



# IMTA STATE CONFERENCE

**JUNE 8-10, 2025**  
St. Ambrose University



**Sean Chen**  
University of  
Missouri-Kansas City

## Conference Artist Recital featuring Sean Chen

Monday, June 9, 7:45pm  
St. Ambrose University,  
Galvin Fine Arts Center

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

## Conference Guest Presenters



**Catherine Rollins**  
Composer, Pianist,  
& 2025 IMTA  
Conference Clinician



**Brian Shepard**  
MTNA CEO  
2025 IMTA  
Conference  
Keynote Speaker



**Dr. Eugenio Alfaro**  
Presenting session:  
Musicians and  
ADHD: Managing  
ADHD Symptoms in  
the Studio And the  
Practice Room



**Stephen Mulvahill**  
Presenting session:  
Building a Diverse  
and Inclusive Piano  
Teaching Repertoire



**Dr. Marion Lee**  
Presenting  
session: The Five  
Basic Motions of  
Piano Playing

# 2025 IMTA State Conference Registration Form

June 8-10, 2025 ■ St. Ambrose University ■ Davenport, IA

## Conference Registration Options

Full Conference, 3 days	\$110.00	\$ _____
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	\$ _____
<b>Conference Registration Total:</b>		<b>\$ _____</b>

## Housing Option

A residence hall may be available upon request:

Double rooms only <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday <input type="checkbox"/> Monday	\$37.00-2 per room/ \$74.00-1 per room	\$ _____
Optional linens package: includes sheets, pillow, blanket & towels	\$5/person	\$ _____
Roommate Request: _____		
<b>Housing Total:</b>		<b>\$ _____</b>

## Meal Options

Sunday Evening BBQ	\$18.00	\$ _____
Monday Box Lunch- sandwich, chips, cookie, fruit, beverage	\$10.00	\$ _____
Monday Evening Banquet	\$35.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Apple Cider Pork Tenderloin <input type="checkbox"/> Buttermilk Fried Chicken <input type="checkbox"/> Penne Pasta (vegan)		
Tuesday morning Local Association/Certification Breakfast	\$10.00	\$ _____
Tuesday Business Meeting Lunch	\$17.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Classic Turkey Club Ciabatta <input type="checkbox"/> Grilled Chicken Caesar Wrap		
<input type="checkbox"/> Garden Salad with Grilled Chicken <input type="checkbox"/> Mandarin Orange House Salad		
<b>Meals Total:</b>		<b>\$ _____</b>

## Collegiate Sponsorship (Optional)

<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to sponsor a collegiate student	\$75.00	\$ _____
<b>Total Enclosed:</b>		<b>\$ _____</b>

Members who wish to attend the Honors Recital or singular sessions must submit payment for the full day.

Registrations must be postmarked by May 1 to avoid the late registration fee. If you register online, checks must be postmarked to Roberta Quist by May 1.

Registration Refunds: Fees will be refunded in full until May 1. Refunds less \$30.00 will be given until May 15. No registration refunds after May 15.

CHECKS PAYABLE TO QCMTA

## MAIL TO:

Roberta Quist  
4128 Lillie Ave.  
Davenport, IA 52806

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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.

# IMTA Conference Schedule

June 8 – 10, 2025 ■ St. Ambrose University ■ Davenport, Iowa

## Sunday, June 8

12:00 – 4:00pm	Registration	Galvin Fine Arts Center Lobby
12:00 – 1:30pm	IMTA/West Music Scholarship Auditions	Madsen Hall
2:15 – 3:00pm	<b>Keynote: Brian Shepard</b>	Madsen Hall
3:00 – 4:00pm	<b>New Ensemble and Solo Music on the IMTA Repertoire List: Dr. Du Huang and Dr. Luke Tyler</b>	Madsen Hall
4:00 – 4:15 pm	BREAK	
4:15 – 5:45pm	Honors Recital	Madsen Hall
6:15 – 7:15pm	Dinner: BBQ Picnic	*Asbury Methodist Church
7:15 – 7:30pm	<b>Pleyel Double Grand Presentation: Marilyn Mitchem</b>	*Asbury Methodist Church
7:30 – 9:00pm	<b>Iowa All-Stars Concert featuring the historic Pleyel Double Grand</b>	*Asbury Methodist Church
9:00 – 10:00pm	Post Concert Reception hosted by West Music	*Asbury Methodist Church

## Monday, June 9

7:15 – 8:45am	Executive Board Meeting Breakfast On Your Own	**Gottlieb Conference Room
8:30 – 9:00 am	Registration	Galvin Fine Arts Center Lobby
9:00 – 10:00am	<b>Musicians and ADHD: Managing ADHD Symptoms in the Studio And the Practice Room: Dr. Eugenio Alfaro</b>	Madsen Hall
10:00 – 10:15am	BREAK	
10:15 – 11:30am	<b>The Magic of Imagery: Catherine Rollin</b>	Madsen Hall
11:30 – 1:00pm	Lunch and Meet and Greet with Brian Shepard, Catherine Rollin and Sean Chen	McMullen Hall
1:00 – 2:00pm	<b>Technology and Music Making: Sean Chen</b>	Madsen Hall
2:00 – 2:45pm	BREAK/Collegiate Poster Presentation	Galvin Fine Arts Center Lobby
2:45 – 3:45pm	<b>The Five Basic Motions of Piano Playing: Dr. Marian Lee</b>	Madsen Hall
3:45 – 4:00pm	BREAK	
4:00 – 5:15pm	<b>Late Elementary/Intermediate Masterclass: Catherine Rollin</b>	Madsen Hall
5:45 – 6:15pm	Social Time	**Rogalski Center Ballroom
6:15 – 7:30pm	Banquet	**Rogalski Center Ballroom
7:45 – 9:00pm	<b>Conference Artist Recital: Sean Chen</b>	Allaert Auditorium
9:00 – 10:00pm	Post Concert Reception	Galvin Fine Arts Center Lobby

## Tuesday, June 10

7:30 – 8:45am	Local Association/Certification Breakfast with Roundtable Pedagogical Discussion led by Mary Beth Shaffer, Linda Allebach, and Craig Jordan	The Grove
9:00 – 10:00am	<b>Through the Eyes of the Composer: Catherine Rollin</b>	Madsen Hall
10:00 – 10:30am	BREAK	
10:30 – 11:45am	<b>Late Intermediate/Advanced Masterclass: Sean Chen</b>	Madsen Hall
12:00 – 1:30pm	IMTA Business Meeting Lunch	**Rogalski Center Ballroom
1:30 – 2:30pm	<b>Building a Diverse and Inclusive Piano Teaching Repertoire- Valerie Caper's Portraits in Jazz: Stephen Mulvahill</b>	Madsen Hall

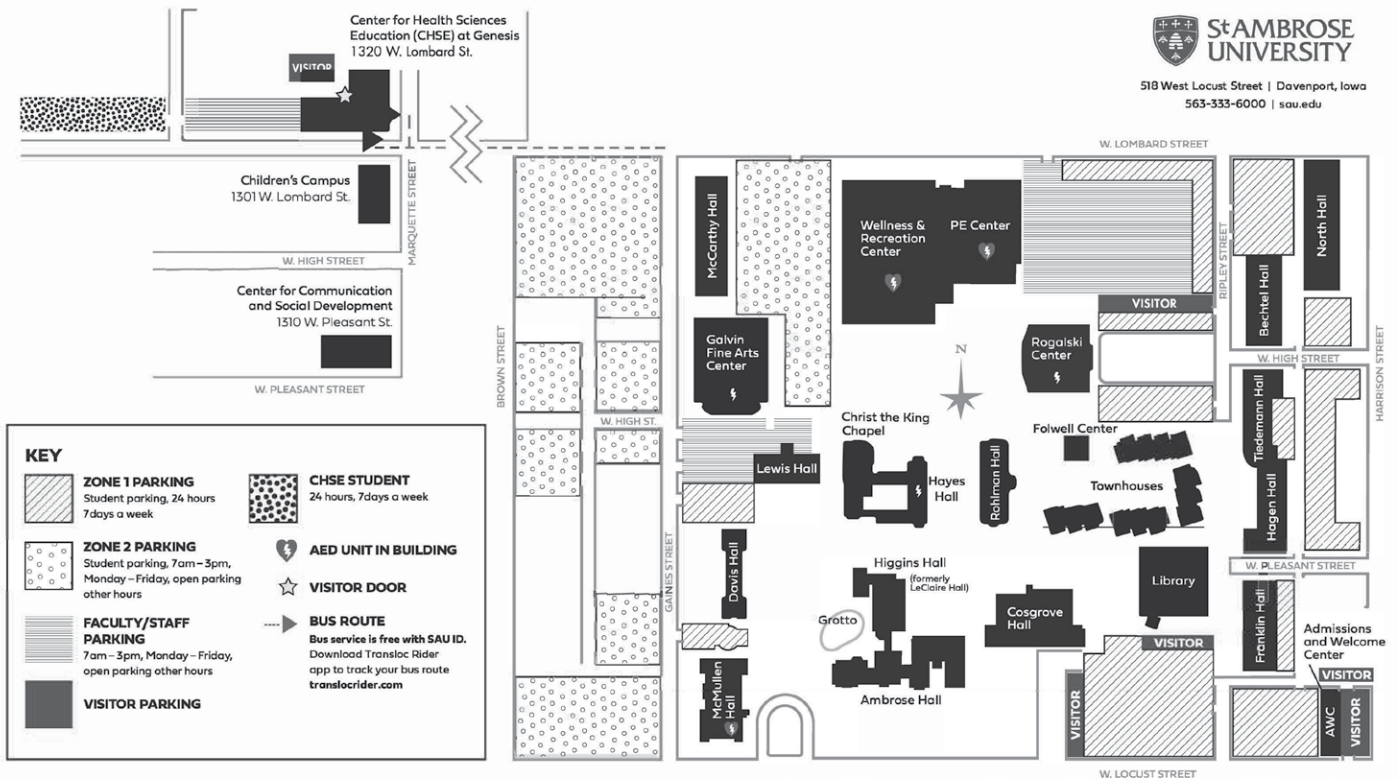
\*Asbury Methodist Church is located at 1809 Mississippi Blvd., Bettendorf, IA 52722

\*\*Gottlieb Conference Room and Rogalski Center Ballroom are located in Rogalski Center, 3rd floor

# Map & Hotel Lodging



518 West Locust Street | Davenport, Iowa  
563-333-6000 | sau.edu



## IMTA Conference Hotel

Hilton Garden Inn/Bettendorf

Conveniently located near St. Ambrose University!

**RESERVE YOUR ROOMS NOW!**

Rates per night:

1 King Bed - \$119.00 per room

2 Queen Beds - \$119.00

For reservations contact: Hilton Garden Inn Bettendorf

563-265-2121 and ask for the

IMTA State Conference Rate



## IMTA Scholarship Auditions are June 8, 2025 St. Ambrose University, Davenport, Iowa

Available to high school seniors whose  
teachers are IMTA/MTNA member

Register at [iamta.org/scholarships.php](http://iamta.org/scholarships.php). Deadline to register online is MAY 16.

# Welcome to the 2025 IMTA State Conference!



What a thrill and an honor to be hosting the 2025 IMTA State Conference at St. Ambrose University, June 8-10! Together with QCMTA, we have been very busy putting together a unique program for you with a list of presenters and topics that I think our IMTA members are going to really enjoy. We have the restored historic Pleyel Double Grand which our Iowa All-Stars concert will be performing on with a mix of college faculty and collegiate chapter members (please note the different venue off campus for Sunday dinner and

concert). I'm excited to welcome Van Cliburn laureate Sean Chen as our guest artist and one of America's favorite composers Catherine Rollin (her first time presenting in Iowa!). We also have talks on the subjects of teaching ADHD students in the studio, basic motions of piano technique (pedagogy edition), technology in music making, and how to include diverse and inclusive piano repertoire in the studio, along with a presentation of new works for IMTA solo and ensemble repertoire. We hope you'll enjoy the vast array of topics we have chosen this year and hope to see you on the great shores of the Mighty Mississippi in Davenport, Iowa!

- Marian Lee

## IMTA State Conference Presenters & Performers



### Sean Chen

A "thoughtful musician well beyond his years" (The Republic), pianist Sean Chen shares his "alluring, colorfully shaded renditions" (New York Times) and "genuinely sensitive" (LA Times) playing with audiences around the world. Winner of the 2013 American Pianists Awards, the 2013 Van Cliburn Piano Competition Bronze medal,

and named a 2015 Annenberg Fellow, Mr. Chen is the Jack Strandberg/Missouri Endowed Chair Associate Professor of Piano at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory.

Sean Chen has performed with the orchestras of Milwaukee, Fort Worth, Indianapolis, Phoenix, Kansas City, and San Diego among many others, and collaborated with such esteemed conductors as Leonard Slatkin, Michael Stern, Gerard Schwarz, and Nicholas McGegan. A multifaceted musician, he also transcribes, composes, and improvises.

Solo recital engagements have taken him to Boston's Jordan Hall, Chicago's Dame Myra Hess Series, New York City's SubCulture, The Smithsonian in Washington, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw and dozens of other venues throughout the world.

Mr. Chen resides in the suburbs of Kansas City with his wife, Betty, a violinist in the Kansas City Symphony, and their two daughters. When not at the piano, he enjoys tinkering with computers and exploring math, science, and programming.

Sean Chen is a Steinway Artist.



### Catherine Rollin

Catherine Rollin, NCTM, is a pianist, composer, clinician, masterclass presenter, author and dedicated teacher. She has over 450 published works with Alfred and has presented workshops throughout the U.S., Canada, Japan and Taiwan. Her technique series, *Pathways to Artistry* was

ground breaking in its synthesis of relaxed physicality with musicality. Catherine's ASCAP award winning series "Museum Masterpieces" has inspired and ignited the imaginations of teachers and students worldwide. As of 2023, Catherine launched Catherine Rollin Music with *Museum Masterpieces: the Premier Exhibition*, followed by *Museum Masterpieces: Celebrating Women Artists Through The Ages Books 1 and 2* in 2024. Catherine is honored to have all three of these books represented in the new National Federation of Music Clubs Festival Bulletin for 2024-2028.



# IMTA State Conference Presenters & Performers



## Brian Shepard

Brian Shepard is Chief Executive Officer of Music Teachers National Association. Shepard first began his career at MTNA in 2003 as the Director of Marketing and Public Relations. In 2008, as a result of his successes in marketing the programs and services of MTNA, he was promoted to Chief Operating Officer.

In addition to his work at MTNA, Shepard serves on several other nonprofit boards and committees, including the National Music Council. From 2009 to the present, Brian has served in multiple leadership roles with the American Classical Music Hall of Fame, including Board Chair and Professional Organizations Advisory Council Chair. He currently serves the Hall of Fame as Board President. Since 2013, he has been a member of the CCMpower Board, having held the positions of Treasurer, Harmony Fund Co-Chair, Awards Committee Co-Chair, Board Development Committee Co-Chair and Membership Committee Co-Chair. Shepard has also served on the Cincinnati Opera Sales and Marketing Committee and was President of the Middletown Music Club for three years.

Shepard is also an accomplished musician who performs frequently for church and community programs as a pianist, vocal soloist and choral conductor.

A graduate of Miami University of Ohio, Shepard holds degrees in marketing and music education. He was named an MTNA Foundation Fellow in 2010.



## Dr. Eugenio Alfaro III

Dr. Eugenio Alfaro III is a dedicated violinist and educator with a career focus in performance and string education. Dr. Alfaro currently serves as Adjunct Violin Instructor at St. Ambrose University and a Violin Instructor with the Quad City Symphony Orchestra. He has performed with the Kingsville Symphony Orchestra, Victoria Symphony Orchestra,

Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra, Valley Symphony Orchestra, Amarillo Symphony, Symphony of Northwest Arkansas, and the Quad City Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Alfaro has also performed in the Interharmony Music Festival in Italy and the Lake City String Academy in Colorado. As an educator he has served as violin instructor for the Texas State Strings Camp in San Marcos, TX and string orchestra conductor for the Coastal Bend String Camp in Corpus Christi, TX. In addition, Dr. Alfaro has served as a high school orchestra director and violin instructor in the Houston area. His current research, *Music Performance and ADHD: A Qualitative Study on the Experiences of Graduate Music Performance Students With ADHD*, examines potential solutions for graduate music performance students with ADHD that can be applicable to all music students.



## Stephen Mulvahill

Pianist and educator Stephen Mulvahill, a native of Houston, is an active performing artist and experienced teacher at both the collegiate and pre-college levels. Stephen is Adjunct Professor of Piano and Music History at St. Ambrose University and Adjunct Professor of Music Theory, Aural Skills, and Piano at Kirkwood Community College. He is an ABD

doctoral candidate in Piano Performance and Pedagogy at the University of Iowa, where his primary mentor is Dr. Rène Lecuona. Stephen is certified in the Suzuki method and teaches piano at Centrally Rooted in Dubuque. Before that, he taught piano and conducted orchestras for six years at the Preucil School of Music in Iowa City. In his teaching, Stephen uses a strengths-based and supportive approach to help students develop a beautiful piano tone, a sensitive ear, and a fluid and effortless piano technique.

As a pianist, Stephen has won top prizes in the Rosen-Schaffel Concerto Competition and University of Iowa Concerto Competition and has performed at music festivals around the United States and in Europe. He completed a secondary area of study in orchestral conducting at UI and has been invited to give master classes and judge competitions at the college and pre-college level. Stephen's doctoral research centers on building social equity in piano pedagogy.

Stephen holds a Master of Music degree in Piano Performance from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and a Bachelor of Music degree in Applied Piano from the University of Houston. He is married to clarinetist and educator Ana Maria Locke and has a five-year-old daughter, Anastasia Sophia. When he's not teaching, practicing, or teaching some more, Stephen enjoys being out in nature, cappuccinos, reading, and playing pretend with his daughter.

# IMTA State Conference Presenters & Performers



## Dr. Marian Lee

Marian Lee is the Chair of the Music department at St. Ambrose University and a renowned pianist who has performed internationally in prestigious venues such as Carnegie's Weill Hall, Alice Tully Hall in Lincoln Center, Moscow's Tchaikovsky Hall and St. Petersburg's Winter Palace. She has performed in over fifteen countries, from Chile to Norway,

Thailand to Russia, and with numerous orchestras both abroad and nationally, from the Azerbaijan Philharmonic Orchestra to the Quad City Symphony Orchestra. Lee has received numerous US Embassy grants for performances abroad and is a former Fulbright and IREX scholar.

Dr. Lee regularly collaborates with renowned musicians and teaches masterclasses worldwide, from Hong Kong to all over the United States. Marian's popular piano tutorial on YouTube, "The Five Basic Motions of Piano Technique," has garnered over 618,000 views. This Spring, she will be performing at the 2025 World Piano Conference in Serbia.

Lee's training includes a BM and MM at The Juilliard School under György Sandor and Seymour Lipkin, followed by a Fulbright grant to study at the Moscow Conservatory with Naum Shtarkman. She completed her DMA at Johns Hopkins Peabody Conservatory with Boris Slutsky.

Dr. Lee founded St. Ambrose University's Summer Piano Camp in 2017 and has been an active member of MTNA, IMTA, QCMTA & FMTA music organizations. She has taught at various institutions, including the University of Delaware and was a sabbatical replacement for Ksenia Nosikova at the University of Iowa.

of eight to eighteen. He later graduated from the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music with the Bachelor of Music (magna cum laude) and Master of Music degrees, studying with Professor Eugene Pridonoff. He studied with Professor Gilbert Kalish at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, receiving the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in 2001. He has also studied in master classes with pianist Leon Fleisher. His chamber music coaches include Timothy Eddy, Henry Meyer, and Peter Oundjian.

Huang presented piano master classes at over thirty universities in the United States and many places abroad, including Shanghai International Piano Institute and Festival, Wuhan Conservatory of Music, Middle School affiliated with the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, University of Manila, and European Piano Teacher Conference in Czech Republic. He has served as an adjudicator for Hong Kong Schools Music Festival, Chicago International Duo Piano Competition, and numerous Music Teacher National Association competitions in the states of Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Huang frequently serves as a piano faculty member at summer music programs such as Interlochen Arts Camp in Michigan and Saarbürg International Music Festival in Germany.



## Dr. Du Huang

Dr. Du Huang currently serves as Professor of Piano at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, where he has been on the faculty since 2001. Huang has presented solo performances at the Grosser Saal of the Konzerthaus and the Brahms-Saal of the Musikverein in Vienna, Salle Gaveau and Salle Cortot in Paris, Shanghai Music Hall, Beijing Music Hall, and numerous

concert venues in Czech Republic. Huang also performs actively as a member of Unison Piano Duo with pianist Xiao Hu. They have presented piano duo recitals at Carnegie Hall Weill Recital Hall and Merkin Concert Hall in New York City, and performed abroad in Brazil, China, Czech Republic, Japan, Malaysia, and the Philippines. Their performances were featured on National Public Radio's Performance Today, Iowa Public Television, Iowa Public Radio, and Minnesota Public Radio. The duo has commissioned and premiered numerous new works for the piano duo medium. Unison Piano Duo has issued recordings on Innova, MSR Classics labels in the United States, and the Yangtze River label in China.

Huang received early training at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music's elementary and middle schools from the age



## Dr. Luke Tyler

Dr. Luke Tyler has over 20 years of teaching piano to students of all ages and levels, ranging from pre-school aged beginners to college music majors and older adults.

Luke taught at Loras College for 7 years, where he coordinated the keyboard area, taught music theory, and developed courses in

American and world music.

Luke serves as director of Northeast Iowa School of Music (NISOM), in Dubuque, Iowa where he teaches 20+ students while managing all executive responsibilities of the nonprofit. He maintains a professional creative life by regularly performing throughout the midwest as a classical/jazz pianist. He has notable performances in Tucson, Milwaukee, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Fort Wayne, Germany, Beijing, Chicago, Washington DC, and Hong Kong.

Luke is also an avid church musician with over 14 years of professional experience. He currently serves as Music Director at Westminster Presbyterian Church and Contemporary Music Director at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

When not at NISOM, Luke enjoys gardening and spending time with his wife, Lizz, and his two girls.

# '25 CONFERENCE: COLLEGIATE MEMBERS INVITED TO PRESENT & PERFORM



**IMTA Collegiate Chapter Chair**  
**Melissa Phillips**  
melissa.phillips@waldolf.edu

I am so pleased to announce that collegiate members are invited to participate in the 2025 state conference! The conference will be held June 8-10 at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, IA. Collegiate members, consider these two great opportunities:

1. Collegiate poster presentations
2. Ensemble performance on the historic Pleyel Double Grand during the Iowa All-Stars concert June 8.

As provided by the state conference committee, please see below for details on each event.

### **Collegiate Poster Presentation**

Where: Galvin Fine Arts Center,  
St. Ambrose University  
When: Monday, June 9, 2025  
Time: 2:00 – 2:45 PM  
Deadline for Submission: March 31, 2025

Please submit application information and direct any questions to Dick Sessler, NCTM at [ssessler@machlink.com](mailto:ssessler@machlink.com)

### ***Specifications & Application Form***

Poster Presentation Session Description: A poster presentation is a visual presentation of information that conference participants may view. Authors present and describe the work, provide handouts, and answer questions during the poster session presentation time.

Typical categories include (but are not limited to): Research, Studio/Pedagogy Projects, and Practical Teaching Information.

To apply, please submit the following information via email to Dick Sessler, NCTM, [ssessler@machlink.com](mailto:ssessler@machlink.com).

1. A Microsoft Word document containing:
  - Presenter information: name(s), institutional affiliation, collegiate chapter (if applicable), email, telephone
  - A 35 (or fewer) word bio on each presenter
  - Poster title (in its final form) and a 35-word poster description
2. A headshot that meets the following specifications: Minimum of 300 dpi, does not exceed 1.5MB, and attach this file to your email (do not embed in the email body).
3. If available, please send a JPEG or PDF file of the proposed poster (do not embed in the email body). Information on posters should be visible from 3-4 feet away. Posters should be mounted on 36" X 48" trifold posterboard. Professionally printed posters

### **Ensemble Performance on Pleyel Piano**

Ensembles can consist of duos, trios, quartets or more! Please keep repertoire to a maximum of 6-7 minutes. Let's have several chapters represented! If interested or if you have any other questions, contact Marian Lee ([LeeMarianY@sau.edu](mailto:LeeMarianY@sau.edu)) or Roberta Quist ([quiststudio@msn.com](mailto:quiststudio@msn.com)).

Conference is a wonderful time to learn, connect, and network with others! Please consider attending and, better yet, participating!



**IMTA Scholarship Chair**  
**Nicholas Roth**  
[imtascholarship@gmail.com](mailto:imtascholarship@gmail.com)

# SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED

Any graduating high school senior whose teacher is an IMTA/MTNA member and who plan to major or minor in music may participate in the 2025 IMTA-West Scholarship Audition taking place June 8, 2025 at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa.

Register at [iamta.org/scholarships.php](http://iamta.org/scholarships.php).  
Deadline to register online is May 16.

The awards for this year are as follows:  
1st place - \$2000  
2nd place - \$1250  
3rd place - \$750

See the registration web page for complete details.