

2023 ASMTA CONFERENCE OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

Please note that all events will be held in Choir Room unless otherwise indicated

Friday, June 1st

9:00am-9:30 am	Registration
9:30am-9:45am	Welcome
9:45am-10:45am	Embracing Innovation with an Entrepreneurial Mindset As we emerge from the pandemic and disrupted times, how will our studios (and associations) move forward to meet new challenges? How can we let our hopes, and not our fears, shape the future? Let's embrace innovation with an entrepreneurial mindset! Karen Thickstun
10:45am-11:45am	Essential Business Practices for Independent Music Teachers Times change. We have all adapted our teaching for new generations and challenges. Equally important are up-to-date studio policies and procedures, delivered with clarity and consistency. Now is a great time to refresh our communication and business practices! Karen Thickstun
12:00pm-1:30pm	Lunch and ASMTA Board Meeting
1:30pm-2:30pm	Around the World Let's visit around the world and explore some repertoire for Intermediate and early advance students. Marina Roldan, Gjergji Gaqi, and Mary Chung

2:30 pm-3:30pm	<p>Five Pedagogical Principles to Teach and Live By.</p> <p>Great teaching is more than appropriate materials and good equipment. Great teachers consistently employ key pedagogical principles that go to the heart of developing independent, joyful learners.</p> <p>Karen Thickstun</p>
3:30pm-4:30 pm	Independent Music Teachers Forum & Collegiate Member Meeting
5:45pm-7:15pm	Conference Banquet –Walker
7:30pm	Guest Artist Recital: Petronel Malan

Saturday, June 2nd

9:00am-10:00 am	<p>Let's Play Jeopardy! MTNA Resource Gems</p> <p>Do you know the <u>full</u> value of your national membership? Explore some of the lesser-known benefits, including inside tips on MTNA grants, new business resources, music discounts, and more! Or just play for the prizes!</p> <p>Karen Thickstun</p>
10:00am-12:00pm	ASMTA Auditions for the Honors Recital and Master Class
12:00pm-1:00pm	Lunch Break
1:00pm-1:30pm	<p>General Session of ASMTA Paul Whitley, President</p>
1:30 pm	<p>Honors Recital</p> <p>Performance by Christine Wang Piano Scholarship Winner</p>
2:30 pm	Master Class with Dr. Petronel Malan

GUEST ARTIST: Dr. PETRONEL MALAN



"Formidable...dizzying...magical." These words from New York reviewer Harris Goldsmith vividly illustrate pianist Petronel Malan's uniquely captivating style. Indeed, as a multiple Grammy® nominee and gold medalist of several international piano competitions, Petronel continues to enthrall audiences worldwide.

Lauded by reviewers as an unmistakably creative force in the classical music industry, Petronel's critical acclaim culminated in the nomination of three Grammy® Awards, including "Best Instrumental Solo Album" for her debut disc *Transfigured Bach*. As an exclusive recording artist for Hänssler Classic, *Transfigured Mozart* (2006) and *Transfigured Beethoven* (2008) followed to great critical acclaim. *Transfigured Tchaikovsky* (2012) was awarded "The American Prize for Excellence in the Arts." November 2015 *Transfigured Brahms* was released, which includes world-premiere recordings of transcriptions by Lowell Liebermann.

Petronel maintains a full performance schedule as recitalist, orchestral soloist and chamber musician in venues throughout the world. After her European debut in Rome, further highlights have included Carnegie Recital Hall, Théâtre du Châtelet & Salle Cortot (Paris), Mozarteum (Salzburg), Liszt Museum (Budapest), Orchestra Hall (Chicago), Alte Handelsbörse (Leipzig), Bass Hall (Fort Worth), as well as the Ravinia, Gilmore, Southeastern & Music in the Mountain Festivals. Ms. Malan's career was launched following five gold medals in 2000 at international piano competitions throughout the United States.

Born in South Africa, Petronel began lessons with her mother at age four, continuing with Adolph Hallis and Joseph Stanford. She debuted with the Johannesburg Symphony at age ten and subsequently won all major national competitions, before moving to the US. Petronel completed her graduate degrees,

including a DMA, at the University of North Texas. Her teachers included Steven de Groote, Ralph Votapek, Joseph Banowetz and extended sessions with American legend Earl Wild.

Although residing in the United States, Ms. Malan continues strong ties to her native South Africa. She received the “Rapport/City Press Prestige Award” as one of the “10 Most Inspirational Women in South Africa,” and has appeared on magazine covers, fashion spreads and even as picture-clues in crossword puzzles. She was awarded the highest national honors for her live performances: The KKNK Kanna (South African Oscar) and a KykNET Fiesta award. Apart from a love for vintage gowns, Ms. Malan’s stage wardrobe is designed by foremost South African designers. A frequent speaker and promoter of classical music in schools, scholarships in her name are awarded to promising young musicians.

GUEST CLINICIAN: KAREN THICKSTUN



Karen Thickstun teaches piano pedagogy at Butler University and co-advises the Butler MTNA Collegiate Chapter. Thickstun holds degrees in piano performance/economics from Duke University, business administration from University of Virginia, and piano pedagogy from Butler University. Thickstun recently retired as founding director of the Butler Community Arts School. Serving 2,000 children through private lessons, group classes, and camps, instruction is provided by over a hundred Butler University students that she mentored in professional teaching practices. Working with afterschool programs, community centers, and United Way agencies, Thickstun developed a network of community partners to provide access to the arts for inner-city youth. To fund outreach classes and provide need-based scholarships, she wrote and received grants for more than \$100,000 annually for ten years. In 2019, Thickstun was recognized by Butler University with the “Woman of Distinction” award, annually given to one staff/faculty recipient. In 2018, she was selected by United Way of Central Indiana as one of its “100 Heroes” to recognize the positive impact she has made in the community. For 2017-2019, Thickstun received a two-year

Creative Arts Renewal Fellowship from the Arts Council of Indianapolis, funded by Lilly Endowment, Inc.

Thickstun is active in the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) as immediate past president. She previously served as MTNA President (2021-2023), MTNA President-Elect (2019-2021), MTNA Vice President (2015-2017) and MTNA Secretary-Treasurer (2013-2015). Recent national appointments include grants and awards task force chair, MTNA Teacher of the Year committee chair, and strategic planning committee. She served as director of East Central Division director on the MTNA Board of Directors (2008-2010) and chaired the Local Associations Forum. Thickstun is a nationally-certified teacher of music (NCTM) through MTNA.

Thickstun is coordinator of the MTNA Business Digest, an online quarterly publication, and oversees the Business Resources section of the MTNA website. She authors a tri-annual column “The Everyday Entrepreneur” (formerly “It’s All Your Business”) for American Music Teacher. Her articles have also appeared in Keyboard Companion and Clavier Companion. She has presented numerous pedagogy and business sessions at MTNA National Conferences and other local, state and national conferences.

Thickstun has been active in the Indiana Music Teachers Association (IMTA) as president, trustee chair, newsletter editor, syllabus chair, conference chair, commissioning chair, arts advocacy chair, and bylaws revision chair. She received the Distinguished Service Award in 2002 and the Teacher of the Year award in 2008.

GUEST PRESENTERS:

Dr. MARINA BENGUA ROLDAN AND Dr.GJERGJI GAQI



Dr. Marina Bengoa Roldan is an Adjunct Professor of Piano at Southern Arkansas University, teaching class piano, applied piano, music appreciation, and accompanying. In 2022 she finished her Doctoral studies in Piano Performance at the University of Oregon (USA) under the guidance of Dr. Alexandre Dossin with a full scholarship and assistantship. She worked as a Piano Professor of class piano, applied piano, and accompanist. Marina received the outstanding award in Piano pedagogy. In 2021, she completed a Master's in Piano Pedagogy, creating the website spanishpianomusic.org.

Dr. Bengoa received her Master of Music in Piano Performance at Georgia State University (Atlanta, USA), studying with Dr. Sergio Gallo. She was a Graduate Teaching Assistant at GSU.

Apart from her activity as a pianist, she regularly presents at national and international conferences. She gave presentations for the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy, the Graduate conference at the University of Calgary (Canada), Musicking (University of Oregon), and Catedra Bogota Musical International (Colombia). She will present a lecture recital at NCKP 2023 about Alicia de Larrocha in July.

Dr. Bengoa Roldán has won numerous prizes in international and national piano competitions. Most notably, she has won: Gold Medal, Vienesse festival, Seattle International Piano Festival (2022); Silver Medal, Virtuoso artist festival, Seattle International Piano Festival (2021); Second Prize Best Chopin Performance in Great Composers Competition (2017); Third Prize at the II International Piano Competition "Julio García Casas" (2015); Third and Second Prize, III National piano Competition Gabriel Teruel Machí (2012, 2014); Second Prize, XV National Piano Competition of Xátiva (2012); Third Prize, XV International Piano Competition of San Sebastián (2008), First Prize Hazen, El Escorial, Madrid. (2005, 2007, 2009). In 2022, Dr. Bengoa received grants from Mu Phi Epsilon Foundation and DSAC of the University of Oregon.

She has participated in several prestigious courses, including Orford Academy in Canada and Sommerakademie at the University of Music and Dramatic Arts Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria. She made her orchestral debut in 2013, playing

Sergei Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto no. 2 in several concert halls in Valencia (Spain). In 2016 received a Dean's award from Georgia State University and made her Carnegie Hall debut (New York), awarded by the American Protégé Competition. As a winner of the Brumby Concerto Competition, she performed Prokofiev's Piano Concerto no. 1 with the Georgia State University Symphony Orchestra under the guidance of Michael Palmer.

During the summers of 2016 and 2017, Marina received The Elżbieta and Krzysztof Krawczyński Fund's scholarship from the Chopin Society of Atlanta, participating in the

Paris International Summer Sessions and International Piano Course in Valldemossa (Spain) at the Catedra Chopin. During 2018 and 2019, she received a scholarship to participate in Curso Universitario Internacional de Música Española. “Música en Compostela” in Galicia, Spain.



Equally at home in solo and collaborative music, Gjergji Gaqi maintains an active performing career throughout North America and Europe, including as part of the Gaqi Piano Duo. Dr. Gaqi studied piano and chamber music at the International School of Chamber Music “Trio di Trieste” in Duino (Italy) while completing the bilingual International Baccalaureate diploma. A Summa Cum Laude graduate of Colby College as a Music major and Economics minor, Gaqi won the Colby Concerto Competition, studying with Cheryl Tschanz (piano) and Jonathan Hallstrom (composition). Gaqi received his graduate degrees at the University of Michigan under the guidance of Christopher Harding and John Ellis, while pursuing additional studies in jazz piano with Ellen Rowe. Dr. Gaqi is currently Assistant Professor of Piano at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, with previous appointments at Tyler Junior College, Siena Heights University, College of the Mainland, Brazosport College and the University of Michigan. He has formerly served as president of the East Texas Music Teachers Association, as well as chair of the Helen Elbert Collaborative Music Festival. In addition to being a sought-after masterclass clinician and adjudicator of festivals and competitions,

Mr. Gazi is co-founder and Artistic Director of the Settenote Online Piano International Competition.