Leon Fleisher. Hidy won the national MTNA Collegiate Artist Award. She attended the Julliard School of Music and holds music degrees from the University of Southern California and the Peabody Conservatory of Music. She has more than 40 recordings of standard piano teaching repertoire available on the Neil A. Kjos label and now available on iTunes. She collaborated with Jane Bastien, recording all six volumes of Bastien Piano Literature.
With Keith Snell, she co-wrote Piano Town, a method for beginning piano students. The series features abundant supplementary materials: Christmas, Halloween books and sheet music solos.

Currently she publishes her music, including her beloved **Month Songs** and **All Cooped Up** pieces, at composecreate.com.