

Session Presenter Bios

In alphabetical order

Dr. Janci Bronson serves as an Associate Teaching Professor at Iowa State University (ISU), where for ten years she has taught all the class piano and piano pedagogy courses. In 2018, she was a recipient of ISU's Outstanding Teaching by a Lecturer award. Her education includes a Ph.D. in Music Education, emphasis in Piano Pedagogy from the University of Oklahoma (OU), where she studied with Drs. Jane Magrath and Barbara Fast. She holds a Master of Music in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from OU. A Bachelor of Music, *summa cum laude*, in Piano Performance was earned from Kansas State University, where she studied piano with Dr. Virginia Houser and organ with Dr. Mary Ellen Sutton.



Dr. Bronson is an active leader within MTNA. She is currently the Iowa Music Teachers Association (IMTA) state President-Elect. Previously, she served as the IMTA state Technology chair, where she wrote biannual articles published in the *Iowa Music Teacher* magazine. She chaired the 2017 state IMTA planning committee, hosted at ISU. Dr. Bronson was chosen as the 2016-2017 IMTA State Certified Teacher of the Year and received the 2017 IMTA State Distinguished Service award. Previously, Dr. Bronson served as the OU MTNA chapter President when they won the MTNA-Benjamin Whitten National Collegiate Chapter of the Year award. As an undergraduate, she served as the KSU MTNA collegiate chapter President.

She frequently serves as an adjudicator, master class teacher, and clinician. In 2019, Dr. Bronson was the Pedagogy Workshop guest clinician, hosted at Wartburg College in Waverly, IA. Additionally, Dr. Bronson maintains a successful private piano studio of beginners through advanced students. Her students win district and state performance competitions and have been accepted into prestigious undergraduate and graduate piano programs. In summer 2019, she solitarily designed and taught Children's Intro to Piano classes for the Ames, IA and surrounding communities. Janci is also a devoted wife and proud mother of three young children.

Brock Chart (b.1991) is a composer residing in Lawrence, Kansas. Brock composes in a variety of genres and mediums including jazz, contemporary chamber ensembles, solo voice, choral, educational piano literature, and film music. He has a Bachelor's degree in Music Composition from the University of Kansas, and an M.M in Music Composition from KU. Past teachers include Dan Gailey, Dr. Forrest Pierce, Dr. Kip Haahaim, and James Barnes.



Brock has been awarded two Student Music Awards in DownBeat magazine for composition in jazz writing categories in both large ensemble writing, and small group writing. He was recently named an honorable mention in the 2017 New York Youth Symphony First Music Commissions for his piece, "Down to the Wire.", and has arranged large jazz ensemble pieces for Kneebody, Walter Smith Jr. III, Sons of Brasil, and Alaturka. Brock was also named 2nd Place in the Kansas Choral Composition Prize for his SATB piece from Christina Rossetti's poem, "Echo."

Recently Brock composed original music for the Museum of Modern Art's short film series, "How To See" which was listed in the British Film Institute's list of the Best Video Essays of 2019. His music was also used in Brandon Daley's short film "Savasana" which was premiered at the 2016 Slamdance film festival in Utah, "Chicken Tuesdays", and "Technology Lake" which was one of twelve films selected to compete at the Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival in South Korea and the Brussels International Fantastic Film Festival.

Brock spends his free time teaching private piano lessons, cooking, spending time with his girlfriend, Dominique, and their two pups, Korra and Winnebago.

Dr. Slawomir Dobrzański is a graduate of the Frederic Chopin Conservatory of Music in Warsaw, Poland and the University of Connecticut, where he received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in 2001. Dobrzański is the author of the first English language biography of the acclaimed 19th century pianist and composer Maria Szymanowska. Under the London-based *Acte Prealable* label, Dobrzański has released several critically acclaimed CD albums of previously unknown piano repertoire by Maria Szymanowska, Antoine de Kontski, and Wiktor Labunski. He is the founder and former Artistic Director of the Fryderyk Chopin Society of Connecticut.



In 2005, Dobrzański joined the music faculty at Kansas State University, where he currently serves as Professor of Music. He teaches piano performance, chamber music and piano literature. Many of his former students have become highly successful soloists and chamber musicians, often while serving simultaneously on the music faculties of colleges, music conservatories, and community music schools. Dobrzański has concertized and conducted workshops, lectures and masterclasses in more than thirty countries across the globe.

Po Sim Head: Born in Hong Kong, Po Sim is currently pursuing the doctorate degree of Piano performance and pedagogy in the University of Kansas under the instruction of Dr. Scott McBride Smith. Po Sim completed her undergraduate degree of Music Composition and Production in Hong Kong Baptist University, studying under Dr. Christopher Coleman. Later she received her master degrees in Piano Performance and Musicology from the University of Missouri- Kansas City (UMKC) where she studied piano with Dr. Jane Solose and professor Henry Kramer.



In addition to regular performances in Kansas City, Po Sim has performed throughout Southeast Asia and Europe. She also actively participates in music events and masterclasses. She played in masterclasses by Sean Chen and Jerry Wang at UMKC. In 2017, she was accepted to participate the summer workshop organized by the Juilliard School of Dance and Music where she performed with the cellist Julian Schwarz. She also attended the SIPO piano festival the same year and played in the masterclasses by Paul Skoda, Boris Berman, and Luiz Carlos.

As a musicologist, she has presented her papers at the conferences of the College Music Society (2019), Britain and the World (2019), and the Midwest Music Research Collective (2018). She is a guest writer for Interlude.hk to help in promoting classical music to the general public.

Agnieszka Lasko is a pianist, composer, educator and author. Her trilingual piano method book – written in Polish, English and German – 'First Class Piano' (published by Euterpe) has received acclaim from piano pedagogues and is gaining worldwide recognition. Described as 'Excellent' in the Polish academic journal of the Polish Chamber Musicians' Association (Kraków 2017), it was also 'Warmly recommended' by the UK Magazine Piano Professional EPTA as a very good alternative to what's offered by America and the UK.



Agnieszka Lasko completed her studies with professor Cezary Sanecki at the Grażyna and Kiejstut Bacewicz Music Academy in Łódź, Poland. With a deep interest for playing ensemble music, in 2019 she participated alongside Elżbieta Tyszecka in the world premiere recording of Aleksander Tansman's Piano Four Hands Music (Acte Préalable).

In high demand as a piano pedagogy specialist, Agnieszka Lasko lectures on original methods for teaching children at the early stages of their piano education. Among her many presentations she was featured at the National Academic and Artistic Conference 'Partnership in Music' at the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in Warsaw, Poland, at the 10th and 11th World Piano Conference in Serbia where she taught Special WPC Master Classes, at Hands-On Research Symposium at University of Aveiro, Portugal. Her latest collection of piano pieces 'Little Stories' (published by Euterpe) was praised by Andrew Eales of Pianodao.com as a "Natural winner" and a "Truly essential addition to the childrens' pedagogic literature".

Dr. Crystal Zimmerman grew up in Wichita, Kansas and earned dual Bachelor of Music degrees in piano performance and piano pedagogy from Wichita State University. She moved to Eugene, Oregon where she continued her studies at the University of Oregon, completing a Master of Music degree in Piano Performance, and another Master of Music degree in Piano Pedagogy. In 2010 she completed her Doctorate of Musical Arts degree, with an emphasis in Piano Performance and a supporting area in Musicology from the University of Oregon.



Dr. Zimmerman currently teaches class piano and individual piano lessons as well as courses in music technology at Willamette University. She is also staff accompanist and the coordinator of the accompanying program. She maintains an active performance schedule, frequently performing in collaborative, chamber music, and solo recitals. Zimmerman is in demand as a lecturer - regularly providing preconcert lectures for the Oregon Symphony and lectures for Oregon Music Teachers Association. Her articles have been featured in American Music Teacher magazine and she is co-editor with Helen Marlais of a six book series for FJH music company, entitled Succeeding with Sonatinas. Her greatest success is her beautiful family - her perfect sons Emmett and Riley, her supportive husband Matthew, and cat Mini.

Dr. Eric Zuber: During a period of just a few years, Dr. Zuber was a recipient of major prizes from ten of the world's most prestigious international piano competitions including Arthur Rubinstein, Cleveland, Seoul, Sydney, Dublin, Hastings, Honens, and the Piano-e-Competition, and was named a Laureate of the American Pianist Association Classical Fellowship Awards. He was also a Gold Medalist in both the Hilton Head and Boesendorfer International Piano Competitions. For these and many other remarkable achievements, he was given the Arthur Rubinstein Prize by The Juilliard School. Dr. Zuber is also a two-time recipient of the Gina Bachauer Prize at Juilliard—one of only a handful of pianists in the school's history to have won the award twice in two consecutive years.



In addition to a busy solo and collaborative career, Dr. Zuber is dedicated to helping the next generation of aspiring young artists. He was recently named Visiting Assistant Professor of Piano at the University of Kansas, and has held previous faculty positions at a number of universities including Bucknell University, the University of Memphis, the Peabody Institute, and at the Bowdoin International Music Festival. This past summer he joined the faculty for the Walled City International Piano Festival and Competition in Northern Ireland, the Cleveland International Piano Preparatory Academy and Festival, and the Asia International Piano Festival held at Ehwa University in South Korea.

Eric holds degrees from the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University (B.M., A.D., D.M.A.), the Curtis Institute of Music (Diploma), and the Juilliard School (M.M). His major teachers have been Boris Slutsky, Leon Fleisher, Claude Frank, and Robert McDonald. Dr. Zuber is a CME Artist.

Teachers' Discussion Leaders

College Faculty Chair: Dr. Christina Liu, NCTM, is Assistant Professor at Bethel College in Newton, KS where she teaches applied piano, class piano, music history, music theory, and aural skills. She is also Director of the Bethel College Summer Music Camp. In addition to teaching at the collegiate and pre-collegiate level, she is active as a solo and collaborative pianist. She serves as chair of the Kansas MTA College Faculty Forum, coordinator of Lawrence Final Fridays Music, and frequently collaborates with colleagues in the Kansas City area. She holds degrees from the University of Kansas, University of Michigan, and Washington State University, and her research has been featured at MTNA National Conferences and NCKP.



Student Chapter Chair: Dr. Meg Gray is the Assistant Professor of Piano Pedagogy at Wichita State University where she teaches piano pedagogy and coordinates the undergraduate class piano program. Previously, she was on the faculty at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance and Lincoln University of Missouri, where she taught piano and theory courses and at Lincoln, served as the institutional representative to the National Association of Schools of Music.



Dr. Gray has been a clinician, presenter, moderator, and panelist at Music Teachers National Conference, the National Association of Schools of Music Conference, and the National Group Piano and Piano Pedagogy Forum (GP3). She has been an active member of MTNA since 1985, and has participated in local chapters in Washington, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Illinois, Missouri, and Kansas. Meg Gray holds a PhD in Piano Pedagogy and an MM in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Oklahoma.

Independent Music Teachers Forum Chair: Dr. Maya Tuylieva, a young pianist from Turkmenistan (former USSR) was described as a profound artist, capable of commanding the attention of the audience with her inimitable sincerity and conviction of her performances by colleges and listeners around the world.



She won her first competition at the age of six and made her national debut with a live performance on Turkmen National Television at the age of eight. She then entered the Turkmen State Special Music School, where she became the winner of numerous state competitions. Among those was the 1999 Turkmen National Young Artist Competition. Upon graduating from the Special Music School, Maya entered the Turkmen National Conservatory, where she worked and performed with the Turkmen Philharmonic Orchestra and the orchestra of the Turkmen National Conservatory.

In 2001 Maya got an opportunity to study in the US. She received a full scholarship to study at The University of Kansas, where she got her Bachelor of Arts in Music degree. While studying in Kansas the young pianist won several national competitions, including Crescendo Young Musician's Guild Competition and Naftzger Young Artists Competition. Maya was also selected to perform with University of Kansas Symphony Orchestra for their concerti series at Lied Center of Kansas for Performing Arts.

In the spring of 2008, while earning her Master's degree at Arizona State University, Maya Tuylieva won the Cosmo and Buono International Piano Competition in New York, NY. Consequently, she performed in Carnegie Recital Hall at the Winners' Recital Gala Concert in May, 2008. Recently Tuylieva earned her Doctorate degree from The University of Kansas. Maya's current performances include Young Artist Tour around Italy and concert series in Japan.