



# THE IOWA MUSIC TEACHER

IMTA  
STATE CONFERENCE  
June 2-4, 2024  
Drake University  
*Better together  
through music!*

Details inside

LXXXVI no. 4  
Spring 2024

"JOY OF MUSIC"  
BY GEORGE LUNDEEN  
PRESENTED BY  
DRAKE UNIVERSITY  
BY  
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ON THE OCCASION OF THE DEDICATION  
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# THE EDITOR'S DESK

As you look forward to concluding the academic year, begin your summer with a boost for your 24-25 year. Despite the many correspondences, the piles of paperwork, and the variety of meetings, I am anxiously anticipating the IMTA State Conference on June 2-4. As you look over the schedule, our logo, "Better Together Through Music" sets the tone for what is in store for our attendees. Many collegiate students will be joining us in our sessions. They have volunteered to keep things running smoothly and will, for the first time, be presenting the Sunday evening concert, "Celebrating Iowa Collegiate Young Artists". Adding to their vibrance, is our our friend and colleague, MTNA president, Dr. Peter Mack who will present the keynote address. If you didn't have the chance to meet Peter in Cedar Falls in 2022, be sure to connect with him at Drake!

Wynn-Anne Rossi is sure to please as we explore her many duets and solo pieces. Dr. Johan Botes will be our guest artist and will also present a session: Too Many Notes- And Not Enough Hours in The Day. We are delighted that Dr. William Whipple and his wife Christina will join us to present Neurodiversity Awareness. (Some of you may remember Bill Whipple who participated in many IMTA auditions years ago under Bill and Pat Medley!)

Of course, the honors recital and new repertoire with Dr. Suzanne Torkelson are events all of us have embraced for many years. We have heard so much excitement about a duet competition/festival new to IMTA. It seems fitting that Dr. Xiao Hu will present ideas on duet playing and teaching. Top it off with many other sessions and surprises and it is guaranteed, you won't want to miss a moment!

Get to know our concert artist through the "In the Spotlight" article in this issue. When you meet Johan Botes in person, he is sure to make you feel like a longtime friend!



IMTA Information Editor

**Cyndie Caruth, NCTM**  
imtamagazine@gmail.com

Thank you to our DMMTA team and Dr. Nicholas Roth at Drake who have worked diligently to make this conference one to remember. Mary Beth Shaffer is concluding her term as West Central Division chair and has done an amazing

*Continued on page 7*

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# THE IOWA MUSIC TEACHER

Vol LXXXVI no.4 Spring 2024

## Membership

*IMTA/MTNA membership year:*

July 1 through June 30.

MTNA National membership dues: \$97.00

Active Iowa IMTA dues: \$40.00

All active dues: join by September 1 to enter competitions.

New members: join by October 1 to enter competitions.

In order to be eligible to adjudicate IMTA events and be on the adjudicator list, dues must have been paid before September first in the previous year.

MTNA Senior 70 years or older: \$72.75

Iowa Senior dues 65 or older: \$20.00

Collegiate members dues as of 2024-2025 \$0.00

Iowa Collegiate Student member dues \$10.00

Collegiate Membership is open to all college music students who are also members of an affiliated state association and a collegiate chapter if available. Collegiate membership runs October 1 through September 30.

*A six-month/trial membership* is offered to individuals meeting active membership criteria who have never been MTNA members. The six-month/trial membership runs from January 1 through June 30.

## Contact Us

Contact a local association president at: [iamta.org/local-associations.php](http://iamta.org/local-associations.php) and experience valuable meetings and networking opportunities.

Please contact MTNA at (888) 512-5278 or (513) 421-1420 for further member information.

Official Publication of the Iowa Music Teachers Association  
Affiliated with The Music Teachers National Association

Advertising contact: [imtaadvertising@gmail.com](mailto:imtaadvertising@gmail.com)

Submit articles and photos to: [imtainformation@gmail.com](mailto:imtainformation@gmail.com)

## IMTA Statement of Philosophy

The Iowa Music Teachers Association, reflecting the tradition of Music Teachers National Association, is dedicated to a practical role of artistic service in our society. Through activities involving students, merchants and patrons as well as music teachers, the Iowa Music Teachers Association promotes professional standards in music and fulfills its dedication to cultural leadership. To explore the Iowa Music Teachers Association online, visit [www.iamta.org](http://www.iamta.org).

## IMTA Statement of Function

The function of *The Iowa Music Teacher* is to reflect the philosophy of the Iowa Music Teachers Association; to serve as a vehicle of communication for its members to their state officers, expressing their attitudes and needs; to inform the subscribers and membership of events and ideas; to report musical activity in the state; and to stimulate and encourage active interest participation, and support for the Iowa Music Teachers Association as it maintains its role of leadership in the state of Iowa.

## IMTA Magazine

As a non-profit organization, Iowa Music Teachers Association quarterly magazine subscriptions are mailed automatically to members. Non-member subscriptions are \$10.00 per issue. One sample copy furnished to prospective members without charge upon request. *The Iowa Music Teachers* is not a registered copyright publication. Members have permission to reprint anything contained herein unless there is a specific notice of copyright appended to the article or portion of an article. For further information about the magazine, contact the editor at [imtamagazine@gmail.com](mailto:imtamagazine@gmail.com).

## MTNA Founding and Purpose

In 1876, Theodore Presser and 62 of his colleagues founded Music Teachers National Association with the purpose of advancing the value of music study and music making to society while supporting the careers and professionalism of music teachers. Today with more than 20,000 members, MTNA is a vibrant and powerful professional alliance with members reaping the rewards of collaboration, continuity and connection throughout the lifetime of their music teaching careers. MTNA/IMTA Active Membership is available to any individual professionally engaged in a music activity who is also a member of an affiliated state association. Active members enjoy all benefits of membership and are entitled to participate in all MTNA activities, vote and hold office.

# AUDITIONS HIGHLIGHT HIGH LEVEL OF PLAYING

**W**e've just completed a successful season of District and State Auditions. We don't have a final tally of total students participating in IMTA auditions, but with 10 audition centers around the state and hundreds of students learning 3 pieces, keyboard skills and taking theory tests, that's a tremendous amount of musical activity. These are the same students who play a second instrument, play in band or orchestra and sing. They dance in two ballet productions each year. They are the ones who go out for the musical and perhaps also for speech. And, dare we say it, they are also involved in football, wrestling, volleyball or cross country.

All of this activity makes enormous demands on the students' time. And yet the rewards and satisfaction of participating keep these students returning for more. As I adjudicate around the state, I am continually impressed by the high level of playing in the state of Iowa. You are all to be congratulated for your work with these students and for your dedication to providing such wonderful musical instruction to our young people. It makes me proud to be part of this organization.

One of the best perks we receive from membership in IMTA is the camaraderie and inspiration we experience at our yearly conference. This year's conference promises to deliver all we've come to expect in a big way, given the roster of exciting presenters, performers and topics. The conference committee from DMMTA is excited to welcome us to Drake University in Des Moines June 2-4, 2024. Dr. Peter Mack, who delighted us with his humor and engaging teaching style at UNI will present the keynote address. Dr. Johan Botes will present the artist's recital and advanced master class. Wynn-Anne Rossi will address sparking the imagination in her

music. We will also hear from Dr. Xiao Hu about logistics in piano duet performance and from Dr. Nicholas Roth about music for one hand. Two of our most anticipated sessions will be from our own Dr. Suzanne Torkelson exploring new repertoire and Dr. Jason Sifford sharing his latest tech discoveries.

Registration is available in this issue of the IMTA magazine so be sure to plan for 3 memorable days in Des Moines next June. I hope to see all of you there!



**IMTA President**

**Dr. Sharon Jensen**  
imtapresident@gmail.com  
sharonkjensenpiano@gmail.com

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# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**IMTA State Conference  
Registration Deadline**  
May 1, 2024

**IMTA Scholarship Auditions Deadline**  
May 15, 2024

**IMTA Magazine Deadline**  
May 25, 2024  
Submit articles to [imtamagazine@gmail.com](mailto:imtamagazine@gmail.com)  
Submit advertising to [imtaadvertising@gmail.com](mailto:imtaadvertising@gmail.com)

**IMTA State Conference**  
June 2-4, 2024  
2024 Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa  
Registration deadline: May 1, 2024.  
Registration is available in this issue or online at [iamta.org](http://iamta.org)

**IMTA Scholarship Auditions**  
June 2, 2024  
Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa  
Available to high school seniors whose teachers  
are IMTA/ MTNA members.  
Register at [iamta.org/scholarships.php](http://iamta.org/scholarships.php)  
Deadline to register online is MAY 10.

**Honors Recital for all Winners of IMTA  
Pre-college auditions and MTNA Iowa/State,  
Divisional, National winners**  
June 2, 2024, 2:00 pm  
Sheslow Auditorium Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa

**MTNA/IMTA Dues Deadline**  
July 1, 2024  
September 1, 2024 in order to appear in directory as an  
active member.

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*Continued from page 3*

job communicating with each state while advocating for our collegiate students. Please support her efforts with a donation on your registration form for Iowa's collegiate students to attend the conference. We want to encourage their attendance; they hold the future of IMT.

Please extend your gratitude to the many members of our conference planning team: Conference Chair Nessa Maly, Host school Drake

University and Dr. Nicholas Roth, DMMTA members Mary Beth Shaffer, Sarah Reeves, Amy Jo Wrobel, Cheryl Corbett, Zoe Abrahamson, Candace Carlson and Pat Schroeder.

Finally, a reminder that our next issue deadline was supposed to be June 1, however, it will move up slightly to May 25 so I have a good start on the summer issue before the busy week of the conference.

Happy Spring to all!

Make plans now to attend the Iowa Music Teachers Association State Conference this summer in Des Moines, Iowa!



## Conference Artist Recital featuring Dr. Johan Botes



**Dr. Johan Botes**  
Marshall University

Monday, June 3 8:00pm  
Sheslow Auditorium at  
Drake University  
Open to the Public!  
\$10/adults & \$5/students

Tickets sold at the door.  
Address questions by email to  
[imtastateconference@gmail.com](mailto:imtastateconference@gmail.com)

## Conference Highlights

- Educational Sessions
- Attendee Awards
- Exhibits & Poster Sessions
- Piano Masterclasses
- Concerts & Recitals
- Photo Booth
- Student Scholarships

## Conference Guest Presenters



**Wynn-Anne Rossi**  
Composer, Pianist, & 2024 IMTA Conference Clinician  
presenting inspiring lectures and an elementary/  
intermediate duet masterclass for young students



**Dr. Peter Mack**  
MTNA President,  
2024 IMTA  
Conference  
Keynote Speaker



**Dr. Xiao Hu**  
Presenting session  
“Logistics in Piano  
Duet Playing”



**Dr. William & Christina Whipple**  
Presenting session “Neurodiversity  
Awareness: Multimodal Music Teaching  
for ALL Students”

[iamta.com/conferences.php](http://iamta.com/conferences.php)



# Welcome to the 2024 IMTA State Conference!



It is a great honor and thrill to welcome you to the 2024 IMTA State Conference at Drake University, June 2-4. The planning committee has worked tirelessly to ensure an experience of the highest quality for everyone. The diligence, ingenuity and imagination they have marshalled to put this event together is simply inspiring. We invite you to bask in the inspiration of the masterclasses, presentations and performances by the conference artist, clinician and fellow Iowa teachers. The Celebrating Iowa Collegiate Young Artists event offers an exciting twist to the traditional host concert that is sure to please. I hope you will accept this invitation to explore Drake University, visit with friends, and take part in the stimulating atmosphere that this year's conference promises to offer.

- Nicholas Roth



It's time to plan to attend the fabulous IMTA Conference at Drake University June 2-4, 2024. Your Conference Planning Committee has been hard at work creating a

fun, informative and memorable conference on the beautiful campus of Drake University.

I'm excited about the presenters and recitalists we will hear. Dr. Peter Mack will return after delighting us at the Cedar Falls conference, Wynn-Anne Rossi will present her own music which many of us love to teach. Dr. Whipple and his wife will give us insight into teaching neuro-divergent students and Dr. Suzanne Torkelson and Dr. Jason Sifford will discuss new piano repertoire and technology in the studio. Our guest recitalist is Dr. Johan Botes and he will also give the advanced master class. Our many collegiate members are anxious for us to celebrate with them as they present the Sunday evening concert. You will not want to miss any of these inspired sessions nor the joy of greeting old and new friends.

A promotional flyer is included with this invitation so please access the website to register and receive the best accommodations at early bird prices. I hope to see all of you in Des Moines this summer!

Cordially,

Sharon Jensen, IMTA President

## IMTA State Conference Presenters & Performers



### Dr. Johan Botes

Johan Botes is known for his extraordinary versatility as a soloist, collaborative musician, and teacher; a career which has brought him recognition in concerts around the world.

A native of South Africa, Botes was the 2007 First Prize Winner of the Third UNISA/

Vodacom National Piano Competition. He has already appeared as soloist with the Chamber Orchestra of South Africa, the KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra in Durban, Juneau Symphony (AK), Bainbridge Symphony, Auburn Symphony (WA) as well as the Texas Chamber Orchestra. He also performed in Prague with the Hadrec Kralove Orchestra and toured Bulgaria in 2005 where he played with the Varna Philharmonic Orchestra.

Dr. Botes holds a D.M.A. in Piano Performance from The University of Texas at Austin and a M.M. from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. He received another M.M. as well as his B.M. from the University of Pretoria in South Africa. He is currently Associate Professor of Music at Marshall University in Huntington, WV.



### Wynn-Anne Rossi

Wynn-Anne Rossi is an acclaimed American composer with vibrant educational outreach. She has a respect for all genres of music, and her diversity of experience and love of discovery reflect in her expressions as a pianist, composer and presenter. She has over 150 piano

books and solos which are widely distributed online and in music stores. Her repertoire also includes works for vocal and chamber groups, concert band and orchestra. Commissions include works sponsored by Minnesota Public Radio, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the American Composers Forum.

Wynn-Anne has a strong commitment to musical education. She has been offering composition residencies since 2003, inspiring thousands of students to create their own music. Partnerships have included the MUNDI Project (UT), Linda Luebke String Festival (IN) and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra (MN).

Wynn-Anne owns and manages a piano/composition studio in Wayzata, MN where regional wildlife and 10,000 lakes continue to inspire her music. She brings wildly creative ideas to numerous webinars, lectures and workshops across the country and around the world.

# IMTA State Conference Presenters & Performers



## Dr. Peter Mack

MTNA President Peter Mack, NCTM, is a nationally renowned performer, clinician and convention artist. Originally from Ireland, he now lives in Seattle, Washington, where he runs a successful private studio. He was professor of piano at Cornish College for 33 years.

A choral scholar at Trinity College Dublin, Peter received his master's degree from the University of Cincinnati and his doctorate from the University of Washington. His students frequently win local, national and even international competitions. Peter is the proud teacher of 20 MTNA Competition national finalists and of three MTNA national first-place winners. He has written for Keyboard Companion, the Clarion and American Music Teacher.

For MTNA, Peter served on the national board as vice president (2017-2019) and as Northwest Division director (2010-2012). He chaired the planning committee for the 2014 Chicago National Conference, coordinated Pedagogy Saturday for the 2012 New York Conference and has led the Artistry Track multiple times. The 2015 Las Vegas conference saw him honored as a surprise MTNA Foundation Fellow. For Washington State, he has served as district vice president (organizing two district conferences), education board member (two five-year terms), and adjudicator chair (organizing two adjudicator conferences). Peter is currently Washington State's Foundation chair and serves on its nominating committee. He is especially honored to administer the state's needy student MAP subsidy program. Peter has adjudicated for Washington's amazing MAP/ adjudications program for 23 years.



## Dr. Xiao Hu

Pianist Xiao Hu is currently an Associate Professor of Music at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, where she has been a member of the piano faculty since 2002. She has enjoyed an active teaching and performing career. Recent professional activities have taken her across the U.S., and to Austria,

Brazil, China, Czech Republic, Japan, Malaysia, and the Philippines. Dr. Hu has presented performance at the Konzerthaus in Vienna, Austria, as well as at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in New York City. She has presented concerts and master classes at many universities and institutions, including Chicago Institute of Music, Shanghai Conservatory of Music (middle school division), Western Texas A&M University, University of South Florida, University of Iowa, Western Illinois State University, China Central Normal University, Wuhan Conservatory of Music, University of the Philippines, etc. Dr. Hu performs regularly with her husband, pianist Du Huang, as the Unison Piano Duo. Praised by the New York Concert Review as

"Sparkling and fleeting...unusually high level of ensemble playing," the Duo's performances have been featured frequently on Iowa Public Radio, Iowa Public Television and Minnesota Public Radio. Recently, their world premier performance of composer Brooke Joyce's *He Hung His Head and Died*, was featured on National Public Radio's Performance Today. Dr. Hu has served as an adjudicator for many piano competitions locally and abroad, including Music Teachers Association district auditions in the states of Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, Thursday Musical Scholarship Competition, Harris Music Contest, Rochester Music Guild Scholarship Competition, Hong Kong Schools Music Festival (2010, 2015, 2023), and Shanghai International Piano Institute and Festival.

Born and raised in China, Xiao Hu received her early training from the elementary and the middle school affiliated with the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. She holds her Bachelor (summa cum laude) and Master of Music degrees from the University of Cincinnati under Eugene and Elizabeth Pridonoff, and her Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook under Gilbert Kalish.



## Christina Wipple

Christina Whipple, MA, MT-BC is a board-certified music therapist with additional training in Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Music Therapy and Neurologic Music Therapy. Starting as a field music therapist, Christina now works as a company-wide consultant for Music Speaks. While in the

field, Christina worked directly with individuals with high needs and concentrated on how to use elements of music to assist in neuro-sensory regulation across populations. Christina's music therapy fieldwork has included hospice/home health in IA, children with autism at Giant Steps, IL, pediatric hospice and adolescents with severe behavioral needs in CA, among many others across several states. Christina also previously served as development director for Music Speaks, pulling from current music therapy and interdisciplinary research to educate facilities and health care workers on the scope of music therapy. Christina assisted in the development of music therapy programs/contracts. As a company consultant, Christina now provides supervision and feedback to employees of Music Speaks. She also consults with the CEO and leadership team on company-wide projects ranging from research, clinical quality, and employee relations. Christina is involved in leading Music Speaks' short- and long-term efforts to utilize their team of 40+ board certified music therapists to help bridge the gap between research and clinical work.

Christina is an avid presenter locally, nationally, and internationally, and her frequent collaborations demonstrate her ability to draw connections across disciplines. While attending graduate school at the University of Iowa, Christina was a Research

# IMTA State Conference Presenters & Performers

Assistant in Dr. Kate Gfeller's lab in the Department of Otolaryngology at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. Christina's graduate thesis focused on the use of music to communicate emotions to children with cochlear implants and to those on the autism spectrum. She continuously looks for ways to grow in knowledge and share that knowledge to advance the field.



## Dr. Nicholas Roth

Nicholas Roth, Professor of Piano at Drake University, is a featured performer and teacher throughout North and South America, Europe and Asia. He is a Yamaha Artist, a Fellow of the American Pianists Association, earned prizes in chamber music competitions in Italy, and received a DAAD grant to further his

studies in Germany. Roth holds the DMA from Michigan State University, Artist Diplomas in solo piano and art song collaboration from the Hochschule für Musik in Munich, and MM and BM degrees from Indiana University. He studied with Ralph Votapek, Elisso Virsaladze, Helmut Deutsch, Edward Auer, Emilio del Rosario, and Michel Block. He has recorded for Blue Griffin, Naxos, MSR Classics & Innova.

Roth has presented masterclasses and concerts at Minzu University, Beijing Normal University and Art Education School of Huaxi in China as well as Pusan National University in South Korea. He has also taught for the Edward Auer Summer Piano Workshop at the Jacobs School of Music of Indiana University and the Classical Music Festival Piano Seminar in Eisenstadt (Austria). Roth serves on the faculty of the Ono Zone International Music Festival in Quito, Ecuador. He recently participated in a performance of the *Hexaméron* for six pianos and orchestra in Azerbaijan, was featured on *A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor*, and collaborated with Robert Spano in a performance of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*. Roth is the founder of the Drake University Keys to Excellence Piano Series, featuring renowned artists from all over the world.



## Dr. William Whipple

Dr. William Whipple was born and raised in Iowa, beginning piano studies at age four. Dr. Whipple completed the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Pedagogy and Performance with a secondary concentration in Music Education at the University of Iowa. He was the recipient of the University of Iowa Performance

Fellowship (The School of Music's Highest Award) and was a teaching assistant in the piano area. His dissertation, *The Legacy of Duo-Pianists Bill and Pat Medley*, focuses on their concert life and contains analyses of their pedagogical compositions. He is the founder of the Medley Pre-College Piano Festival, which occurs each spring for pre-college piano students from the state of Nebraska. Dr. Whipple earned the Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in Piano Performance from the Manhattan School of Music. His teachers have included Alan Huckleberry, Howard Aibel, Bill and Pat Medley, and Kenneth Amada. Dr. Whipple has presented sessions at MTNA National Conferences, College Music Society National Conference, and is published in the *American Music Teacher* magazine. He was an active member of the California Association of Professional Music Teachers serving as its treasurer and MTNA foundation chair. He was the MTNA foundation chair for the Wisconsin Music Teachers Association and recently completed his term as vice-president of the Nebraska Music Teachers Association. He currently serves on the MTNA Nominating Committee for the 2023-2025 term.

Over the years, Dr. Whipple has taught piano to individuals of all ages and levels, including students with special needs. He has presented nationally on neurodiversity within collegiate classrooms and strives to continuously teach and perform with neurodiversity mindfulness at the forefront. He has previously served on the music faculties of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and Fresno City College. Dr. Whipple is Assistant Professor of Music at Doane University in Crete, Nebraska.



## Dr. Jason Sifford

Dr. Jason Sifford is a freelance pianist, teacher, and composer. He maintains a private teaching studio in Iowa City and performs regularly with local artists. He is a composer/clinician for the Willis Music Company/Hal Leonard and has also been published by ComposeCreate.com, Editions Musica Ferrum, and the FJH Music

Company. His music has been featured in several state syllabi, the NFMC Bulletin, and most recently, the Royal Conservatory of Music's Celebration Series anthology. He is also the composer for the Footlitters Traveling Playhouse, a children's theatre project for the City of Coralville. He is a frequent contributor for Piano Inspires, including their online webinars and publications, *The Piano Magazine* and *Piano Inspires Kids!* He has also served on the planning committee for the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy.

As a performer, Jason regularly collaborates with local musicians. He has music directed for the City Circle Theatre Company, Crooked Path Theatre Company, and Riverside Theatre. He also appears on stage at the University of Iowa collaborating with students and guest artists in the brass area, and most recently, has begun serving as pianist for the jazz ensemble at the Coralville Center for the Performing arts.

# ISU Conference Schedule

June 2-4, 2024 ■ Drake University ■ Des Moines, Iowa

## Sunday, June 2

12:00 - 4:00 pm	Registration, Foundation, Membership, Certification tables & Photo Booth	Anderson Gallery Lobby
12:00 - 1:15 pm	Scholarship Auditions	Sheslow Auditorium
1:30 - 2:00 pm	<b>Keynote: Dr. Peter Mack</b>	Sheslow Auditorium
2:00 - 3:30 pm	Honors Recital	Sheslow Auditorium
3:30 - 3:45 pm	BREAK	
3:45 - 5:15 pm	IMTA Board Meeting	Harmon FAC, Rm. 204
3:45 - 5:15 pm	<b>Meet &amp; Greet with Johan, Wynn-Anne &amp; Peter</b>	Turner Jazz Ctr.
5:15 - 6:45 pm	Dinner: traditional cookout	Turner Jazz Ctr.
7:00 - 9:00 pm	<b>Concert: Celebrating Iowa Collegiate Young Artists</b>	Sheslow Auditorium
9:00 - 10:00 pm	Post-concert reception	Sheslow Auditorium

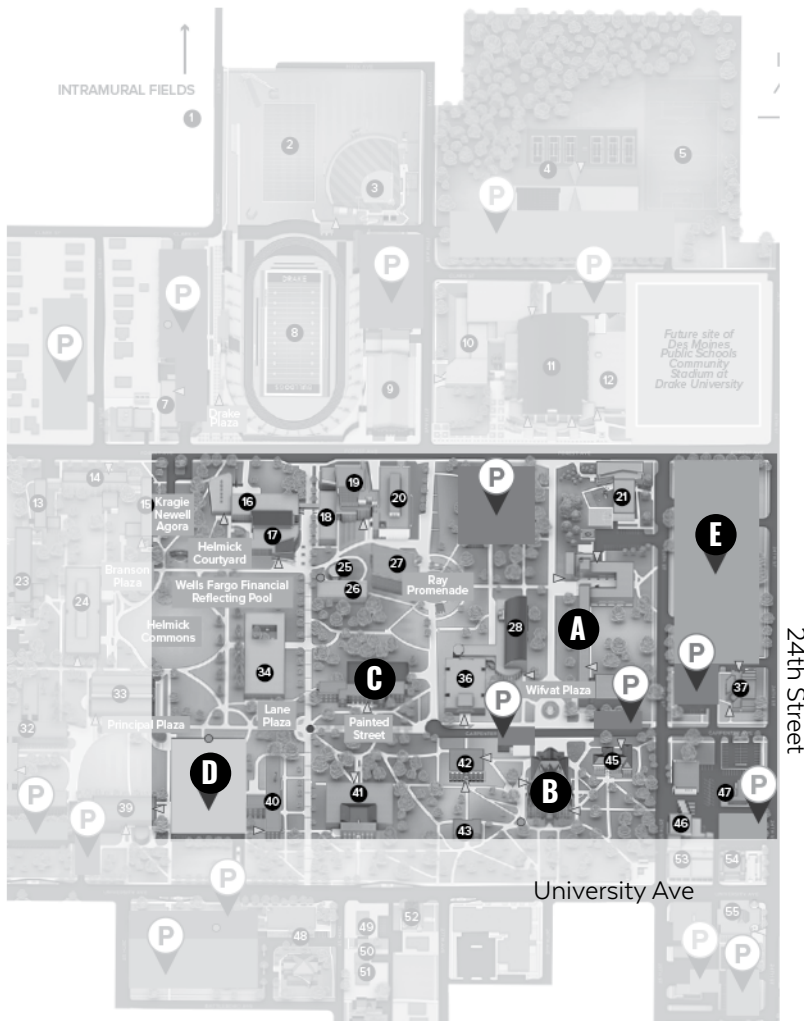
## Monday, June 3

7:00 - 8:00 am	Registration	Anderson Gallery Lobby
7:00 - 8:00 am	<b>Coffee &amp; Conversation: Best Ideas with Dr. Peter Mack</b>	Turner Jazz Ctr.
7:30 am - 5:00 pm	Exhibit Hall Open	Anderson Gallery
8:00 - 9:15 am	<b>New IMTA Repertoire: Dr. Suzanne Torkelson</b>	Turner Jazz Ctr.
9:15 - 10:15 am	<b>Seeds of Imagination: Wynn-Anne Rossi</b>	Turner Jazz Ctr.
10:15 - 10:45 am	BREAK	
10:45 am - 12:15 pm	<b>Late Intermediate/Advanced Master Class: Dr. Johan Botes</b>	Sheslow Auditorium
12:30 - 1:30 pm	Local Assn./Collegiate Luncheon	Turner Jazz Ctr.
1:30 - 2:30 pm	<b>Dancing with the World: Wynn-Anne Rossi</b>	Turner Jazz Ctr.
2:30 - 3:30 pm	<b>Neurodiversity Awareness: Multimodal Music Teaching for ALL Students: Dr. William &amp; Christina Whipple</b>	Turner Jazz Ctr.
3:30 - 4:15 pm	BREAK & Collegiate Poster Sessions	Anderson Gallery
4:15 - 5:30 pm	<b>Piano Literature for One Hand: Dr. Nicholas Roth</b>	Turner Jazz Ctr.
5:45 - 7:30 pm	Banquet	Leavitt Hall
7:30 - 8:00 pm	BREAK	
8:00 - 9:30 pm	<b>Conference Artist Recital: Dr. Johan Botes</b>	Sheslow Auditorium
9:30 - 10:30 pm	Post-Concert Reception	Sheslow Auditorium

## Tuesday, June 4

7:30 - 8:45 am	Breakfast ala carte	Turner Jazz Ctr.
7:30 am - 3 pm	Exhibit Hall Open	Anderson Gallery
9:00 - 10:00 am	<b>Too Many Notes - And Not Enough Hours in the Day: Dr. Johan Botes</b>	Turner Jazz Ctr.
10:00 - 11:00 am	<b>Logistics in Piano Duet Playing: Dr. Xiao Hu</b>	Turner Jazz Ctr.
11:00 - 11:30 am	BREAK	
11:30 - 1:00 pm	IMTA Business Meeting Lunch	Turner Jazz Ctr.
1:15 - 2:15 pm	<b>Elementary/Intermediate Duet Master Class: Wynn-Anne Rossi</b>	Turner Jazz Ctr.
2:30 - 3:15 pm	<b>Tech Tools of the Teaching Trade: Dr. Jason Sifford</b>	Turner Jazz Ctr.

# Map & Hotel Lodging



# Drake UNIVERSITY

For GPS directions on your mobile device, visit [drake.edu/map](http://drake.edu/map).

- A. Harmon Fine Arts Center.  
Patty and Fred Turner Jazz Center (TJC) is the northwest corner of Harmon Fine Arts Center.
- B. Sheslow Auditorium
- C. Jewett Hall dormitory is No. 35 (C4)
- D. Parking Lot 24 for those staying at Jewett Hall.
- E. Parking Lot 1 for IMTA Conference commuters.  
This lot is available to students and the general public Mon-Fri after 4:30 pm and all day Saturday and Sunday.



The IMTA Conference will receive special conference rates at **Home2 Suites by Hilton Des Moines at Drake University**  
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Use the link on the IMTA Conference web page to link to the special rates at [iamta.org/conferences.php](http://iamta.org/conferences.php). Availability is limited.

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# 2024 IMTA State Conference Registration Form

June 2-4, 2024 ■ Drake University ■ Des Moines, Iowa

## Conference Registration Options

Full Conference, 3 days (inclusive of all meals & concert attendances)	\$150.00	\$ _____
Full Conference, Students (3 days, no lodging)	\$0.00	\$ _____
Single Day Registration (inclusive of meals and concerts for the day registered)	\$90.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday <input type="checkbox"/> Monday <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday		
Late Registration Fee if postmarked after May 1	\$30.00	\$ _____
Conference Registration Total:		\$ _____

## Housing Option

### Dorms, Jewett Residence Hall:

Single room  Sunday  Monday \$40/night \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Double room  Sunday  Monday \$28/night \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Optional linens package: includes sheets, pillow, blanket & towels \$15/person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate Request: \_\_\_\_\_

Housing Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Meals offering a variety of options including vegetarian will be available.

## Collegiate Sponsorship (Optional)

I would like to sponsor a collegiate student \$75.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**PARKING:** Lot 24 for overnight and Lot 1/1A for commuters. All parking is free with visible parking permit (provided at registration) in designated lots only. Members who wish to attend the Honors Recital or singular sessions must submit payment for the full day. Lot 1 is available to students and the general public Mon-Fri after 4:30 pm and all day Saturday and Sunday. There is also street parking on 25th Street.

Registrations must be postmarked by May 1 to avoid the late registration fee. If you register online, checks must be postmarked to Cate Bryan by the deadline date of May 1. Registration Refunds: Fees will be refunded in full until May 1. Refunds, less \$30.00, will be given only until May 1. No registration refunds after May 1.

Make checks payable to: IMTA

Mail to:

Cate Bryan  
130 SE Trillium Dr  
Waukee, IA 50263

Refer questions to:  
imtastateconference@gmail.com

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Local Association or Collegiate Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Please check all that apply:

I am an IMTA member.

I am nationally certified.

This is my first IMTA Conference.

I am a DMMTA member or a collegiate student who will volunteer.

# laMTA.org : PROBLEM SOLVING WITH ADOBE ACROBAT

The IMTA website, first and foremost, is a communications and marketing tool. It is also an IMTA business tool. Site pages available to IMTA members contain important functionality, such as downloading forms, or printing audition schedules. As technology advances, these functions sometimes need to be modified to work with the range of browsers used by our members.

In 2022, the IMTA Board approved an annual subscription to the Adobe Acrobat Pro development tool, with the goal of setting up “fillable forms”, i.e. forms that can be filled in on line and then printed. I spent a lot of time using that tool to revamp forms that previously had to be printed and then filled in by hand. Behind-the-scenes programming code was implemented to automate calculations. Some documents were converted from Excel or Word

to PDF format. PDF stands for (P)ortable (D)ocument (F)ormat, which works better on the web.

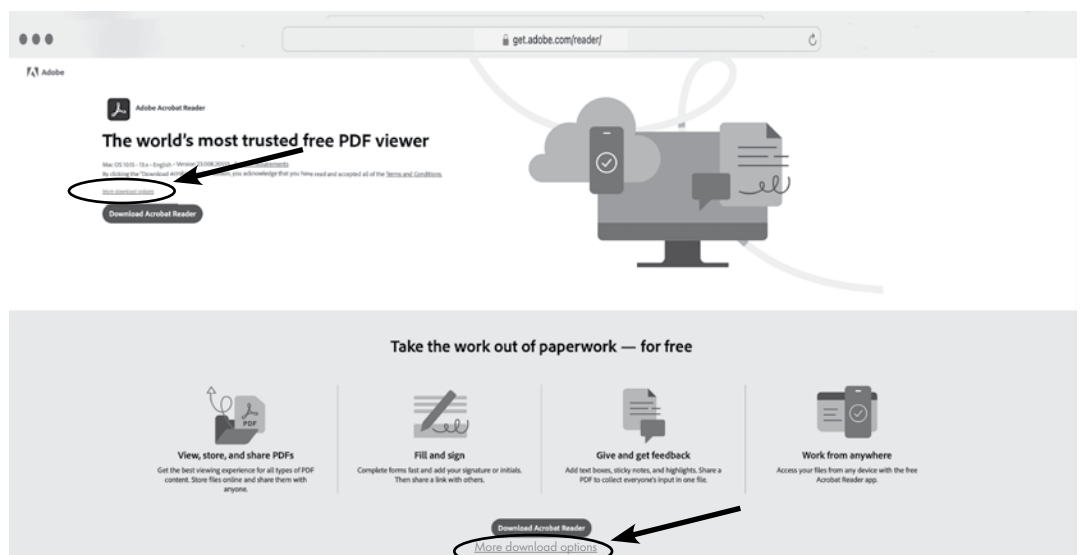
In practice, these new forms have proven to be somewhat problematic, primarily, but not solely, for those who use Apple Macintosh computers with the Safari browser. In order to use these new forms and have them display and work correctly, the computer must have an up-to-date version of Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on the machine, and have it set as the default program for reading/using PDF documents.

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IMTA Website Chair

**Angela Binns**  
imtainformation@gmail.com



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Even with Acrobat Reader installed, some browser settings may need to be changed. These days, browser PDF default programs are not always Adobe Acrobat. Forms containing automated

calculations simply will not calculate when the form is opened by a program other than Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Another common problem IMTA members may encounter on the website is not being able to download documents. In order to troubleshoot these problems, I often work remotely with the member to resolve the problem and/or document exactly what is happening. Most of the time, problems are fixed by turning off browser popup blockers and modifying some browser security settings. When those options fail, and I can duplicate the problem on my equipment, the problem goes to our web development team. They work to find and implement a solution. We are blessed with a great development team that works promptly and quickly to fix website problems.

I've enjoyed the privilege of getting better acquainted with some members while working with them remotely to fix website problems. I have a full-time schedule during the day in IT, so scheduling remote website assistance for music teachers who are busy teaching evenings and weekends when my work days end can be challenging. IMTA members are gracious, patient, and very kind. We've been able to solve a lot of problems working together!



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# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: TACKLING AI, PART 2

In my last article, we explored some of the commercial applications of AI (and specifically ChatGPT) as it might relate to piano teaching. But while generative text and graphics applications of AI have been prominent in the news, there have also been a number of exciting developments behind the scenes involving machine learning.

## What is Machine Learning?

Put simply, Machine Learning is what it sounds like – it’s a computer teaching itself how to do something. In the past, if you wanted a computer to do something, you had to write very specific instructions telling it what to do. This works well for simple tasks, but for complex things like language, it proved quite difficult. How do you tell a computer how to spell words, for example? There are some rules, but they are rarely consistent and can’t account for context. (Which is why musicians are often annoyed with spell-checkers. Of course “Allegro” is spelled correctly! Why can’t this computer understand that I’m talking about tempo?)

As technology has advanced, computers are now able to learn in much the same way humans learn. Here’s a quick example: do you know the rule for the order of adjectives? It is:

- Determiner
- Opinion
- Size
- Shape
- Condition
- Age
- Color
- Origin
- Material
- Purpose

In other words, you can say “the cute small brown furry puppy,” but if you mixed up the order and mentioned “the brown furry small cute puppy,” it would sound wrong. What’s interesting is that almost nobody learns that rule. We just naturally figure out by listening

to thousands and thousands of conversations as we grow up, and that’s exactly how machine learning works.

One of the most powerful chess computers in the world – DeepMind’s Alpha Zero – was only taught how the pieces moved and what the goal of the game was. It figured everything else out on its own by watching itself play millions and millions of games.

## What’s This Have to Do With Music?

Machine learning has already made its way into music software in two interesting ways. The first is in chord analysis. In June 2023, Sibelius included an AI-driven engine that could analyze a piece of music and determine the chord symbols. It learned how to ignore non-harmonic tones and knows when C6 might be better than Am7. And it can do the work very quickly. It still may make a few mistakes, but the technology would make creating a leadsheet from a band arrangement much faster than any human could manage with pencil and paper.

Another use for machine learning in music is in optical music recognition. In the past, it would’ve been unthinkable to have a computer “play” a pdf, but Newzik’s “Maestria” software can do exactly that. You can upload a PDF and the software will create a “LiveScore” that combines pdf, music XML, and MIDI, allowing you to view, edit, and hear the piece.

And this is just the beginning. Work is already underway to build notation software that can notate what you play. Long considered impractical or outright impossible, we might soon see a day when a computer could listen to you play the piano and notate it, making intelligent choices about which hand is playing which note, if the piece is in 3/4, 6/8, or 3/8 time, and whether or not you meant a syncopation or just played a note a little bit late by accident. An early version of this promising technology is available now from klang.io. It’s not perfect, but it’s impressive and could be a

*Continued on next page*



**IMTA State Technology Chair**  
**Dr. Jason Sifford, NCTM**  
imtatechnology@gmail.com

*Continued from previous page*

game-changer for budding composers who don't have the time or ability to transcribe their own works. I've already seen AI-produced scores used in composition competitions.

Are Newzik, klang.io and others going to put anyone out of a job anytime soon? The short answer is no. But professionals are already using them to save time and automate repetitive tasks, and the tools are poised to become as ubiquitous as grammar and spelling checkers in the future musician's toolbox.

## FESTIVAL SEASON CONCLUDES

Festival season seemed to fly by faster this year than ever before. The first Festivals began in November and concluded in January. It was an unforgettable with its record snowfall and huge snow drifts. Then suddenly it was February and the spring-like temperatures were melting away the two feet of snow.

During the holiday and winter months, twelve IMTA Festivals were held throughout the state. Forty-nine teachers and 236 students participated and learned from Master Teachers/Judges. Several Probationary Judges were

invited to be Master Teachers at these Festivals and are even closer to becoming full-fledged judges.

Before we know it, summer will be here and it will be time to plan for a new school year. As you take time to plan, consider inviting a Probationary Judge to be a Master Teacher for your next Festival. If you are not connected with a Festival and you would like to enter students, feel free to contact me or someone in your local association about participating next year. You can reach me at [imtafestivals@gmail.com](mailto:imtafestivals@gmail.com).



IMTA State Festival Chair

**Rachel McCoy**  
[imtafestivals@gmail.com](mailto:imtafestivals@gmail.com)

## IMTA 2023-2024 PROBATIONARY JUDGES LIST

Names are printed with the number of festivals completed in parenthesis beside name. Any names without a number are new probationary judges and are listed in the order their application was received.

Any paid IMTA member can apply to be a Probationary Judge. Use the "Probationary Judging Application" form from the [iamta.org](https://iamta.org/members/forms-resources.php) website. <https://iamta.org/members/forms-resources.php>

After a probationary adjudicator has judged three festivals with positive reviews, they will automatically be placed on the IMTA Judges List.

Each Festival Chair should fill out the "Official Probationary IMTA Judging Evaluation Form" for any probationary judge they hire and submit it to the state festival chair at [imtafestivals@gmail.com](mailto:imtafestivals@gmail.com).

Updated 1/28/24

**Melissa Phillips (2)**  
3389 Sage Dr  
Forest City, IA 50436  
507-360-6477  
[melissa.phillips@waldorf.edu](mailto:melissa.phillips@waldorf.edu)

**Kelsey Legore (1)**  
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Cedar Rapids, IA 52403  
515-783-4102  
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**Mavis Chen**  
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**Cate Bryan (1)**  
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**Sarah Reeves**  
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Ankeny, IA 50023  
641-203-6659  
[sarahgv46@gmail.com](mailto:sarahgv46@gmail.com)

# IMTA CHAPTERS ELIGIBLE FOR NEW CERTIFICATION FUNDING AWARD



IMTA Certification Chair

**Linda Allebach, NCTM**  
imtacertification@gmail.com

*Explore your own path to certification! Linda is there to guide you as well as connect you with others who are undertaking this professional journey. Contact her today!*

I hope that you are planning on attending the IMTA Conference on Sunday through Tuesday, June 2-4!! The Des Moines chapter has chosen to place a special emphasis on National Certification and asked that I be present near the registration table. There I will have special materials about obtaining your NCTM Certification and will answer any questions you may have. I would love to have enough interested teachers to sign up and form a monthly Zoom chat about the Certification process!

In addition, there will be a new award given to one lucky chapter. The Certification Funding Award will be given to the local association or collegiate chapter with the highest percentage of members in attendance. That chapter will receive funding for one of their members to work towards their National Certification. That teacher will be responsible for completing it within a year from the date the application is received by MTNA.

What a great opportunity for Iowa to add to their numbers of NCTM teachers! For most of us, the reward is in the process of teacher activity projects and the learning and development that is found there. You are never too old, too young, or too busy to continue growing your skills and your studio!

### ***A Special Note:***

*Have you ever stopped to realize how much richer your life is for belonging to organizations like the Iowa Music Teachers Association? I just had coffee with a dear friend and IMTA member that I made while teaching piano and, even though I'm retired, it filled me with gratitude for the gift of friendship and music! My studio and even my family has benefitted from the friendships, education, and certification I was able to achieve by being a member of the Music Teachers National Association and its affiliates.*

## 2023-2024 THEORY TEST NOTES



IMTA Theory Chair

**Donita McCoy**  
ddmccoy@msn.com

The 2023-2024 theory test “season” is over, and I heave a big sigh of relief. I do apologize for the three errors that were found. It’s amazing how easy it is to miss those. I do know how two (Level E #22, Level F #43) of them were missed, the third (Level C # 39) was really sloppy reading on my part. Unfortunately, I did not find out that there were errors until after several audition dates were past. If anyone had students who missed being on the Honor Roll because these errors were not noticed, please let me know!!

I also hope to do a better job of getting practice tests, and final tests posted in a more timely manner. Even though I knew quite a bit about how the theory worked, there was definitely a “learning curve” for me.

A huge thank you to Talita Pizarro for using her know how, professional equipment and software to make really excellent mp3 recordings of the ear test examples. They were easily “shareable” and able to be played on a computer. For those who used them, you might have recognized my small part as “the voice” reading the questions.

## *Keys to Excellence* Piano Series 2023-2024



**Garik Pedersen** – Eastern Michigan University  
Masterclass: October 1 @ 4:00pm  
Concert: October 2 @ 7:30pm



**Bruce Brubaker** – New England Conservatory  
Masterclass: November 12 @ 4:00pm  
Concert: November 13 @ 7:30pm



**Nicholas Roth** – Drake University  
*Sally B. Bartlett Memorial Concert*  
November 27 @ 7:30pm



**Lori Sims** – Western Michigan University  
Masterclass: April 7 @ 4:00pm  
Concert: April 8 @ 7:30pm

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Contact Nicholas Roth for information:  
[nicholas.roth@drake.edu](mailto:nicholas.roth@drake.edu)

# FOUNDATION FELLOW DEFERRED TO 2025

I hope you are all having a wonderful beginning to 2024. Here in the Des Moines area we are excitedly gearing up for the state conference. I hope you are all marking your calendars for the first weekend in June. You won't want to miss this year's conference.

On a sadder note, I have to announce that we did not meet the funding deadline for Dr. Alan Huckleberry to be the 2024 Iowa foundation fellow, so we will have to defer the honor until 2025. The good news is that we currently have \$828 in the fund, which is more than halfway to the \$1500 goal. I want to thank everyone who generously contributed last year and encourage every member of our organization to give this year. The MTNA Foundation funds vital grants to community programs, college chapters, new members and more every year. By funding our foundation fellow, we are keeping our organization vibrant and relevant, and we are honoring a member who has enriched the musical heritage of our entire state.



**Sarah Reeves**  
imtafoundation@gmail.com

If you would like to donate, there are several ways you can do that. First, you can send a check to our state treasurer Cate Bryan. Make checks payable to IMTA and put **Foundation Fellow** in the memo line.

Cate Bryan  
130 SE Trillium Dr.  
Waukee, IA 50263

Second, we will be taking up a collection at the state conference, so you can donate there. Last, if you prefer to pay electronically, you can donate directly on the MTNA website. Follow the link [www.mtnafoundation.org/contribute/contribute-now/](http://www.mtnafoundation.org/contribute/contribute-now/) and check the box for foundation fellow. **It is important that you indicate Alan Huckleberry in the box that says "fellow" in order for your donation to go to Iowa's fellow.** Let's make this great year and let Alan know how much we appreciate all he does to make our state a fabulous place to teach music!

## SPRING TREASURER'S REPORT



**Cate Bryan, NCTM**  
imtafinance@gmail.com

**A**gain, it is an honor to serve you as fiduciary of our state funds!

Here are the balances, as of February 22, 2024:

**Checking: \$21,156.30**  
**Scholarship/Money Market: \$6,130.90**  
**CD Balance: \$39,512.80**

I wanted to take a moment to encourage you to support our Foundation Fellow, Dr. Alan Huckleberry. We are in need of funds to allow him to be properly recognized at the MTNA National Conference in 2025, so I highly encourage you to mail in your donation to either MTNA or myself so we can complete the fundraising as quickly as possible! Make

sure to put IMTA Foundation Fellow, Alan Huckleberry, in the memo line.

If you prefer to use credit card, then you will need to call MTNA / Jenny at 513-421-1420 ext.235. I was able to get on and off the phone with her in less than 5 minutes!

Please make your check out to IMTA, and in the memo, please notate - Foundation Fellow Donation.

You can mail to me as follows:

Cate Bryan, NCTM  
IMTA State Treasurer  
130 SE Trillium Drive  
Waukee, IA 50263

Happy Spring!



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# ENCOURAGEMENT TO BE PREPARED

**A**s we yearn for spring and brighter days...I'd like to encourage new and reinstating members to look ahead to the 2024-2025 audition season – for your upper levels you will want to start their repertoire *many* months in advance to allow for adequate preparation. Yes, we still need to get through our State Auditions, spring recitals, graduations (they'll be here before we know it!) and State Conference...then it will be time to dive in! Please take advantage of our website, where you can access the syllabus, rules and regulations,

practice theory tests, proficiency requirements, etc. It can be a daunting task the first time – please reach out to your local president, or myself, for guidance as you begin your auditions journey for the first (or after a time away) of the auditions process. I wish everyone a wonderful spring recital season!

For those of you attending the IMTA State conference, please invite your teacher friends who may not yet be members. We will have membership materials available to all who are interested in IMTA/MTNA membership!



Iowa MTNA Membership Chair

**Melinda Westphalen**  
imtamembers@gmail.com

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# THE COLOURS OF MADELEINE DRING: COMPOSER SPOTLIGHT



Madeleine Dring, Composer

Usually it's our job as the music teacher to search out new and interesting pieces for our students to play. Sometimes our students can teach us a thing or two, though. I recently had a student who had an impressive collection of piano literature, and he was always bringing in lesser-known and even out-of-print pieces to read in his lessons. When he had to stop taking lessons, he left me with a lovely parting gift -- a copy of Madeleine Dring's *Colour Suite*. Naturally, I immediately sat down to sightread the set, and I discovered it was an absolute gem full of rich jazz harmonies, surprising rhythms, and a freshly original flair. I had to find out more about this composer.



*Colour Suite*, now out of print, can be found online

To put it in her own words, "Madeleine Dring was born on the moon and can therefore claim to be a pure-bred lunatic. Arriving on a speck of cosmic dust she came face to face with the human race and has never really recovered." Apparently, Ms. Dring had a well-developed sense of humor. Her original music notebooks are full of cartoon drawings and funny little captions.

Despite what she would have us believe, Madeleine Dring was born in 1923 in Harringay, England. On her tenth birthday she was accepted into the Royal College of Music Junior division where she studied violin and piano and later composition. Though she studied with Herbert Howells and even Ralph Vaughan-williams on occasion, her style was little influenced by them. Instead she drew inspiration from her favorite composer Sergei Rachmaninoff as well as Francis

Poulenc, while blending in the jazz and popular idioms of the day. This led some to later call her the "British Gershwin."

In her early life, Dring was a prolific composer, but she also loved theatre, studying mime, drama and singing. She first began to have some success as a composer /singer/actress on stage, radio and even television. Often she performed her own original works as part of shows.

In 1947, she married Roger Lord, principal oboist of the London Symphony Orchestra. Some of her most celebrated works were chamber pieces for piano and oboe, including the whimsically titled *Three Piece Suite*.

Dring continued to write music throughout her life. She mostly wrote small-scale works, though she did complete two ballets and an opera as well as numerous piano, vocal and chamber music pieces. In 1977, she died suddenly of a cerebral brain hemorrhage, cutting short a brilliant life.

There have been two biographies written about her life. The first was a project set in motion by her husband Roger Lord. Published in 2000, it is entitled *Madeleine Dring: Her Music, Her Life*, by Ro Hancock-Child. The second, published in 2020, is entitled *Madeleine Dring: Lady Composer* by Wanda Brister and Jay Rosenblatt.

Much of Dring's piano music is unfortunately out-of-print. However, copies of *Colour Suite* printed by Josef Weinberger publishing can be found online. The suite has also been recorded by Leigh Kaplan in the album *Leigh Kaplan plays Madeleine Dring*. Dring's music seems to be enjoying a resurgence or popularity, and I am excited by the prospect of hearing more of her works programmed in the future.

### ***Colour Suite:***

1. *Pink Minor*
2. *Red Glory*
3. *Yellow Hammers*
4. *Blue Air*
5. *Brown Study*



Sarah Reeves

# TERRACE HILL PIANO COMPETITION WINNERS ANNOUNCED



**Junior participants** in the Terrace Hill Piano Competition held at Iowa PBS on Saturday, February 10. Pictured from left to right, Aakansha Ganesh, Carl Gustafson, Anushka Dervesh, Hannah Cotran, Zoe Podlich, Ellen Eichstedt, Aleah White, Laurel Mizerack and Olivia McClure. Not pictured, Anna Lu, Hannah Cotran, Noah Hoffman.



**Senior participants** in the Terrace Hill Piano Competition, held on February 10 at Iowa PBS. Pictured from left to right: First Gentleman Kevin Reynolds, Duy Duong, Joslynn Ovel, Jonathan Stoker, Jessica Treinen, THEMA Board Co-Chair Cate Bryan, and Adjudicator Elise Davidson. Not pictured: Elizabeth Deng.

This year's Terrace Hill Piano Competition, supported by the Terrace Hill Endowment for Musical Arts (THEMA), was held on February 10th at Iowa PBS.

The winners are announced below. Congratulations to all of the students who participated in this year's competition.

## Junior Competition Winners

First Place: **Anna Lu**, Johnston  
*Student of Cyndie Caruth, Ankeny*

Second Place: **Hannah Cotran**, Urbandale  
*Student of Cyndie Caruth, Ankeny*

Third Place: **Laurel Mizerack**, Ames  
*Student of Dr. Janci Bronson, Iowa State University*

## Senior Competition Winners

First Place: **Jonathan Stoker**, Ames  
*Student of Dr. Mei-Hsuan Huang, Iowa State University*

Second Place: **Jessica Treinen**, Waterloo  
*Student of Dr. Ted Reuter, Waverly*

Third Place: **Elizabeth Deng**, Ankeny  
*Student of Larisa Kanevski, Middleton, Wisconsin*

If you would like to learn more about you can support the Terrace Hill Piano Competition with a gift to THEMA by visiting the website: <https://terracehill.iowa.gov/thema>.

Special thanks to supporters:  
Iowa PBS

West Music - Senior Competition first prize

Bill and Joan Scherle - Junior Competition awards

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# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

with Dr. Johan Botes

## Best of both worlds

*We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Botes to the IMTA Conference in June 2024. He will give the conference recital, present a masterclass, and give a lecture.*

I am one lucky guy. Don't get me wrong, like everyone else, I must work and practice like there is no tomorrow (and it never stops). But saying yes to (almost!) everything and taking life in stride, I have arrived at a very comfortable stage in my life, which I call the "best of both worlds": I'm a faculty member at a university, as well as a travelling performer who travels all over the world for recitals. How much more fun can life get? I'm a musician. I've always been a musician – well, if you forget that time in high school I had an interest in geology. That's right, I do love hiking and looking at rocks, the colors of the mountains or changes in the earth's crust. But then I touch piano keys, listen to music, seeing a student's face light up when the ah-ha moment arrives, or get goosebumps in a recital, and I know: this is what I was born to do!

I grew up in a rather unassuming small town in South Africa in the North-West province. Like all boys, I loved to play outside and getting my hands dirty in the sand. But one day (being five years old), back in the day when the milkman still delivered milk to the house, I took empty milk bottles and filled them with various levels of water; found a nearby branch and started tapping on the rims of each bottle to create different pitches and melodies. My parents realizing that this is not what normal five-year old's do, took me to see someone who promptly told them that he's musical and should start with music lessons as soon as possible. There was just one problem: we had no piano or any

other instrument for that matter. As luck would have it, my grandparents (on my mother's side) had an upright piano they won years ago at a state fair, and my grandmother played some in her life, but nothing serious. Every time we would go visit them (so the story goes – I don't remember much of this), my mom tells me I would run to the piano. It was like this joyous thing I could not keep my hands off. I started with music lessons on that very piano, with my first theory exam being done orally, because at this point, I had not learned how to write yet.

Music has always been a constant in my life – right through my school years, music was always there



in the afternoons and weekends. When I was 13 years old, a local church found out about this 'piano player' in town, and before I knew it, I was learning myself the organ, and playing for church services. My three other brothers (I know, my poor mother!) were all extremely jealous: for pocket money, all of them had to deliver newspapers early in the mornings, work as waiters, or cut grass in the neighborhood; whilst I just woke up Sunday mornings, went to church, AND got paid for going to church and doing what I love doing. Best of both worlds?

After my high school graduation, I moved to Pretoria (about 3 hours away from home) to do an undergraduate (and later masters) degree at the University of Pretoria. Looking back, this was probably one of the best decisions I've ever made. The year one turns 19, should be a year of tremendous self-growth: you get to have your own place, make your own food, make your own choices (and live with the consequences!), for me it was just such a time of immense freedom. This is when I really started to live and become independent! I loved being a student, every day I would learn something new, had copious amounts of time to practice and said yes to many opportunities. One particular opportunity I won't forget anytime soon, was when a local orchestra asked me to perform Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto with them. The original scheduled pianist could not get to South Africa in time, and they had to get a replacement, and fast. Because, you see, the concert was three weeks away! Me having never played the piece, said yes, locked myself in a practice room and started learning notes, drilling passages, and memorizing it. All in three weeks. The things you do when you're 24 years old – I don't know if I have the perseverance or the gall to even attempt something like this ever again. But then again, opportunities arise, and one must take advantage of them! I kept hammering away at my piano studies and in 2007, I was fortunate enough to win the Third UNISA/Vodacom National Piano Competition (a national piano competition that happens every four years, the biggest of its kind in the country). That propelled me (and gave me the financial push) to leave the country and expand my ever-expanding horizon as a musician. I got into another master's program at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London and moved there in 2008. London, to me, seemed like the Music Capital of the world. The number of orchestras performing every night just in London alone, were staggering (and students could always get cheap seat for five pounds)! Similarly with pianists, it would get to the point of missing a world class pianist, and your thought process would be: "Oh don't worry, they'll be back in a month or two". The sheer madness of it all!



2009 was the year that I moved to the United States of America to pursue a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at The University of Texas at Austin. Around this time, I really started to think about my life and just exactly what I wanted to do. Getting all the way to a doctorate, it was kind of cemented that I'll most likely end up with a teaching career, whether it was privately, or at a university. But I also loved to perform (and was doing so quite regularly). For me, it was all about making connections. Connections with



my studio, and instrument colleagues and above all, the audience wherever I performed. Talking with the audience, taking questions from the audience, spending time after a recital to meet folks. You never know where connections lead to, and that's really the fun part of being a musician these days! Social media has also made this much easier and has really shrunk the world under our fingertips.



*After a performance of Tchaikovsky's First Piano Concerto with the Auburn Symphony, Auburn WA*

I graduated with my DMA in 2012, and after a brief stint of working at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville in 2013, I took another job at Marshall University in Huntington WV in August 2014, where I still am teaching. I love teaching, it makes me humble in the sense that I'm one out of many out there trying to change someone's life for the better. And boy, we could sure use a lot of that these days, don't we? I also cannot stress enough the importance of travel to my students. I'm lucky, because my concerts allow me to travel a ton – different countries, tasting different food, learning different cultural norms, even learning the most basic words in a different language. Just to show your fellow human being that you've at least tried to make a connection. You (and the world) will be so much richer because of that, believe me!



So, why the "best of both worlds"? Well, my teaching has improved because of my performances, and my performances have improved because of my teaching. I don't think I would have been as happy if I was just teaching or just playing. To me, it's almost one and the same thing. And these days, increasingly more musicians are both as well, instead of just one, be that for financial reasons, or simply because they like doing both. The world of music is alive and well (despite what we keep hearing in the media), there are so many fabulous musicians out there, classical, pop, rock, jazz – it's time we give everyone their own space to create and be, and we'll have a prosperous cultural future for all.



# From the Past

## Teaching our Students to Fly

By Joshua Russell

*As music teachers, we are given the opportunity to guide the learning process for each of our students and equip them for success. It is infinitely rewarding to help students develop lifelong careers, teach them skills that enrich their lives, and nurture a love of music that will provide a lifetime of enjoyment and satisfaction.*

Joshua Russell



Along with this privilege, a great responsibility is bestowed upon music teachers, and it is important to reflect upon our ideas and methods of teaching. By constantly broadening our knowledge of teaching theories and techniques, it becomes easier to employ a flexible and creative approach to make the teaching procedure more effective.

One great way to increase awareness of teaching techniques is to examine the philosophies of teachers from other disciplines outside of music. For instance, aviation instructors are taught many excellent principles of education before being certified by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to teach people to fly. Although the subject material is dramatically different from music, many of the underlying teaching theories can be effectively applied to teaching music. By considering four fundamental principles utilized by flight instructors, and applying them to piano pedagogy, it is possible to gain a unique perspective on the teacher's role in helping students convert "symbols on a page" into a musical performance that "communicates with whoever is listening."

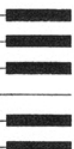
### I. Leading Students to the Highest Level of Learning

Teachers must always help students develop an understanding of concepts with the intention that they will one day be independent from the teacher, and perhaps, teach students of their own. This idea is based on the views of cognitive theorists and a holistic approach to learning. According to these theories, the student constantly builds on past experiences by applying concepts they already understand to new situations as they are presented. To clarify this opinion, it helps to divide the levels of learning into four basic categories which include rote learning, understanding, application, and correlation.

The first level, rote learning, is "the ability to repeat something back which was learned, but not understood." An example of rote learning would be to tell a piano student to execute a crescendo at a particular point in a piece without giving any reason for getting louder. In this case, the student performs the designated action without any understanding of the reasons behind it.

The second level of learning is understanding. To understand is "to comprehend or grasp the nature or meaning of something." In this case the student might learn that they were supposed to crescendo because of an ascending line in the music. The student has taken the next step in learning and is beginning to grasp the reasons for performing a specific action.

At the third level of learning, application, the student has learned the basic skills of executing crescendos and decrescendos and can apply them throughout a composition. However, it is when the teacher pushes the student to the last step, correlation, that they have adequately learned a new skill. It is at this point that they are not only able to apply what they have learned, but can relate it to additional skills as they are learned. Using the example of the crescendo, the student will not only understand how and why to perform the crescendo, but will be able to carry it out within the context of other dynamics and phrasing. As they are taught to integrate elements of music history, they will realize that dynamic changes in Bach, Beethoven, and Liszt are all different, and they will integrate the crescendo in the appropriate style of the composition.





IMTA Archivist/Historian  
Timothy LaFleur

## II. Role of the Teacher as a Practical Psychologist

After establishing that the teacher is responsible for guiding the student to the highest level of learning, it is important to examine other roles the teacher must play. One role of the teacher, which is frequently overlooked, is that of a “practical psychologist.”

There are times when students will experience anxiety, stress, fatigue, sickness, and frustration, and although most music teachers are not trained or qualified to be clinical psychologists, it is important to recognize the signs of each and help students overcome these obstacles. Teachers must also continually assess each student’s motivations for learning to play, and foster enthusiasm by challenging them, giving them performance opportunities, and encouraging them as they develop their abilities.

## III. Use of the Best Equipment and Materials

If flight instructors do not properly maintain their aircraft, or if they use poor quality, out-of-date maps, the results can be catastrophic. Likewise, if a piano teacher uses inferior teaching materials, such as poor repertoire, their students’ progress will be tragic. Indeed, teachers must use nothing but the best repertoire in existence, and they should constantly become familiar with new material. “The more material he [the teacher] is acquainted with, the more he can avoid giving tasteless and mediocre pieces.” By expanding their knowledge of the pedagogical repertoire, teachers can also provide a great variety of repertoire to their students to fit each student’s personal needs and desires. If every student in a studio plays the same pieces, boredom will undoubtedly settle upon the studio. “A limited field of material stirs very few imaginations.”

## IV. Learning is an Active Process, Not an End

Finally, if teachers expect their students to continually grow and improve, it is imperative that they lead by example. Excellent teachers must be committed to continuing education and should always try to expand their own knowledge and understanding of the material they are teaching. Piano teachers must continue to study and research ideas and topics that are prevalent in the world of piano pedagogy. They must seek to improve their playing and constantly expand their repertoire and knowledge to prepare for the questions from their students. “No one knows, no one can even guess how much knowledge a child will want, and if it is presented to him in the right way, will digest.” Even though continuing education requires more work for the teacher, educators must remember that learning is a never-ending, active process. If teachers expect to instill this value in their students, they cannot afford to reject this principle themselves.

Whether a student is a budding concert pianist, or an adult beginner who is fulfilling their lifelong dream of learning to play, it is the teacher’s duty to guide the student’s learning process. Teachers must be diligent in evaluating their thoughts about the learning process, and by seeking out principles from seemingly unlikely sources, such as flight instructors, music teachers can use them to reinforce their current methods of teaching, and to grow as teachers. And as each teacher grows, so will their capacity to help students achieve their goals.

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*Joshua Russell is currently a doctoral student in Piano Performance and Pedagogy at the University of Iowa, where he is the president of the University of Iowa MTNA Student Chapter. He maintains a large piano studio and is also an active FAA Certified Flight Instructor.*

## Council Bluffs

# IMTA DISTRICT PRE-COLLEGE PIANO AUDITIONS RESULTS

January 27, 2024 at Salem United Methodist Church

Chair: Berneil Hanson Co-Chair: Julie Bond

Adjudicators: Maria Jacobsen, NCTM, Lisa Batten

### LEVEL A Results:

Winner: Violet **Wilson** (*Julie Bond*)

1st Alternate: **Connor Cronin** (*Dianne Lawson*)

### LEVEL B Results:

Winner: Skyler **Rauss** (*Julie Bond*)

1st Alternate: **Vivienne Benson** (*Julie Bond*)

Honorable Mention: **Landon Heino** (*Sandra Peterson*)

Honorable Mention: **Keegan Meyer** (*Dianne Lawson*)

Honorable Mention: **Grant Watson** (*Julie Bond*)

### LEVEL C Results:

Winner: Henry **Conroy** (*Nancy Schoen*)

1st Alternate: **Charlotte Cronin** (*Dianne Lawson*)

### LEVEL D Results:

Honorable Mention: **Connor Lang** (*Julie Bond*)

### LEVEL E Results:

Winner: Braydon **Fujan** (*Nancy Schoen*)

### LEVEL F Results:

Winner: Bennett **Lambelet** (*Bryan Stanley*)

1st Alternate: **Eric Scheutz** (*Bryan Stanley*)

## THEORY HONOR ROLL RESULTS

### LEVEL A:

98% **Connor Cronin** (*Dianne Lawson*)

90% **Violet Wilson** (*Julie Bond*)

### LEVEL B:

92% **Landon Heino** (*Sandra Peterson*)

90% **Dominic Jimenez-Maldonado** (*Julie Bond*)

90% **Logan Taulborg** (*Julie Bond*)

### LEVEL C:

100% **Charlotte Cronin** (*Dianne Lawson*)

### LEVEL D:

94% **Lauren Walmrath** (*Debra Heald*)

### LEVEL E:

94% **Braydon Fujan** (*Nancy Schoen*)

### LEVEL F:

94% **Eric Scheutz** (*Bryan Stanley*)

90% **Bennett Lambelet** (*Bryan Stanley*)



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# Des Moines/Ankeny IMTA DISTRICT PRE-COLLEGE PIANO AUDITIONS **RESULTS**

**February 3, 2024 at Grand View University**  
**Chair: Cyndie Caruth, Sarah Reeves**  
**Adjudicators: Dr. Du Huang, Dr. Xiao Hu**

## LEVEL A Results:

Winner: **Addie Robinson** (*Cyndie Caruth*)  
 Alternate: **Clare Wei** (*Cyndie Caruth*)  
 Honorable Mention: **Theo Cotran** (*Cyndie Caruth*)  
 Honorable Mention: **Maggie Hathaway** (*Cyndie Caruth*)  
 Honorable Mention: **Riley Klinefelter** (*Cyndie Caruth*)  
 Honorable Mention: **Eli Lin** (*Sue Hudson*)  
 Honorable Mention: **Skyla Wang** (*Cyndie Caruth*)

## LEVEL B Results:

Winner: **Vicky Lin** (*Cyndie Caruth*)  
 Alternate: **Elise Cotran** (*Cyndie Caruth*)  
 Honorable Mention: **Rebecca Ren** (*Sue Hudson*)  
 Honorable Mention: **Aria Smart** (*Cyndie Caruth*)  
 Honorable Mention: **Andy Zhen** (*Cyndie Caruth*)

## LEVEL C Results:

Winner: **Cecelia Cotran** (*Cyndie Caruth*)  
 Alternate: **Bryce Alldredge** (*Sarah Reeves*)  
 Honorable Mention: **Arnav Dervesh** (*Cyndie Caruth*)  
 Honorable Mention: **Joanna Foo** (*Nicholas Roth*)  
 Honorable Mention: **Josephine Wang** (*Sue Hudson*)

## LEVEL D Results:

Winner: **Vincent Cotran** (*Cyndie Caruth*)  
 Alternate: **Olivia McClure** (*Cyndie Caruth*)  
 Honorable Mention: **Lisa Lu** (*Cyndie Caruth*)

## LEVEL E Results:

Winner: **Duy Xuan Ha Duong** (*Cyndie Caruth*)  
 Winner: **Eli McGinnis** (*Cyndie Caruth*)  
 Winner: **Isabelle Ryan** (*Cyndie Caruth*)  
 1st Alternate: **Becca Zhang** (*Cyndie Caruth*)  
 2nd Alternate: **James Foo** (*Nicholas Roth*)  
 3rd Alternate: **Aakansha Ganesh** (*Cyndie Caruth*)

## LEVEL F Results:

Winner: **Duy Xuan Duc Duong** (*Cyndie Caruth*)  
 Winner: **Gwenyth Franczyk** (*Cyndie Caruth*)  
 1st Alternate: **Ellen Eichstedt** (*Cyndie Caruth*)  
 2nd Alternate: **Hannah Cotran** (*Cyndie Caruth*)  
 Honorable Mention: **Tony Song** (*Nicholas Roth*)  
 Honorable Mention: **Izaiah Wilder** (*Nicholas Roth*)

# THEORY HONOR ROLL **RESULTS**

## LEVEL A:

96% **Eli Lin** (*Sue Hudson*)  
 90% **Theo Cotran** (*Cyndie Caruth*)

## LEVEL B:

100% **Benjamin Bjorklund** (*Bonnie Corron*)  
 100% **Vicky Lin** (*Cyndie Caruth*)  
 96% **Charlotte McClure** (*Cyndie Caruth*)  
 92% **Aria Smart** (*Cyndie Caruth*)  
 90% **Rebecca Ren** (*Sue Hudson*)  
 90% **Andy Zhen** (*Cyndie Caruth*)

## LEVEL C:

100% **Cecelia Cotran** (*Cyndie Caruth*)  
 100% **Joanna Foo** (*Nicholas Roth*)  
 98% **Aiden Feldmann** (*Cyndie Caruth*)  
 96% **Arnav Dervesh** (*Cyndie Caruth*)

94% **Michael McGarry** (*Bonnie Corron*)

94% **Josephine Wang** (*Sue Hudson*)

92% **Evan Cheng** (*Sue Hudson*)

92% **Savannah Song** (*Nicholas Roth*)

## LEVEL D:

98% **Vincent Cotran** (*Cyndie Caruth*)

98% **Olivia McClure** (*Cyndie Caruth*)

96% **Tristan Rulli** (*Nicholas Roth*)

## LEVEL E:

100% **James Foo** (*Nicholas Roth*)

100% **Noah Hoffman** (*Cyndie Caruth*)

98% **Duy Xuan Ha Duong** (*Cyndie Caruth*)

94% **Eli McGinnis** (*Cyndie Caruth*)

94% **Becca Zhang** (*Cyndie Caruth*)

92% **Isabelle Ryan** (*Cyndie Caruth*)

## LEVEL F:

96% **Duy Xuan Duc Duong** (*Cyndie Caruth*)

90% **Ellen Eichstedt** (*Cyndie Caruth*)

## Des Moines Suburbs

# IMTA DISTRICT PRE-COLLEGE PIANO AUDITIONS **RESULTS**

January 20, 2024 at Grandview University

Chair: Galina Jarrell , Timothy LaFleur

Adjudicators: Dr. Jason Sifford and Paula Forrest

### LEVEL A Results:

Winner: **Lily De Haan** (*Susan Kuyper*)

Alternate: **Sadie Wang** (*Susan Kuyper*)

Honorable Mention: **Yaasiel Aholou** (*Marcia Hintz*)

### LEVEL B Results:

Winner: **Aiden Deters** (*Joy Rubenking*)

Winner: **Brandt Wang** (*Susan Kuyper*)

1st Alternate: **Lydia Brock** (*Susan Kuyper*)

2nd Alternate: **Vrishti Innanji** (*Cheryl Corbett*)

Honorable Mention: **Ruby Cyr** (*Catherine Bryan*)

Honorable Mention: **Aubrey Johnson** (*Catherine Bryan*)

Honorable Mention: **Emma Whiting** (*Catherine Bryan*)

### LEVEL C Results:

Winner: **Krish Bolar** (*Cheryl Corbett*)

Winner: **Faith Eugenia Villar-Cordova Scott** (*Rosa Scott*)

1st Alternate: **Grace De Haan** (*Susan Kuyper*)

2nd Alternate: **Nolan Crockett** (*Catherine Bryan*)

Honorable Mention: **Gurnani Atharv** (*Susan Kuyper*)

Honorable Mention: **Paxton DeJong** (*Angela Binns*)

### LEVEL D Results:

Winner: **Alyssa Zheng** (*Irina Kaplan*)

Winner: **Ashley Zhu** (*Patricia Schroeder*)

1st Alternate: **Owen Heaston** (*Catherine Bryan*)

2nd Alternate: **Alexandra Kosokina** (*Galina Jarrell*)

Honorable Mention: **Marianne Rose Villar-Cordova Scott** (*Rosa Scott*)

### LEVEL E Results:

Winner: **William Glasnapp** (*Marion Scott*)

Winner: **Audrey Elizabeth Janssen** (*Rosa Scott*)

1st Alternate: **Isabelle Turner** (*Irina Kaplan*)

2nd Alternate: **Elizabeth Claire Nichols** (*Rosa Scott*)

Honorable Mention: **Bella De Haan** (*Susan Kuyper*)

### LEVEL F Results:

Winner: **Zoe Podlich** (*Patricia Schroeder*)

Alternate: **Vrishank Vennapusa** (*Galina Jarrell*)

## THEORY HONOR ROLL **RESULTS**

### LEVEL A:

100% Sadie Wang (*Susan Kuyper*)

96% Carson Paskach (*Susan Kuyper*)

94% Yaasiel Aholou (*Marcia Hintz*)

94% Fiona Henson (*Catherine Bryan*)

### LEVEL B:

96% **Maddie Duy Huynh** (*Irina Kaplan*)

96% **Brandt Wang** (*Susan Kuyper*)

92% **Lydia Brock** (*Susan Kuyper*)

92% **Vrishti Innanji** (*Cheryl Corbett*)

90% **Aiden Deters** (*Joy Rubenking*)

90% **Lauren Oppenhuizen** (*Susan Kuyper*)

### LEVEL C:

98% **Gurnani Atharv** (*Susan Kuyper*)

98% **Ada Burns** (*Catherine Bryan*)

94% **Paxton DeJong** (*Angela Binns*)

92% **Krish Bolar** (*Cheryl Corbett*)

92% **Ketziah Wittenberg** (*Susan Kuyper*)

90% **Ashley Zheng** (*Marcia Hintz*)

### LEVEL D:

98% **Laura Streck** (*Galina Jarrell*)

98% **Ashley Zhu** (*Patricia Schroeder*)

96% **Alyssa Zheng** (*Irina Kaplan*)

94% **Owen Heaston** (*Catherine Bryan*)

94% **Alexandra Kosokina** (*Galina Jarrell*)

### LEVEL E:

94% **Gavin Leuck** (*Cheryl Corbett*)

94% **Isabelle Turner** (*Irina Kaplan*)

92% **William Glasnapp** (*Marion Scott*)

92% **Isaiah Hartog** (*Timothy LaFleur*)

90% **Eden Coy** (*Timothy LaFleur*)

90% **Audrey Elizabeth Janssen** (*Rosa Scott*)

90% **Elizabeth Claire Nichols** (*Rosa Scott*)

### LEVEL F:

92% **Zoe Podlich** (*Patricia Schroeder*)

90% **Chloe Roe** (*Cheryl Corbett*)

## Cedar Rapids

# IMTA DISTRICT PRE-COLLEGE PIANO AUDITIONS RESULTS

February 3, 2024 at Coe College

Chair: Sarah Drollette, Amy Linville

Adjudicators: Dr. Rene Lecuona, Mary Beth Shaffer, Tim LaFleur

### LEVEL A Results:

Winner: **Cora Clark** (*Amy Linville*)  
 1st Alternate: **Libby Gregory** (*Leah Anderson*)  
 Honorable Mention: **Samantha Drollette** (*Sarah Drollette*)  
 Honorable Mention: **Elwyn Hartley** (*Leah Anderson*)  
 Honorable Mention: **Rory Staab** (*Rebecca Nickles Mick*)

### LEVEL B Results:

Winner: **Alaina Parker** (*Allison Chenoweth*)  
 Winner: **Fletcher Sams** (*Amy Linville*)  
 1st Alternate: **Rishi Movva** (*Allison Chenoweth*)  
 2nd Alternate: **Emerick Wilcox** (*Leah Anderson*)  
 Honorable Mention: **Matthew Bostwick** (*Amy Linville*)  
 Honorable Mention: **Sofia Cunningham** (*Allison Chenoweth*)  
 Honorable Mention: **Evan Mitchell** (*Allison Chenoweth*)

### LEVEL C Results:

Winner: **Sapphire Gibbins** (*Amy Linville*)  
 1st Alternate: **Elias Marshall** (*Allison Chenoweth*)  
 Honorable Mention: **Annabelle Bohn** (*Allison Chenoweth*)  
 Honorable Mention: **Courtlyn Morrissey** (*Amy Linville*)  
 Honorable Mention: **Sally Owens** (*Sarah Drollette*)

### LEVEL D Results:

Winner: **Myles Adolphs** (*Leah Anderson*)  
 Winner: **Cora Von Muenster** (*Amy Linville*)  
 1st Alternate: **Kira Holmberg** (*Otto Getz*)  
 2nd Alternate: **Daniel Drollette** (*Sarah Drollette*)  
 Honorable Mention: **Aaron Bunjer** (*Amy Linville*)

### LEVEL E Results:

Winner: **Grace Luo** (*Melinda Westphalen*)  
 Winner: **Wren Rediger** (*Amy Linville*)  
 Alternate: **Remi Wilcox** (*Rebecca Nickles Mick*)

### LEVEL F Results:

Winner: **Jacob Newton** (*Melinda Westphalen*)  
 Alternate: **Jayce Hingtgen** (*Melinda Westphalen*)  
 Honorable Mention: **Arlene Snodgrass** (*Leah Anderson*)

## THEORY HONOR ROLL RESULTS

### LEVEL A:

96% **Cora Clark** (*Amy Linville*)  
 96% **Samantha Drollette** (*Sarah Drollette*)  
 94% **Rory Staab** (*Rebecca Nickles Mick*)  
 90% **Dhanvin Ashly** (*Rebecca Nickles Mick*)

### LEVEL B:

98% **Fletcher Sams** (*Amy Linville*)  
 92% **Alaina Parker** (*Allison Chenoweth*)  
 90% **Sofia Cunningham** (*Allison Chenoweth*)

### LEVEL C:

100% **Elias Marshall** (*Allison Chenoweth*)  
 98% **Sally Owens** (*Sarah Drollette*)  
 96% **Sapphire Gibbins** (*Amy Linville*)  
 94% **Rebecca Drollette** (*Sarah Drollette*)  
 94% **Avery Messenger** (*Allison Chenoweth*)  
 94% **Courtlyn Morrissey** (*Amy Linville*)  
 90% **Hayley Morris** (*Allison Chenoweth*)

### LEVEL D:

96% **Daniel Drollette** (*Sarah Drollette*)  
 94% **Kira Holmberg** (*Otto Getz*)

92% **Myles Adolphs** (*Leah Anderson*)  
 92% **Calissa Fruin** (*Sarah Drollette*)  
 92% **Simeon Junk** (*Otto Getz*)

### LEVEL E:

96% **Lilly Otter** (*Allison Chenoweth*)  
 94% **Grace Luo** (*Melinda Westphalen*)  
 94% **Remi Wilcox** (*Rebecca Nickles Mick*)  
 90% **Wren Rediger** (*Amy Linville*)

### LEVEL F Results:

96% **Jayce Hingtgen** (*Melinda Westphalen*)  
 96% **Jacob Newton** (*Melinda Westphalen*)

## Ames

# IMTA DISTRICT PRE-COLLEGE PIANO AUDITIONS RESULTS

February 10, 2024 at Iowa State University, Simon Estes Music Hall, Ames

Chair: Nai-Ying Liao

Adjudicators: Nicholas Roth, Sharon Jensen, Tim La Fleur, Diane Smith

### LEVEL A Results:

Winner: **Linda Dong** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

Alternate: **Lucas McCarley** (*Janci Bronson*)

Honorable Mention: **Laura Willson** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

Honorable Mention: **Hanshu Zhang** (*Paula Forrest*)

### LEVEL B Results:

Winner: **Eli Tang** (*Janci Bronson*)

Alternate: **Ian Wang** (*Ann Wong*)

Honorable Mention: **Jailine Luo** (*Cindy Lin*)

Honorable Mention: **Atesh McKilligan** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

Honorable Mention: **Wilbert Zhang** (*Cindy Lin*)

### LEVEL C Results:

Winner: **Jennifer Ji** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

Winner: **Jumuyao Wu** (*Cindy Lin*)

1st Alternate: **Sam Yao** (*Ann Wong*)

2nd Alternate: **Iris Wang** (*Paula Forrest*)

Honorable Mention: **Rhea Rudrapatna** (*Paula Forrest*)

### LEVEL D Results:

Winner: **Chloe Lu** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

Winner: **Drake Wang** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

1st Alternate: **Emma Ke** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

2nd Alternate: **Anneka Singh** (*Paula Forrest*)

Honorable Mention: **Isaac Wang** (*Paula Forrest*)

### LEVEL E Results:

Winner: **Lucas Du** (*Larisa Kanevski*)

Winner: **Claire Lu** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

Winner: **Lynda Sun** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

1st Alternate: **Laurel Mizerak** (*Janci Bronson*)

2nd Alternate: **Raylene Chen** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

3rd Alternate: **Veronica Smith** (*Mei-Hsuan Huang*)

Honorable Mention: **Tiffany Fang** (*Paula Forrest*)

Honorable Mention: **Sophia Kyveryga** (*Larisa Kanevski*)

Honorable Mention: **Grace Wu** (*Paula Forrest*)

### LEVEL F Results:

Winner: **Jonathan Stoker** (*Mei-Hsuan Huang*)

Winner: **Emma Zheng** (*Larisa Kanevski*)

1st Alternate: **Lizzie Deng** (*Larisa Kanevski*)

2nd Alternate: **Mengze Li** (*Paula Forrest*)

Honorable Mention: **Minerva Cao** (*Larisa Kanevski*)

Honorable Mention: **Laura Chen** (*Larisa Kanevski*)

Honorable Mention: **Devon Tsia-Olson** (*Larisa Kanevski*)

Honorable Mention: **Adam Zhu** (*Larisa Kanevski*)

# THEORY HONOR ROLL RESULTS

### LEVEL A:

100% **Avery Ke** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

100% **Michael Nie** (*Janci Bronson*)

100% **Laura Willson** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

98% **Edna Willson** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

98% **Hanshu Zhang** (*Paula Forrest*)

94% **Azra McKilligan** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

### LEVEL B:

92% **Prisha Goshe** (*Donita McCoy*)

### LEVEL C:

100% **Masha Kovnir** (*Paula Forrest*)

98% **Cece Fulton** (*Paula Forrest*)

96% **Iris Wang** (*Paula Forrest*)

96% **Jumuyao Wu** (*Cindy Lin*)

94% **Jennifer Ji** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

94% **Rhea Rudrapatna** (*Paula Forrest*)

92% **James Huang** (*Paula Forrest*)

90% **Sam Yao** (*Ann Wong*)

### LEVEL D:

98% **Anneka Singh** (*Paula Forrest*)

96% **Drake Wang** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

94% **Clara Fulton** (*Paula Forrest*)

94% **Chloe Lu** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

94% **Isaac Wang** (*Paula Forrest*)

92% **Chloe Lee** (*Paula Forrest*)

### LEVEL E:

98% **Sophia Kyveryga** (*Larisa Kanevski*)

98% **Laurel Mizerak** (*Janci Bronson*)

98% **Lynda Sun** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

96% **Gretchen Mizerak** (*Janci Bronson*)

92% **Raylene Chen** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

92% **Tiffany Fang** (*Paula Forrest*)

92% **Claire Lu** (*Nai-Ying Liao*)

92% **Anna Mussig** (*John Devlin*)

90% **Lucas Du** (*Larisa Kanevski*)

90% **Grace Wu** (*Paula Forrest*)

### LEVEL F:

100% **Raychie Chen** (*Mei-Hsuan Huang*)

100% **Lizzie Deng** (*Larisa Kanevski*)

100% **Devon Tsia-Olson** (*Larisa Kanevski*)

100% **Adam Zhu** (*Larisa Kanevski*)

98% **Jonathan Stoker** (*Mei-Hsuan Huang*)

96% **Laura Chen** (*Larisa Kanevski*)

94% **Minerva Cao** (*Larisa Kanevski*)

92% **Mengze Li** (*Paula Forrest*)

## Fort Dodge/Humboldt

# IMTA DISTRICT PRE-COLLEGE PIANO AUDITIONS RESULTS

January 27, 2024 at St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Fort Dodge

Chair: Deb Ausborn

Adjudicator: Dr. Melinda Westphalen

### LEVEL A Results:

Winner: **Charlie Deal** (*Linda Benson*)

Alternate: **Harin Oh** (*Mavis Chen*)

Honorable Mention: **Noah Peterson** (*Linda Benson*)

### LEVEL B Results:

Winner: **Carsten Hrnicek** (*Mavis Chen*)

Alternate: **Rene Schroeder** (*Linda Benson*)

Honorable Mention: **Wesley Anderson** (*Shari Lehman*)

### LEVEL C Results:

Winner: **Reba Moffitt** (*Mavis Chen*)

Alternate: **Adeline Schleisman** (*Deborah Ausborn*)

### LEVEL D Results:

Winner: **Max Manternach** (*Deborah Ausborn*)

Alternate: **Joel Schroeder** (*Linda Benson*)

## THEORY HONOR ROLL RESULTS

### LEVEL A:

100% **Noah Peterson** (*Linda Benson*)

98% **Harin Oh** (*Mavis Chen*)

94% **Rowan Boll** (*Karen Hopkins*)

94% **Charlie Deal** (*Linda Benson*)

92% **Caed Moffitt** (*Mavis Chen*)

### LEVEL B:

100% **Wesley Anderson** (*Shari Lehman*)

94% **Rene Schroeder** (*Linda Benson*)

90% **Clara Brown** (*Mavis Chen*)

90% **Aidan Deal** (*Linda Benson*)

### LEVEL C:

100% **Reba Moffitt** (*Mavis Chen*)

94% **Sydney Brown** (*Linda Benson*)

92% **Marissa Schrad** (*Deborah Ausborn*)

### LEVEL D:

100% **Aidan Russell** (*Mavis Chen*)

98% **Joel Schroeder** (*Linda Benson*)

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## Lamoni/Osceola

# IMTA DISTRICT PRE-COLLEGE PIANO AUDITIONS **RESULTS**

February 10, 2024 at Graceland University, Lamoni

Chair: Sarah Hostetler

Adjudicator: Rebecca Nickles Mick

### LEVEL B Results:

Winner: **Jocelyn Wells** (*Lois Selby*)

Alternate: **Lexi Borner** (*Teri Robinson*)

### LEVEL C Results:

Winner: **Ty Borner** (*Teri Robinson*)

### LEVEL D Results:

Winner: **Michael Neely** (*Sarah Hostetler*)

## THEORY HONOR ROLL **RESULTS**

### LEVEL D:

90% **Michael Neely** (*Sarah Hostetler*)

## SLAMTA (STORM LAKE)

# IMTA DISTRICT PRE-COLLEGE PIANO AUDITIONS **RESULTS**

February 10, 2024 at St. John Lutheran, Storm Lake

Chair: Jeanette Hinkeldey

Adjudicator: Deb Ausborn

### LEVEL A Results:

Winner: **MaKenna Mills** (*Suzanne Winterhof*)

## THEORY HONOR ROLL **RESULTS**

### LEVEL A :

98% **MaKenna Mills** (*Suzanne Winterhof*)

### LEVEL B :

90% **Alivia Glienke** (*Jeanette Hinkeldey*)

### LEVEL D :

98% **Zachary Renner** (*Suzanne Winterhof*)

### LEVEL E:

94% **Miranda Mills** (*Suzanne Winterhof*)



## Mason City

# IMTA DISTRICT PRE-COLLEGE PIANO AUDITIONS **RESULTS**

February 3, 2024 at NIACC, Mason City

Chair: **Gail Morris**

Adjudicators: **Dr. Nicholas Roth and Elise Davidson**

### LEVEL A Results:

Winner: **Margaret Henry** (*Diane Stadtlander*)

1st Alternate: **Quinn Smith** (*Sylvia Dieterichs*)

Honorable Mention: **Joe Henry** (*Diane Stadtlander*)

### LEVEL B Results:

Winner: **Mariah Nelson** (*Ruth Fiscus*)

1st Alternate: **Anika Tandon** (*Suzanne Torkelson*)

Honorable Mention: **Anna Du** (*Suzanne Torkelson*)

Honorable Mention: **John Henry** (*Diane Stadtlander*)

### LEVEL C Results:

Winner: **Arman Nikoueiha** (*Sylvia Dieterichs*)

1st Alternate: **Ahan Tandon** (*Suzanne Torkelson*)

Honorable Mention: **Elena O'Keefe** (*Gail Morris*)

### LEVEL D Results:

Winner: **Mason Li** (*Suzanne Torkelson*)

### LEVEL E Results:

Winner: **Owen Smith** (*Sylvia Dieterichs*)

1st Alternate: **Kevin Du** (*Suzanne Torkelson*)

Honorable Mention: **Blake Hoeft** (*Vicki Hoffman*)

### LEVEL F Results:

Winner: **Helen Peng** (*Suzanne Torkelson*)

1st Alternate: **Summer Lim** (*Suzanne Torkelson*)

## THEORY HONOR ROLL **RESULTS**

### LEVEL A :

98% **Joe Henry** (*Diane Stadtlander*)

98% **Quinn Smith** (*Sylvia Dieterichs*)

96% **Margaret Henry** (*Diane Stadtlander*)

### LEVEL B:

98% **Mariah Nelson** (*Ruth Fiscus*)

96% **John Henry** (*Diane Stadtlander*)

92% **Hana Miller** (*Ruth Fiscus*)

### LEVEL C:

100% **Mayella Miller** (*Ruth Fiscus*)

98% **Arman Nikoueiha** (*Sylvia Dieterichs*)

96% **Elena O'Keefe** (*Gail Morris*)

94% **Charlotte Smith** (*Gail Morris*)

94% **Ahan Tandon** (*Suzanne Torkelson*)

92% **Harlyn Conway** (*Christie Haacke*)

### LEVEL D:

98% **Mason Li** (*Suzanne Torkelson*)

### LEVEL E:

98% **Owen Smith** (*Sylvia Dieterichs*)

94% **Blake Hoeft** (*Vicki Hoffman*)

92% **Kevin Du** (*Suzanne Torkelson*)

### LEVEL F:

98% **Helen Peng** (*Suzanne Torkelson*)

92% **Summer Lim** (*Suzanne Torkelson*)

## QCMTA Quad Cities

# IMTA DISTRICT PRE-COLLEGE PIANO AUDITIONS RESULTS

February 17, 2024 at St. Ambrose University

Chair: Roberta Quist, Charlie Schmidt

Adjudicators: Tina Chapman, Jason Sifford, Joan Trapp

### LEVEL A Results:

Winner: **Malia Saito** (*Nora Reiter*)

1st Alternate: **Kaelyn Pettersen** (*Roberta Quist*)

Honorable Mention: **Angela Benhart** (*Nora Reiter*)

### LEVEL B Results:

Winner: **Jocelyn Jiang** (*Roberta Quist*)

Winner: **Harry Richards** (*Roberta Quist*)

1st Alternate: **Henry Jewell** (*Roberta Quist*)

2nd Alternate: **Parker Luszczyk** (*Roberta Quist*)

Honorable Mention: **Brayden Isaacson** (*Roberta Quist*)

Honorable Mention: **Sophie Johnson** (*Roberta Quist*)

Honorable Mention: **Mason Vervaecke** (*Olivia Gonzalez*)

### LEVEL C Results:

Winner: **Brendan Kiel** (*Marian Lee*)

Winner: **Paige McMann** (*Roberta Quist*)

1st Alternate: **Emma Isaacson** (*Roberta Quist*)

2nd Alternate: **Anders Sommer** (*Laura Crumbleholme*)

Honorable Mention: **Sage Carney** (*Roberta Quist*)

Honorable Mention: **Eugene Chan** (*Marian Lee*)

Honorable Mention: **Camille Hayes** (*Richard Sessler*)

### LEVEL D Results:

Winner: **Alex Jones** (*Laura Crumbleholme*)

Winner: **Madeline O'Malley** (*Roberta Quist*)

Winner: **Annabelle Pettersen** (*Roberta Quist*)

1st Alternate: **Ishika Motwani** (*Laura Crumbleholme*)

2nd Alternate: **Carter Luszczyk** (*Roberta Quist*)

3rd Alternate: **Jeremiah Rodgers** (*Anne Johnson*)

Honorable Mention: **Zander Panek** (*Laura Crumbleholme*)

Honorable Mention: **Claire Pfeiffer** (*Laura Crumbleholme*)

### LEVEL E Results:

Winner: **Zach McMann** (*Roberta Quist*)

1st Alternate: **Jonathan Rice** (*Marian Lee*)

Honorable Mention: **Sabrina Richards** (*Roberta Quist*)

### LEVEL F Results:

Winner: **Jack Stremlow** (*Marian Lee*)

1st Alternate: **Molly Isaacson** (*Marian Lee*)

Honorable Mention: **Joslynn Ovel** (*Marian Lee*)

## THEORY HONOR ROLL RESULTS

### LEVEL A:

100% **Malia Saito** (*Nora Reiter*)

98% **Lillian Petersen** (*Carlene Albrechtsen*)

96% **Benjamin Schultz** (*Carlene Albrechtsen*)

94% **Angela Benhart** (*Nora Reiter*)

94% **Kaelyn Pettersen** (*Roberta Quist*)

### LEVEL B:

98% **Brayden Isaacson** (*Roberta Quist*)

98% **Kairon Saito** (*Nora Reiter*)

98% **Mason Vervaecke** (*Olivia Gonzalez*)

96% **Jovin Bint** (*Roberta Quist*)

94% **Jocelyn Jiang** (*Roberta Quist*)

92% **Evie Beach** (*Laura Crumbleholme*)

92% **Hannah Hochgesang** (*Laura Crumbleholme*)

92% **Harry Richards** (*Roberta Quist*)

92% **Iris Wang** (*Roberta Quist*)

90% **Sophie Johnson** (*Roberta Quist*)

### LEVEL C:

98% **Anders Sommer** (*Laura Crumbleholme*)

98% **Aaron Tobey** (*Richard Sessler*)

96% **Eugene Chan** (*Marian Lee*)

96% **Brendan Kiel** (*Marian Lee*)

96% **Paige McMann** (*Roberta Quist*)

94% **Kiara Motwani** (*Laura Crumbleholme*)

94% **Evelyn Schmitt** (*Nora Reiter*)

92% **Camille Hayes** (*Richard Sessler*)

92% **Emma Isaacson** (*Roberta Quist*)

### LEVEL D:

98% **Alex Jones** (*Laura Crumbleholme*)

96% **Carter Luszczyk** (*Roberta Quist*)

96% **Jeremiah Rodgers** (*Anne Johnson*)

94% **Claire Pfeiffer** (*Laura Crumbleholme*)

94% **Jack Tarpey** (*Laura Crumbleholme*)

92% **Jackson Havercamp** (*Roberta Quist*)

92% **Ishika Motwani** (*Laura Crumbleholme*)

92% **Annabelle Pettersen** (*Roberta Quist*)

90% **Madeline O'Malley** (*Roberta Quist*)

90% **Zander Panek** (*Laura Crumbleholme*)

### LEVEL E:

96% **Zach McMann** (*Roberta Quist*)

94% **Sabrina Richards** (*Roberta Quist*)

### LEVEL F:

98% **Molly Isaacson** (*Marian Lee*)

98% **Jack Stremlow** (*Marian Lee*)

92% **Victoria Rice** (*Marian Lee*)

# NAMTA

# IMTA DISTRICT PRE-COLLEGE PIANO AUDITIONS RESULTS

January 20, 2024 at Wartburg College

Chair: Dr. Andrea Johnson

Adjudicators: Dr. Xiao Hu and Dr. Du Huang

## LEVEL A Results:

Winner: **Thomas Haile** (*Patricia Reuter Riddle*)

Winner: **Jonah Reid** (*Patricia Reuter Riddle*)

Alternate: **Lorena Boyle** (*Nicole Green*)

Alternate: **Logan Thoreson** (*Nicole Green*)

Honorable Mention: **Jaide Berger** (*Nicole Green*)

Honorable Mention: **Royal Biedermann** (*Linda Martin*)

Honorable Mention: **Shaylee Deford** (*Chandar Boyle*)

## LEVEL B Results:

Winner: **Charlotte Green** (*Chandar Boyle*)

Alternate: **Abby Shaw** (*Linda Martin*)

Honorable Mention: **Nikatus Hasselbrook** (*Andrea Johnson*)

## LEVEL C Results:

Winner: **Delia Morgan** (*Patricia Reuter Riddle*)

Alternate: **June Fassbinder** (*Linda Martin*)

Honorable Mention: **Nile Treinen** (*Chandar Boyle*)

## LEVEL D Results:

Winner: **Miguel Maldonado** (*Ted Reuter*)

Winner: **Levi Roberts** (*Chandar Boyle*)

Alternate: **Rishika Shettigar** (*Ann Barry*)

Alternate: **August Treinen** (*Ted Reuter*)

## LEVEL E Results:

Winner: **Emily Liu** (*Ted Reuter*)

Alternate: **Thomas Aguilar** (*Ann Barry*)

## LEVEL F Results:

Winner: **Jessica Treinen** (*Ted Reuter*)

Alternate: **Nyle Vallem** (*Ted Reuter*)

Honorable Mention: **Kristen Engelhardt** (*Nicole Green*)

Honorable Mention: **Jacob Herring** (*Patricia Reuter Riddle*)

# THEORY HONOR ROLL RESULTS

## LEVEL A :

98% **Thomas Haile** (*Patricia Reuter Riddle*)

92% **Shaylee Deford** (*Chandar Boyle*)

90% **Lorena Boyle** (*Nicole Green*)

90% **Evelyn Kroeger** (*Nicole Green*)

## LEVEL B:

100% **Abby Shaw** (*Linda Martin*)

94% **Reis Berger** (*Nicole Green*)

94% **Charlotte Green** (*Chandar Boyle*)

94% **Purva Tol** (*Ann Barry*)

## LEVEL C:

96% **Elsie Gabel** (*Ann Barry*)

96% **Delia Morgan** (*Patricia Reuter Riddle*)

94% **June Fassbinder** (*Linda Martin*)

## LEVEL D:

96% **Prisha Tol** (*Ann Barry*)

92% **Levi Roberts** (*Chandar Boyle*)

90% **Rishika Shettigar** (*Ann Barry*)

## LEVEL E:

94% **Thomas Aguilar** (*Ann Barry*)

## LEVEL F:

96% **Kristen Engelhardt** (*Nicole Green*)

94% **Jacob Herring** (*Patricia Reuter Riddle*)

## ECMTA Iowa City

# IMTA DISTRICT PRE-COLLEGE PIANO AUDITIONS RESULTS

February 4, 2024 at University Of Iowa, Voxman Hall, Iowa City

Chair: Tina Chapman, Nicole Messerschmitt

Adjudicators: Dr. Sharon Jensen, Julia Andrews, Dr. Mei-Hsuan Huang, Dr. Rene Lecuona

### LEVEL A Results:

Winner: **Isabelle Lu** (*Lauree Christman*)  
Alternate: **Hridaya Sainju** (*Tina Chapman*)  
Honorable Mention: **Kaspar Zhao** (*Lauree Christman*)

### LEVEL B Results:

Winner: **Louise Gooblar-Perovic** (*Ruth Johnson*)  
Winner: **Rongyu Jiang** (*Chiaki Kubota*)  
1st Alternate: **Charlotte Barwacz** (*Tina Chapman*)  
2nd Alternate: **Sophia Nguyen** (*Lauree Christman*)  
Honorable Mention: **Elin Xing** (*Jason Sifford*)

### LEVEL C1 Results:

Winner: **Emily Ding** (*Lauree Christman*)  
Winner: **Evan Farley** (*Adin Herr*)  
1st Alternate: **Stellah Verry** (*Tina Chapman*)  
2nd Alternate: **Clark Erdahl** (*Nancy Cree*)  
Honorable Mention: **Grace Autio** (*Rene Lecuona*)  
Honorable Mention: **Mason Bany** (*Mary Dieker*)  
Honorable Mention: **Natalie Yoon** (*Minji Kwon*)

### LEVEL D Results:

Winner: **Iulia Fang-Kawamuro** (*Chiaki Kubota*)  
Winner: **Kaoru Heitzman** (*Chiaki Kubota*)  
Winner: **Milla Wiechert** (*Lauree Christman*)

Winner: **Spencer Wu** (*Nancy Cree*)

1st Alternate: **Samuel Banaszek** (*Jason Sifford*)  
2nd Alternate: **Nina Renaud** (*Nancy Cree*)  
3rd Alternate: **Abraham Antonio** (*Lise Marcell*)  
4th Alternate: **Gabriel Bales** (*Jason Sifford*)  
Honorable Mention: **Celeste Miller** (*Nicole Messerschmitt*)  
Honorable Mention: **Lily Nibaur** (*Tina Chapman*)  
Honorable Mention: **Olga Tenev** (*Nancy Cree*)

### LEVEL E Results:

Winner: **Claire Huang** (*Rene Lecuona*)  
Winner: **Jessica Huang** (*Rene Lecuona*)  
1st Alternate: **Matthew Lu** (*Lauree Christman*)  
2nd Alternate: **Victor Yao** (*Ruth Johnson*)  
Honorable Mention: **Alma Bhandary-Narayanan** (*Stephen Mulvabill*)  
Honorable Mention: **Alice Gooblar-Perovic** (*Ruth Johnson*)  
Honorable Mention: **Jozsef Polyak** (*Nancy Cree*)  
Honorable Mention: **Richard Yang** (*Barbara Michaelson*)

### LEVEL F Results:

Winner: **Gideon Levine** (*Rene Lecuona*)  
Honorable Mention: **Emma Lai** (*Rene Lecuona*)

## THEORY HONOR ROLL RESULTS

### LEVEL A:

100% **Isabelle Lu** (*Lauree Christman*)  
96% **Cora Marek** (*Nancy Cree*)  
96% **Hridaya Sainju** (*Tina Chapman*)  
96% **Alice Umlah** (*Jason Sifford*)  
92% **Kaspar Zhao** (*Lauree Christman*)

### LEVEL B:

98% **Austin Gilchrist** (*Nancy Cree*)  
98% **Sophia Nguyen** (*Lauree Christman*)  
96% **Charlotte Barwacz** (*Tina Chapman*)  
94% **Henry Erdahl** (*Nancy Cree*)  
94% **Rongyu Jiang** (*Chiaki Kubota*)  
94% **Aimee Shao** (*Lauree Christman*)  
92% **Louise Gooblar-Perovic** (*Ruth Johnson*)  
90% **Charlie LaBrecque** (*Nancy Cree*)

### LEVEL C1:

100% **Emily Ding** (*Lauree Christman*)

100% **Ethan Ding** (*Tina Chapman*)

100% **Clark Erdahl** (*Nancy Cree*)  
98% **Mason Bany** (*Mary Dieker*)  
98% **Alex Hong** (*Ruth Johnson*)  
98% **Niklos Polyak** (*Nancy Cree*)  
96% **James Ackerson** (*Lauree Christman*)  
96% **Jackson LaBrecque** (*Nancy Cree*)  
96% **Noah Wiechert** (*Lauree Christman*)  
94% **Sara Abou Alaiwa** (*Tina Chapman*)  
94% **Evan Farley** (*Adin Herr*)  
94% **Mert Ince** (*Jason Sifford*)  
94% **Natalie Yoon** (*Minji Kwon*)  
92% **Rory Marshall** (*Jason Sifford*)

### LEVEL D:

100% **Nina Renaud** (*Nancy Cree*)  
100% **Spencer Wu** (*Nancy Cree*)  
98% **Samantha Scheetz** (*Tina Chapman*)

98% **Sephora Whalen** (*Ruth Johnson*)

96% **Lea Abou Alaiwa** (*Tina Chapman*)  
96% **Edith Dawson** (*Mary Dieker*)  
96% **Olga Tenev** (*Nancy Cree*)  
94% **Iulia Fang-Kawamuro** (*Chiaki Kubota*)  
94% **Kaoru Heitzman** (*Chiaki Kubota*)  
90% **Nishvith Sudhakar** (*Barbara Michaelson*)  
90% **Milla Wiechert** (*Lauree Christman*)

### LEVEL E:

100% **Matthew Lu** (*Lauree Christman*)  
98% **Victor Yao** (*Ruth Johnson*)  
96% **Alice Gooblar-Perovic** (*Ruth Johnson*)  
96% **Richard Yang** (*Barbara Michaelson*)  
92% **Alma Bhandary-Narayanan** (*Stephen Mulvabill*)

### LEVEL F:

96% **Emma Lai** (*Rene Lecuona*)

## Dubuque

# IMTA DISTRICT PRE-COLLEGE PIANO AUDITIONS **RESULTS**

February 3, 2024 at University of Dubuque

Chair: Sharon Jensen, Leslie Appleby

Adjudicators: Allison Chenoweth and Dr. Melinda Westphalen

### LEVEL A Results:

Winner: **Declan McCoy** (*Rachel McCoy*)

Winner: **Austin Roling** (*Leslie Appleby*)

1st Alternate: **Symphony McCoy** (*Rachel McCoy*)

2nd Alternate: **Ian Kim** (*Sharon Jensen*)

Honorable Mention: **Bennett Koestler-Oglesby** (*Leslie Appleby*)

Honorable Mention: **Emma Schroeder** (*Rachel McCoy*)

### LEVEL B Results:

Winner: **Theo Lohrmann** (*Leslie Appleby*)

Winner: **Jaina Moser** (*Sharon Jensen*)

1st Alternate: **Isaac Miller** (*Leslie Appleby*)

2nd Alternate: **Emily Welter** (*Luke Tyler*)

Honorable Mention: **Greyson Schroeder** (*Rachel McCoy*)

### LEVEL C Results:

Winner: **Joshua Miller** (*Sharon Jensen*)

1st Alternate: **Andrew Xu** (*Alan Huckleberry*)

Honorable Mention: **Jack Mostert** (*Sharon Jensen*)

### LEVEL D Results:

Winner: **Randen McManus** (*Leslie Appleby*)

1st Alternate: **William Wolfe** (*Sharon Jensen*)

### LEVEL E Results:

Winner: **Thomas Noonan** (*Sharon Jensen*)

1st Alternate: **Samuel Timmerman** (*Sharon Jensen*)

## THEORY HONOR ROLL **RESULTS**

### LEVEL A :

98% **Declan McCoy** (*Rachel McCoy*)

96% **Symphony McCoy** (*Rachel McCoy*)

94% **Penny Von Mulert** (*Sharon Jensen*)

90% **Austin Roling** (*Leslie Appleby*)

### LEVEL B:

96% **Noel Kim** (*Sharon Jensen*)

94% **Greyson Schroeder** (*Rachel McCoy*)

92% **Jaina Moser** (*Sharon Jensen*)

90% **Isaac Miller** (*Leslie Appleby*)

90% **Emily Welter** (*Luke Tyler*)

### LEVEL C:

98% **Joshua Miller** (*Sharon Jensen*)

90% **Andrew Xu** (*Alan Huckleberry*)

### LEVEL D:

98% **Randen McManus** (*Leslie Appleby*)

94% **William Wolfe** (*Sharon Jensen*)

### LEVEL E:

96% **Thomas Noonan** (*Sharon Jensen*)

94% **Samuel Timmerman** (*Sharon Jensen*)

# KEY CONNECTIONS: IMTA LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

**N**ow that festival and audition season is over for this year, our local associations and collegiate chapters are gearing up for 3 days of inspiring sessions and fun-filled time together for the IMTA 2024 State Conference at Drake University! Join us for this “not to be missed” conference!

As you will note from the schedule on the Conference page, we’ve changed the local association breakfast from Tuesday to a local association/collegiate luncheon on Monday to accommodate more attendees as well as those who may not be early risers.

### **A reminder about two very special conference opportunities for local associations:**

A **Certification Funding Award** that will be given to the IMTA local association or collegiate chapter with the highest percentage of members in attendance (with a minimum of 5 and excluding the hosting local association for conference,) at the 2024 IMTA Conference! The association receiving this award will select a person from their membership to receive this funding from IMTA. The awardee will be responsible for completing their certification within the one-year time limit from the date the application is received at MTNA Headquarters.

Another wonderful opportunity for both IMTA Local Associations, as well as their individual members, is to **Sponsor a Collegiate Student** this year by providing a \$75 scholarship donation for a collegiate member who will be participating at conference as a performer, presenter or volunteer. Our collegiate members are the future of IMTA and we need to encourage their participation in our association, so please consider adding this donation to your conference registration.

For further information or questions about either of these opportunities, email me at [mbs723@shafferstudio.net](mailto:mbs723@shafferstudio.net).

### **Upcoming IMTA local association events:**

Two of our local associations have fabulous piano ensemble events coming up in April!

Please consider attending one or both of these special events!

**April 14, 2024: Music Teachers of Northern Iowa (MTNI) Multi-Keyboard Festival at Music Man Square, Mason City,** (for further information contact Chris Haacke, [haackec@yahoo.com](mailto:haackec@yahoo.com))

**April 26 -27, 2024: Quad City Piano Ensemble Festival at Asbury United Methodist Church, Bettendorf,** <https://qcmusicteachers.org/FMTA-events.php#ensemble>, (for further information contact Laura Crumbleholme, [lauralovespiano.qc@gmail.com](mailto:lauralovespiano.qc@gmail.com))

**See you at the IMTA conference in June!**



IMTA State Local Associations Chair

**Mary Beth Shaffer**  
[imtalocal@gmail.com](mailto:imtalocal@gmail.com)

# FOUR IOWANS TO COMPETE AT MTNA NATIONAL COMPETITION

We are excited to announce that Iowa has 4 students competing at the national MTNA performance competition. Winners from Iowa at the West Central Division were: Olivia Tice, Des Moines, senior voice and Eleni Anthan, West Des Moines, young artist voice. Senior piano duet partners Hannah Cotran and Chloe Lang will also compete at the national conference as representatives of West Central Division. Hannah is from Urbandale and Chloe is from Johnston. Olivia and Eleni are students of Leanne Freeman-Miller and Hannah and Chloe are students of Cyndie Caruth. Thomas Drummond, Iowa City, young artist woodwind was named alternate. His teacher is Kenneth Tse. The West Central Division is comprised of


8 midwestern states: Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota. There are 7 divisions in MTNA. Each state picks one winner in each category and those winners compete at the division level. A winner is picked from each division and those winners go on to represent the division at the national competition.

Congratulations to all performers and teachers for all of their hard work! Best of luck to our winners and division representatives as they advance to the national competitions in Atlanta, GA on March 16-20. If teachers would like to learn more about the 2024 State MTNA Competitions, please contact our state chairperson Diane Smith at [dianemsmith@mchsi.com](mailto:dianemsmith@mchsi.com).



Iowa MTNA Competitions Chair

**Diane Smith, NCTM**  
[imtamtchair@gmail.com](mailto:imtamtchair@gmail.com)



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**For more information contact our Visual and Performing Arts Recruiter Evelyn Rush, [finearts@cornellcollege](mailto:finearts@cornellcollege).**

# SPOTLIGHT ON IOWA'S COLLEGIATE CHAPTERS

Several collegiate chapters have been actively supporting quality programming and service projects! I invited chapter presidents to share a little bit about their chapter's activities. Ellie Grace Lashier, ISU Chapter President, wrote: "The Iowa State Collegiate Chapter of the MTNA is excited to have been recognized as an official chapter by the IMTA state board and as a student organization at Iowa State! This year has been an exciting start to our chapter as we've held fun informational meetings, discussed ideas for the future of the chapter, and determined our mission and core values. Later this spring, we will be hosting guest speakers who run music studios in the area to learn from their experiences, as well as outreach events to engage more students in the department. We are looking forward to attending and participating in the state conference this summer!"

Craig Jordan, University of Iowa Chapter

President, wrote: "The University of Iowa's collegiate chapter of MTNA has been diligently working towards revitalizing our chapter and fostering enthusiasm among undergraduate and graduate students for MTNA initiatives. In pursuit of this goal, this academic year has seen a series of engaging events. We began by organizing an informative pizza party session. Subsequently, we invited local music teacher and composer, Jason Sifford, to share insights on post-graduation professional pathways -- and who could forget Division Director Mary Beth Shaffer gracing us with her presence for a coffee chat? Looking ahead, we are eagerly preparing for a keyboard department bonfire party to conclude the semester. One notable upcoming event is our inaugural Music For Food concert, scheduled for March 30th at the University of Iowa. In collaboration with the Music For Food nonprofit organization,

*Continued on next page*



IMTA Collegiate Chapters Chair  
**Melissa Phillips**  
melissa.phillips@waldorf.edu

In the Winter issue, I shared about the exciting opportunities available for our Iowa collegiate members! Looking ahead to our state conference in June, collegiate members can perform in the "Celebrate Iowa Collegiate Young Artists" recital or present their research during the Collegiate Poster Sessions. So far, we have received enthusiastic responses! Applications have already been submitted and we anticipate even more. Many thanks goes to Mary Beth Shaffer who, in addition to connecting with local associations, has also been visiting with collegiate chapters to share about the conference. Collegiate members as well as hosting Drake students can attend the conference AND receive free meals on Sunday and Monday if they participate in the recital or poster session or volunteer to help for half a day. Registration, however, is still required and can be found on the iamta.org website.

To recap the conference information:

- 1. Sunday evening, June 2, at 7:00 pm: "Celebrating Iowa Collegiate Young Artists" recital!** Collegiate students are invited to perform (vocal or instrumental). **Ensembles are welcome also.** Applications may be sent to [melissa.phillips@waldorf.edu](mailto:melissa.phillips@waldorf.edu). Students may list 2 or 3 pieces they would be willing to perform. One piece per application may be selected for the recital. Application deadline is March 31.
- 2. Monday, June 3, 3:30-4:15 pm: Collegiate Poster Sessions!** Application deadline is March 31. Application submission and other inquiries may be directed to Mary Beth Shaffer at [mbs723@shafferstudio.net](mailto:mbs723@shafferstudio.net). We are excited to have collegiate representation at our conference and eager to showcase their gifts and talents!



# CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. JASON SIFFORD

## Dr. Sifford named Director-Elect of the MTNA West Central Division

**Breaking News!** Dr. Jason Sifford has been named Director-Elect of the West-Central Division of MTNA. He will serve in this capacity for the term 2026-2028. Votes were cast by MTNA members from the states of Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. Congratulations Jason, for this honor and thank you for your willingness to serve MTNA in yet another role within the organization. Jason has served IMTA in a number of roles already, including President, Commissioning Composer Chair, Technology Chair and President of East Central Music Teachers Association (ECMTA). Jason has also been honored by IMTA in 2014 as Nationally Certified Teacher of the Year, 2019 IMTA Distinguished Service Award and 2023 MTNA Foundation Fellow.

Dr. Sifford is a versatile pianist with a wide range of interests. He particularly enjoys the music of Haydn, Schumann, Brahms and Albéniz, and feels equally at home on the concert stage, in a pit orchestra, or in a late-night jazz club. Jason is a prolific composer and we in IMTA have delighted in using many of his compositions included in our IMTA repertoire list. Jason also performed in the University of Iowa Piano Pedagogy Project which compiled video recordings of many of the repertoire solo selections in Levels A-D.

Dr. Sifford is also an active pedagogue, lecturing on such diverse topics as performance practice, jazz ensemble playing, technical development in young pianists and the use of technology in

the studio. He holds degrees from Southwest Missouri State University and Louisiana State University and has a doctorate in piano performance and pedagogy from the University of Michigan. He is currently a freelance pianist, composer and teacher residing in Iowa City, Iowa with his wife, Renée.



*Dr. Jason Sifford*

We are very pleased to have one of our own IMTA members elected to this position and we look forward to Jason's dedicated, insightful and very capable leadership as our West-Central Division Director-Elect. Heartiest congratulations, Jason, as you continue to serve us with your dedication, willingness and expertise.

*Continued from previous page*

founded by Kim Kashkashian, our chapter aims to raise donations for the local Iowa City food pantry through this concert. This event, integrated into the established Key Change concert series, warmly welcomes members of the public."

Morgan List, UNI Collegiate Chapter President wrote: "Last year, we worked on a project with the Hal Leonard Folk Song series. We worked on recording a variety of the pieces to upload to YouTube. These allow teachers to reference videos for their students to see what a piece should sound like. We are hoping to continue this project this year. Another project we have been discussing is creating a database for living composers. We all agree that they are not represented enough and deserve more recognition. A database would help piano teachers have access to

a variety of pieces by living composers they may not be aware of. We have also been considering working with student composers to help bring awareness to their compositions. We all want to help spread awareness about composers who do not get the recognition they deserve."

Faith Baptist Bible College chapter gathers weekly over lunch to discuss ideas of getting our chapter involved in the community. We are discussing launching a podcast soon featuring guest speakers and students. We hope to attend the MTNA conference in Minneapolis next Spring. We are focused on an additional initiative to raise money for a piano lab for future group teaching. Many thanks to the chapter presidents and their advisors for the great work you are doing!

**IOWA**

# SUMMER MUSIC CAMPS

*Register  
now!*

[IowaSummerMusicCamps.uiowa.edu](http://IowaSummerMusicCamps.uiowa.edu)

## SESSION 1

June 16-21

Jazz  
Piano  
Saxophone  
Voice



## SESSION 2

June 23-28

Bassoon  
Clarinet  
Flute  
Horn  
Oboe  
Organ  
Percussion  
Trumpet

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May 22

Commuter Campers  
June 7

# CELEBRATING SUCCESS: STATE AUDITIONS AT UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

The air was filled with excitement on March 9th as piano students from all corners of our state gathered at the University of Northern Iowa for the highly anticipated State auditions. Hosted by our IMTA and the University of Northern Iowa, this event was a testament to the dedication and talent of our students and the unwavering support of our teachers and volunteers.

Students' preparation was evident as they poured their hearts into their pieces, captivating the judges and audiences with their musicality and skill. It is always inspiring to witness the passion and commitment of these young musicians. The number of participants listed below.

Level A – 14 students  
Level B - 17 students  
Level C – 15 students  
Level D – 20 students  
Level E – 16 students  
Level F – 10 students

Behind the scenes, our dedicated volunteers worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth running of the auditions. To our door monitors, Aiden Herr, Laura Crumbleholme, Ruth Fiscus.

Allison Chenoweth, Deb Ausborn, Lois Selby, Chiaki Kobota, Leah Anderson, Susan Kuyper, Joy Rubenking thank you for greeting everyone with a warm smile and ensuring that everyone found their way without a hitch. To our judges' helpers, Linda Benson, Chandar Boyle, Mavis Chen, Pat Reuter Riddle, Rachel McCoy, Amy Linville, Nai Ying Liao, Roberta Quist, and Ted Reuter; your assistance in organizing scores and keeping everything running smoothly backstage was invaluable. To our photographer, Cyndie Caruth, thank you for capturing the magic of the day and preserving these precious memories for years to come. To those who checked in students and parents, Sharon Jenson, Teri Robinson, Rosa Scott, and Nancy Cree; your efficiency and attention to detail helped

set the tone for a seamless event. Each role was crucial in creating a welcoming and supportive atmosphere for all involved. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every volunteer for their invaluable contributions.

I'd like to say special thanks to my graduate students: Talita Pizarro for the help in creating spreadsheets and materials, Morgan List and Lydia Watkins for working all day at the auditions as judge's assistants, set-up and tear-down, unlocking doors, and many other jobs. Thank you to my UNI music student workers: Levi, Nathan, Tess, and Juliana for jumping in to help with so many things throughout the day and being so kind to everyone.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the expertise and guidance of our esteemed judges: Dr. Melinda Westphalen, Dr. Xiao Hu, Dr. Janci Bronson, Dr. Nicholas Roth, Dr. Mei-Hsuan Huang, and Dr. Vakhthang Kodanashvili. With their keen ears and discerning eyes, they provided invaluable feedback and encouragement to our students, helping them to reach new heights in their musical journey. We thank them for their time, dedication, and unwavering commitment to excellence.

As the final notes echoed through the halls and classrooms at the University of Northern Iowa, we couldn't help but feel a sense of pride and accomplishment. The State auditions were a resounding success, thanks to the collective efforts of our students, teachers, and volunteers. It is moments like these that remind us of the power of music to bring us together and inspire us to reach for the stars.

Here's to another year of beautiful music and endless possibilities!



IMTA Auditions Chair

**Andrea Johnson**  
imtaauditionschair@gmail.com

# 2024 STATE AUDITION WINNERS



Level A  
**Linda Dong**  
*(Nai-Ying Liao)*



Level A  
**Isabelle Lu**  
*(Lauree Christman)*



Level B  
**Harry Richards**  
*(Roberta Quist)*



Level B  
**Eli Tang**  
*(Janci Bronson)*



Level C  
**Jumuyao Wu**  
*(Cindy Lin)*



Level C  
**Joshua Miller**  
*(Sharon Jensen)*



Level D  
**Drake Wang**  
*(Nai-Ying Liao)*



Level D  
**Alyssa Zheng**  
*(Irina Kaplan)*



Level D  
**Kaoru Heitzman**  
*(Chiaki Kubota)*



Level D  
**Iulia Fang-Kawamuro**  
*(Chiaki Kubota)*



Level E  
**Duy Xuan Ha Duong**  
*(Cyndie Caruth)*



Level E  
**Lynda Sun**  
*(Nai-Ying Liao)*



Level E  
**Lucas Du**  
*(Larisa Kanevski)*



Level E  
**William Glasnapp**  
*(Marion Scott)*



Level F  
**Gideon Levine**  
*(Rene Lecuona)*



Level F  
**Jacob Newton**  
*(Melinda Westphalen)*



Level F  
**Jessica Treinen**  
*(Ted Reuter)*

# 2024 STATE AUDITION RUNNERS-UP



Level A  
**MaKenna Mills**  
*(Suzanne Winterhof)*



Level A  
**Lily De Haan**  
*(Susan Kuiper)*



Level B  
**Charlotte Green**  
*(Chandar Boyle)*



Level B  
**Vicky Lin**  
*(Cyndie Caruth)*



Level C  
**Faith Eugenia  
Villar-Cordova Scott**  
*(Rosa Scott)*



Level C  
**Paige McMann**  
*(Roberta Quist)*



Level D  
**Vincent Cotran**  
*(Cyndie Caruth)*



Level D  
**Chloe Lu**  
*(Nai-Ying Liao)*



Level D  
**Mason Li**  
*(Suzanne Torkelson)*



Level D  
**Michael Neely**  
*(Sarah Hostetler)*



Level E  
**Laurel Mizerak**  
*(Janci Bronson)*



Level E  
**Grace Luo**  
*(Melinda Westphalen)*



Level E  
**Samuel Timmerman**  
*(Sharon Jensen)*



Level E  
**Wren Rediger**  
*(Amy Linville)*



Level F  
**Gwenyth Franczyk**  
*(Cyndie Caruth)*



Level F  
**Jonathan Stoker**  
*(Mei-Hsuan Huang)*



Level F  
**Jack Stremlow**  
*(Marian Lee)*

# 2024 STATE AUDITION HONORABLE MENTIONS



Level A  
**Cora Clark**  
*(Amy Linville)*



Level A  
**Margaret Henry**  
*(Diane Stadlander)*



Level A  
**Thomas Haile**  
*(Patricia Reuter Riddle)*



Level A  
**Charlie Deal**  
*(Linda Benson)*



Level A  
**Addie Robinson**  
*(Cyndie Caruth)*



Level B  
**Louise  
Gooblar-Perovic**  
*(Ruth Johnson)*



Level B  
**Rongyu Jiang**  
*(Chiaki Kubota)*



Level C  
**Cecelia Cotran**  
*(Cyndie Caruth)*



Level C  
**Delia Morgan**  
*(Patricia Reuter Riddle)*



Level C  
**Ty Borner**  
*(Teri Robinson)*



Level D  
**Miguel Maldonado**  
*(Ted Reuter)*



Level D  
**Alex Jones**  
*(Laura Crumbleholme)*



Level D  
**Milla Wiechert**  
*(Lauree Christman)*



Level D  
**Levi Roberts**  
*(Chandar Boyle)*



Level E  
**Eli McGinnis**  
*(Cyndie Caruth)*



Level E  
**Jessica Huang**  
*(Rene Lecuona)*



Level E  
**Emily Liu**  
*(Ted Reuter)*



Level F  
**Duy Xuan Duc Duong**  
*(Cyndie Caruth)*



Level F  
**Helen Peng**  
*(Suzanne Torkelson)*



Level F  
**Zoe Podlich**  
*(Patricia Schroeder)*



Level F  
**Emma Zheng**  
*(Larisa Kanevski)*



Level F  
**Bennett Lambelet**  
*(Bryan Stanley)*

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