



**Fall Conference, October 18-20, 2018**

**Cleveland State University**

**Cleveland, Ohio**

## **Schedule of Events**

**THURSDAY October 18, 2018: Repertoire from Around the World: Czech, Slovak and France**

**9:30-4:15**      **Registration – Lobby**

**9:30-11:00**      **Executive Board Meeting**

**11:15-12:30**      **OhioMTA Board Meeting** (Box Lunch order online when registering)  
Executive Committee, State Chairs and District Presidents

**1:00-5:15**      **Exhibits Open – Lobby**

**12:45-1:30**      ***Selected Mid-Intermediate to Advanced Works by French Composers, Robert Casadesus and Henri Dutilleux***

**Cicilia Yudha**

This lecture-recital surveys a selection of mid-intermediate to advanced works by French composers Robert Casadesus and Henri Dutilleux. Their works strengthen a link in the French solo repertoire between the Impressionist composers, Debussy and Ravel, and the post-Impressionist composer Messiaen. Whereas Dutilleux's musical language arguably derives clearly from the harmonies and moods of Debussy, Ravel, and Messiaen, Casadesus also draws on Mozart's and Bach's structures and idioms. This presentation aims to serve as a springboard for pianists and teachers searching for colorful and pianistic mid-twentieth century repertoire.

**1:45-3:15**      ***Masterclass 1: Coaching Teachers as they Teach***  
**Logan Skelton**

**3:30-4:15**      ***"Czech" it out! Folk Inspired Gems for Young through Advanced Pianists***  
**Sonya Szabo-Reynolds**

A wealth of delightful teaching pieces by Czech composers Petr Eben, Leoš Janáček, Bohuslav Martinů and the remarkable female composer Vítězslava Kaprálová await your discovery! The compositions surveyed—strongly influenced by Czech folk songs and dances—provide teachers with a valuable addition to the standard teaching repertoire.

**4:30-6:00**      ***Masterclass 2: Coaching Students***  
**Logan Skelton**

**6:00-7:30**      ***Dinner Break: A selection of Local Restaurants will be provided***

**7:30-9:00**      **OhioMTA Winners Recital**  
**Winners from Buckeye Auditions and State MTNA Competitions**

**FRIDAY October 19, 2018: Pedagogy and Beyond**

**9:00-6:00 Registration and Exhibits Open**

**9:00-9:45 *From Williams to Golijov: An Overview of the Classical Piano Music of Argentina*  
Andrea Arese**

The aim of this presentation is to provide valuable insight into the piano music of some of the most prominent Argentinian composers of their time and to expose the OhioMTA audience to this unique piano literature. It is my hope that teachers will be inspired to consider some of these compositions as additional choices when selecting repertoire for their students.

**10:00-10:45 *Think Outside the Bach: Engage Students with These Exciting Tools*  
Clinton Pratt**

This session is full of exciting ways for teachers of ALL disciplines to engage students more deeply in their musical experiences, all while having fun! It's a survey and overview of several creative topics including Eurhythmics, Improvisation, Creative recital programming, and Fusing art and music

**11:00-11:45 *Teaching Composition: From Scratch to Publishing*  
Amy Immerman**

This easy-to-understand presentation will demonstrate how to teach composition to music students of all ages. Attendees will learn how to guide even non-intuitive students to create a composition from scratch, and end with a professionally published piece of music!

**12:00-12:30 *Composer of the Year – Jacob Reed***

**12:30-1:30 *Collegiate Chapter Poster Session and Lunch*, (Box Lunch order online only)**

**1:45-2:30 *The Brotherhood of Peoples: Folk Styles in the Piano Music of Bela Bartok*  
Logan Skelton**

Over many years Logan has collected recordings of folk styles (including some field recordings that Bartok himself made). He takes these recordings and correlates them with specific pieces and passages of Bartok's piano music.

**2:30-3:15 *Break – Visit Exhibits***

**3:15-4:00 *College Faculty/Collegiate Chapters/Independent Music Teachers Forum***

**4:15-5:00 *The Psychology of Piano Teaching*  
Andrew Focks**

This presentation will focus on concepts of performance psychology, developmental psychology, goal setting, lesson atmosphere, methods for communication with students and parents, and various learning styles. These concepts will be applied to teaching subjects such as note-reading, memorization, practicing, interpretation, performance preparation and more. Designed to be a practical resource, this lecture aims to provide each instructor with principles and concepts they can apply to their teaching.

**5:15-6:00 *Royal Conservatory of Music: State Certificate Program***

**6:00-7:30**      ***Dinner Break: A selection of Local Restaurants will be provided***

**7:30-9:30**      **Logan Skelton, Conference Artist, Solo Recital**  
First Federal Auditorium

**SATURDAY October 20, 2018: Wellness and Development**

**9:00-12:15**      **Registration and Exhibits Open**

**9:00-9:45**      ***Spice up your Lessons: Imaginative Yoga-Based Activities for Piano Students***  
**Paola Savvidou**

In this interactive workshop OhioMTA teachers will learn about the benefits of incorporating Yoga-based activities into the piano lesson, actively experience poses accessible to all students, and learn about ways breathing and meditation can be applied to piano teaching. One does not need to be an experienced Yogi or a certified practitioner to incorporate Yoga exercises in the piano lesson. Through imaginative exercises teachers can design fun and attractive activities for their students to amp up the creativity and optimize body and mind for performance!

**10:00-10:45**      ***Motivating Students' Practice Routines with Technological Assistance***  
**Margarita Denenburg**

In this presentation I would like to explore motivational ideas that improve our students' practice habits through an online program [www.collabramusic.com](http://www.collabramusic.com). I will demonstrate how the program works, showcase different features, cost, advantages and disadvantages, as well as share my own experience in using it with students ages eight through twenty two.

**11:00-12:15**      ***The Cleveland Orchestra is 100 Years Old! How TCO Enriches Your Students' Musical Lives***  
**Cleveland Orchestra Members (plus a short performance)**

**12:30-1:45**      ***General Business Meeting: Award Luncheon and Installation of the New Executive Committee*** (Box Lunch order online only when registering)

**1:45**      **Adjourn**

**Schedule is subject to change**

## Conference Artist – Logan Skelton

**Logan Skelton** is a much sought after pianist, teacher, and composer whose work has received international critical acclaim. As a performer, Skelton has concertized widely in the United States, Europe, and Asia and has been featured on many public radio and television stations including NPR's Audiophile Audition, Performance Today, All Things Considered, and Morning Edition, as well as on radio in China and national television in Romania. He has recorded numerous discs for Centaur, Albany, Crystal, Blue Griffin, and Naxos Records, the latter on which he performed on two pianos with fellow composer-pianist William Bolcom.

A frequent guest at music festivals, Skelton regularly appears in such settings as Gina Bachauer; Amalfi Coast; Gijón; Eastman; Tunghai; Chautauqua Institution; American Romanian; Eastern; New Orleans; Poland International; Indiana University; Hilton Head Island; and the Prague International Piano Masterclasses. He is a popular presenter at music teacher organizations including numerous appearances at MTNA national conventions and EPTA World Piano Conferences, as well as serving as convention artist for state conventions in New York, Illinois, Michigan, Louisiana, North Carolina, Wyoming, and Iowa. Moreover, he has given countless performances and masterclasses at colleges, conservatories, and conferences throughout the U.S., South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, China, Italy, Romania, Serbia, Poland, and the Czech Republic. He is a frequent juror for international piano competitions.

His Centaur Records compact disc, of all 20th-century American solo piano music, is titled *American Grab Bag: Piano Music of Our Time*. *American Record Guide* described this as a "fascinating recording," commenting on Skelton's "superb, wonderfully subtle and elegant playing ... Bravo!"

As a composer, Skelton has a special affinity for art song, having composed well over a hundred songs, including numerous song cycles. Critics have noted the close fusion of text and music in Skelton's songs, how words are "... illuminated with brilliance and deep emotional power," *American Record Guide*. Others have found "... joy-a night unto ecstatic joy... in word and sound-play," *Dial M for Musicology*. In *Fanfare* magazine reviews, Skelton as a composer of song has been singled out for his ability to "... plumb the depths of emotion ... these are exquisitely crafted art songs in the American tradition ... we are in the hands of someone who lives and breathes song." His works have been performed throughout the world by a variety of musicians in settings such as Carnegie Recital Hall and Merkin Concert Hall in New York City, Tbilisi in the former Soviet Republic of Georgia, Australia, Sorrento, Italy, as well as numerous cities throughout the United States including Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, Tampa, New Orleans, Lincoln, Houston, Detroit, and many others. He composed the required work for the 1993 New Orleans International Piano Competition. His song cycle *Anderson Songs: The Islander*, was a recipient of the Music Composition Award from the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters.

Professor Skelton's principal teachers have included John Murphy, Rebecca Penneys, Lillian Freundlich, and Artur Balsam. A devoted teacher himself, his own piano students have repeatedly won awards in many national and international competitions including Hilton Head; San Antonio; Cincinnati World; Washington; Bartók-Kabalevsky-Prokofieff; Fischhoff; Jacob Flier; Iowa; Frinna Awerbuch; Eastman; Crescendo; Dallas Chamber; Missouri Southern; Los Angeles Liszt; Wideman; Concorso Internazionale di Esecuzione Musicale; Schimmel, Liszt-Garrison; Grieg Festival; Del Rosario; Beethoven Sonata; Ithaca; Piano Arts; Heida Hermanns; Dubois; Schmidbauer; Peabody Mason; Janáček; Seattle; Kingsville; New York; Oberlin; Idyllwild; as well as numerous Music Teachers National Association competitions. His former students hold positions of prominence in music schools and conservatories throughout the world. He was honored by the University of Michigan as the recipient of the prestigious Harold Haugh Award for excellence in studio teaching. He has served on the faculties of Manhattan School of Music, Missouri State University, and is currently professor of Piano and director of Doctoral Studies in Piano Performance at U-M.

## Commissioned Composer

**Jacob Reed** began composing in high school at the Durham School of the Arts. He received his Bachelor's in Music Education, and Masters degrees in both Music Composition and Music Theory from the Ohio State University (OSU). He studied composition with Tom Wells, Gregory Proctor, and Igor Karaca, percussion with Susan Powell, and jazz drums with Joe Ong and Frank Worrell.

In 2005 he co-founded The Ohio State University New Music Ensemble, a group that performed concerts presenting new works by OSU students alongside more renowned works of 20th century composers. During his time at OSU, Mr. Reed received numerous commissions from both musicians and choreographers to create new music. His electroacoustic work "Five Sculptures in Sound" was selected to be performed at the 2007 Spark Festival at the University of Minnesota. During that year, he was also the composer in residence for Chamber Music Connection. He was commissioned to create a sound score for a site-specific work in Seattle, Washington in 2009. In 2010 he was the recipient of an Emerging Artist Fellowship from the OSU Arts Initiative, and an evening of his work was presented by the McConnell Arts Center in Worthington, OH. His music has been performed at the Denison University "Tutti New Music Festival," the University of Central Missouri New Music Festival and by the Central Michigan University's New Music Ensemble. In 2012 he was commissioned to create a new work for the bells at Trinity Church as part of the Columbus Bicentennial celebration "Finding Time."

Mr. Reed also has 15 years of experience as a drummer and band leader. He has performed in numerous jazz groups, including his own trios "The Jazz Elective" and "Jake Reed Jazz Trio." His bands have held regular gigs at venues throughout Columbus including at The Worthington Inn, Dick's Den, Oldfield's, Haiku, Barcelona Restaurant, and the Columbus Arts Festival. In 2011, he released "Songs of Dusk" - a CD of original jazz arrangements and compositions. He is a member of "CapCity Jazz" a weddings and events band featuring Rachel Sepulveda and the leader "Tof Adama" a hand drum ensemble that often accompanies worship services around Columbus, OH.

As an educator Mr. Reed has accrued a wide variety of experience teaching multiple subjects at many institutions. He served as a teaching assistant in the nationally renowned programs of The Governor's School of North Carolina and Duke University's Talent Identification Program. He taught undergraduate courses in music technology, aural training and sight singing and gave private composition lessons at the Ohio State University. He tutored high school students in English in Lyon, France. He taught drum set to all ages and levels at Carrboro Music Studios. He taught computer technology including creative and productive software as a personal trainer at Apple, Inc. He currently maintains a private drum set and composition studio in Columbus, OH and teaches vocal music in the Worthington, Schools.

Recently, the Cultural Arts Center of Columbus presented an evening concert of his music entitled "Sweet and Jangled." He serves as Music Director of Hixon Dance for which he recently composed an original electronic film score. He also currently works professionally as a free-lance composer, jazz drummer, and dance accompanist.

## Conference Presenters

**Andrea Arese-Elias** born in Cordoba, Argentina, has performed extensively as a solo and chamber musician in countries which include Argentina, Mexico, El Salvador, Japan, South Korea, Bulgaria, and the United States. She has performed as a soloist with the Cordoba Symphony Orchestra, the Pleven Symphony Orchestra (Bulgaria), Cincinnati's Philharmonia Orchestra, the Grand Junction Symphony and Symphony in the Valley, among others. She has won many awards and scholarships such as Bach National

Piano Competition (Argentina), Trelew's National Piano Competition, Buenos Aires' Citibank Chamber Music Scholarship, Cordoba University Prize, Cordoba Rotary Club Prize, University of Cincinnati Graduate Scholarship, and Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music Concerto Competition. Andrea Arese-Elias made her recital debut at age eleven and her orchestral debut at fourteen with the Cordoba National Symphony Orchestra of Argentina.

She earned her Bachelor of Music degree with honors from the National University of Cordoba and completed her Master and Doctoral degrees in piano performance from the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music. She has taught piano at the National University of Cordoba, University of Cincinnati Preparatory Department, Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and Colorado Mesa University. She has also been a faculty member and collaborative pianist of the Conservatory Music in the Mountains in Durango since 2006 and frequently performs concerts with her husband, violinist Carlos Elias, as part of the Elias Duo. Their CD, Let's Tango was awarded Best of the Best on eMusic in the US and the United Kingdom. In addition she is a founding member of the Las Americas Piano Trio. Andrea currently resides in the Dayton area, where she is an Adjunct Professor of Piano at the University of Dayton and a collaborative pianist at Cedarville University. She is the Immediate Past President of the OhioMTA, Western District.

**Margarita Denenburg**, NCTM is Assistant Professor of Keyboard Studies at Heidelberg University, where she teaches applied piano and pedagogy among other courses. Dr. Denenburg was recognized for her teaching effectiveness through several campus and statewide awards, including the "Merit Faculty Award" (Fall 2015), the "Innovative Teaching Award" (Spring 2016), and the "Excellence in Education Award" for the state of Ohio (Fall 2016). Dr. Denenburg is an active presenter and researcher. She has published with American Music Teacher, Clavier Companion, and Piano Pedagogy Forum. In 2017, Dr. Denenburg presented at the National College Music Society conference, Ohio Music Teacher Association as well as three College Music Society conferences: Great Lakes Conference at Murray State University, KY, Rocky Mountain Conference at Eastern New Mexico University, NM, and Northeast Regional Conference at SUNY Plattsburgh University, NY. In 2017 she was the keynote presenter for the Oregon Music Teacher Association Conference. She has also presented internationally at the University of Savoy and Chambery Conservatory, France as well as performed several concerts with her duet partner Dr. Gerald Evans.

Dr. Denenburg is on the College Music Society Great Lakes board, is the Vice President for the OhioMTA Student Activities and serves as a chair for the Ohio Federation Music Club MA Scholarship Award. After receiving her Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees in Piano Performance from Arizona State University, and a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Piano Performance from the University of Southern California in 2012.

**Andrew Focks**: Known for his electrifying virtuosity and profound depth, award-winning pianist Andrew Focks performs around the globe as a solo recitalist, concerto soloist, and chamber musician. "A born communicator" (Jon Kimura Parker), he has appeared in major venues, such as Carnegie Hall, and has been broadcasted on television and radio throughout the United States, Europe and Asia. A frequent masterclass clinician, lecturer, and juror of competitions, Dr. Focks is internationally in demand as a master teacher. His students regularly perform around the world on stages including Carnegie Hall, Severance Hall, and the White House, on radio and television including the Ellen DeGeneres Show, and receive scholarships and invitations to the top music schools and festivals internationally. His student, Emily Bear, has performed at the world's most sought after venues including Montreaux Jazz Festival, Lincoln Center, Hollywood Bowl, and a 25-concert tour of Europe with Night of the Proms. Dr. Focks teaches piano performance, music theory and composition at the Cleveland Institute of Music (pre-college & continuing education), maintains an active private studio in the Cleveland area, and is the Immediate Past President and current Vice President of Student Programs at the Northeast Ohio Music Teachers Association. He holds graduate degrees from Rice University and the Cleveland Institute of Music. For further information, visit [www.andrewfocks.com](http://www.andrewfocks.com) .

**Amy Rose Immerman** earned both her undergraduate and graduate degrees at Ohio University. In addition to teaching piano & RMM full time, Amy is a frequent clinician and guest speaker on the topics of teaching composition, running a well-organized studio, the business of teaching, educational music software, and teaching adult students. Her articles have appeared in *American Music Teacher* and *Keyboard Companion* magazines. For eight years, she was a member of the College of Examiners (Royal Conservatory of Music / Toronto). Amy is owner and co-founder of the Cincinnati Music Academy, established in 1997. She is a past state president of the Ohio Music Teachers Association, and past East Central Division Director and Board Member for MTNA. Amy taught piano on Crystal Cruise Lines, and did consulting work for the Frederick Harris Music Company and RCM. Amy is an avid cyclist who commutes to work year-round.

**Clinton Pratt**, NCTM, has a BM and MM in piano, and includes improvisation, ear training, and Dalcroze Eurhythmics in his teaching. He maintains a successful independent studio in Cincinnati, Ohio, has served on numerous committees, holds several teaching certifications, has been published in *American Music Teacher*, and recently received OhioMTA's "Teacher of the Year" award for his district. Clinton is an experienced adjudicator of many festivals and competitions, and joined the RCM College of Examiners in 2014. He is an active presenter, having shared his ideas on improvisation, creative teaching and programming, and business practices at local, state, and national conferences including MTNA and the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy.

**Paola Savvidou**, DMA, NCTM, is a pianist, pedagogue, wellness advocate and entrepreneur. She directs the new Wellness Initiative at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance, and also runs her own piano studio called Music Lotus in Ann Arbor, MI. She frequently presents her research on wellness and injury prevention at prominent conferences including the MTNA National Conference, the International Society for Music Education Conference, and the European Piano Teachers Association. Her awards include Article of the Year through MTNA two years in a row in 2015 and 2016 and the prestigious Purple Chalk Teaching Award by the College of Arts & Science Student Council at the University of Missouri. She co-authored *At the Piano with Yoga with Haley Myers*; a collection of duets for beginning piano students coupled with yoga poses. Dr. Savvidou is currently writing a book entitled *Teaching the Whole Musician: A Guide to Supporting Music Students' Wellness* to be published by Oxford University Press in 2019.

A devoted advocate of contemporary music, Paola is a member of the New Muse Piano Duo with Jonathan Kuuskoski; an ensemble dedicated to commissioning and performing works by living composers. NMPD's first CD, *transhuman*, was released in 2017 by the Blue Griffin label. Dr. Savvidou has received teacher training through Rainbow Kids Yoga, she holds a BM from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and graduate degrees (MM and DMA) in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Sonya Szabo-Reynolds**, NCTM is President-Elect of Ohio Music Teachers Association. In 2016 Sonya was awarded OhioMTA's Certified Teacher of the Year. She is Adjunct Professor of Piano at Xavier University in Cincinnati, and also maintains an active independent studio in Dayton. In March, 2017 Sonya is presenting a sixty-minute session titled "Cue the Soloist" at the 2018 MTNA National Conference in Orlando, Florida.

Sonya was conferred the first-ever M.M. in Piano Performance and Pedagogy at the University of Michigan, where she also received her B.M. with High Honors in Piano Performance and was inducted into the national music honors society Pi Kappa Lambda. During her years at the University of Michigan, Sonya studied with Louis Nagel.

Prior to serving as President-Elect of OhioMTA, Sonya was Vice President-State Conferences (2014-2016), and as President of Western District (2012-2014) she was Chair of the 2014 State Conference planning committee.

Sonya performs both solo and collaborative recitals, recently focusing her attention to the music of Czech composers. Her great grandfather, Bohumil Fidler (1860-1944) was a composer, choirmaster, choral director and friend of Antonín Dvorak. Sonya edited the first English language translation of Bohumil Fidler's *My Life and Memories*, published by The Dvořák Society for Czech and Slovak Music in 2008. She has since edited numerous scores composed by Fidler, published by Alliance Publications, Inc. Her continuing passion to promote Czech music is further reflected in her column, "From the New World", published in the quarterly newsletters of the Dvořák Society for Czech and Slovak Music since 2009.

**Cicilia Yudha**, A versatile solo pianist and avid chamber musician, Dr. Yudha has given performances in the US, Austria, Cambodia, Canada, France, Germany, and Indonesia. She is a frequent soloist with the Duke University Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Maestro Harry Davidson. She has given master classes and presentations across the United States and Southeast Asia. Navona Records released her debut CD *Selected Piano Works by Robert Casadesus and Henri Dutilleux* in September 2016.

As a creative artist, she has enjoyed collaborations with musicologist Ewelina Boczkowska, tap dancer Claudia Rahardjanoto, and Polish Folk Dance specialists Christine Cobb and Staś Kmiec. She has presented lecture recitals at TEDx Talks, the Ohio Music Teachers Association Conferences, the College Music Society (CMS) National Conferences, and CMS Regional Conferences. She regularly presents Preview Concert Lectures for the Cleveland Orchestra at Severance Hall.

Passionate about music education and community service, Ms. Yudha is a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music (NCTM) and a recipient of the Steinway Top Teacher Award. She earned a Doctorate in piano performance at the University of North Carolina Greensboro. She also holds degrees from New England Conservatory and the Cleveland Institute of Music. She joined the Dana School of Music Faculty at Youngstown State University in 2012, where she serves as Associate Professor of Piano. [[www.ciciliayudha.com](http://www.ciciliayudha.com)]