

— 60th Anniversary —
Wyoming Music Teachers Association
an affiliate of Music Teachers National Association

STATE CONFERENCE

June 10-12, 2021
Casper, Wyoming



WHILE I RUN THIS RACE

The WYOMING MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, acknowledging
the value of music in our lives, seeks to advance musical
knowledge and education and to nurture professional growth
and fellowship of independent music teachers.

WWW.WYOMINGMTA.ORG

wyomingmusicteachersassociation@gmail.com

P R O G R A M

Wyoming Music Teachers Association
STATE CONFERENCE

June 10–12, 2021

Casper College
125 College Drive
Casper, WY 82601

SCHEDULE

Thursday, June 10

10AM—1PM Jean D. and H.A. (Dave) True, Jr. Atrium
REGISTRATION & EXHIBITS

11AM—12PM Room 104
WMTA STATE BOARD MEETING

1—1:50PM Wheeler Concert Hall, Room 105
KEYNOTE SPEAKER PRESENTATION: MARVIN BLICKENSTAFF

Why We Teach Music at the Piano

Often we do not think about our chosen profession as "life-saving," and we underestimate the role we play in the developing lives of our students. In every lesson we exemplify The Power of One, and we have chosen exactly the right profession to exhibit that influence.

2—2:50PM Elbogen Recital Hall, Room 112
PRESENTATION: JOSEPH HARKINS

That's NOT on the Page!: Lead Sheet and Improvisation Tips for Your Studio

Learn approaches to lead sheet learning to facilitate improvisational ability for yourself and your piano students. Topics will be leveled for elementary and intermediate student pianists, and will include: harmonization and basslines, melodic transcription, and teaching common jazz improvisation rhythms through movement. Come prepared to sing, move, and play!

3—3:30PM Atrium
BREAK FOR THE ASSOCIATION & RAFFLE BASKET DRAWINGS
sponsor: Way Out West Music Academy

3:30PM—4:20PM

Elbogen Recital Hall, Room 112

PRESENTATION: CHEE-HWA TAN

Creating a Bridge Across the “Black Hole”

Chee-Hwa will share the hidden pedagogical purpose behind each of her pieces and some of her thought processes in teaching and composing. She will lead teachers through how she intentionally creates a technical and musical pathway for repertoire at the intermediate and advancing levels.

4:30PM—5:20PM

Elbogen Recital Hall, Room 112

PRESENTATION: MARVIN BLICKENSTAFF

Interpretation Rules of Thumb

Students often think that the interpretation of each piece involves a unique set of rules and guidelines and fail to realize that the same rules of interpretation that govern a Mozart sonata also apply to a Chopin nocturne. This session will articulate general rules about phrasing, dynamics, harmony, and form that apply universally in the literature we teach and study.

5:30—7PM

Atrium

EXHIBITS & BREAK FOR DINNER

7:30PM

Wheeler Concert Hall, Room 105

CONFERENCE ARTIST RECITAL: HELIOS TRIO

Including the premiere of the WMTA commissioned composition by Dr. Doug McConnell, *While I Run This Race*, among other works.

Friday, June 11

8—8:30AM

Atrium

REGISTRATION & EXHIBITS

8:30—9:15AM

Wheeler Concert Hall, Room 105

PRESENTATION: MARVIN BLICKENSTAFF

Warm-Ups for Students and Teachers

Technical warm-ups are an important part of each practice period and lesson. Students often think a quick C major scale is sufficient warm-up. Think again!

9:15—9:30AM

Atrium

BREAK FOR THE ASSOCIATION & RAFFLE BASKET DRAWINGS

sponsor: Front Range Powerline Services

9:30—10:20AM

Elbogen Recital Hall, Room 112

PRESENTATION: CASEY LOUDIN & ANNETTE KARGES

Music through Play

Who says fun and learning can't be in the same lesson? Incorporating games in music/piano lessons is a great way to engage with students and make learning and reviewing concepts more memorable. In this presentation, you will discover new game ideas sequenced according to level and pedagogical purpose to be used in private lessons.

10:30—11:20AM

Wheeler Concert Hall, Room 105

PRESENTATION: MARVIN BLICKENSTAFF

Bach's Two-part Inventions: Why? When? How?

The Inventions are the piano student's Mt. Everest -- a challenge to conquer. But they are so important in the repertoire and development of our students. This session is focused on making the Inventions accessible and enjoyable to each piano student.

11:30AM—1:15PM

Atrium

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

*Free luncheon provided by Sodexo and sponsored by Lance
& Hall LLP and D&L Music, Dave Rickard*

1:30—2:30PM

Wheeler Concert Hall, Room 105

PRESENTATION: CHEE-HWA TAN

Create to Motivate! Giving the gift of musical ownership.

This session shares practical “know-how” and examples of how to incorporate creative musicianship in a fun and sustainable way. Learn how to select and use repertoire as a jumpstart for improvisation and composition. Teachers will be guided through an accessible process of incorporating theory, listening and creative activities, while still developing repertoire skills in private and group lessons.

2:30—3PM

Atrium

BREAK FOR THE ASSOCIATION & RAFFLE BASKET DRAWINGS

sponsor: Ray Citak, piano technician

3:30—4:20PM

Wheeler Concert Hall, Room 105

CLOSING PRESENTATION: MARVIN BLICKENSTAFF

What do you do when the magic stops?

Most students are excited to start lessons and learn to play pieces at the piano. But as the demands of regular practice and the discipline of correct playing set in, the "magic" of the new learning experience wears thin. This session examines ways to keep that "magic" burning brightly.

4:30—5:20PM

Atrium

EXHIBITS

5:30—7PM

FireRock Steakhouse

NO-HOST DINNER FOR THE ASSOCIATION

open to all attendees

6100 E 2nd St.
Casper, WY 82609

WYOMING STATE ACHIEVEMENT DAY

Saturday, June 12

Adjudicators include:
MARVIN BLICKENSTAFF
CHEE-HWA TAN
LISA RICKARD

SCHEDULE

9AM

STATE ACHIEVEMENT DAY PERFORMANCES

Session 1

Additional Session as Needed

Wheeler Concert Hall, Room 105

Elbogen Recital Hall, Room 112

10:15—10:45AM

PARTICIPANT WORKSHOP: EMILY WALKER DURRANT

Performing your Best, Even Under Pressure

Most of us get nervous performing, but that's not a bad thing! Learn how to take that energy and turn it to your advantage. Discover strategies for calming nerves, preparing for performances, and what to think while you perform. Find the joy in playing for others!

Wheeler Hall, Room 105

11AM

STATE ACHIEVEMENT DAY PERFORMANCES

Session 2

Additional Session as Needed

Wheeler Concert Hall, Room 105

Elbogen Recital Hall, Room 112

12:15

BREAK FOR LUNCH

2PM

HONOR'S CONCERT

*Followed by a reception in the Atrium with refreshment
provided by Sodexo*

Wheeler Concert Hall, Room 105

About the Presenters



MARVIN BLICKENSTAFF is known among piano teachers throughout the country for his publications, lecturing, masterclasses, and performances. Marvin grew up in Nampa, Idaho, where he studied piano with Fern Nolte Davidson during his teen-age years. He went on to earn degrees and performance and academic honors at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and Indiana University. He was named a Fellow of the Royal Conservatory of Music (Toronto) and received the Music Teachers National Association's highest honor, the Achievement Award. He lives in the greater Philadelphia area where he teaches in his home studio and at The New School for Music Study in Princeton.



CHEE-HWA TAN has served as the Head of Piano Pedagogy at the University of Denver Lamont School of Music, as well as on the piano pedagogy faculties at the Oberlin Conservatory and Southern Methodist University. While at DU, she created the Lamont Piano Preparatory Program, a cutting-edge 21st century teaching laboratory for group and private piano teaching. Ms. Tan is the author of internationally-acclaimed *A Child's Garden of Verses*, and other piano collections. Her music is published by Piano Safari, with selections included in the Repertoire and Study series of the Royal Conservatory of Music, Canada, and the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, London. Ms. Tan holds Masters' degrees in Piano Performance and Piano Pedagogy from Southern Methodist University and a B.A. in Piano Performance and English from Oral Roberts University. A native of Malaysia, Ms. Tan resides in Colorado, with her husband, Christopher, and their four musician children.



JOSEPH HARKINS brings an eclectic mix of classical, jazz, blues, and contemporary styles to his teaching and performing. His teaching philosophy is based in the firm belief that there is pianistic and expressive musical ability in everyone. Active as an adjudicator and presenter, Harkins has presented throughout the Denver Metro Area with a specialty in Blues and Jazz instruction for Elementary and Intermediate Pianists. Engagements include the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy, the Colorado State Music Teacher's Notes and News; and the Columbine, South Suburban, and Denver Music Teachers Associations. His teaching engagements include the Irving S. Gilmore Keyboard Festival Education Program, the Piano Preparatory Program at the Lamont School of Music, and the Harkins Piano Studio. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Jazz Performance from Western Michigan University and a Master of Music degree in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Denver.



ANNETTE KARGES is a pianist and teacher in Denver, CO. Having taught diverse students in a variety of environments, her favorite part of teaching is the opportunity to coach students through the mundane moments of piano study and help them experience joy through music making. Currently running her own private studio and implementing the Kodaly approach in a private school, Annette has become more fascinated with the idea that "learning through play" is integral to developing musicianship in a way that benefits the whole person. Annette holds an M.M. in Piano Pedagogy from the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music and a B.A. in Music from Minot State University. Her teachers and pedagogy mentors include Steven Mayer, Chee-Hwa Tan, and Dianna Anderson.



CASEY LOUDIN is a piano teacher and owner of Loud and Proud Piano in Denver, CO. With the hope of forming lifelong musicians, she uses creative and engaging activities in her approach to teaching. Casey received her Bachelor of Arts in Music from the University of Alabama in Huntsville and Master of Music in Piano Pedagogy from the Lamont School of Music at the University of Denver. She has been given many opportunities to present on various topics such as breathing and mindfulness at the piano and incorporating technology in piano lessons at national and state level conferences. Casey hopes to continue growing her piano studio with a variety of adult and adolescent students as she shares her love for piano pedagogy.

CONFERENCE ARTIST RECITAL

The Helios Trio

JOHN FADIAL, VIOLIN
BETH VANDERBORGH, CELLO
CHI-CHEN WU, PIANO

Thursday, June 10, 7:30 PM
Wheeler Concert Hall

PROGRAM

Notturmo in E-flat major, D. 897 for Violin, Cello and Piano

Franz Schubert
(1797-1828)

Trio for Violin, Cello, and Piano

Modéré
Pantoum (Assez vif)
Passacaille (Très large)
Final (Animé)

Maurice Ravel
(1875-1937)

While I Run This Race (2019-2020)

WMTA Commissioned Composition World Premiere

Doug McConnell
(b. 1954)

Theme: *Guide My Feet While I Run This Race*

Reflection 1: *Bring me joy, while I run this race*

Reflection 2: *Stand by me, while I run this race*

Reflection 3: *Guide my thoughts, while I run this race*

Reflection 4: *Ease my doubt, while I run this race*

Reflection 5: *...for I don't want to run this race in vain*

Reflection 6: *I'm your child, while I run this race*

Program Notes

Commissioned by the Helios Trio and the Wyoming Music Teachers Association, *While I Run This Race* is a programmatic theme and variations composition, based on the African American spiritual, "Guide My Feet While I Run this Race". The ideas expressed by the stanzas of the spiritual were also important to many people during the American Civil Rights era. It is the last line from each stanza that commanded my attention in particular, as the writer implores God to help him/her through life's great challenges:

*Guide my feet while I run this race,
Guide my feet while I run this race,
Guide my feet while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain.*

The titles for each movement are borrowed from the stanzas of the spiritual, for the most part. After a very brief statement of the tune itself, the piece presents a series of six reflections or variations. Each movement reflects on its title, using the spiritual in a direct or indirect fashion. Movements four and five run together without a pause, but the other reflections stand as separate movements in the composition.

While I Run This Race is a fairly eclectic work; expect to hear influences from the worlds of spirituals, jazz and blues, with perhaps a touch of rock in selected places. Overall, I am a thoroughly classical composer in terms of technique and overall harmonic language, but our world features a wide selection of musical styles. This composition attempts to reflect portions of this wonderful diversity.

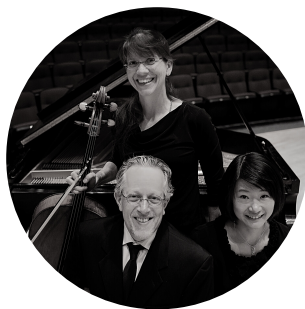
About the Composer



DR. DOUG MCCONNELL is Professor of Composition/Theory for the School of Music and Theater at Heidelberg University. His compositions have been performed throughout the U.S. and internationally. Doug has written for a variety of performing mediums, but he especially enjoys writing for voices; his work in this area includes a variety of works for choirs. He has also composed several song cycles, including his Langston's Lot series, two separate seven-movement compositions for voice, alto saxophone and piano, based on the poetry of Langston Hughes. Dr. McConnell has composed for the theater as well; his work includes incidental music/sound design for a number of plays, most recently for the Heidelberg productions of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* and *The Greeks: Oedipus/Lysistrata*.

Dr. McConnell's efforts as a composer and teacher have been honored on a number of occasions. He has won honorable mention in competitions sponsored by The Roger Wagner International Choral Competition and the American Guild of Organists. Dr. McConnell has received Composer of the Year honors from the Music Teachers National Association in both Mississippi and Ohio. He has been the recipient of several teaching honors, including a Faculty Achievement Award for Undergraduate Teaching from the Mississippi State Alumni Association and a Grisham Faculty Achievement Award. Dr. McConnell is a past recipient of Heidelberg University's Distinguished Research Award for his work as a composer. He is also a recent recipient of the Frost-Kalnow Scholar in the Humanities award at Heidelberg University for his teaching in music and film studies.

About the Artists



THE HELIOS TRIO is a dynamic ensemble comprised of artist faculty from the University of Wyoming. Their rich and diverse backgrounds as performers combine to produce probing and passionate interpretations of the great piano trio repertoire and have garnered international acclaim. In addition to their mountain west activities, Helios recently presented educational concerts as Ensemble in Residence for the *Music For a Great Space* series in North Carolina, at the Omaha Conservatory, and was the single United States representative ensemble invited to the International Debussy Centennial Conference in Oviedo, Spain in 2018. WU, FADIAL, and VANDERBORGH are dedicated to building audiences for the future, and are highly involved in musical outreach, bringing world class music to rural areas, and into the schools throughout the great state of Wyoming.

Praised by Fanfare Magazine for her “astonishing” and “poetic piano playing” and “symphonic, expansive texture of breathless virtuosity” (Historical Keyboard Society), pianist CHI-CHEN WU has appeared as recitalist, chamber musician, and concerto soloist in the United States, Canada, France, Italy, Spain, Germany, Japan, Taiwan, China, Thailand, the Aspen Music Festival, Monadnock Music Festival, and the Boston Early Music Festival Fringe Concert Series. Her concerts have been broadcast on NPR’s Simply Grand Concert Series and NPR-From The Top in Boston. Musicians and conductors with whom she has concertized include Karl-Heinz Steffens, Jonathan McPhee, Zuill Bailey, members of the Juilliard String Quartet, Takács String Quartet, musicians from the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Boston Symphony Orchestra and New York Philharmonic. Chi-Chen’s newest album of *Schumann Fantasie and Carnaval* has won a silver medal in the Global Music Awards.

At the age of eleven, violinist JOHN FADIAL performed as soloist for President Gerald Ford, and since has sustained a multifaceted international career as chamber musician, concertmaster, soloist and pedagogue, performing in multiple styles, from the baroque to contemporary, earning critical acclaim: “Sparkling Technique,” (*L’Est Republicain*, France), “Wow! Great Stuff,” (*The Washington Post*). *Fanfare* states, “Fadial moves effortlessly among the composer’s subtle moods, voicing sentiment, melancholy, wistfulness and joyful lyricism with utter naturalness...these could hardly be bettered” (Brahms Sonatas, Centaur 2019). Fadial was a Grammy semifinalist for the disc *Where Does Love Go: Chamber Music of Mark Engebretsen* (Innova 2007), and collaborates regularly with leading musicians including Gerard Schwarz, Jennifer Higdon, and Libby Larsen. Visiting Guest Artist invitations have included, Interlochen Arts Academy, the French National Conservatory of Nancy, France, and Beifan University in Yinchuan, China. Fadial has been honored by the Southern Poverty Law Center for his contributions to Social Justice.

Cellist BETH VANDERBORGH maintains a vigorous performing, teaching and recording career. She was top prizewinner of the Washington Society for Arts and Letters Cello Competition, as well as the Baltimore Chamber Awards. The *Strad* Magazine (London) praised her recent recording of the music of August Nölck as “*Lyrical and technically accomplished... eloquent and persuasive*”, and the Classical Voice of North Carolina describes her playing as “*Impeccable musicianship, rhythmic precision, technical expertise, and expansive, passionate musicianship. Gorgeous music, exquisitely performed, and I do not believe I have overdone the superlatives.*” Vanderborgh’s recent recordings include discs of the Chamber Music of Gwyneth Walker for the Centaur Label, and Chamber Music of Jennifer Higdon (in collaboration with the Pulitzer prizewinning composer) for Albany. She continues to enjoy her activities as artist faculty of the Eastern Music Festival and Principal Cellist of the Cheyenne Symphony. She was honored to represent the State of Wyoming in the 2019 National Senior Olympics where she reached the podium earning 5th place in both the 20k and 40k women’s cycling road races.

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2021

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WMTA is greatly indebted to the generous sponsors of this conference:

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Conference Contributors and Facilitators

WMTA is deeply grateful for all those whose efforts have made this conference possible:

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When quality counts, count on us!



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Admission / Scholarship Audition Dates

- January 28, 2022
- February 4, 2022
- February 11, 2022
- February 18, 2022

Students applying to the Master of Music, Bachelor of Music-Performance, and Bachelor of Music Education must audition to be admitted and considered for a music scholarship. Those applying to the Bachelor of Arts or Music Minor need only audition if they wish to be considered for a scholarship.

Scholarship Application Deadline

February 18, 2022

Degree Programs

- Bachelor of Music (Performance, Music Education)
- Bachelor of Arts (emphasis in Music)
- Master of Music (Performance)
- Master of Music Education

Certificate Programs

- Performer's Certificate
- Music Entrepreneurship Certificate
- Audio Technology Certificate

Performance Opportunities

Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, Western Thunder Marching Band, Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, Percussion Ensemble, Jazz Ensembles, Jazz Combos, Collegiate Chorale, Singing Statesmen, The Happy Jacks, Bel Canto Women's Chorus, Gamelan Chandra Wyoga.

The University of Wyoming Department of Music is fully accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM).

THE WORLD NEEDS MORE INSPIRED CREATIVITY.

Welcome To

WAY OUT WEST



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**The WMTA
State Conference**



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NOTES

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