



SCMTA

SOUTH CAROLINA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 1960

CELEBRATING 65 YEARS!

65th Annual Conference

NOVEMBER 6 - NOVEMBER 8, 2025

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY | ROCK HILL, SC





Department of Music

DEGREE PROGRAMS:

BACHELOR OF MUSIC (B.M.)
-PERFORMANCE
-MUSIC COMPOSITION

BACHELOR OF MUSIC EDUCATION (B.M.E.)
-CHORAL CERTIFICATION
-INSTRUMENTAL CERTIFICATION

BACHELOR OF ARTS, MUSIC (B.A.)
WITH A CONCENTRATION IN
-MUSIC
-MUSIC TECHNOLOGY
-COMMERCIAL MUSIC

MASTER OF MUSIC (M.M.)
-CONDUCTING
-MUSIC EDUCATION
-PERFORMANCE



**SCHOLARSHIPS
& AUDITIONS**

Rock Hill, S.C.
www.winthrop.edu/cvpa/

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WU



WELCOME TO THE 65th SCMTA Annual Conference

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Dear South Carolina Music Teachers Association Members and Guests,



On behalf of the Winthrop University Department of Music, it is my great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to you for the 2025 South Carolina Music Teachers Association Annual Meeting. We are honored to host you on our campus and are thrilled to have so many accomplished educators, performers, and scholars gathered here with us. I am excited to experience what promises to be a vibrant and stimulating environment for the exchanging of music experiences and ideas.

Our staff and faculty have been hard at work to make your stay enjoyable and productive. You'll have opportunities to explore our campus, learn about our vibrant music programs, and enjoy performances. Throughout

the meeting, our dedicated university staff and faculty will be available to assist you. If you have any questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to ask.

We are confident that this annual meeting will be a valuable and rewarding experience for everyone involved. Thank you for joining us, and we look forward to a successful and inspiring conference.

Best Regards,

Lorrie S. Crochet, Ph.D.

Winthrop University
Chair, Department of Music
Professor of Music



Dear Colleagues,

It is my great honor to welcome you to the 65th Annual Conference of the South Carolina Music Teachers Association. This year marks a milestone—our 65th anniversary—and I am so happy to share this celebration with each of you. Thank you for your attendance.

This conference has been made possible through the dedicated efforts of so many. First, I would like to thank Winthrop University and the Department of Music for hosting us, especially Dr. Lorrie Crochet, Chair of the Department of Music, Dr. Matthew Manwarren, and Mrs. Lannia Broñola-Dickert for their wonderful hospitality. I would also like to thank the Upper Palmetto Music Teachers Association for providing support for the event.

Many thanks go to our Vice President for Conferences, Dr. Soohyun Yun, who diligently planned for this conference and skillfully managed the transition to the TenutoWeb registration system. I also thank our Vice President for Competitions, Dr. Nathan MacAvoy, who worked efficiently with coordinators (Dr. Sarah Masterson, Dr. Ka-Young Lee, Dr. Steven Graff and Dr. Ann Wilson) to generate the annual SC MTNA competitions.

To our guest artist, HieYon Choi, and our clinician, Sophia Gilmson, we are very grateful for sharing your expertise and artistry, which elevates the conference experience. To our presenters and colleagues contributing sessions, workshops, and performances, your generosity and creativity make this conference truly meaningful. I also extend sincere thanks to our collegiate chapters and student presenters for participating in our program. You are the future of our organization, and I am grateful to Dr. Scott Price and the teachers who continue to guide you.

Big congratulations to the 2025 SCMTA Awardees: Teacher of the Year, Marina Agrest; Genesis Grant, Joanna Norwood; and Foundation Fellow, Dr. Matthew C. Manwarren. Please share the joy of their professional achievements.

To our Executive and General Board members, thank you for your ongoing leadership, commitment, and service. There are no mere words that I can thank you enough. Your continued dedication truly makes a difference for the future of our profession.

Finally, to our anonymous donors who provided financial support for redesigning our website, for the installation of the new TenutoWeb management system, and for celebrating all our board members whom we honor today—we are deeply thankful for your belief in our organization and your generous support.

As we celebrate 65 years of SCMTA, I hope this conference inspires you, renews your passion, and deepens the connections that make our organization strong. Please enjoy our 65th anniversary!

Sincerely,

Eunjung Choi
President, South Carolina Music Teachers Association





Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Welcome to the 2025 South Carolina Music Teachers Association Conference! I am delighted that each of you have gathered here in celebration of music, education, and community. Whether you are a long-standing member or a first-time attendee, your presence here underscores our shared passion for nurturing the next generation of musicians and educators.



This year's conference promises to be enriching and inspiring. Looking over the conference schedule I see that you will be treated to energizing sessions and meaningful opportunities for professional growth. I know you are looking forward to the inspiring sessions that will be presented by the Guest Clinician, Sophia Gilmson and also the Guest Artist performance of the well respected and sought-after artist, HieYon Choi.

A conference of this caliber would not be possible without dedicated leadership and vision. I would like to extend my appreciation to Soohyun Yun and SC board members for their exceptional work in crafting a program that reflects both depth and inspiration. Their tireless efforts behind the scenes have made this gathering a reality.

I would also like to recognize the leadership of your SCMTA State President, Eunjung Choi. I have enjoyed serving alongside Eunjung and know you are proud of the way she serves SCMTA and MTNA. Her dedication to the organization has continued the long-standing tradition of excellence in SCMTA.

Thank you for being part of this special event. May these days be filled with learning, connection, and the joy that only music can bring. I hope you will also make plans to join us at the 2026 National Conference in Chicago. It will be an exciting time as we celebrate the 150th year of MTNA.

Warm Regards,

Joy B. Poole

Joy B. Poole
MTNA Southern Division Director

MTNA

MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION



Dear South Carolina MTA Members:

On behalf of your MTNA colleagues across the country, we add our warm welcome to the South Carolina 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 and engage with your communities. These enriching relationships—of constantly receiving and giving away—is vital to your success as a music teacher, to the success of your students and to the longevity of the profession.

As you consider additional opportunities for professional development and networking, we invite you to the 2026 MTNA National Conference in Chicago, March 21–25—a landmark event, as we celebrate the 150th birthday of MTNA! This historic conference will feature more than 100 informative sessions, inspiring master classes, and an exhibit hall with the latest music, products and innovations. Acclaimed pianist Angela Hewitt will perform in the Tuesday evening recital, with more distinguished performers and talented presenters to join the roster. The 2026 MTNA National Conference promises to be an unforgettable celebration of music, education and community, so mark your calendars and stay tuned for details at [mtna.org!](http://mtna.org/)

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

Sincerely,



Kevin Chance, NCTM
President

Sincerely,



Brian Shepard
Chief Executive Officer





2025 Conference Schedule

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6 - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025

MTNA Performance Competitions

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

7:30 p.m. Winthrop University Showcase, *Barnes Recital Hall*

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

8:30 a.m. REGISTRATION, *Lobby in front of Barnes Recital Hall*
Nanette Baltz Werner, SCMTA Treasurer

9:00 a.m. Opening Remarks, *Choir Room, #315*
Dr. Eunjung Choi, SCMTA President

9:05 a.m. Presentation, *Choir Room, #315*
“J. S. Bach for All Ages”
Sophia Gilmson, Conference Clinician

10:05 a.m. Break, *Band Room, #120*
Refreshments Courtesy of Upper Palmetto Music Teachers Association

10:20 a.m. Guest Presentation, Home Recording tips (Video & Audio), *Choir Room, #315*
Dr. Lewis Hay Dickert, Guest Presenter

10:55 a.m. Short Break

11:00 a.m. Independent Music Teachers Forum Presentation, *Choir Room, #315*
“Intergenerational Aspects of Piano Teaching: The Traditions and Innovations in the Craft of Music Teaching Profession”
Dr. Irina Pevzner, Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Ms. Tabitha Modrell

11:35 a.m. Break, *Band Room, #120*

11:50 a.m. SCMTA Commissioned Composition Premiere, *Choir Room, #315*
“Gullah Corridor” for voice, percussion and piano
Rachel Lane, 2025 SCMTA Commissioned Composer

12:05 p.m. SCMTA Annual Members Meeting, *Choir Room, #315*
Honoring 2025 Genesis Grant Recipient, Joanna Norwood
Dr. Eunjung Choi, SCMTA President

12:30 p.m. Members Luncheon, *Tuttle Dining Room, McBryde Hall*
(reservation required)
MTNA Foundation Raffle Drawing #1



2:00 p.m. Student Poster Session, *Band Room*, #120

2:45 p.m. Student Presentation, *Choir Room*, #315

3:35 p.m. Break, *Band Room*, #120

4:00 p.m. Presentation, *Choir Room*, #315
“Music’s Vital Signs: Rhythm, Harmony, and Melody, the Integrated Approach to Cultivation Expressiveness”
Sophia Gilson, Conference Clinician

5:30 p.m. Conference Banquet, *Richardson Ballroom A* (reservation required)
Celebrating SCMTA’s 65th Anniversary
Honoring All Past and Present Board Members
Honoring 2025 Teacher of the Year, **Marina Agrest**
Honoring 2025 Foundation Fellow, **Dr. Matthew C. Manwarren**
Winthrop University Student Performers: **Harrison Warner** and **Riley Wright**, piano
MTNA Foundation Raffle Drawing #2

7:30 p.m. Conference Artist Concert, *Barnes Recital Hall*
HieYon Choi, pianist

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

8:30 a.m. Registration, *Lobby in front of Barnes Recital Hall*
Nanette Baltz Werner, SCMTA Treasurer

9:00 a.m. Guest Presentation, *Barnes Recital Hall*
“It’s all about the Basics – MTNA Certification 101”
Dr. Martha Thomas, MTNA Board of Director – NCTM
Program Chair

9:40 a.m. Break, *Lobby in front of Barnes Recital Hall*
Refreshments Courtesy of Upper Palmetto Music Teachers Association

10:00 a.m. Intermediate Piano Master Class, *Barnes Recital Hall*
Sophia Gilson, Conference Clinician

11:10 a.m. Advanced Piano Masterclass, *Barnes Recital Hall*
HieYon Choi, Conference Artist
MTNA Foundation Raffle Drawing #3

12:10 p.m. Closing Remarks, Barnes Recital Hall
Dr. Eunjung Choi, SCMTA President

12:30 p.m. SCMTA Board Meeting, *Eagle Eatery at Thompson Hall*
891 Ebenezer Ave, Rock Hill, SC 29730 (2 minute walk from Music Building) <https://new.dineoncampus.com/winthrop/locations/eagle-eatery-at-thomson-hall>



2025 MTNA Performance Competitions Schedule

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6 - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

JUNIOR

Piano	Saturday, November 8	9:00 a.m. - 2:40 p.m.	Byrnes Auditorium
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SENIOR

Piano	Friday November 7	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Barnes Recital Hall
	Saturday, November 8	12:45 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.	

Piano Duet	Thursday, November 6	4:00 p.m. - 4:50 p.m.	Barnes Recital Hall
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Strings	Friday November 7	9:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m.	Byrnes Auditorium
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Woodwinds	Friday November 7	2:30 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.	Byrnes Auditorium
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YOUNG ARTIST

Piano	Thursday, November 6	9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Barnes Recital Hall
Woodwinds	Friday November 7	1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Byrnes Auditorium



Student Session Presenter:

GENERATIVE AI IN PIANO PEDAGOGY: PROMISE, PITFALLS, AND PRACTICAL GUIDELINES

Elias Blake

DMA Piano Pedagogy Candidate
University of South Carolina

Description: Learn how piano teachers can leverage generative AI for lesson planning, communication, scheduling, and professional development. This session offers guidelines, demonstrations, and practical applications for the integration of tools like ChatGPT, Gemini, and other platforms.

Presenter: Elias Blake is a DMA student in Piano Pedagogy at the University of South Carolina. He obtained his master's at California State University: Northridge, where he wrote his thesis on the waltzes of Florence Price.



RESEARCH POSTERS:

Imagery as a Path to Improvisation and Musical Styles: A Threefold Approach
Michail Chalkiopoulos, DMA Piano Pedagogy, University of South Carolina

Whole Body Learning: Benefits for the Student and Practical Studio Applications

Hannah Crider, BS in Music (Piano Pedagogy and Collaborative Piano Certificate), Bob Jones University

Smart Listening: How AI is Revolutionizing Ear Training

Taylor Glomb, DMA Piano Pedagogy, University of South Carolina

From K-pop to Keyboard: Bringing Asian Pop into the Piano Studio

Mingzi Hu, DMA Piano Pedagogy, University of South Carolina

Integrating Improvisation into Piano Lessons: From Score to Creative Expression

Agnieszka Lasko, DMA Piano Pedagogy
University of South Carolina

Everything I Wish Piano Teachers Knew About ADHD

Molly Thomas, DMA Piano Pedagogy
University of South Carolina

Creating is Learning: Improvisation in the Beginners' Curriculum

Hong Yao, DMA Piano Pedagogy, University of South Carolina

Elias Blake, DMA Piano Pedagogy, University of South Carolina

Taylor Gomb, DMA Piano Pedagogy, University of South Carolina

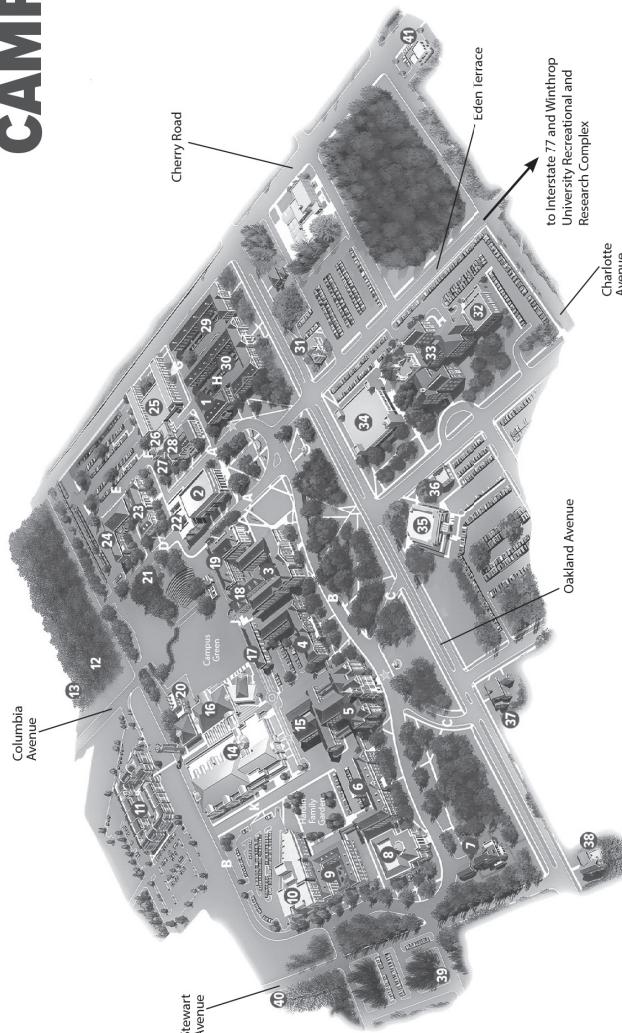
Mingzi Hu, DMA Piano Pedagogy, University of South Carolina

Ísis Cardoso, DMA Piano Pedagogy, University of South Carolina



CAMPUS MAP

Campus Locations



Departments

Academic Affairs, Executive Vice President
Academic Computing Center
Academic Records
Admissions Office
Accessibility, Office of
Alumni Center, The Morgan-Holcombe
Archives, Louise Pettus
Arts & Sciences, College of

111

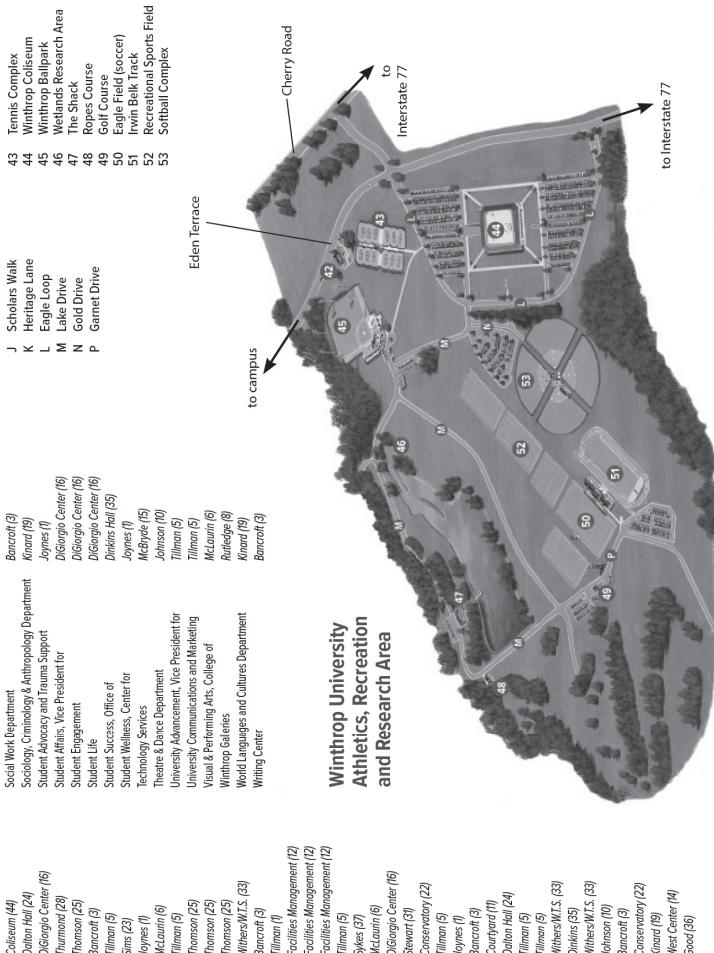
Political Science Department
Postal Center
President's Office
Printing Services
Psychology Department
Records & Registration Office
Residence Life Office
Small Business Development Center

Streets

33	Withers/W.T.S. Building
34	Ida Jane Dacus Library
35	Dinkins Hall
36	Good Building
37	Sykes House
38	Sellers House
39	Canterbury House
40	Parker Building
41	Louise Pettus Archives
	The Ohio Stone House



Winthrop University Athletics, Recreation and Research Area





Conference Artist



HIEYON CHOI

One of the most sought-after pianists of her generation, South Korean pianist HieYon Choi first appeared on the international piano music scene when she won prizes at high-profile competitions such as Kapell, Epinal, Busoni and Viotti. HieYon Choi has been since performing with prestigious orchestras of Europe, US and Korea such as das Rundfunkorchester Berlin, the National Symphony Orchestra (Washington DC), the Northern Sinfonia, the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra and the Korean Broadcast Symphony Orchestra and appears as a soloist in festivals and concert series.

A milestone of Choi's performing career was the four-year long cycle of all 32 Beethoven piano sonatas at the Kumho Art Hall in Seoul. For this series she received the Arts Award of the year 2005 by the Korean Arts

& Cultural Association. Later she completed another Beethoven cycle with all piano trios, violin sonatas and works for cello and piano. Her second cycle of all Beethoven piano sonatas took place in various venues in Korea, Germany and the US until 2018. Choi's other series of performances include ones that explored Brahms and his associates and that of French school. She has been collaborating with renowned musicians such as Truls Mørk, Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi, Peter Stumph, Mark Kosower, Romain Guyot, Stephan Dohr, Ulf Wallin, Mikyung Lee, Soovin Kim.

Alongside the canon of the classical piano literature such as Beethoven, Schubert, Brahms and Debussy, Music of 20th & 21st century forms another important part of Choi's career. A strong advocate of the new music, she was the inaugural Artist-in-Residence of Tong-Yeong International Music festival. She performed works of Olivier Messiaen, György Kurtág, Sofia Gubaidulina, York Höller, Unsuk Chin, Suhki Kang a. o. with the Seoul Philharmonic.

Recently Choi completed her long journey of recording entire Beethoven piano sonatas. Her first two Beethoven albums were released in 2018 and in 2021 retrospectively by Decca Korea and UMG and they were highly noted by German and Korean magazine/papers. The entire set of Beethoven piano sonatas are to be released in the upcoming year. Her other recordings include *<Debussy Douze Etudes>*, *<F. Liszt Six Grand Etudes on Paganini>*, *<Isang Yun 5 Stücke>*, *<Chopin Etudes Op. 10 & Op. 25>*. Choi appeared and performed in TV & radio channels in Korea, US, Italy, Switzerland, Sweden and in Germany.

In 2023/24 HieYon Choi joined the piano faculty at Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, US, after having served for 24 years as tenured piano professor at Seoul National University in Korea. Choi has been giving numerous master classes worldwide; the Guildhall School in London, Ecole Normale in Paris, Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, the Hochschule Freiburg, Karlsruhe, Düsseldorf in Germany, Music School of Manhattan, Cincinnati, Michigan in the US, Performing Arts Hong-Kong, China and in summer festivals in Italy, France, Korea and in the US. Choi also serves as a jury member at international competitions such as Beethoven, Maj Lind, Pozzoli, Epinal and Orléans.

Born in Inchon, South Korea, Choi gave her debut concert at the age of 6 with the Incheon Philharmonic Orchestra. She won all four most coveted competitions in Korea (Dong-A, Choong-Ang, Korea Times, Ehwa-KyungHyang) under the early tutelage of Prof. Joong-Won Koh and moved to Germany at the age of 18 to study with Prof. Klaus Hellwig at the Hochschule der Künste Berlin. The late Prof. Hans Leygraf at the same institute and the late Prof. György Sebök at Indiana University were further source of inspiration to her.



HieYon Choi

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2025

Winthrop University, Barnes Recital Hall | 7:30 p.m.

Frédéric Chopin Scherzo No. 2, Op. 31
(1810-1849) Scherzo No. 3, Op. 31

Maurice Ravel Gaspard de la Nuit
(1875-1937) *I. Ondine*
 *II. Le Gibet*
 *III. Scarbo*

Ludwig van Beethoven Piano Sonata No. 32, Op. 111
(1770-1827) *I. Maestoso – Allegro con brio ed appassionato*
 *II. Arietta. Adagio molto semplice e cantabile*



Conference Clinician



SOPHIA GILMSON

Sophia Gilmson, Russian-born pianist, has concertized extensively in Europe and the United States to a high critical acclaim. Carl Cunningham of The Houston Post described Gilmson's playing as a "... brilliant, driving performance." Michael Huebner, of the Austin American-Statesman, referred to her performance of Bach's Goldberg Variations as "one of the most refreshing and thought-provoking performances this season." In 2001, she was awarded the prestigious Mount Everest Award by the Austin Critics Table for this performance, in which she played the Goldberg Variations on harpsichord and piano in the same evening.

Michael Barnes, chief arts critic of the Austin

American-Statesman at that time, ranked this performance as one of the top ten arts events of 2001, calling it "unforgettable". In the celebration of its 20th anniversary, Austin's Performing Arts Center included this concert in the list of twenty most memorable programs of its history, one per year. Later, her studio recording of this performance received a Silver Medal from the Global Music Award. "I can now say that Sophia Gilmson has gone where no one has gone before..." Fanfare Magazine

She is a recipient of numerous awards, among which are the First Prize in the Young Artists Competition in New York City, followed by a recital in Carnegie Hall, and the Piano International Recording Competition. Radio Leningrad, Radio Vatican, WQXR and WNYC in New York City, among others, broadcasted her performances.

Sophia Gilmson is a dedicated educator. Her students have won major prizes on state, national, and international levels. Her unique pedagogical skills are universally recognized at both pre-college and collegiate levels.

She has received an array of excellence in teaching awards, including 2001 Collegiate Teaching Achievement Award of Texas. In 2023 she was inducted to the Steinway Teacher Hall of Fame.

Sophia Gilmson is the co-founder of both Houston and Austin Young Artists Concerts, the programs designed for musically gifted children. Sophia has been an artistic director for both programs for twenty years since its inception in 1987 to 2007.

She presented papers, masterclasses and lectures at the World Piano Pedagogy and Music Teachers National Association Conferences as well as various international music festivals and conferences.

She has been published in *Keyboard Companion*, official journal of the Frances Clark Center for Keyboard Pedagogy.



Sophia Gilmson graduated cum laude from the Leningrad (St. Petersburg) Conservatory in Russia, where she studied with a legendary Russian pianist Professor Vitaly Margulis. She is currently a Professor Emerita at the University of Texas Butler School of Music.

www.sophiagilmson.com

Session Descriptions

J. S. Bach for All Ages

The workshop addresses the fundamental aspects of the polyphonic thinking equally applicable to the repertoire of all levels. Discussion includes articulation, ornamentation, urtext and editions, and many other aspects of Baroque performance practice

Selections from the following repertoire will be analyzed in detail: Anna Magdalena Notebook, Short Preludes, Two Part Inventions, and Three Part Inventions (Sinfonias).

Music's Vital Signs: Rhythm, Harmony, and Melody *An integrated approach to cultivating expressiveness for pianists of all levels*

The workshop explores the sequential steps of teaching expressiveness that are equally applicable to students of all the levels. Examples are drawn from the method books as well as music by Bach, Mozart, Clementi, Beethoven, Chopin, Schumann, Greig, and Prokofiev.



Conference Presenters



DR. LEWIS HAY DICKERT, JR.

Friday, 10:20 a.m.

Dr. Dickert is a professor responsible for teaching guitar, jazz history, theory, music business, and directing the guitar ensembles as well as the jazz combos. He also serves as the Director of Jazz Studies.

He is active both regionally and internationally as a performer, guest artist, and clinician. His performing credits include work with many notable recording artists including vocalists (Natalie Cole, Frank Sinatra, Ray Charles, Lou Rawls, Dixie Carter, Wayne Newton, Johnny Mathis, The Diamonds, The Platters, Ronnie Milsap, Manhattan Transfer, and Lyle Lovett) and instrumentalists (Charlie Rouse, The Guy Lombardo Orchestra, Randy Brecker, Graham Breedlove, and Pat Harbison).

Dr. Dickert also is in demand both regionally and nationally as a musical arranger, clinician, and sideman.

Dr. Dickert also serves as a performing artist and educator for Benedetto Guitars. His professional affiliations include memberships in Phi Mu Alpha, Pi Kappa Lambda, Phi Kappa Phi, Kappa Delta Pi, The Society For Ethnomusicology, and the Jazz Education Network.

Audition Video Recording Tips & Tricks

Learn simple techniques for recording audition videos without the need or expense of professional quality equipment.



DR. MARTHA THOMAS

Saturday, 9:00 a.m.

Dr. Martha Thomas, NCTM, has given concerts and presentations across five continents, with more than 60 solo and collaborative concerts across the United States. International highlights include collaborative concerts with UGA colleagues in Kenya, Colombia, Slovenia, and Canada, lecture-recital performances at the World Piano Conference and Australasian Piano Pedagogy Conference, and performances and teaching at the InterHarmony International Music Festival in Italy. Martha recently retired from the University of Georgia where she was the Despy Karlas Professor of Piano and Associate Director for Undergraduate Studies. Her students have garnered top prizes at national and international competitions, direct independent teaching studios, and hold positions at public and private schools and institutions of higher learning. Past-President of the Georgia Music Teachers Association, Martha received the 2012 Teacher of the Year Award from GMTA, was named an MTNA Foundation Fellow in 2015, and is the current Chair of the MTNA National Certification Commission.



It's all about the Basics - MTNA Certification 101

This session will focus on the basics of MTNA Certification, addressing some of the most common questions and concerns: What is the value and what are the benefits of certification? How do I become certified? What are the most challenging aspects of the process? This session will guide you through the steps and will give you the inspiration for pursuing certification.



Independent Music Teachers Presentation



**DR. IRINA PEVZNER,
DR. MATTHEW MANWARREN,
MS. TABITHA MODRELL**

Friday, 11:00 a.m.

**Intergenerational Aspects of Piano
Teaching: The Traditions and
Innovations in the Craft of Music Teach-
ing Profession**

This presentation, structured in a panel discussion format, explores the issues and challenges that teachers face in their work as they navigate the fast-moving pace of the ever-changing world. It aims to provide clarity and focus amidst modern-day distractions and information overload, as well as offer ideas and solutions to help teachers keep their work 'up with the times.'

Dr. Irina Pevzner was born in Ukraine and raised in Latvia. After graduating from the Riga Jazep Medins Music College, she moved to the United States. Dr. Pevzner holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of South Carolina. Her dissertation titled *Forgotten Russian Piano Music: The Sonatas of Anatoly Aleksandrov* was published by Scholar's Press.

She also holds a Master of Music degree in piano performance from Carnegie Mellon University, Artist Certificate from the College of Charleston, and a Bachelor of Music degree from Mansfield University of Pennsylvania.

Irina has performed in Latvia, Ukraine, Spain, Italy, Brazil, and throughout the east coast of the U. S. She is a frequent performer at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina. Locally, she has performed at the Monday Night Concert Series, International Piano Series, Bishop Gadsden Concert Series, and Emily Remington Concerts. In addition, she is one of the core performers with Chamber Music Charleston.

Dr. Pevzner is currently the Executive Director of the Charleston Academy of Music, where she continues to teach piano while maintaining performance career. Her students there have been achieving success in local and national competitions year after year.



Tabitha Modrell is the Founder and Director of The Florence Music Academy in Florence, SC. After growing her own studio for multiple years, she founded The Academy in 2023, hiring additional instructors and support staff, and growing its student base to over 120 weekly students in under 2 years. As primarily a musician and performer, her journey through this process has honed her skills in leadership and teaching, while sparking a desire to create access to careers in music.

After graduating from Francis Marion University's Music Industry program in 2024, studying under Dr. Paulo André Gualdi, Modrell returned as a guest speaker for the Ensemble and Arts Management class in spring of 2025. Modrell is also a House Manager at FMU's Performing Arts Centre- host of the annual SC Chamber Music Festival. Modrell is passionate about promoting access to quality music experiences to her community in every way she can.

Please see **Dr. Matthew Manwarren's** photo and bio on page 24.



SCMTA Commissioned Composer



RACHEL LANE

Rachel Lane, age 19, lives in Charleston, South Carolina. She is currently attending Winthrop University and is studying Music Composition and Technology. As part of her curriculum, she also participates in Choral and sang at Carnegie Hall this past May. Rachel began playing piano at age 7 under the tutelage of Dan McCurry. She immediately began doodling on the piano. Her doodling turned to composing, and she completed her first composition "Kitchen Waltz" when she was 13. Rachel entered the Charleston Sonatina Festival for composition from 2020 to 2023 winning her division every year with songs like "When Monsters Hunt" and "Café Americano."

Rachel is a very active composer participating other competitions like MTNA Composition Competition, Piano Guild International Composition Competition, SCMTA Composition Competition, and NFMC "Junior Composers" Composition Contest winning their National Incentive Award. She also won the Piano Inspires Kids Composition Contest (16-18) for her fanfare "Triumph." Rachel also attended Brevard Summer Music Institute for Composition in 2023 and 2024, receiving the Fromm Music Foundation Scholarship in 2024, and SC Governor School Academy Summer Program for piano in the summer of 2021. Rachel has also had the opportunity to work with notable pianists and composers including Kevin Olson, Wynn-Anne Rossi, Mike Springer, Joe Clark, Micheal Flynn, and Charlton Singleton. Rachel likes to compose music that combines different genres to make a new sound like jazz and classical, or Irish folk music and opera. Her hope is to one day compose for video games, television, and film.



SCMTA Commissioned Composer Premiere Information

“GULLAH CORRIDOR”

Friday, November 7, 2025, 11:50 a.m.

Program Notes:

Gullah Corridor will feature singers, percussion, and piano. It's inspired by the rich and enduring influence of Gullah culture in South Carolina. Drawing from the rhythms, traditions, and communal spirit of this historically significant community, the piece will blend classical composition with elements of Gullah music—percussive energy created through clapping, stomping, and call-and-response, as well as repetitive, chant-like melodies. Incorporating instruments like hand drums and tambourines, the work aims to honor Gullah heritage while reimagining it for the concert stage. This piece is both a tribute and a bridge, celebrating a culture that has shaped South Carolina from the 1700s to today.

The composition will be premiered at the SCMTA Annual Conference on Friday, November 7, 2025, at Winthrop University.

Performers:

Alto, **Olivia Greene**

Tenor, **Eric Hughey**

Soprano, **Scarlett Stone**

Pianist, **Rachel Lane**

Percussionist, **Wren Thompson**



SCMTA Genesis Grant



JOANNA NORWOOD

Pianist, teacher, and performer Joanna Norwood graduated from the College of Charleston in 2023 with a Bachelor of Arts in Music. Her degree includes a concentration in piano performance, and while living and working in Charleston, SC she has appeared solo and collaboratively in Piccolo Spoleto and on the Rush Hour Concert series. She has also collaborated extensively with theater company Shortwave Kitsch, including appearances on local radio and South Carolina Public Radio.

An avid teacher, Joanna joined the faculty of the Charleston Academy of Music in 2021. She received instruction on piano pedagogy during her degree, and feels strongly about connecting each student with the transformative nature of a musical life, about the eternal importance of craft and conscientious study. She is pleased to have students admitted to the Charleston School of the Arts as well as succeed in SCMTA District and State Auditions. A member of MTNA, Joanna serves on the board for CMTA as well as SCMTA. She has also taught at Lawson Academy of the Arts in Spartanburg, SC. She is grateful to her own teachers, notably Dr. Douglas Weeks, Dr. Paul Sánchez, Dr. Volodymyr Vynnytsky, and Dr. Julia Harlow, each having left their own indelible mark.

Having also studied organ, Joanna is experienced with a variety of sacred music traditions and is now the organist at Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity in Charleston. In addition to music, she enjoys literature, writing, and social dance.

Are you an SCMTA member seeking continued professional development?

SCMTA has established the Genesis Endowment Grant Fund in order to provide one member teacher per year an award of up to \$500 for the purpose of professional or studio development. Primarily intended for use by independent teachers, the grant is available to independent and collegiate SCMTA members with a minimum of one year membership. Applicants must state how the grant will be used, and how it directly relates to his/her music teaching. Application materials are due by June 30 of each year. Visit scmta.org for complete information.



SCMTA Teacher of the Year

MARINA AGREST

Marina Agrest started playing piano at the age of five in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg), Russia and by the tender age of six, she had her first public performance. Music was an integral part of Mrs. Agrest's life and provided a refuge during the turbulence of the Soviet Era. At the age of 7, Mrs. Agrest was accepted into the Preparatory Music School under the tutelage of Nina Alekseevna Dmitrieva, who was integral to her future success and guided her through Mrs. Agrest formative years. It was from her that Mrs. Agrest learned what makes a dedicated teacher, a teacher who gives 100% of herself to her students, and becomes like a parent to a student, by giving birth to a new musician.



Mrs. Agrest went on to receive Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from the Rimsky-Korsakov College of Music, and then a Master of Music in Piano from the Rimsky-Korsakov State Conservatory.

Upon graduation, she went on to start her teaching career, she taught piano at St. Petersburg School of the Arts. There she also accompanied singers, violinists, dancers and performed solo. During her more than 60 years in music education, Mrs. Agrest taught hundreds of students. Her enthusiasm is making the difference in their lives. Her children also inherited her passion for music. They are both musicians as well. Since immigrating to the US and specifically Charleston, SC in 1992, Mrs. Agrest has shared her International experience with the Greater Charleston Community teaching at Creative Spark, at her own Studio, and through the activities of the Russian Studies Program of the College of Charleston.

Many students of Mrs. Agrest have won numerous awards in local and State Competitions and Scholarship Auditions through MTNA, SCMTA and CMTA.

These achievements made it possible for them to be accepted and pay for their University education in a variety of specialties including Piano as their profession.

In 2021 Mrs. Agrest received The Steinway Top Teacher Award upon being nominated by Rice Music House. Mrs. Agrest joined MTNA, SCMTA and CMTA shortly after coming to Charleston and has been a member for over 30 years. In that time she has served on the CMTA board in various capacities, such as Hospitality Chair, Scholarship Auditions Chair, VP of Membership and VP of Programs. She is grateful for the opportunities available to her students through these associations and has been greatly invested and involved in doing what she can to help them thrive. .



MTNA Foundation Fellow



DR. MATTHEW MANWARREN

Pianist Matthew Manwarren is currently Professor of Piano at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC, a position he has held since 2006. He has also served as Professor of Piano at Belmont University in Nashville, TN, and at Erskine College, where he held the prestigious Harriet Pressly Smith Caldwell Professorship in Music. From 2018-2022, Dr. Manwarren served as a Visiting Professor of Piano at the School of Music, University of South Carolina. From 1998-2024, Dr. Manwarren served during the summers on the faculty at the prestigious Adamant Music School in Vermont, where he was the Artistic/Executive Director from 2021-2024.

Dr. Manwarren has established a notable reputation as a solo and collaborative performer. He has given recitals and masterclasses at numerous venues, including Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York, universities throughout the U.S., numerous concert series, and music organizations throughout the US and abroad. As a chamber musician, he has collaborated on several occasions with the Rhodora Winds, the principal woodwind quintet of the Charlotte Symphony. He has also given art song recitals with soprano Kristen Wunderlich and tenor Jeffrey Price. Dr. Manwarren collaborates frequently with South-African pianist, Franklin Larey. They have given numerous recitals of the entire duo piano and piano four-hands works of Francis Poulenc. His recording, entitled *Youthful Passion and Fantasy*, featuring Schumann's Fantasy in C Major, Op. 17 and Brahms' Sonata No. 3 in F minor, Op. 5, was released on the Americus label in 2015. In 2023, he recorded the entire piano works of composer Leonard Mark Lewis, all works which were commissions by Dr. Manwarren.

Dr. Manwarren began his piano studies with Mary Lou Hindman Wade in El Paso and later studied with Claude Herndon (a pupil of Tobias Matthay). He earned his undergraduate degree (summa cum laude) from Texas Tech University as a student of William Westney. While there, he received the prestigious Eva Browning Piano Scholarship and was winner of the university concerto competition, performing with the Texas Tech University Symphony. He earned his master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, studying piano with Frank Weinstock and Elisabeth Pridonoff and organ with David Mulbury. In 1996, Dr. Manwarren was awarded a Teacher Enrichment Grant from the Music Teachers National Association for the purpose of studying at the French Piano Institute in Paris, where he had the opportunity to coach with Dominique Merlet, Pascal Devoyon, and Noel Lee. Dr. Manwarren has coached with Virginia Hutchings of Atlanta, Walter Hautzig of New York City, and John O'Conor of the Royal Irish Academy of Music. He has also worked with Sheila Paige, coordinator of the Piano Wellness Seminar, where he has had the opportunity to study pianistic technique, ease, and movement at the piano that prevents injury for the pianist.

Dr. Manwarren has served two terms as president of the South Carolina Music Teachers Association. In 2018, he was named the SCMTA Outstanding Teacher of the Year in recognition of his teaching and service to SCMTA. In 2025 he was named as an MTNA Foundation Fellow by SCMTA and will be honored at the 2026 MTNA Conference in Chicago. His students have gone on to have professional careers as performers and teachers throughout the country and abroad.



SCMTA Conference Masterclass

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025

10:00 a.m. | Masterclass with Sophia Gilmson

Harry Smith, Grade 7

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Sonata No. 1 in F Minor, Op. 2, No. 1; I. Allegro

Teacher: Anna Brock

Rhian Schultz, Grade 12

Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

Fantasie-Impromptu in C-Sharp Minor, Op. 66

Teacher: Dr. Matthew Manwarren

Mikaela Kent, Grade 12

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Impromptu in A-Flat Major, Op. 90, No. 4 (D. 899)

Teacher: Dr. Eugene Barban

Jeremiah Kerr, Grade 12

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Prelude and Fugue in C-Sharp Major, WTC Book I, BWV 848

Teacher: Lannia Bronola-Dickert

11:10 a.m. | Masterclass with HieYon Choi

Riley Wright

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Sonata No. 6 in F Major, Op. 10, No. 2; I. Allegro

Riley is a junior piano performance major at Winthrop University

Teacher: Dr. Matthew Manwarren

Harrison Warner

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

Jeux d'eau

Harrison is a senior piano performance major at Winthrop University

Teacher: Dr. Matthew Manwarren

Leo Chang

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Sonata in A Major, Op. 101

I: Etwas lebhaft und mit der innigsten Empfindung

II: Lebhaft: Marschmäßig

Leo is pursuing his Master's of Music degree at the University of South Carolina

Teacher: Professor Phillip Bush



SCMTA Leadership

SOUTH CAROLINA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association, 1960-2025

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District VII (Charleston): Joanna Norwood

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Charleston: Amy Louise Cecil
Columbia: Bonny H. Miller, NCTM
Greenville: Melanie Baughman
Long Bay: Jane Burlinson
Upper Palmetto: Lewis Hay Dickert



SCMTA Presidents

1960–1962 George Lucktenberg	1996–1998 Eugene Barban
1962–1964 Tom Owen	1998–2000 Stephen Taylor
1964–1966 Laurence Morton	2000–2002 Matthew Manwarren
1966–1968 David Gibson	2002–2004 Robin Zemp
1968–1970 Virgil Smith	2004–2006 Deborah Freeman
1970–1972 Virginia Gore	2006–2008 David Thompson
1972–1974 Max Camp	2008–2009 Melanie Foster Taylor
1974–1976 Lance Flower	2009–2010 Matthew Manwarren
1976–1978 Robyn Gibson	2010–2012 Derek Parsons
1978–1980 G. B. Lane	2012–2014 Linda Li-Bleuel
1980–1982 Lillian Harder	2014–2016 Deborah A. Ruth
1982–1984 Darr Wise	2016–2018 Deanna C. Moore
1984–1986 Marianne Lenti	2018–2020 Sara Renaud Ernst
1986–1988 John Adams	2020–2022 Lannia Nacino Broñola-Dickert
1988–1990 Ann Guest	2022–2024 Amanda Montgomery
1990–1992 Peggy Kaufmann	2024–2026 Eunjung Choi
1992–1994 James Clark	
1994–1996 Charles Gaines	



SCMTA Conference Sites

1963	Coker College	1997	College of Charleston
1965	Furman University	1998	Converse College
1967	Bob Jones University	1999	Coker College
1968	Baptist College	2000	Winthrop College
1969	Hotel Wade Hampton, Columbia	2001	Furman University
1970	Converse College	2002	Anderson College
1971	Winthrop College	2003	University of South Carolina
1972	Newberry College	2004	North Greenville College
1973	Bob Jones University	2005	Converse College
1974	University of South Carolina	2006	Winthrop University
1975	Converse College	2007	Coker College
1976	Furman University	2008	Bob Jones University
1977	Columbia College	2009	Converse College
1978	Bob Jones University	2010	College of Charleston
1979	University of South Carolina	2011	SC Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities (Sessions) & Bob Jones University (MTNA Performance Competitions)
1980	College of Charleston	2012	University of South Carolina
1981	Converse College	2013	Furman University
1982	Columbia College	2014	Anderson University
1983	Newberry College	2015	Coker College
1984	University of South Carolina	2016	Converse College
1985	Furman University	2017	Winthrop University
1986	Anderson College	2018	Bob Jones University
1987	Winthrop College	2019	Newberry College
1988	Lander College	2020	Virtual
1989	Bob Jones University	2021	University of South Carolina
1990	Converse College	2022	Anderson University
1991	Columbia College	2023	Claflin University
1992	Presbyterian College	2024	Furman University
1993	Lander University	2025	Winthrop University
1994	Winthrop University		
1995	Anderson College		
1996	University of South Carolina		



S C M T A

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Dan has helped students compose over 150 pieces. His students have received local, statewide, regional, and national recognition for their compositions with MTNA, NFMC, *Piano Inspires Kids*, *Piano Guild*, *Piano Explorer*, South Carolina

MTA, and Charleston Sonatina Festival. His students have been accepted into music composition summer camps such as Brevard, Interlochen, and UNCSA as well as music composition programs at Peabody, Winthrop, USC, and College of Charleston.



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