

Arkansas State Music Teachers Association (ASMTA)
 2025 State Conference
 Witherspoon Hall
 Arkansas Tech University (Russellville, AR)

Friday June 6th

8:45 – 9:15	Registration (Witherspoon Atrium)
9:15 – 9:30	Welcome (Witherspoon 212 – Choir Room)
9:30 - 11:00	<p>Dr. Helen Marlais (Witherspoon 212 – Choir Room) Teaching Beginner Students Technique and Musicality In this teacher seminar, Dr. Helen Marlais’ will explain the “building blocks” of technique, and giving an in-depth clinic on <i>teaching physical gestures</i> to students. She will demonstrate how these important physical gestures play a vital role in a students' musicality. Additional topics will include how to teach a combined reading approach, how to have students internalize rhythm from the beginning, practice strategies to use for beginner students, and how to use discovery learning. Regardless of whether you use her method <i>Succeeding at the Piano</i>, or haven’t tried it yet, this session will give you the tools and the materials to support your teaching.</p>
11:15 - NOON	<p>Dr. Christy Huskey (Witherspoon 212 – Choir Room) “The Life and Works of Ernesto Lecuona”</p>
NOON – 1:30	Lunch/ASMTA Board Meeting (Witherspoon 111)
1:45– 2:30	<p>Dr. Gjergji Gaqi and Dr. Naoki Hakutani (Witherspoon 212 – Choir Room) “From the Balkans with Duets: Exploring Piano Four-Hands Music of Southeastern Europe”</p>
2:40 – 3:20	<p>Poster Sessions (Witherspoon 212 – Choir Room) Holly Farrah: “Breaking Bonds: How Margaret Bonds’ Use of Spritual Melodies Continued Traditions of Composers from the Common Practice Period” Kiri McMann: “Brazilian Polkas: Teaching Chiquinha Gonzaga’s Polkas for Piano”</p>
3:20 – 4:05	<p>Broc Hite (Witherspoon 212 – Choir Room) “Winning Repertoire: How to Find Great Beginner and Intermediate Pieces for Festivals and Beyond”</p>

4:15 – 4:45	Independent Music Teachers Forum (Witherspoon 212 – Choir Room)
4:45 - 5:15	Collegiate Member Meeting (Witherspoon 212 – Choir Room)
5:30 – 7:15	Conference Banquet (Chambers Cafeteria West Dining Hall)
7:30	Guest Artist Recital: Yoshiki Fujii , piano Works by Haydn, Chopin, Ravel and Liszt

Saturday June 7th

9:00 – 10:15	Dr. Helen Marlais (Witherspoon 212 – Choir Room) Sound, physical gesture, and imagination Join Helen Marlais as she explores ways to look at students' repertoire in three dimensions. She will discuss: musicality, sound, and tone color, body-friendly physical gestures, and will discuss many ways to stimulate students' imaginations so they feel and think about the music. She will also delve into how to plan repertoire for student's yearly progress. Students will be able to transcend technique and create artistic interpretations at every level.
10:00 – 12:00	ASMTA Auditions
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch Break
1:00 – 1:30	General Session of ASMTA (Witherspoon 212 – Choir Room) Mary Chung, President
1:30 – 2:15	Master Class with Yoshiki Fujii (Witherspoon Auditorium)
2:30	ASMTA Honors Recital (Witherspoon Auditorium)