



Fall Conference, October 12 - 14, 2017

Niswonger Performing Arts Center

Van Wert, Ohio

Schedule of Events

THURSDAY October 12, 2017

- 9:30-4:15** **Registration** – Lobby
- 10:00-11:15** **Executive Board Meeting**
- 11:30-1:00** **OhioMTA Board Meeting** (Box Lunch order online or registration form)
Executive Committee, State Chairs and District Presidents Box Lunch
- 1:00-5:15** **Exhibits Open** – Lobby
- 1:30-2:30** ***Grounded in the Beat: Cultivating the Seeds of Rhythmic Fluency***
Joy Morin
First Federal Auditorium
- 2:50-3:50** ***Beginning Classical Improvisation for Students (and their Teachers)***
John Mortensen
First Federal Auditorium
- 4:15-5:15** **CFF/IMTF/Collegiate Lightning Talks Sessions**
Breakout Rooms TBD
- 5:30** **Dinner** (order online or registration form)
Commons
- 8:00** **Showcase Recital:**
Collegiate and State Festival / Competition Winners
First Federal Auditorium

Reception immediately following the recital in the Upstairs Lobby

FRIDAY October 13, 2017

- 8:00-4:00** **Registration - Lobby**
- 8:00-5:15** **Exhibits Open**
- 8:00-8:30** ***Yoga with Sarah Hope Wells***
Back of Stage
- 8:45-11:00** **Part 1: *Technique for Young Beginners***
Part 2: *Master Class for Intermediate Level Students*
Irina Gorin: Featured Pedagogue
First Federal Auditorium
- 11:15-11:45** ***Composer of the Year***
Lecture Hall
- 12:00-1:00** **Collegiate Poster Session**
Side Lobby Area
- 12:00-1:00** **Lunch** (order online or registration form)
- 1:15-2:15** ***Connecting the First Years of Piano Teaching with Hand Injury Prevention***
Margarita Denenburg and Victor Welsch
Lecture Hall
- 2:30-3:30** ***Rising to the Top: How to Create a Successful Teaching/Audition Video***
Lucia Unrau
Lecture Hall
- 3:45-4:45** ***Making Technology Work for You and Your Students (instead of against you)***
Eric Wilson
Lecture Hall
- 6:00** **Dinner** (order online or registration form)
Willow Bend Country Club
- 7:30** ***The Five Browns***
Conference Artists
First Federal Auditorium

Reception immediately following the recital in the Upstairs Lobby

SATURDAY October 14, 2017

8:00-12:15 Exhibits Open

8:00-9:00 Registration

8:00-8:50 Music Development Program
Lecture Hall

9:00-9:50 *That First Lesson*
Irina Gorin
First Federal Auditorium

10:00-11:00 *A Conversation with the Five Browns*
First Federal Auditorium

11:15-12:05 *First Position: Becoming a Ballet Accompanist*
First Federal Auditorium

12:15-1:30 General Business Meeting, Awards Luncheon (order online or registration form)
Commons

1:30 Adjourn

Schedule is subject to change

Conference Artist – The Five Browns

The 5 Browns are delivering on their dream to wake up classical music by introducing it to the widest, largest and most excited audience they can find. Whether performing individually or together in various combinations from duo to complex five-piano arrangements, The 5 Browns reveal a deep connection to the intent of their material while bringing a fresh energy and dynamic character to the color and tonal spectrum of their sound.

The 5 Browns – Ryan, Melody, Gregory, Deondra and Desirae – all attended New York’s Juilliard School. In fact, they became the first family of five siblings ever accepted simultaneously. The quintet enjoyed their first wave of critical attention in February 2002 when People magazine dubbed them the “Fab Five” at about the same time they were featured on Oprah and 60 Minutes. The 5 Browns have released 3 CDs that each went to #1 on Billboard Magazine’s Classical Album Chart. The New York Post has proclaimed: “One family, five pianos and 50 fingers add up to the biggest classical music sensation in years...When these kids do Rachmaninoff, they’ll make you forget about Marshall amps.”

The quintet has garnered extensive coverage from media outlets ranging from The Tonight Show, Good Morning America, The Today Show, and The View, to CNN, Fox and Friends, Public Radio’s Performance Today, as well as The New York Times, Parade, People, the Los Angeles Times, the Sunday London Telegraph and Entertainment Weekly.

The 5 Browns tour extensively and have performed in numerous venues including Carnegie Hall’s Isaac Stern Auditorium, Grand National Theater in China, Suntory Hall in Japan and, in the United States, The Kimmel Center in Philadelphia, Symphony Hall in Chicago and Alice Tully Hall in New York City. Individually and collaboratively, they have soloed with orchestras around the world, including the Saint Louis Symphony, the National Symphony Orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the New Jersey Symphony, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and the Orchestre de chambre de Paris.

In addition to touring, The 5 Browns are published writers. Their book, Life Between the Keys, a lighthearted collection of personal stories, was published by Phoenix Books in March 2009.

The group was also featured in a PBS TV special, “The 5 Browns In Concert” which aired on PBS stations throughout the country.

A highlight for the quintet was a commissioned five-piano concerto written by famed composer Nico Mühly. Under the direction of Maestro James Conlon, the concerto premiered in 2011 at the Ravinia Festival with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

The 2017/18 season will include the release of their 7th album with Grammy award winning producer Adam Abeshouse, which in addition to musical favorites from their childhood will also feature an illustrated book authored by NY Times best seller Liesl Shurtliff.

The 5 Browns are managed by IMG artists, and are exclusive Steinway Artists.

Featured Pedagogue – Irina Gorin

Irina Gorin, born in Kiev, Ukraine, studied at Kiev Music College and Kharkov Conservatory. She holds Masters Degrees in Piano Performance, Piano Pedagogy, Chamber Ensemble, and Accompaniment.

Over the last 30 years, Mrs. Gorin has established a reputation as one of the most prominent pedagogues for children in the United States and beyond. Gorin Piano Studio's graduates continue their musical education in Universities and Conservatories throughout the United States, pursuing diplomas in Performance, Pedagogy, and Music Education. She also contributes to the enrichment of piano teachers by regularly conducting workshops and master classes. Mrs. Gorin is often sought after as a judge for local and national piano competitions.

"Tales of a Musical Journey" is the culmination of her vast education and teaching experience. The series uniquely blends Russian and American teaching methods to prepare beginning piano students for a classical repertoire. Translated into seven languages with more coming, thousands of copies of this publication have been sold in more than 50 countries.

Written in a form of a chapter book, "Tales of a Musical Journey" uses fairy tale setting and characters to introduce and expand musical concepts. In the series, the young minds are set on a journey through fictitious musical land, where they become friends with the inhabitants of the land. Entertaining and logically interconnected stories develop a young student's understanding and appreciation of music and piano playing. Comprehensive analogies with the Fairy Tale characters and their adventures make complicated techniques easy and fun. Ear training exercises and theory activities further train and develop young musical ears.

In order to showcase the talent of young pianists, Irina Gorin founded and served as President of the Carmel Klavier International Piano Competition, which has welcomed competitors from all over the world since 2014.

Commissioned Composer

Jennifer Bernard Merkowitz is Associate Professor of Music at Otterbein University in Westerville, Ohio, where she has taught composition, theory, aural skills, and electronic music since 2008. She received her MM and DMA in Composition from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and she holds a BA in Music and a BS in Computer Science from the University of Richmond. Prior teaching appointments include the College of William and Mary in Virginia and Interlochen Arts Camp in Michigan.

Jenny is a composer, pianist, and violist whose diverse inspirations have included liturgical chant, basketball games, and the growth patterns of plants. Her music has been performed in national and international venues such as the Society of Composers, Inc. National Conference, the National Flute Association Convention, and the International Computer Music Conference. Recent projects include *Les Crapauds de la Fontaine (The Toads from the Fountain)* for bass clarinet and electronics, a commission for the Third Practice Electroacoustic Music Festival that turns frog calls into rhythmic musical accompaniment; and *Brothers and Sisters*, a piece for Otterbein University's Concert Choir that sets poetry by U.S. Children's Poet Laureate J. Patrick Lewis. Her solo percussion piece *And the Dish Ran Away with the Spoon* can be heard on Joseph Van Hassel's album *Correlates* on Soundset Recordings. She lives in Westerville with her husband and two sons. You can listen to more of her music at <https://soundcloud.com/jennymerkowitz>.

Conference Presenters

Margarita Denenburg is the Assistant Professor of Keyboard Studies at Heidelberg University, where she teaches applied piano and Pedagogy. Dr. Denenburg was recognized for her teaching effectiveness through several campus and statewide awards including the Merit Faculty Award, the Innovative Teaching Award and the Excellence in Education Award for the State of Ohio. Dr. Denenburg has written articles for *American Music Teacher*, *Clavier Companion* and *Piano Pedagogy Forum*.

In spring of 2015 and 2016, Dr. Denenburg presented at the University of Savoy and Chambéry Conservatory, France and the College Music Society's Regional Conference at Michigan State University and Indiana University respectfully. Additionally she serves on the College Music Society Great Lakes Program Review Committee and chairs the OhioMTA Commissioned Composer Selection Committee and the Ohio Federation Music Club MA Scholarship Award.

Dr. Denenburg performed Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* with pianist Dr. Gerald Evans in France. She holds the Bachelor and Master of Music Degrees from Arizona State University and graduated "with distinction" from the University of Southern California in 2012 with the Doctor of Musical Arts Degree.

Joy Morin is a pianist and teacher currently residing in northwest Ohio, where she operates an independent piano studio. Her keen interest in piano pedagogy leads her to endeavors including blogging (at ColorInMyPiano.com), authoring resources for piano teachers, presenting workshops, and serving for regional piano teachers' associations. Joy is an active member of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), currently serving as Vice President for Affiliated Associations for the Ohio Music Teachers Association and Vice President for the Toledo Piano Teachers Association. In recent years, Joy has been pursuing her interest in Edwin Gordon's work with Music Learning Theory (MLT). She completed the Piano Certification Course through the Gordon Institute for Music Learning (GIML.org) in 2016.

Joy attained a Master of Music degree in piano performance and pedagogy from Central Michigan University (Mount Pleasant, Michigan), where her responsibilities included teaching group piano classes and collaborating with vocalists and instrumentalists. At Central, she studied piano and piano pedagogy with Adrienne Wiley. Joy earned her Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance from Hope College (Holland, Michigan), where she studied piano with Andrew Le and piano pedagogy with Adam Clark. Upon graduating summa cum laude from Hope, she received the MTNA StAR award and was granted membership into the Pi Kappa Lambda music honorary society and the Phi Beta Kappa honorary society. Joy also holds an Associate of Music degree in piano performance from Grand Rapids Community College (Grand Rapids, Michigan), where she studied with Mary Scanlan.

John Mortensen enjoys an unusually broad career as a performer and teacher of classical and jazz piano. He appears frequently as a concert artist and masterclass teacher at colleges and universities nationwide. He is a Steinway Artist and an Ohio Artist on Tour. In 2015 he was selected for the Fulbright Specialists' Roster in American Music by the US Department of State. He serves as Professor of Piano at Cedarville University in Ohio. In 2016 he was named Faculty Scholar of the Year, Cedarville's highest award. His forthcoming book on improvisation will be published by Oxford University Press, the world's leading academic publisher in the Arts and Humanities.

Visit his website at www.johnmortensen.com.

Jeanmarie Strawbridge is a pianist and pedagogue currently residing in Columbus, Ohio. She has been teaching students of all ages and levels since 2009. A native of Milwaukee, Jeanmarie received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Piano Performance from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, graduating with honors.

She then went on to receive both a Master of Arts degree in Piano Pedagogy and a Master of Music degree in Piano Performance from The Ohio State University. At OSU, Jeanmarie held a full-time graduate assistantship and was responsible for teaching group piano classes for undergraduates, for which she received the Outstanding Graduate Associate Award in Music Education. Also during her graduate studies, Jeanmarie was a winner of the School of Music Concerto Competition and performed Beethoven's Concerto No. 3 in C Minor with the university orchestra.

Jeanmarie has had the privilege of working with prominent pianists, including Steven Glaser, Maria Staeblein, Elena Abend, Renato Premezzi, and Stephen Hough. She has also had extensive performance experience in both solo and chamber music settings.

Presently, Jeanmarie is teaching at the Powell Academy of Music. Additionally, Jeanmarie is an accompanist at BalletMet, working for the Dance Academy and the Education Department's outreach programs. She has also had the opportunity to accompany BalletMet Company dancers, as well as members of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra and Opera Columbus.

Lucia Unrau regularly serves as an adjudicator, and presents workshops, conference sessions and master classes. Dr. Unrau is passionate about music advocacy and music education and was the keynote speaker for the pre-conference of the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy in August, 2015, where she presented her research on Social Justice as Viewed through the Lens of Arts Advocacy. In March, 2017, she presented a session at the Music Teachers National Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. She also coordinates many festivals, recitals, and competitions for pre-college and non-traditional students.

Described as a "magnificent artist" who makes "...intricate and difficult passage work...seem almost effortless", Dr. Unrau performs regularly both as a soloist and chamber musician. The Los Angeles Times says Unrau "...provided pointed, bravura playing." Her most recent recording, *They Were Mysterious Guests* was recently released on the Parma label. This is a collaborative recording with Dr. Timothy McAllister, Grammy-award winning saxophonist. Dr. Unrau regularly collaborates with composers such as Roshanne Etezady, Zae Munn, Libby Larsen, Don Freund, Peter Terry and Dan Welcher.

Dr. Unrau served on the music faculty of Bluffton University since 1994 where she was chair of the Communication and Fine Arts division. She has been on the piano faculty of Interlochen Arts Camp since 1993 where she oversees the keyboard curriculum as Coordinator of Keyboard Studies. In fall of 2017, she accepted the position of Music Department Chair and Professor of Music at Murray State University. She holds piano performance degrees from the University of Texas at Austin, Indiana University and Oberlin Conservatory. Her teachers include Adele Marcus of the Julliard School, Robert Shannon, Shigeo Neriki and Nancy Garrett. Dr. Unrau was previously Professor of Music at Bluffton University.

Victor Welsch is a Music Education student at Heidelberg University School of Music and Theatre, where his main instrument is voice. Prior to Heidelberg, Victor obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from The College of Wooster. During his studies at the college, he was a piano performance major until sustaining a repetitive stress injury causing him to cease all instrument playing and switch to a different major. In addition, to his piano studies, Victor was a bagpiper in The College of Wooster's pipe band for four years, two of which he led and taught the band as pipe major of the band.

After sustaining an injury, Victor took up research of extended vocal techniques such as multiphonic singing and vocal percussion, searching for new ways to share his passion for music. Victor's Senior Independent Study Thesis, *Extended Vocal Technique: An Instructional Guide for Beginners*, was written as an introduction and pedagogical tool for teaching these foreign techniques. Victor is currently immersed in research concerning musician's health, specifically related to Repetitive Stress Injuries. Victor hopes to spread awareness of the importance of musician's health for the longevity of playing instruments throughout a lifetime.

Eric M. Wilson is a pianist, organist, arranger, music instructor, and technologist. Mr. Wilson is Director of Customer Success for Collabra Music, a Louisville-based music education software company, and serves as Director of Music for Howell United Methodist Church in Evansville, IN. Before joining the Collabra team, he served as Lecturer of Art and Music and Assistant to the Director of Assessment at Oakland City University. Mr. Wilson holds a BA in Music Education & Piano Performance from Oakland City University and is currently completing an MS in Music Technology from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.