

Dr. Leonidas Lagrimas, NCTM

Music Educators and Real-World Piano Applications for the 21st Century



Friday, February 12th, 2027

Location: Virtual Meeting - Zoom

10:00 Business Meeting & Workshop

Biography: Dr. Leonidas Lagrimas, NCTM, serves as Associate Professor of Piano and Piano Pedagogy at Western Carolina University. His main duties include Applied Piano and coordinating the Class Piano program. An emerging leader in piano pedagogy research, Dr. Lagrimas has presented at local, state, regional, and national music conferences for College Music Society, MTNA, NCKP, and NafME. He serves on the editorial board of *American Music Teacher*, the official MTNA journal, and is Editor of the *North Carolina Music Teachers Association Journal*. Dr. Lagrimas has been published in *Piano Magazine*, the *MTNA E-Journal*, *American Music Teacher*, and the Francis Clark Center's online webinar series.

As a performer, Dr. Lagrimas is active throughout the country as a solo and collaborative pianist. Recent and upcoming performances include Guest Artist recitals at the University of Florida, University of Alabama, Appalachian State University, UNC-Greensboro, and numerous faculty recitals at WCU. Past collaborative piano highlights include performances with Grammy-winning soprano Hila Plitmann, country superstar Lorrie Morgan, and multiple Carnegie Hall appearances. Active as musical theatre pianist, conductor, and music director, his recent regional credits include *Next to Normal* and *The Sondheim Tribute Revue* at Waynesville's HART Theatre, *Rock of Ages* and *9 to 5: The Musical* for Theatre Tallahassee, *In the Heights* and *American Idiot* for New Stage Theatreworks, and *Little Shop of Horrors* for Starring Buffalo! at Shea's 710 Theatre.

Leonidas holds a Ph.D. in Music Education and Piano Pedagogy from Florida State University. In addition to his teaching at WCU, he maintains a private piano studio and serves as President of the Asheville Area Piano Forum and President of the Virtual Local Music Teachers Association of North Carolina (VLMTA-NC). His previous full-time faculty appointments include SUNY-Fredonia and Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, and prior to his doctoral studies he taught music in the New York City public schools for ten years.

Workshop Description: How are we preparing our student pianists for "real world" jobs in the 21st century? This virtual workshop explores the pedagogy behind "real-world" applied skills that pianists utilize in a number of professional and pedagogical settings, including: Sight reading in a variety of contexts, including church, choral, and musical theatre-Harmonization and pop music-Collaborative piano at all levels of experience/ability-The art of "faking" piano scores Presenter Dr. Leonidas Lagrimas draws upon several decades of experience with K-12 music education, collegiate class piano, and piano performance in a wide variety of non-classical settings such as musical theatre, church, rock/jazz groups, general music classes and music therapy clinics to develop this workshop aimed at piano teachers of all experience levels.