



SUMMER

Piano Festival

2023



June 19 - 24, 2023

WELCOME



On behalf of the Caine College of the Arts and the USU Department of Music, welcome to the 2023 USU Summer Piano Festival! We are so happy to be together with you this summer. We hope that this week's activities will provide opportunities for pre-college piano students to learn and grow. We believe this program fulfills USU's land-grant mission by serving the public through learning, discovery, and engagement. Our goal is that you will leave energized, filled with new music, new ideas, and hopefully, new friends! Highlights this year include a focus on improvisation, composition, film scoring, traditional performance classes, and the music of Sergei Rachmaninoff, whose 150th birthday is celebrated this year.

We are honored to present seven distinguished guest artists who will share their wisdom and artistry with us. We hope you'll take a moment to read their illustrious biographies in this booklet: celebrated jazz pianist, composer, and educator **Jeremy Siskind**; Steinway Artist **Josh Wright**, performer, teacher, and owner of the online learning enterprise, "Josh Wright Piano TV"; co-founders of Salt Lake City's "Gifted Music School" **Vera** and **Eugene Watanabe**; renowned pianists and pedagogues **Del Parkinson** and **Jeffrey Shumway**, joining forces as the American Piano Duo, and rising young artist **Dina Kasman**. Festival participants will also work daily with USU's piano faculty members **Emily Ezola**, **Kevin Olson**, and **Cahill Smith**. We are especially excited to welcome our newest faculty colleague, **Sasha Kasman Laude**, who joins the faculty this fall after a year-long national search!

A sincere thanks to Music Department Head, Cindy Dewey and the Dean of the Caine College of the Arts, Nicholas Morrison, for their enthusiastic support of this event. We thank CCA Production Services, USU Event Services, and Hyrum Weibell of Salt Lake Piano Service for their essential role in making this festival a reality.

The experiences of students who attend the Festival are possible because of the generous support of USU and independent organizations and individuals who believe in our mission. Festival Participants pay: \$675 per student. Actual cost to USU: \$1,266.32 per student. We gratefully accept donations in any amount.



SCAN TO DONATE

Again, welcome to USU! We are looking forward to a wonderful week! Go Aggies!



Cahill Smith
Festival Director



Emily Ezola
USU Piano Faculty



Kevin Olson
USU Piano Faculty



Sasha Kasman Laude
USU Piano Faculty



Caleb Esmond
Administrative Director



Valerie McGeean
Festival Staff



Adam Bowen
Festival Staff



Audry Ricks
Festival Staff



Brinn Crandall
Festival Staff



Ben Kaufman
Festival Staff

Greetings, and welcome to Logan for the Utah State University Summer Piano Festival. I hope you enjoy your stay in Logan. USU has wonderful music programs and a beautiful campus; I'm sure you will be rewarded for the time spent here.

I would encourage you to venture Downtown and enjoy the restaurants and atmosphere on our newly renovated Historic Center Street and walk past some of our other historic sites including the Tabernacle and County Courthouse, which is also the home of the Cache Valley Visitors Bureau if you need information on other things to do while in Cache Valley.

Warmest wishes,



Holly Daines
Mayor



Save the Date: USU Summer Piano Festival 2024!

We hope you'll join us **June 17-22, 2024** for next year's USU Summer Piano Festival! We plan to run a similar format, with distinguished presenters, a week-long camp for high-school students with lessons, masterclasses, outdoor excursions, performances, and a competition with cash awards.



SCHEDULE

Monday, June 19

RWPH = Russell/Wanlass Performance Hall
FAC = Fine Arts Center
FAV = Fine Arts Visual Wing
UR Lab = University Reserve Comp Lab (UR 101A)

12:00-1:00 PM | RWPH Lobby

- Check-in at the Russell/Wanlass Performance Hall Lobby
- Move luggage to FAC 118

1:00-2:00 PM | RWPH

USU Piano Faculty Recital
Featuring Dr. Sasha Kasman Laude

2:00-2:30 PM | RWPH

Welcome and Orientation

2:45-3:35 PM

- **Group 1 - FAC 220** Dr. Kevin Olson - *Intro to Film Scoring*
- **Group 2 - FAC 216** Dr. Cahill Smith - *"Cracking the Practice Code"*

3:45-4:35 PM

- **Group 2 - FAC 220** Dr. Kevin Olson - *Intro to Film Scoring*
- **Group 1 - FAC 216** Dr. Cahill Smith - *"Cracking the Practice Code"*

4:45-5:30 PM

Move in to Merrill Hall, change for cookout, and tour FAC

5:30 PM

Bus Departs from FAC

5:30-8:00 PM | Logan First Dam

Cookout, Water Activities, and Games

8:00 PM Bus Departs from First Dam

8:30-10:00 PM | FAC Free Time and Practice

10:30 PM | Merrill Hall Dorm Checks

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Tuesday, June 20



7:30-8:30 AM Breakfast at The Marketplace

8:45-9:00 AM | RWPH Student Meeting

9:00-10:50AM | RWPH

Masterclass with Guest Artist Josh Wright

11:00 AM | Bus Departs FAC

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Lunch on Tabernacle Lawn

12:00 PM | St. John's Episcopal Church

Festival Student Recital

2:00-2:50 PM | FAC 214

Q and A with Guest Artist Josh Wright

3:00-3:50 PM

- **Group 1 - FAC 216** Jeremy Siskind *Improvisation Class I*
- **Group 2 - Check Lesson Schedule** Lessons/practice
- **Group 2 - UR Lab** - Kevin Olson *Film Scoring Session II*

4:00-4:50 PM

- **Group 2 - FAC 216** Jeremy Siskind *Improvisation Class I*
- **Group 1 - Check Lesson Schedule** Lessons/practice
- **Group 1 - UR Lab** - Kevin Olson *Film Scoring Session II*

5:00-6:00 PM Dinner at The Marketplace

6:30-8:00 PM | RWPH

Josh Wright: Guest Artist Recital

8:00-10:00 PM

- **FAC Piano Lobby** Board games and Practice Time
- **Dr. Olson's Studio** Advanced Composition Coaching

10:30 PM | Merrill Hall Dorm Checks

SCHEDULE

Wednesday, June 21

7:30-8:30 AM Breakfast at The Marketplace

8:45-9:00 AM | FAC 214 Student Meeting

9:00-9:50 AM

- **Group 1 - FAC 216** Jeremy Siskind
Improvisation Class II
- **Group 2 - Check Lesson Schedule**
Lessons/practice

10:00-10:50 AM

- **Group 2 - FAC 216** Jeremy Siskind
Improvisation Class II
- **Group 1 - Check Lesson Schedule**
Lessons/practice

11:00 AM-12:30 PM

- **Group 2 - RWPH**
Masterclass Presented by Vera Watanabe
- **Group 1 - FAC 214**
Masterclass Presented by Eugene Watanabe

12:30-1:30 PM Lunch at The Marketplace

2:00-2:50 PM | RWPH "Successful College Auditions" with Eugene and Vera Watanabe

3:00-5:00 PM | RWPH Competition Semifinals
No Audience

3:00-3:50 PM

- **Group 1 - UR Lab** Dr. Kevin Olson
Film Scoring Session II
- **Group 2 - Check Lesson Schedule**
Lessons/practice

4:00-4:50 PM

- **Group 2 - UR Lab** Dr. Kevin Olson
Film Scoring Session II
- **Group 1 - Check Lesson Schedule**
Lessons/practice

5:00-6:00 PM Dinner at The Marketplace

6:30-8:00 PM | RWPH

Jeremy Siskind: Guest Artist Recital

8:00-9:30 PM

- **Old Main Quad** Ultimate Frisbee with Caleb Esmond (Athlete in Residence)
- **FAC 203** Advanced Composition with Dina Kasman

10:30 PM | Merrill Hall Dorm Checks



Thursday, June 22

7:30-8:30 AM Breakfast at The Marketplace

8:45-9:00 AM | FAC 214 Student Meeting

9:00-9:50 AM

- **Group 1 - FAC 216** Jeremy Siskind
Improvisation Class III
- **Group 2 - Check Lesson Schedule**
Lessons/practice

10:00-10:50 AM

- **Group 2 - FAC 216** Jeremy Siskind
Improvisation Class III
- **Group 1 - Check Lesson Schedule**
Lessons/practice

11:00 AM-12:30 PM Split Masterclass

- **Group 2 - RWPH**
Masterclass presented by Del Parkinson
- **Group 1 - FAC 214**
Masterclass presented by Jeffrey Shumway

12:30-1:30 PM Lunch at The Marketplace

2:00-2:50 PM

- **Group 1 - UR Lab**
Finalize and Submit Film Scores
- **Group 2 - Check Lesson Schedule**
Lessons/practice

3:00-3:50 PM

- **Group 2 - UR Lab**
Finalize and Submit Film Scores
- **Group 1 - Check Lesson Schedule**
Lessons/practice

4:00-5:20 PM | FAC 214 Jeremy Siskind
Improvisation Class Jam Session

5:30-6:20 PM Dinner in Impact Commons

6:30-8:00 PM | RWPH The American Piano Duo:
Del Parkinson and Jeff Shumway Recital

8:00-10:00 PM | FAV 150
Film Scoring Watch Party

10:30 PM | Merrill Hall Dorm Checks

SCHEDULE



Friday, June 23

Saturday, June 24

7:30-8:30 AM Breakfast in the Impact Commons

8:45-9:00 AM | FAC 214 Student Meeting

9:00-10:50 AM | Split Masterclass

- **Group 1 - RWPH** Masterclass presented by Sasha Kasman Laude
- **Group 2 - FAC 214** Masterclass presented by Cahill Smith

11:00 AM-11:50 PM Lunch in the Impact Commons

12:00-1:30 PM | RWPH Festival Student Recital

2:00-2:50 PM

- **Group 1 - FAC 216** Piano Marvel Sight Reading Showdown
- **Group 2 - Check Lesson Schedule** Lessons/practice

3:00-3:50PM

- **Group 2 - FAC 216** Piano Marvel Sight Reading Showdown
- **Group 1 - Check Lesson Schedule** Lessons/practice

4:00-5:20 PM | FAC 214 Guest Artist and USU Faculty Panel Discussion

5:30-6:20 PM Dinner in the Impact Commons

6:30-8:00 PM | RWPH Competition Finals

10:30 PM | Merrill Hall Dorm Checks

7:00-7:30 AM

Dress for photos, check Out of Dorms, and store Luggage in FAC 104

7:30-8:30 AM Breakfast at The Junction

9:00-9:50 AM | FAC 214

Final Student Meeting, Photos

10:00 AM | RWPH

Student Recital and Composition Showcase

12:00 PM Campers depart with families

See you next summer!



PIANO COMPETITION

The competition will be held in the
Russell/Wanlass Performance Hall.



JUNE 21, 3:00 - 5:00 PM - SEMIFINAL ROUND

JUNE 21, 7:30 PM - ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINALISTS

JUNE 23, 6:30 PM - LIVE FINAL ROUND

CONGRATULATIONS, SEMIFINALISTS!

Contestant

Zachary Davies

Hailey Bown

Annabelle Johnson

Luke Wallin

Shixun Song

Campbell Helton

Bennett Larsen

Gwendolyn Inglet

Jovan Crockett

Darren Su

Cohen Young

Zaman Siddiqi

Roxy Jones

Current Teacher

Juli Draney

Cassie Mayfield

Jacqui King

Carole Terry

Li Wang

Marlene Bachelder

Karoun Arslanian

Ellen Knapp

Cassie Mayfield

Allison Bangerter

Sharalyn Heath

Koji Attwood

Natalya Panchenko



MONDAY
JUNE 19, 1:00

USU FACULTY RECITAL



12 Romances, Op. 21 No. 5, "Lilacs"	Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)
6 Romances, Op. 38 No. 3, "Daisies"	Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)
The Nutcracker Suite No. 1 March No. 2 Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy	Tchaikovsky-Pletnev (1840-1893 / b. 1957)
10 Pieces from Romeo and Juliet, Op. 75 No. 9 Dance of the Girls with Lilies No. 6 Montagues and Capulets No. 8 Mercutio	Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953)
Sasha Kasman Laude	
Etudes-tableaux, Op. 39 No. 2 in A Minor, Lento Assai	Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)
Dina Kasman	
10 Preludes, Op. 23 No. 4 in D Major, Andante cantabile No. 2 in B-flat Major, Maestoso	Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)
Cahill Smith	
Two Pieces for 6 hands I. Waltz II. Romance	Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)
Sasha Kasman Laude, Dina Kasman, and Cahill Smith	
Piano Sonata No. 2 in B-flat Minor, Op. 35, I. Grave - Doppio movimento	Frederic Chopin (1810-1849)
Caleb Esmond	
Libertango	Astor Piazzola (1921-1992)
A La Turk and Finale from Points on Jazz	Dave Brubeck (1920-2012)
Emily Ezola and Kevin Olson	
Symphony No. 40 in G Minor I. Molto Allegro	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)
Emily Ezola, Sasha Kasman Laude, Cahill Smith, Kevin Olson	

**TUESDAY
JUNE 20, 6:30**

Josh Wright: Guest Artist Recital



12 Romances, Op. 21, No. 7 "Zdes' khorosho / How Fair This Spot"

Rachmaninoff-Volodos
(1873-1943 / b. 1972)

Chaconne in D Minor, BWV 1004

J.S. Bach-Busoni
(1685-1730 / 1866-1924)

Gaspard de la nuit
I. Ondine
II. Le Gibet
III. Scarbo

Maurice Ravel
(1875-1937)

Scherzo No. 2 in B-flat Minor Op. 31

Frederic Chopin
(1810-1849)

Scherzo No. 3 in C-sharp Minor, Op. 39

Frederic Chopin



**WEDNESDAY
JUNE 21, 6:30**

Jeremy Siskind: Guest Artist Recital



PROGRAM

Program to be announced from the stage, featuring Mr. Siskind's own compositions and improvisations.

Mr. Siskind's "Perpetual Motion Etudes" and other compositions and resources are available for purchase at jeremysiskind.com.



Photo by Donna Edman

**THURSDAY
JUNE 22, 6:30**

The American Piano Duo



Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)
Suites for Two Pianos

Suite No. 1, Op. 5 "Fantaisie-tableaux"

- I. Barcarolle
- II. La nuit... L'amour... (The Night... the Love...)
- III. Les Larnes (The Tears)
- IIII. Pâques (Easter)

Suite No. 2, Op. 17

- I. Introduction (Alla marcia, in C major)
- II. Valse (Presto, in G major)
- III. Romance (Andantino, in A-flat major)
- IV. Tarantelle (Presto, in C minor)

Jeffrey Shumway and Del Parkinson



GUEST ARTISTS



Billboard #1 artist Dr. **Josh Wright** has delighted audiences across the United States and in Europe. The Washington Post described him as a pianist possessing “rarer gifts – touch, intelligence and the ability to surprise.” He performed his debut recitals at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center in 2014. His self-titled album “Josh Wright” topped the Billboard Classical Traditional chart just three weeks after its release in April 2011. He also performed at Dolby Theater in Los Angeles as part of America's Got Talent Season 9. Josh served on the piano faculty at the University of Utah from 2016–2022. Josh earned a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Michigan. He earned a Master of Music degree and a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Utah. His principal teachers are Dr. Logan Skelton and Dr. Susan Duehlmeier. He has also studied privately with concert pianist, Sergei Babayan.

Josh was a prizewinner at the 2015 National Chopin Competition, and also won the Mazurka prize. Josh has appeared numerous times with symphony orchestras including: the Utah Symphony, Temple Square Orchestra, Salt Lake Symphony, Timpanogos Symphony Orchestra, Great Falls Symphony Orchestra, Chopin Foundation Orchestra, Southwest Symphony, American West Symphony, SummerArts Orchestra, and the University of Utah Student Chamber Orchestra. In addition to performing, Josh is passionate about teaching. He has created numerous online video courses to help students of all ages and abilities improve their technique and musicality. He has broadened his studio through online lessons where he teaches lessons to students on four different continents via Zoom and Skype. Josh is a listed Steinway Artist. He was inducted into the Steinway & Sons Teacher Hall of Fame in October 2019. He was also the piano double on the popular WB TV Series Everwood .



Jeremy Siskind is the rare musician whose imaginative albums land on “best of” lists while his ground-breaking instructional books populate “best-seller” lists. A top finisher in national and international jazz piano competitions, Siskind is a two-time laureate of the American Pianists Association and the winner of the Nottingham International Jazz Piano Competition. A sought-after educator, Siskind has published more than 20 instructional books, including *Playing Solo Jazz Piano*, with an introduction by Fred Hersch, and the *Jazz Piano Fundamentals* series. Besides Siskind’s own YouTube channel, which boasts over 9,000 subscribers, Siskind is frequently seen teaching on digital platforms like Tonebase, Open Studio, and Piano with Jonny, as well as presenting webinars and in-person lectures for the Frances Clark Institute, the

Music Teachers National Association, and the Imagine Solutions Conference. Siskind helps to guide education and pedagogy surrounding improvisation and composition. Siskind spreads peace through music in places like Lebanon, Tunisia, and Thailand with the non-profit organization, Jazz Education Abroad. Jeremy Siskind is a Yamaha Artist.



As a co-founder of the Gifted Music School, it was Dr. **Vera Watanabe**'s vision that started the Gifted Music School. She has been pivotal in building the team at the Gifted Music School. Dr. Watanabe’s students have gained acceptance into top music schools including the Juilliard School, the New England Conservatory of Music, Peabody Institute, Manhattan School of Music, Eastman, and the Cleveland Institute of Music. Her Students have been recognized at national and international competitions, and at every important statewide competition including performances with the Utah Symphony on their annual Salute to Youth program. Dr. Watanabe is a Steinway Artist. In 2017, Dr. Watanabe was awarded a Governor's Mansion Artist's Award for her foundational contribution to the Gifted Music School.



Eugene Watanabe and his wife Dr. Vera Watanabe were the founders of the Gifted Music School. As a Co-Founder and String Area Chair, he leads a synergistic team of faculty, administrators, students and parents, and donors. As a music educator, Watanabe's students have regularly gained acceptance to the top music programs in the country including Juilliard, Colburn, New England Conservatory, Cleveland, Michigan, San Francisco, Peabody, and Manhattan. His students have been frequently recognized at national solo and chamber competitions as well as international events. Watanabe achieved a rare double win at the 2019 MTNA Nationals in Spokane having taught the 1st place awardees in both the Junior High

and High School categories. In 2017, the Dorothy Richard Starling Foundation has generously provided full tuition funding to 3 of Mr. Watanabe's outstanding students. International performance career as a violinist and pianist; frequent lecturer at universities and teacher's conferences. Performances with Moscow State Symphony Orchestra, Calgary Philharmonic, Hamburg Symphony, Saint Lawrence String Quartet, New Zealand String Quartet, New York String Orchestra at Kennedy Center, and Carnegie Hall, Utah Symphony. Solo tours through Europe, Canada, and United States. Major awards at Honens International Competition, Kosciuzko Chopin Competition, Bachauer Young Artist Competition, two-time MTNA National winner, Kingsville Competition. In 2017, Watanabe was awarded the Governor Mansion Artist Award for his work and service to the community.

GUEST ARTISTS



Del Parkinson began studying piano at age five in his hometown of Blackfoot, Idaho. He now holds a doctor of music degree from Indiana University and a postgraduate diploma from The Juilliard School. He was the recipient of a Fulbright-Hays grant for graduate study in London. He was coordinator of piano instruction at Brigham Young University-Idaho, where he taught for eight years, and is now professor of piano at Boise State University, where he joined the faculty in 1985. His London debut recital was on the American Bicentennial Series, and his New York debut recital in Carnegie Recital Hall was sponsored by the Idaho Commission on the Arts.

He has performed with the Guadalajara Symphony, the Indiana University Symphony, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the Utah Symphony, and the Boise Philharmonic. He is featured on four compact disc recordings: The American Piano Quartet and The American Piano Duo's Mendelssohn Two-Piano Concerto, Rachmaninoff Duo Piano Works, and Celebrating Gershwin. He is the recipient of the Boise State University foundation scholar award for creative activity, the Boise mayor's award for artistic excellence, the Morrison Center honor medallion, the Idaho Commission on the Arts career fellowship award, and the Idaho governor's award for excellence in the arts. Dr. Parkinson is a Steinway Artist.



Jeffrey Shumway is a pianist and former member of the Brigham Young University faculty. Shumway received his Bachelor of Music degree from Brigham Young University, his Master of Music degree from the Juilliard School, and his Doctor of Music degree from Indiana University. Dr. Shumway joined BYU's piano faculty in 1985 and served as the head of Keyboard Studies from 1987-2006. Along with teaching, Shumway continued to perform and record his piano works, accompany other BYU performers, arrange pieces for the piano, and play as a member of both The American Piano Duo and The American Piano Quartet.



Alabama-born pianist **Dina Kasman** is a multifaceted musician, comfortable as a soloist, chamber partner, teacher, and in arts leadership roles. Dina recently won Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music concerto competition in with Tchaikovsky Concerto No. 1. Additionally, Dina has captured top prizes in the Lima, Alabama, LaGrange, and Southern Adventist University concerto competitions. She made her debut with orchestra at age thirteen and has since performed concertos by Beethoven, Liszt, Rachmaninoff, and Prokofiev with the National Symphony of Ukraine and Alabama and SAU Symphony Orchestras. Dina's accolades also include being a three-time First Prize recipient of the Gulf Coast Steinway Society Competition and top prizes at MTNA State and Southern Division auditions. Dina is currently pursuing a master's degree under the guidance of

Norman Krieger at Indiana University, where she frequently collaborates and teaches piano as an Associate Instructor. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where she was a University Honors Program student and received minors in French and Business Administration in addition to her major in Music as a student of her father and duo partner Yakov Kasman. Dina has studied extensively at the International Summer Music Academy in Kyiv, Ukraine and the Vivace International Music Festival in North Carolina. She has taken masterclasses with renowned artists Boris Slutsky, Alexander Kobrin, Roberto Plano, Vadim Rudenko, Marina Lomazov, Joseph Rackers, and Ann Schein. Dina's private students have won awards at local, state, and regional competitions. Dina was a Young Jury member of the 2022 Arthur Fraser International Piano Competition and an associate of the Southeastern Piano Festival in Columbia, South Carolina. This summer, she looks forward to her role as an administrative associate at the Vivace Music Festival.



Pianist **Sasha Kasman Laude**'s playing is praised as "powerful and vivid" (*Palm Beach Arts Paper*) and having "such an abundance of intelligence that it can only be described as relentless" (*Ludwig van Toronto*). She has given recitals at NYC's Steinway Hall, Tokyo's Yamaha Ginza Hall, Paris' Salle Cortot, and festivals including IKIF, SEPF, Busan International Music Academy, Kyiv International Summer Academy, and PianoCity Milano. Her performances and interviews are broadcast on such programs as NPR's *Performance Today*. Kasman Laude was one of three finalists in the 2022 Honens International Piano Competition, and has triumphed in many national and international competitions. She has appeared with over a dozen orchestras, including the Juilliard Orchestra, Calgary

Symphony, Ann Arbor Symphony, and the National Symphony of Ukraine. Kasman Laude is an active collaborator and has played with the Viano and Aeolus Quartets and premiered compositions of composers including Stewart Goodyear, Marc Migó, Eric Mobley, and Nathan Daughtrey. She and her father, pianist Yakov Kasman, have toured together internationally over the past fourteen years. Kasman Laude holds degrees from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (BA), Juilliard (MM), and the University of Michigan (DMA). Her principal teachers include Yakov and Tatiana Kasman, Robert McDonald, and Logan Skelton. She has guest taught at MIT, Wisconsin Conservatory, and Lee and Bowling Green State universities. She has given over one hundred educational outreach recitals in large part as a PianoArts Fellow. Upcoming performances include Rachmaninoff's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* with the Dayton Philharmonic, *Carmina Burana* with the Luminous Voices Ensemble (Canada) artistic/faculty residencies at Fry Street, pianoSonoma, IKOF, and Vivace summer festivals. Kasman Laude is newly appointed as Assistant Professor of Piano at Utah State University.

Meet the USU Piano Faculty!



Emily Ezola is an active pianist and educator. She serves as a member of the piano faculty at Utah State University where she directs the USU Youth Conservatory and teaches courses including Pedagogy Practicum, Keyboard Harmony, Individual Piano Instruction, Intro to Music, and USU Connections. The USU Youth Conservatory is a pre-college prep program which provides weekly lessons and group classes to more than 150 students in the community. The conservatory has been recognized as a model for pre-college piano instruction programs by the National Association of Schools of Music.

Emily is an active performer with a love for producing multimedia concerts featuring art and music. The artists she has collaborated with include Ryoichi Suzuki, Myles Howell, and Chuck Landvatter. In 2019 Emily and her piano duo partner Kevin Olson performed the world premiere of Wynn-Anne Rossi's 'Source in Three Movements', a piece commissioned by USU for the Woman of the Year Celebration. Other premieres include a performance of 'Vocalise' composed by Emma Cardon and the Utah Premiere of 'Velvet' composed by Linda Catlin Smith for the USU Museum + Music concert series. Other collaborations include performances with pianists Elzbieta Bilicka, Mayumi Matzen, Cahill Smith, Sarah Chiesa, soprano Cindy Dewey; and Rebecca McFaul of the Fry Street Quartet. In collaboration with Kevin and Julia Olson, Emily helped to write piano activity books for The Perfect Start series published by FJH and has co-written an online piano course with Per Danielsson for Educational Advantage School of Music. Emily has a vibrant teaching studio where she works with college and pre-college piano students. She holds a Piano Performance and Pedagogy master's degree from Utah State University and has been mentored by Tony Caramia, Professor of Piano at Eastman School of Music since 2019. Emily is a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music, she currently serves on the Utah Music Teachers Association State Board as the Collegiate Chapter Chairman and in 2020 she was recognized with the Utah State University Community Engagement Presidential Award.



Dr. Mayumi Matzen holds a bachelor's degree in piano performance from Kyoto City University of Arts (Japan), and both a Masters and Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Eastman School of Music where she was a student of esteemed piano pedagogue Douglas Humpherys. She maintains an active career as a recitalist and soloist at the national and international level, with recent collaborations including: Patrick Addinall (former principal trumpet, BBC Symphony), James Thompson (trumpet, Eastman School of Music), Quinn Patrick-Ankrum (mezzo-soprano, Cincinnati Conservatory), and Rumiko Kashiwade (violin, Kyoto City School of Arts).

Dr. Matzen is internationally in high demand as a clinician. Her presentation, A Comprehensive Analysis of American Class Piano, was recently given at the Showa Academia Musicae in Tokyo, Japan. Her live performances have frequently been used as examples for select music theory textbooks. Most recently, her performances of Mozart sonatas were selected for use in *The Complete Musician, An Integrated Approach to Tonal Theory, Listening, and Analysis*, by Dr. Steven G. Laitz (Juilliard). She is currently adjunct professor of piano at Utah State University where her duties include private instruction of piano majors and non-majors, as well as piano studio classes.



Kevin Olson is an active pianist, composer, and piano area coordinator at Utah State University, where he has taught courses in piano literature, pedagogy, accompanying, music theory, among others. In addition to his collegiate teaching responsibilities, Kevin directs the piano program at Utah State University, and oversees the Utah State University Youth Conservatory, which provides weekly group and private piano instruction to more than 200 pre-college community students. The National Association of Schools of Music has recently recognized the Conservatory as a model for pre-college piano instruction programs. Before teaching at Utah State, he was on the faculty at Elmhurst College near Chicago and Humboldt State University in northern California.

A native of Utah, Kevin began composing at age five. When he was twelve, his composition, *An American Trainride*, received the Overall First Prize at the 1983 National PTA Convention at Albuquerque, New Mexico. Since then he has been a Composer in Residence at the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy, and has written music commissioned and performed by groups such as the Five Browns, American Piano Quartet, Chicago a cappella, the Rich Matteson Jazz Festival, Music Teachers National Association, American Festival Chorus & Orchestra, the Festival for Creative Pianists, and several piano teacher associations around the country. He gives workshops and performances nationally and internationally, most recently in India, China, Canada, and Great Britain.

Kevin maintains a large piano studio, teaching students of a variety of ages and abilities. Many of the needs of his own piano students have inspired over 200 books and solos published by the FJH Music Company, which he joined as a writer in 1994.

Meet the USU Piano Faculty!



Pianist **Cahill Smith** has performed in major venues in the United States and abroad, including four programs at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in New York, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum's Calderwood Hall in Boston, Cleveland Museum of Art, the Royal Dublin Society's Concert Hall, Buffalo's Kleinhan's Music Hall, and Birmingham's Alys Stephens Center. Cahill has performed in eleven (11) cities in China (Beijing, Shanghai, Guanzhou, Chongqing, Zhuhai, Wuhan, Donying, Qingdao, Xiamen, Hohhot, and Lanzhou), three cities in Taiwan (Taipei, Taichung, Taitung), Kiev, Ukraine, as well as London and Dublin. He has been featured as a concerto soloist with the National Ukrainian Symphony Orchestra in Kiev, the Mongolian Symphony Orchestra in Hohhot, China, the Eastman Philharmonia, the Alabama Symphony

Orchestra, the Chattanooga Symphony, the Butler Symphony Orchestra, the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra, and others. His live and studio recordings have been broadcast on WQXR, New York's Classical Music Radio Station, WCRB, Classical Radio Boston, and WSMC, Chattanooga Public Radio. Cahill is a Yamaha Artist.

Cahill gave his first recital at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in 2013 with a program dedicated entirely to works of Nikolai Medtner. His debut album "Medtner: Forgotten Melodies" was featured as Classical Radio Boston's "CD of the Week" for its "irresistible lyricism" and "a palpable sense of love - a real affinity for the directness and honesty in Medtner's music, which goes straight to the heart." Marc-André Hamelin, who reviewed the CD, also wrote: "It gives me great pleasure to endorse Cahill Smith as a sensitive, dedicated, and perceptive interpreter of the music of Nikolai Medtner. Unlike Rachmaninoff for instance (to whom he is often compared), Medtner rarely makes a strong first impression in careless hands, so he requires someone who will bring out the lyricism of the music to the fore, which necessitates a great deal of insight and care. Upon listening to Cahill's disc, I found myself thinking repeatedly that his would be the kind of recording that offers the best chance for listeners to be taken into Medtner's fascinating world from the very first hearing. It's a remarkable accomplishment!"

Cahill serves as Director of Graduate Studies in Music at USU, Artistic Director of the Wassermann Piano Series, the Chamber Music Society of Logan, the USU Summer Piano Festival and Teacher Training Workshop, the Lee University International Piano Festival, and served on the executive board of Tennessee Music Teachers Association.

Cahill completed his Doctorate of Musical Arts at the Eastman School of Music, where he served as the teaching assistant to Natalya Antonova. At Eastman, Cahill was the inaugural recipient of the Douglas Lowry award for excellence in degree recital performance, won the Eastman Concerto Competition, received honors in chamber music, and was awarded the Prize for Excellence in Teaching. Cahill completed his Master's degree at the University of Michigan with Arthur Greene, and his Bachelor's at the University of Alabama at Birmingham with Yakov Kasman. Cahill previously served as Keyboard Area Coordinator and Artistic Director of the International Piano Festival and Competition at Lee University. He joined the faculty of Utah State University in 2019, where he has received awards for "Teacher of the Year" (2023) "Undergraduate Mentor of the Year" (2022) and "Graduate Mentor of the Year" (2022). At USU, Cahill teaches piano performance, pedagogy, keyboard skills, and special topics.

Meet the Festival Staff!



Caleb Esmond completed his M.M. in Piano Performance and Pedagogy with Dr. Cahill Smith at Utah State University in spring 2023. While at USU, he was awarded a graduate teaching assistantship and the 2022 Caine College of the Arts Graduate Talent Award. Aside from his studies, he taught undergraduate theory and piano classes, private undergraduate applied lessons, and Youth Conservatory students. This summer, he competed as one of the six finalists in the 2nd Betty Dickinson Piano Competition at the Texas State International Piano Festival. While studying at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia for his B.M. in Piano Performance with Dr. Ian Altman, Caleb was awarded first place in the Georgia Music Teachers Association Upper College Concerto Competition and placed first in both the 2019 and 2020 GMTA Piano Auditions. He was president of the Mercer University Chapter of the international music fraternity Mu Phi Epsilon and won the Sterling Senior Excellence Award in 2021. Upon graduating from Mercer, Caleb was

awarded for Academic and Performance Excellence. He performs in masterclasses regularly, most recently for Gabriela Montero, Steven Osborne, Yakov Kasman, and Boris Slutsky. He enjoys playing in jazz combos as well as composing. Last year, he placed first in the UMTA composition competition and third in the MTNA composition competition in Utah with works composed for solo piano and piano trio. Known for his ability to improvise, Caleb released his album *Hymn Contemplations* in 2019 which includes improvisations on some of his favorite hymns. Passionate about music education, Caleb performed in the Gina Bachauer Foundation Music in Our Schools outreach program this past year. In Fall 2023, he will be attending the University of North Texas to study with Gustavo Romero for his DMA in Piano Performance. In his free time, Caleb enjoys playing chess, practicing his Victor Borge impressions, and listening to the recently discovered composer, P.D.Q. Bach.



Adam Bowen is studying Piano Performance and Pedagogy at Utah State University and just finished his freshman year. Adam has much experience working as a collaborative pianist and violinist. Adam thoroughly enjoys sharing the love of music with other people through performance and teaching, and spends a lot of his time discovering new piano literature. In his free time Adam loves backpacking, biking, and running.



Audry Ricks is an active performer, collaborator, and teacher. She has performed in the Russell Wanlass Performance Hall, the Caine Room, the Impact Commons, outdoor concerts, as well as in the Music Box Concert Series and in private house concerts. Her most recent masterclass performances include artists Alexander Malofeev, Yakov Kasman, and Michael Brown. She actively conducts and presents research, her recent projects include "International Perspectives on Managing Performance Anxiety", "Less Notes, More Music! : Effective Performance Through Practical Alteration and Rearrangement", and "Interpretive Discoveries in Beethoven's Piano Sonata No. 13 in E-flat Major". Audry studies as a Piano Performance and Pedagogy major at Utah State University under the tutelage of Dr. Cahill Smith.



Valerie McGeean Playing the piano since the age of seven, Valerie has always had a passion for the art. She loves competing, collaborating, and performing alongside other musicians. She recently performed in masterclasses with Koji Atwood and Alexander Malofeev. Over the last year, Valerie has performed in several joint recitals along with her own solo recital in the RWPB back in May. In addition to performing, she enjoys both running her own private teaching studio and teaching in the YC at USU. Valerie also enjoys researching—she will serve as the USU's UMTA research coordinator in the fall and conduct research abroad titled "International Perspectives on Managing Performance Anxiety" with her colleagues this summer. She will continue her study in Piano Performance and Pedagogy as a sophomore under Dr. Cahill Smith in the fall.



Brinn Crandall grew up in Shelley, Idaho. She learned to love the piano from dedicated teachers and grandmothers who both played. She is grateful for the opportunities she has had to share music throughout her life. She has loved learning from other students and the piano faculty at Utah State, and especially loves opportunities to collaborate with other musicians and friends.



Ben Kaufman is a senior in the Utah State University Music Therapy program in Logan, Utah. He is originally from Teton, Idaho and came to Utah as transfer student from BYU-Idaho. He is currently the president for USUMTSA (Utah State Music Therapy Student Association) and has enjoyed fostering student connections, improving student academic experiences, and playing lots of piano in my clinical practicums and for our events! In his free time, he enjoys petting cats, going on road trips in Utah and Idaho, hiking, paddle boarding, spending time with his niece and nephew, and learning the guitar.

Meet the Piano Camp Students!



Abby Rich grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area and started taking piano lessons from her mother at age 5. After moving to Utah in 2018, she studied with Laura Zisette and is currently studying with Dr. Kevin Olson. Abby also plays violin and is first chair in the Concert Orchestra at Sky View High School. Abby took 3rd place in the Classical Division at USU Piano Fest in April.



Adam Muir, a pianist and trombonist from Lehi Utah, actively seeks opportunities and growth through piano festivals. He currently attends Skyridge and is a 4.0 student. Adam started piano when he was 8 and enjoys listening to and playing classical music. When he is not playing piano, you can find him at the gym or spending time outside.



Aidan Lowry, from Logan, Utah, is a rising sophomore at InTech Collegiate Academy. He joined the USU Youth Conservatory in December 2022, and has completed Level 3 AIM testing. Aidan is passionate about music and music composition. For the past 5 years, Aidan has studied guitar under Todd Milovich, and he is a member of the Guitar Club at Logan High School. Aidan studies martial arts at the Jyushinkan Aikido Dojo in Logan, and likes to ride his bike in his free time. He is a student of Ewa Wilczynski.



Annabelle Johnson is from Vernal, Utah. She studied piano with her mother, a USU Piano graduate, for many years before taking from Jacqui King who is also a USU Piano graduate. Annabelle loves academics and especially loves choir. She actively competes in piano competitions and participates in the National Federation of Music Clubs festival each year. She also loves a good duet.



Arwen Tipton, age 14, has been playing the piano for 7 years and is passionate about music. She wants to grow in her musical ability so that she can reach her goal to more effectively communicate emotions through music. Arwen is particularly interested in the music of anime and how it is used to enhance the stories. Arwen is a student of Kathleen Lloyd.



Asher Johnson has been playing the piano for close to 5 years. In 2020, he started with his current piano teacher, Alyssa Young, playing at a level 2. Asher has advanced rapidly to a level 9. He particularly enjoys the rhythm and syncopation of jazz music. He has played for his school's jazz band over the past year and will play for the jazz band again in his upcoming 9th grade year. Asher has also played the cello in his school's orchestra for the past 4 years.



Audrey Hatch is from Price, Utah and has been playing the piano for 10 years. She has participated in the Emery-Carbon County Piano Festival since 2019 and has won many awards including outstanding piano performance and first place in technique and sight-reading. Audrey began singing in and accompanying her school choir in middle school. She now accompanies the Carbon High School choirs at concerts and festivals. Audrey also enjoys accompanying small groups and soloists for voice and instrumental performances. This past year, she received superior ratings at region and state solo & ensemble competition. Audrey currently studies with Elise Tuttle, professor of piano at USUE.



Bennett Larsen, a native of Salt Lake City, Utah, loves playing and listening to music. His primary instrument is the piano and he also plays the drums and guitar. He received a "I + + +" at the Davis District Solo and Ensemble competition in 2023 for piano solo. He also plays drums in his school's jazz band and was awarded the 'Outstanding Jazz Award'.



Caleb Timmerman is a sophomore at Hillcrest High School. He enjoys theater, piano, singing, and tennis. He has participated in Federation Junior Festivals earning superiors and his Gold Cup. He has also participated in the Heber Valley Piano Festival and has been invited to play in the Festivals Honors Recital in the composition and duet categories. Caleb has studied piano under Laurisa Cope for the last three years and enjoys composing and learning new pieces.

Meet the Piano Camp Students!



Braden Barfuss started playing piano at age 6. His love of piano helped him progress quickly. Braden has developed strong aural skills and often tries to pick out songs at the piano. He took lessons from his mother until age 14, and he is currently studying with Jo Ann Gerrish. Braden has won superior ratings at festivals and took first place in the Sonatina competition in 2022.



Sam Holyoak is 16 years old and currently resides in Elfin Forest, CA. He has studied the Suzuki piano program with his teacher Mary Mathews since the age of 8. Sam plays in his high school symphonic and marching bands. He received the Woody Herman Jazz Award in 2022 and recently participated in a chamber music ensemble where he performed Bach Minuet 1 & 2 from Partita in B flat major. Sam devotes a large amount of time to practicing, and researching his favorite pianists. When Sam isn't practicing piano, he enjoys mountain biking and snowboarding.



Campbell Helton Campbell Helton is from Des Moines, Iowa and has studied with Marlene Bachelder for 12 years. She has won concerto competitions with the Des Moines Symphony Orchestra and the Ottumwa Symphony Orchestra, and has been asked to be a guest artist on a Des Moines Symphony Orchestra set. She is also a composer and violinist, winning concertmaster of Iowa High School Music Association's All-State Music Festival, Des Moines Youth Symphony, and Drake Honors Orchestra Festival. She also won the Des Moines Symphony Young Artist Concerto Competition on violin. She runs a small piano and violin studio and loves chamber music. She starts as a freshman piano major at USU this fall!



Cohen Young Sixteen year old Cohen Young currently studies under Sharalyn Heath. His most recent recognitions include earning 2nd Place in the 2023 State UMTA Concerto Competition (High School Division), whose Provo/Orem Chapter also recognized his outstanding musicianship by naming him an Award Winner in the UMTA Achievement in Music Performances this same year. His performances at the Encore Solo Festival and Encore Concerto Festival both led to distinctions as a 2023 Award Winner. Cohen balances his love of music with an interest in astrophysics, snowboarding, and cross-country running. He will be a Junior at Spanish Fork High School in the fall.



Edward Lyman is a level 10 piano AIM student under Denise Frost. He scored a top score in the Utah high school state Solo Ensemble. He serves as a pianist for religious, family, and community functions. He is also a state finalist in cross country and track.



Darren Su is 14 years old and attends Twin Falls High School. He started his piano lessons with Corrine Van Dyk when he was three and currently studies with Allison Bangerter. He enjoys participating in the Magic Valley Music Teachers Association yearly competition and the Certificate of Achievement Program. Most recently, Darren won first place at the Musicians West Competition in 2019 and 2022, and was selected as a 2022 Youth Soloist for the Magic Valley Symphony. In October he was named a Platinum Winner for the 2022 Pacific Northwest Concerto Competition where he played the first movement of Saint-Saëns Piano Concerto No. 5 with the Bellevue Symphony Orchestra. He loves improvising and performing and is inspired by the music of Mozart and Beethoven. Darren also plays the violin and likes to swim, ski, play chess, and loves to read.



Derek Stewart attends Farmington High School in Davis County. He studies piano with Penni Eads, a former student of Del Parkinson. Derek is working towards completing the final level of the AIM program. He has earned numerous "superior" ratings in the National Federation of Music Clubs festivals for his work on concertos, duets, and solos. This spring, he was selected to perform in the UMTA Davis Chapter Honors Recital. Besides piano, Derek also enjoys playing volleyball, wrestling, and running.



Dillon Sant from Clifton, Idaho, has been taking piano lessons since he was five years old. He has participated in the UMTA AIM program, finishing level 8 this year. Dillon also has participated in the UMTA Performance Evaluations and performed in the Honors Recital in 2019. He took part in the Utah Federation of Music Clubs evaluation program, receiving his 45-point cup for solos and 30-point cup for concertos. Dillon shares his musical ability by volunteering to play the piano for his church and school. Dillon is a student of Bonnie Slaughter.

Meet the Piano Camp Students!



Eli Slack is from Highland, Utah and has studied piano for 9 years. He enjoys composing his own pieces as well as memorizing challenging songs. Eli also accompanies several choirs. When he is not learning new pieces, he is on the trails as part of the mountain bike team at American Fork High School. Eli loves a good challenge, whether it's memorizing intricate pieces, composing new songs, mastering chess, or conquering tough racecourses. Eli is a proud member of the esteemed Piano Movers (2022). He is a student of Cheryl Norman.



Ellen Lan is a rising 10th grader at Cary Academy. She began piano at the age of 7 and is a student of Olga Urick. She has placed at several regional competitions, Young Artist Auditions, and the Elizabeth Bullard competition. She also placed at the Elite International Piano Competition and performed at Carnegie Hall. Aside from regular classes, Ellen has performed in masterclasses at Vivace Piano Festival for Yakov Kasman and Marina Lomazov. This summer, she is looking forward to attending the USU Summer Piano Festival and the Feurich Competition in Vienna.



Eowyn Millward was born in Boise Idaho, and started playing the piano at age five. Four years later, she began studying with Juli Draney. She enjoys playing in a variety of styles, as well as composing her own music. In 2020, Eowyn moved to Northern California, but continues to take lessons with Juli over zoom.



Eva Largey, from Kaysville, Utah, has studied piano since age seven. She has studied under Morris Lee for the last five years. She was selected to perform in the UMTA Davis Chapter Honors Piano Recital the last four years. She has been a finalist in Davis School District's Solo & Ensemble competition twice. Beginning in Jr. High, Eva became a percussionist for her school's concert band, and also plays piano for the Jazz Band. She also plays mallet percussion (Vibes and Marimba) in Davis High's Drumline (2nd at State), and Marching Band (2nd at State and 2nd at Band of America Regionals). Eva's finds joy and satisfaction in learning music and collaborating with ensembles.



Gavin Kocen loves to play piano for his friends, family, teachers, and peers. His love for piano has grown since inheriting his grandfather's baby grand 4 and a half years ago. He has participated in 6 local competitions. Gavin plans to pursue piano in the future to become a performer and teacher. He is a student is Clara Guilbeau.



Gwendolyn Ingle, from Idaho Falls, has been playing piano since the age of 5, and currently studies with Ellen Knapp. She has participated in Solo Festival for 6 years, receiving perfect scores, as well as two first place awards in the Eastern Idaho Bach competition. She competes yearly in the EIMTA and Eastern Idaho Concerto competitions, winning first and second multiple times. For the past four years, Gwendolyn has been awarded scholarships in the IFMC scholarship competition and has placed first for two years. She enjoys accompanying others and performing with her sister who plays the flute. Gwendolyn attends Bonneville High School where she sings in the choir and is an avid artist.



Hailey Bown, a resident of South Jordan, Utah, was selected as Second Prize winner in the UMTA Concerto Competition (2022) and as Third Prize winner in the Salt Lake Piano Competition solo and concerto divisions (2023). She performed in the UMTA Honors Recitals in both 2019 and 2021. In 2022, she performed Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto in C Minor, Op. 18 in USU's Russell/Wanlass Performance Hall. Hailey is also a violist and pianist for the Herriman High School orchestra. Hailey was taught by Shannon Bown from age 5. Beginning in 2019 to the present, she studies with Cassandra Mayfield.



Hannah Jue is 16 years old and has been studying piano for 10 years. She has studied with Nova Dansie and is currently studying with Lori Peters. She has participated in the IFMC Festival for 10 years, competed in the EIMTA competition for 6 years, as well as competed at other various competitions where she has placed in several. She has also participated in the Idaho Falls Concerto Festival. Hannah has just finished her sophomore year at Idaho Falls High School. Other than piano, she enjoys skating, traveling, track, and hanging out with friends.



Hiro Quan, an avid piano player, has been playing the piano for the past 4 years. He has participated in many competitions including EIMTA, MTNA, and many festivals. Recently, Hiro was named 2nd place in the 2023 Musicians West competition and got Alternate (2nd) during the MTNA competition. Hiro is currently studying piano with Dr. Stephen Thomas.

Meet the Piano Camp Students!



Isabel Martin has been playing piano and singing since the age of five. For the last six years, she has studied with Juli Draney in her hometown of Boise, Idaho. In 2016, Isabel performed her first original composition for her elementary school talent show and never stopped. Since 2022, she has been working on compositions surrounding the thousands of Japanese Americans who were incarcerated at Minidoka during World War II. In 2023, she entered her original "Alone" for the National Federation of Music Clubs Junior Composers Contest and won 1st place in the State of Idaho. In the fall, she plans to study Music Composition at the University of Idaho with Dr. Roger McVey, as a recipient of both academic and piano department scholarships.



Indigo Della Badia is an eighth-grade classical piano major at the Idaho Fine Arts Academy in Meridian, Idaho. He has studied with various teachers since 2019 and currently studies with Suzanne Clive at the Clive Piano Studio. Indigo wants to continue playing piano throughout college and as a lifelong career. In May, he was a finalist in his first piano competition, Musicians West.



Jovan Crockett studies with Cassandra Mayfield and enjoys music and ballroom dancing. He was selected as the first place winner in the Baroque, Romantic, and Concerto divisions of the recent spring USU piano festival. Earlier this year, he won first at the 2023 Sandy MTA piano festival in the progressive artist junior division. He has been invited to perform in multiple honors recitals and placed in other local competitions. Starting at five years old Jovan began his piano studies under Lisa Brault, and is grateful for everyone who has been a mentor on his piano journey.



Julia Fawson is in the ninth grade at Ridgeline High School. Julia's international prizes in piano competitions include the Bronze Prize at the 2021 Northern Lights Piano Competition (Junior Performance) and Third Prize at the 2019 White Nights International Piano Festival Piano Competition (Junior Division) in St. Petersburg, Russia. Julia won First Prize at the 2018 Jason Sipes Piano Competition in Phoenix, Arizona and Silver Medal at the 2019 East Valley Music Teachers Association (EVMTA) Piano Competition in Mesa, Arizona. Julia studies with Kylee Fullmer and her former teachers include Dr. Vera Watanabe and Natalya Thran. In addition to playing the piano, Julia enjoys playing cello, track and field, and lacrosse.



Luke Wallin has participated in the AIM program for the past eight years, always receiving exceptional scores. He has consistently received superior ratings in the UMTA Performance Evaluations, and Region and State Solo & Ensemble. In the 2021 UMTA Composition Contest, Luke received an Honorable Mention for his original composition, "Triumphant". He received the Outstanding Performance award for the UTU Castle Rock Piano Camp in 2021, received the Outstanding Solo award for piano in the 2022 Region Jazz Festival, and was awarded 2nd place in the advanced piano category for the 2022 Southern Utah Performing Arts Festival. Luke currently accompanies the Youth Symphony of Southern Utah, is the pianist for the DHHS Jazz Band, and studies with Carole Terry.



Lilly Seeley, a junior in high school, has been playing the piano for 8 years. She has participated in Solo & Ensemble and at piano festivals. She received a superior at Region Solo & Ensemble and an excellent at State. She has won piano festival competitions several times and also received a runner up. Lilly currently studies with Elise Tuttle for 6 years now, and previously studied with LeAnn Taylor for 2 years.



Makayla Meigio, a native to Idaho Falls, Idaho, has been playing piano since age six and is currently studying under the direction of Lori Peters. She has participated in 6 years of school talent shows, 9 years of Idaho Falls Music Club (IFMC) Festivals, and competed for 6 years in the Eastern Idaho Music Teachers Association and has won 1st, 2nd, and Honorable Mention awards. She received a scholarship from the 2023 IFMC Scholarship Competition. Besides music, she enjoys spending time with her friends and family, golfing, pickleball, and photography. She enjoys participating in her church youth group and recently traveled to Mexico on a mission trip. She is a rising junior at Idaho Falls High School and is a member of the National Honor Society.



Michael Brinton, (Highland, Utah) has studied with Cheryl Norman since age 8. He has earned high scores at multiple regional piano competitions, including 4 perfect scores. This year he was selected to perform at the UMTA Annual Conference and at the UMTA spring honors recital. He completed level 9 in the AIM program with a perfect performance score. In October 2022, Michael traveled to Berlin and Frankfurt-upon-Oder, Germany to perform a two-concert series with The Brinton Family Pianists. Michael plays piano in two bands: his school's superior-rated jazz band and Caleb Chapman's Best of State winner, the Little Big Band. In addition to piano, Michael competes on an academic pentathlon team, earning the state championship in 2022.

Meet the Piano Camp Students!



Kate Hansen has enjoyed playing piano for the last 6 years with various teachers. She has participated in many events through Utah State University and was recognized for taking 1st place in her age group in Pianofest in 2019. She enjoys playing the organ in her local Sunday church meetings. When Kate is not playing piano, she can be found on the basketball court or riding her dirt bike.



Roxy Jones, a sophomore at Clark High School, in Las Vegas, began her musical journey at the age of four, inspired by Jon Schmidt of the Piano Guys. At the age of 11, Roxy won the opportunity to perform a Mozart concerto with the Henderson Symphony Orchestra. Studying under Natalya Panchenko has led Roxy to win multiple concerto competitions, including a performance of Chopin's Concerto No. 1 with the Henderson Symphony Orchestra in 2022. She has placed in several competitions, including a silver medal in the 10th Chopin International Competition, first place in the Steinway and Sons Junior Competition, and gold and silver medals at the prestigious Chopin NW Festival in Seattle. Roxy also won second place in the Dan Stover Music Competition, as well as multiple awards in local and state competitions. In recognition of her outstanding accomplishments, Roxy became the youngest recipient of the prestigious Forgotten Song Foundation Scholarship.



Sam Glover started playing the piano in March 2020, going on to take his first piano lesson in February 2021. His love for the piano grew quickly after that, as well as his love for performing. Sam was awarded 3rd place at the USU Piano Fest 2023, his first competition. He currently studies with Eunyoung Choi.



Shixun Song is a 9th grader at Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts. He has been playing piano for 12 years and currently studies with Li Wang of the University of Cincinnati. He has also studied privately with Elaine Felder and Yumy Lee Kim of the Music Institute of Chicago, and with Brenda Huang. He has participated in numerous masterclasses: most recently with Lovre Marusic, Marian Hahn, and Alexander Korsantia. He won first place in the Sejong Music Competition and the Fiorito International Music Competition. He has also placed in many others, including the DePaul Concerto Festival, the Walgreens National Concerto Competition, and the MTNA Piano Competition.



Tyler Wallin is from St. George, Utah. He has participated in the AIM program for the past eight years. Tyler has participated in the annual UMTA performance evaluations where he has been awarded many superior ratings. In 2021, he competed in SUPAF (Southern Utah Performing Arts Festival) where he placed 3rd place in the solo piano division. Tyler participated in the 2022 UMTA Composition Competition receiving an Honorable Mention for his piece titled "Valse en Conflict". He is a member of the Mustang Jazz Band at Crimson Cliffs High School. He currently studies with Carole Terry.



Yixiang Cheng, from China, came to live in the United States in February, 2023, and currently attends the Riverstone International School. He has taken eight years of piano lessons, and currently studies jazz and classical piano with Julie Draney.



Zachary Davies is a senior in high school from Eagle, Idaho. He is a student of Juli Draney. He earned a superior rating at the NFMC Festival for six consecutive years. In 2021 and 2022, he won the MTNA state composition competition and received an honorable mention at the regional level. He won the national level of the Junior Composers Contest IV in 2023. He also received an honorable mention at the 2022 MTNA Piano Competition at the state level. He has his own piano studio and accompanies the varsity and jazz choirs at his high school. He will attend BYU Idaho as a freshman in the fall.



Zaman Siddiqi is a resident of Salt Lake City, Utah. Zaman is the second-place winner in the duet category of the Charleston International Romantic Music Competition (2021) and was selected as the best performance of Paderewski (2018) and the best High School division performance (2019) of the Gifted Music School Paderewski Festival Competition. Zaman has been part of the Gifted Music School Conservatory since the age of 9 and graduated from the Conservatory this year. In the Fall, Zaman will attend Utah State University to study piano performance and pedagogy with a scholarship award.

NOTES



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NOTES



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About USU Piano



Since its founding in 1888, **Utah State University** has evolved from a small-town college to a thriving Carnegie R-1 research university respected around the world. USU is just minutes from two mountain ranges and within a half-day's drive of six national parks. It provides big-school opportunities with a small-school feel, and all for a great value. USU Piano offers **bachelor's (BM, BA), master's (MM)**, and undergraduate **minor programs** in Piano Performance & Pedagogy. The piano curriculum offered by an internationally-recognized faculty includes

classes in piano performance, pedagogy, piano literature and history, collaborative piano, jazz, chamber music, and special topics like classical improvisation, composition, analysis, and NCTM teacher certification.

USU Piano maintains a unique focus on pedagogy and teacher training. **The Youth Conservatory (YC)** is a lab school designed to give piano majors hands-on professional training in individual and group lessons to pre-college students, while providing quality piano instruction to the community at affordable costs. The YC puts on popular annual events such as Monster Concert and Pianofest, with over 200 community participants.



This year, USU Piano was selected as the **2023 MTNA National Collegiate Chapter of the Year** for their impact and engagement in piano teaching. USU has been the winner of the same award for the state of Utah for 3 of the past 4 years.

- 32 Piano majors enrolled for 23-24 (+16 on leave of absence)
- 150 Enrolled Youth Conservatory Piano Students in 22/23
- 27,943: Total enrollment at USU (Fall 2022)



About USU Piano (continued)



USU Piano majors **perform** regularly in USU's world-class performance spaces, including the award-winning Russell Wanlass Performance Hall, equipped with state-of-the-art recording equipment, allowing the Russell/Wanlass Performance Hall the flexibility to be used as an exceptional recording studio. Opportunities include annual themed piano recitals, guest artist masterclasses, weekly performance class, Youth Conservatory recitals, sophomore and senior recitals, student-led collaborations, jazz ensembles, choir and band, chamber ensembles, and an annual concerto competition, where selected students perform as soloists with the USU Orchestra.



With over 100 pianos on campus, USU became an **All-Steinway School** in 2013, and is home to **11 concert-grand Steinway D's**, not only in the world-class performance spaces, but also in teaching studios and classrooms, affording students regular opportunities to study and practice on the same instruments they can expect to encounter on concert stages around the world.

Through the generosity of programs like the Wassermann Piano Series, the Chamber Music Society of Logan, and the Caine College Visiting Artist Program, students regularly connect with world-renowned **visiting artists** right here on campus. Guest artists include Sergie Babayan, Olga Kern, Alexander Malofeev, Gabriela Montero, Marc-André Hamelin, Noa Kageyama, Anderson and Roe, Dang Thai Son, and Stephen Hough, among others. Piano students attend these recitals and work with guest artists in public masterclasses at no cost. For more information, visit piano.usu.edu.



