

# 2019 MMTA CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday, November 1 – Saturday, November 2

Mississippi University for Women

Columbus, Mississippi

## Friday, November 1

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Registration – Poindexter Lobby

8:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Poindexter 211

Mississippi Music Teachers Executive Board Meeting

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Kossen Auditorium

MTNA Performance Competitions (Piano)

9:00 am – 5:00 p.m.

Poindexter 307 (Choral Room)

MTNA Performance Competitions (Woodwinds)

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Poindexter 211

MTNA Performance Competitions (Strings)

9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.

Poindexter 408 *Session Chair:* Victoria Johnson

*Lecture-Recital: Leschetitzky And His Pupils*

Sophie Wang, Mississippi State University

Slade Trammell, Roane State Community College

10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.

Poindexter 408 *Session Chair:* Valentin M. Bogdan

*Workshop: Developing Technical Ease at the Piano from the First Lesson*

Midori Koga, University of Toronto (2019 MMTA Guest Clinician)

11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

Poindexter 408 *Session Chair:* Valentin M. Bogdan

*Workshop: Developing Musical Understanding Through Solfege*

Midori Koga, University of Toronto (2019 MMTA Guest Clinician)

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch “on your own” for conference attendees

Past Presidents Luncheon at Harvey’s in Columbus

**1:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.**

**Poindexter 408** *Session Chair:* Alice Ballard

***Lecture-Recital: Climbing Mount Goldberg—Navigating Bach’s Keyboard Masterpiece***  
Ellen Price Elder (University of Southern Mississippi)

**2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.**

**Poindexter 408** *Session Chair:* Victoria Johnson

***Lecture-Recital: From Trials to Triumph: Overcoming Visual Disabilities as a Musician***  
Joshua Williams (William Carey University)  
Sarah May  
Carol Mahler

**3:00 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.**

**Poindexter 408** *Session Chair:* Portia Davis

***Workshop: Consistency and Repetition: Keys to a Successful Program***  
Brandon E. Robinson (Mississippi University for Women)

**4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Poindexter 408** *Session Chair:* Valentin M. Bogdan

***Masterclass with MMTA pianists***  
Midori Koga, University of Toronto (2019 MMTA Guest Clinician)

**5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

**Kossen Auditorium** *Session Chair:* Jonathan Mitchell (MMTA Chair of Music Composition)

***Recital (featuring new faculty at Mississippi colleges/universities and the world premiere of the 2019 MMTA commissioned composition by Jason Carl Rosenberg)***

**6:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.**

**Pope Banquet Room**

**Conference Banquet**, Victoria Johnson, MMTA President, presiding

**7:30 p.m.**

**Kossen Auditorium**

**Guest Artist Recital, Yakov Kasman,**  
**1997 Silver Medalist in the Tenth Van Cliburn International Piano**  
**Competition (with Dina Kasman, piano)**

Concert is free and open to the public  
Reception following recital hosted by the Golden Triangle Music Forum

## Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Registration - Poindexter Lobby

8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

**Poindexter 211**

Mississippi Music Teachers Association Business Meeting

9:00 a.m. - 9:50 a.m.

**Poindexter 408** *Session Chair:* Valentin M. Bogdan

**Workshop: *Artistic Listening and Musical Embodiment***

Midori Koga, University of Toronto (2019 MMTA Guest Clinician)

10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.

**Kossen Auditorium** *Session Chair:* Victoria Johnson

**Masterclass with MMTA pianists**

Yakov Kasman, University of Alabama - Birmingham (2019 MMTA Guest Artist)

11:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.

**Kossen Auditorium** *Session Chair:* Trent Smith

**Recital featuring the Gold Medal Winners of the 2019 MMTA Pre-College Evaluations**

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Poindexter 408** *Session Chair:* Portia Davis (MMTA IMTF Chair)

**Independent Music Teachers Forum Luncheon with Kevin Richmond (University of Memphis)**

1:15 p.m.

Registration for pre-college concerto competition

1:45 p.m.

**Kossen Auditorium**

**Pre-College Concerto Competitions begin**

Trent Smith, VP for Pre-College Competitions, presiding

## Session Descriptions

### *From Trials to Triumph: Overcoming Visual Disabilities as a Musician*

Joshua Williams (William Carey University), Sarah May, and Carol Mahler  
(accompanist)

Talented students in all disciplines often face challenges – even disabilities – that must be overcome in order to achieve their goals and aspirations. Students with the most challenging disabilities are often the most intelligent and talented students; they simply need opportunity to develop that potential. The stakes are high for talented students whose potential lies untapped: many flunk out or drop out of school; many feel they are not good enough to succeed in life. Teachers on every level can be a big part of the solution by looking for ways to help all students – including those with disabilities – succeed, by identifying their potential and talent. They must draw such students out of their shells and go the extra mile to research and provide resources helpful to the student’s educational, artistic, and career development. Born with albinism, Joshua Williams has overcome visual and societal challenges which his condition presents in order to major in music in college. His story and brief performance will inspire teachers of all disciplines to help students with disabilities to succeed. Sarah May, the mother of two elementary-aged music students with albinism, will present ways to teach reading to the visually impaired.

### *Developing Technical Ease at the Piano from the First Lesson*

Midori Koga, University of Toronto (2019 MMTA Guest Clinician)

I live across the street from a preschool, and one of my favorite sounds in the morning is to hear the children playing, laughing and shrieking with glee. I am struck by the sight of children running, skipping, swinging from the monkey bars, and flying down the slide at top speed with such natural EASE and enjoyment. Our task, as piano teachers, is to harness this wonderful physical freedom and help young children to discover the gestures that create beautiful sound at the piano. Through play (with rubber balls, dolphin and hippopotamus stuffed animals) and full body warm-up exercises (with mini yoga mats, rubber bands, coat hangers) we prepare the children’s hands, fingers, arms, and upper torso for a well-coordinated and aligned approach to the piano. We continue to develop a repertoire of touches (detached, tenuto, slurs, legato) and incorporate these natural gestures into their early repertoire.

### *Developing Musical Understanding through Solfege*

Midori Koga, University of Toronto (2019 MMTA Guest Clinician)

All children are born with the innate ability to hear, absorb, and learn language, and research has demonstrated how the brain may be hardwired for music much in the same way. By incorporating solfege singing with movement into early music learning experiences, young children have the opportunity to develop tonal, harmonic, melodic and aural understanding of the music they play, similar to the way they learn their native tongue. Traditional folk melodies of different countries are an ideal introduction to musical principles as they have been created with the intention of being sung by children throughout the world and across all generations. Solfege becomes the link between early whole-body listening, learning and singing, through the stages to playing and reading, further strengthening children's connection to sound and musical understanding.

### *Lecture-Recital: Climbing Mount Goldberg – Navigating Bach's Keyboard Masterpiece*

Ellen Price Elder, University of Southern Mississippi

Bach's Goldberg Variations is a monument of the keyboard repertoire. This presentation will discuss the legend of how the work came to be written, as well as examine its structure, Baroque style compositional features, and the numerous challenges that exist for the pianist. Selected variations will also be performed.

### *Leschetizky and His Pupils*

Sophie Wang, Mississippi State University

Slade Trammell, Roane State Community College:

When discussing the great pianists of the past 150 years, it is impossible to neglect the name of Theodore Leschetizky. Primarily remembered as a great pedagogue, his studio in Vienna produced a nearly unprecedented number of great pianists, including Paderewski, Friedman, Hughes, Gabrilowitsch, Schnabel, and Moiseiwitsch. It is less frequently acknowledged that Leschetizky and many of his pupils left sizable bodies of original works and transcriptions, thus continuing the artistic lineage of composer-pianist that can be traced all the way back to Beethoven, who had taught Leschetizky's teacher, Carl Czerny. This presentation seeks to address the compositional output of Leschetizky and a few of his students. Special emphasis will be given to Ignaz Friedman, who is remembered today much more for his astonishingly original piano playing than for the equally original works he contributed to the repertoire. Also to be considered is the work of Paderewski, who was already acknowledged as a composer before studying with Leschetizky, and a transcription by Edwin Hughes, who taught many students in the USA.

### ***Consistency and Repetition: Keys to a successful program***

Brandon E. Robinson, Mississippi University for Women

Repetition is performing an action over and over again. Consistency is when the delivery of a product or service doesn't vary greatly in quality over time. Repetition and consistency are important concepts that should be taught in the music classroom. *Consistency and Repetition: Keys to a Successful Program* is a workshop which will discuss research and provide strategies to incorporate consistency and repetition in your program. "It's the repetition of affirmations that leads to belief. And once that belief becomes a deep conviction, things begin to happen."  
(Muhammad Ali)

### ***Artistic Listening and Musical Embodiment***

Midori Koga, University of Toronto (2019 MMTA Guest Clinician)

Through video footage and interactive activities, I will demonstrate the different ways that I have explored tone production, phrasing, and artistic listening with my advanced students both at the piano and beyond the piano. You will see and hear me use singing, conducting, gesturing, dancing and combinations of these techniques. The term I use in my lessons is "Voca-Gesturing," which combines the various elements of vocalization and movement. You will also see us play with various props, work with balance boards, yoga balls, and mini trampolines, and use real-time video feedback to cultivate greater auditory and proprioceptive awareness in the students to help them find their own individualized and artistic sound and approach to the piano.

## Presenter Biographies

**Sophie Wang** is an active concert artist and pedagogue who joined the faculty of Mississippi State University in 2019. Recent engagements include a lecture-recital and masterclass in Novi Sad, Serbia in 2018, as well as her Carnegie Hall solo debut in May 2016. Other notable appearances include her critically-acclaimed readings of Rachmaninoff at the Internationaler Musiksommer auf Kulturverein-Schloss Rosenegg in Austria in 2011, and her return performance in her native Taipei, Taiwan, which was given to a sold-out audience in 2010. Her first orchestral collaboration came in 2002, when she performed the rarely-heard Moszkowski Piano Concerto. More recent orchestral activities include the Beethoven C Minor Concerto with the Cincinnati Community Orchestra in 2017.

A native of North Carolina, pianist **Slade Trammell** has appeared in concert across North America and in Europe. Critics have praised his “technical equipment and rhythmic excitement” (Classical Sonoma), “mastery of tone,” (Knoxville News Sentinel), and “virtuoso skill,” (Becky Ball, chief critic, The Oak Ridger). A pupil of Earl Wild, Serge Fournier, and Ruth Slenczynska, Trammell gave the European premiere of Wild’s Sonata 2000 in 2011 while concertizing in Austria. As a first prize winner of the Grand Prize Virtuoso International Competition, he made his Italian debut in December 2018 at the Teatro Studio, Parco della Musica, in Rome.

**Dr. Ellen Price Elder** is Associate Professor of Piano at USM, where she teaches applied piano to graduate and undergraduate piano majors, serves as coordinator and teacher in the class piano program, and teaches piano pedagogy. She is an active collaborator with USM faculty and guest artists, and has performed throughout the United States and South America as soloist, collaborator, and masterclass clinician. In 2011, Dr. Elder founded the Southern Miss Piano Institute, which offers private lessons to pre-college students and adults in the community. Her college and pre-college students receive numerous awards and honors for their performance. She is the winner of many competitions and awards, both for performance and teaching. In March 2010, she was selected to compete in the 7th International J. S. Bach Competition in Würzburg, Germany, and was one of thirty-seven pianists chosen to compete in the 2006 Johann Sebastian Bach International Competition in Leipzig (one of three from the U.S.). She is an active member of the local and state music teacher organizations, having served as President of the Mississippi Music Teachers Association from 2014-2016. She currently serves as President of the Hattiesburg Music Teachers League.

**Dr. Brandon E. Robinson** is a devoted music educator, clinician, drill designer, music arranger, and composer with more than twenty years of service. A native of Blytheville, Arkansas, Robinson has traveled the southern United States working with groups of all sizes. He is passionate about instilling a love and appreciation for music in all students he works with-- from D1 university wind ensembles to rural beginning band students. Robinson is currently the Director of Bands and Assistant Professor of Music Education at Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, MS. He has presented workshops across the United States including The Midwest Clinic, the Music for All Summer Symposium, and the Texas Music Educators Association Annual Conference. Kappa Kappa Psi presented Dr. Robinson with the "Outstanding Sponsor" award for his service as sponsor of the Kappa Zeta chapter at Wake Forest University during the 2017 biannual national convention. Robinson received his Bachelor of Music Education and Masters of Music in Instrumental conducting from Arkansas State University and completed his graduate studies with a Doctor of Philosophy in Music Education from the University of Mississippi. When not in the classroom, Robinson can be found playing gigs with local jazz combos, watching any and all college sports, or catching the latest game by his beloved St. Louis Cardinals with his family.

**Joshua Williams**, a senior music major at William Carey University, has overcome visual and societal challenges which albinism presents. Born with albinism, he dreamed of becoming a gospel singer and recording artist. From the age of three, he sang along with old gospel records at home in Magnolia, MS, using a broom handle as a microphone, pretending to sing along with such groups as The Jackson Southernaires. His dream undiminished, the bullying and teasing he endured due to his appearance and visual limitations only served to increase his resolve to major in music on the college level. His story and vocal performance will inspire teachers of all disciplines to help students with disabilities to succeed in their talent area.

**Sarah May, RN, BSN**, teaches violin and homeschools her children in Henderson, KY. Two of her six children also have albinism. Via a brief Skype presentation, Ms. May will share information about services available to students with visual impairment, with an emphasis on teaching music. Her presentation will include a sample performance each by Abigail (11) on flute and Noah (9) on piano. Sarah is the daughter of MMTA member Carol Mahler, and is an MTNA/KMTA member.



**Recital Featuring New Faculty at Mississippi Universities and  
the World Premiere of the MMTA Commissioned Composition**

**by Jason Carl Rosenberg**

Friday, November 1, 2019, at 5:00 p.m.  
Connie Sills Kossen Auditorium  
Poindexter Hall



"Je suis encor" from Manon Jules Massenet (1842-1912)  
Elizabeth Jones, soprano (Mississippi University for Women)  
Trent Smith, piano

Centennial Horizon (2011), Mvt. II: Roaring Gunnison Kevin McKee (b. 1980)  
Megan Bailey, trumpet (Delta State University)  
Karen Fosheim, piano (Delta State University)

Romance for E flat Saxophone and Piano William Grant Still (1895-1978)  
Brandon E. Robinson, saxophone (Mississippi University for Women)  
Valentin M. Bogdan, piano (Mississippi University for Women)

"Out of Reach".....Hannah Heaton (Mississippi University for Women)  
*State winner, MTNA Young Artist Composition Competition*  
Laura Sandifer, violin (Mississippi University for Women class of 2019)  
Hannah Heaton, piano

Arborescence Jason Carl Rosenberg (b. 1979)  
Jason Mathena, vibraphone and marimba

Ignite\* Jason Carl Rosenberg (b. 1979)

\*2019 Mississippi Music Teachers Association Commissioned Work, funded by the Music Teachers National Association and the Mississippi Music Teachers Association



## Guest Artist Recital

### **Yakov Kasman and Dina Kasman, piano**

Friday, November 1, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.

Connie Sills Kossen Auditorium

Poindexter Hall



Fantasia in F minor, D.940, for Piano Four Hands                      Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Sonata for Piano Four Hands    Paul Hindemith (1895-1963)

1. Mäßig bewegt

2. Lebhaft

3. Ruhig bewegt

Dina Kasman and Yakov Kasman Piano Duo

#### INTERMISSION

From Three Chorales for Organ:    S. Franck (arr. by Jaques Durand)  
3. Chorale in A Minor, FWV 40

Symphony No. 1 in G Minor    V. Kalinnikov  
I. Allegro Moderato

From Symphony No. 6, Op. 74    P. Tchaikovsky (arr. by composer)  
III. Scherzo. Allegro molto vivace

Dina Kasman and Yakov Kasman Piano Duo

*You are cordially invited to a reception in honor of Yakov Kasman and Dina Kasman in the  
Thomas Hall Lobby, furnished by the Golden Triangle Music Forum.*

