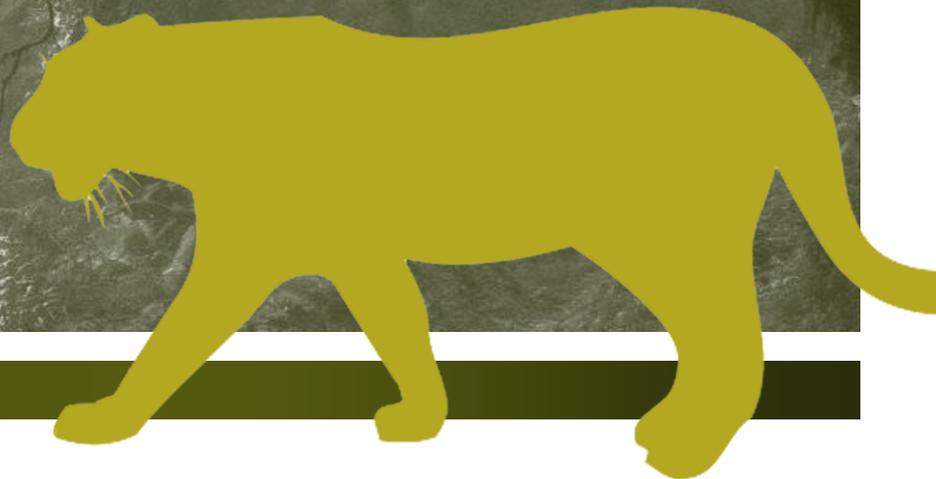


**GET WILD ABOUT TEACHING**  
**2025 WMTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE**





# 2025 WMTA CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## THURSDAY, October 23rd

7pm to 10pm Board Meeting

## FRIDAY, October 24th

8:00	Registration Opens. Exhibitors Open. Meet and Greet.
8:15	Opening Remarks
8:30	The Adaptable Teacher: Approaching Every Music Student According to Their Learning Temperament - Drea Wagner
9:30	Piano Safari Showcase - Katherine Fisher
10:30	Getting Over The Hump: Preparing Students for Advance Repertoire - Michael Rector
11:30	Lunch - On Your Own
1:00	Lessons Learned From a Tiger (and the Research): The Role of Parental Support in Music Study - Dr. Christopher Fisher
2:00	Upbeat! The Power Within - Matthew Arau
3:00	Beyond The Right Turn of Phrase: Listening More Objectively - Shad Ryan Wenzlaff
4:00	Local Association Chair Meeting & District Association Chair Meeting
5:30	Cocktails
6:00	Dinner and Awards Ceremony
7:30	Concert - Christopher & Katherine Fisher

## SATURDAY, October 25th

9:00	Rote Teaching - A New Paradigm - Katherine Fisher
10:00	Masterclass - Christopher Fisher
11:30	Collegiate Presentations
12:30	Lunch & Annual Business Meeting
2:00	Lightning Games!
2:30	Helping your Middle/High School Piano Students in the Jazz Band - Marty Robinson
3:30	Closing

## Featured Guest

**Dr. Christopher Fisher** is Professor of Piano at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio where he co-chairs the Keyboard Division and directs the nationally recognized undergraduate and graduate piano performance and pedagogy programs. He is the Artistic Director of the Ohio University Piano Pedagogy Seminar and is a Faculty Fellow for the 1804 Scholars Program. Dr. Fisher served as Director of the Ohio University School of Music from 2020-2022 and Assistant Director from 2019-2020. Recognized for his teaching, Dr. Fisher was the 2010 recipient of the Ohio Music Teachers Association Collegiate Teacher of the Year Award and the Ohio University School of Music Distinguished Teaching Award. In 2025, he was designated a Foundation Fellow of the Music Teachers National Association.



Dr. Fisher is the author of *Teaching Piano in Groups* (Oxford University Press, 2010), the only comprehensive group piano pedagogy textbook of its kind. A Chinese translation of *Teaching Piano in Groups* is also available. Dr. Fisher is the co-author of the revised and expanded edition of *Piano Duet Repertoire* (Indiana University Press, 2016) and co-author of *Functional Skills for Pianists* (Oxford University Press, 2022). He is also co-editing the *Oxford Handbook for Piano Pedagogy* (Oxford University Press) with Dr. Sally Cathcart. He has published in leading keyboard journals including *Keyboard Companion*, *American Music Teacher*, *Clavier*, and *Clavier Companion*. He is a contributing composer for the innovative piano method, *Piano Safari* ([www.pianosafari.com](http://www.pianosafari.com), which is used by piano teachers and students around the globe. His educational compositions are published by Alfred Music and Piano Safari.

In demand as a workshop clinician, Dr. Fisher has presented lectures nationally and internationally, including the National Conferences of the Music Teachers National Association (Washington, D.C., 2001; Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 2007; Atlanta, 2009; San Antonio, Texas, 2016; Orlando, Florida, 2018), the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy (Lombard, Illinois, 2013; 2017; 2019), Centro para la Pedagogia de los Instrumentos de Cuerda (CEPIC) (Madrid, Spain, 2023), the Music & Drama Education Expo (London, England, 2018), the National Group Piano and Piano Pedagogy Forum (Norman, Oklahoma, 2006; Austin, Texas, 2010), the Australasian Piano Pedagogy Conference (Canberra, Australia, 2008), Encontro Internacional de Pianistas de Piracicaba (Piracicaba, Sao Paulo, Brazil, 2016), The Curious Piano Teachers Live Conferences (Belfast, Northern Ireland, 2018, 2025; and Oxford, England, 2018, 2025) and the American Music Therapy Association (Orlando, Florida, 2005). Dr. Fisher has served as the featured artist and/or clinician for the state MTNA conferences of Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Indiana, Louisiana, Nebraska, and South Carolina. He has been an invited guest lecturer at leading universities and conservatories across the U.S. including recent engagements at The Juilliard School in New York (USA), the Tianjin Juilliard School (China), the Manhattan School of Music, the Peabody Institute at Johns Hopkins University, University of Oxford (UK), and Trinity Laban Conservatoire (UK).

As a performing artist, Dr. Fisher frequently plays both solo and collaborative recitals, including duet and duo piano performances with wife, pianist Katherine Fisher. The Fisher Piano Duo was awarded first prize in the Adult Duo Division of the Graves Piano and Organ Company/OhioMTA Piano Competition in 2007. As a recording artist, Dr. Fisher can be heard on the MSR Classics label (Samplings: New Music for Bassoon and Piano; MS1547).

Dr. Fisher is an active member of Music Teachers National Association and has served as Vice-President for Conferences and Vice-President for Membership for the Ohio Music Teachers Association; he presently serves as Collegiate Chapter Chair. He is the faculty advisor for the Ohio University Collegiate Chapter of MTNA, recipient of the 2021, 2019, and 2015 MTNA Collegiate Chapter Award. Dr. Fisher maintains a studio of pre-college students who have been successful at state and regional piano competitions and festivals. He frequently serves as an adjudicator and master class clinician at piano festivals and competitions throughout the United States and abroad, including the MTNA Stecher & Horowitz Two Piano Competition, the OHIO International Piano Duet & Duo Competition, and the United States Virtuoso Artists International Piano Competition.

A native of Missouri, Dr. Fisher holds degrees from Wichita State University (Master of Music in Piano Pedagogy) and Northwest Missouri State University (Bachelor of Arts). He was awarded the Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Oklahoma where he was the recipient of the prestigious Alumni Graduate Fellowship. His piano and piano pedagogy teachers include Edward Gates, Jane Magrath, Barbara Fast, Julie Bees, Sylvia Coats, Richard

# Friday Sessions



## **The Adaptable Teacher: Approaching Every Music Student According to Their Learning Temperament - Drea Wagner**

Dolphins, and Owls, and Bears—oh my!! Apply learning temperament theory to the music studio and explore how identifying a student's unique "wiring" can unlock his individual potential and inspire excitement.



## **Getting Over The Hump: Preparing Students for Advance Repertoire - Michael Rector**

Helping students transition from intermediate to advanced repertoire can seem like a Herculean labor. Attending to students' motivation, problem-solving skills and reading ability, we can encourage them to work more confidently and independently. I will present strategies based on my personal experience and review the relevant psychological literature.



## **Lessons Learned From a Tiger (and the Research): The Role of Parental Support in Music Study - Dr. Christopher Fisher**

Piano teachers commonly report an alarming trend of low student motivation, poor lesson preparation, slow progress, and increasing attrition. Worse yet, teachers lament declining interest in piano study. While these trends can be attributed to many factors, clinicians contend that one factor is usually at play: a lack of positive parental involvement. This workshop will explore strategies to engage, educate and encourage parents.



## **Upbeat! The Power Within - Matthew Arrau**

We often look outside of ourselves for the solutions and answers to the challenges we face. Dr. Matthew Arrau reminds us that despite the hurdles, we can make a significant difference by tapping into the power within ourselves and our students. Through choosing our personal upbeat and being intentional with how we teach and lead, we can create a positive, inclusive culture by design and elevate the level of learning, performance, joy, belonging, empowerment, motivation, recruitment, and retention.



## **Beyond The Right Turn of Phrase: Listening More Objectively - Shad Ryan Wenzlaff**

How do we decide what constitutes a superior musical performance? We will consider how, and what it means, to assess what we hear. This session will equip participants with a toolbox of skills useful in listening thus allowing us to more quickly and objectively offer constructive feedback in lessons and adjudicating environments alike.

# Saturday Sessions



## Rote Teaching - A New Paradigm - Katherine Fisher

Teaching students by rote (by imitation without initial reference to the score) allows students to develop their memory, ears, and technique without the added complication of reading the notation. This workshop will present practical strategies for how to introduce a Rote Piece and also discuss what elements make an excellent Rote Piece.



## Masterclass - Christopher Fisher

Join us for Dr. Christopher Fisher's inspiring masterclass at the music conference! A celebrated pianist and educator, Dr. Fisher offers expert guidance on technique, interpretation, and artistry. This session is a must for performers and teachers alike. Don't miss one of the conference's most anticipated events!



## UW Superior Student Chapter Collegiate Presentations

Teaching piano to groups of mixed ages and skill levels is particularly challenging. This semester, we will develop, implement, and evaluate strategies to address this problem with the goal of creating an engaging musical environment where each student feels appropriately challenged. In this session, we will share our insight on teaching materials and repertoire that work particularly well in the group setting.



## Lightning Games!

Get ready for fast-paced fun at **Lightning Games**—a high-energy session packed with quick, creative games contributed by our own members! Whether you're playing or cheering, expect surprises, laughs, and a burst of musical mayhem you won't want to miss.



## Helping your Middle/High School Piano Students in the Jazz Band - Marty Robinson

This presentation will help private teachers of M.S./H.S. pianists learn how to be more proactive and helpful when their students show an interest in playing in their school jazz bands.



## Friday Night Recital

Get ready for an unforgettable musical experience at our Friday evening recital on October 24th at 7:30 PM, featuring the renowned piano duo Christopher Fisher and Katherine Fisher! Known for their electrifying performances and masterful artistry, the Fishers will take the stage to deliver a program that promises to inspire and captivate. This exclusive event is included with your Conference registration, so don't miss this chance to witness two of the most dynamic performers in the field. Join us for a night of brilliance, passion, and pure musical magic!

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### THE FISHER PIANO DUO Christopher & Katherine Fisher, pianists

#### PROGRAM

SAMUEL BARBER (1910-1981)	from <i>Souvenirs</i> , Op. 28 Pas de deux Hesitation Tango
FRANZ SCHUBERT (1797-1828)	Fantasie in F Minor, D. 940
SERGEI RACHMANINOFF (1873-1943)	from <i>Six Pieces</i> , Op. 11 Scherzo Russian Theme Waltz
SERGEI RACHMANINOFF (1873-1943) arr. Greg Anderson	<i>Vocalise</i> , Op. 34, No. 14
CHRISTOPH WILLIBALD GLUCK (1714-1787) arr. Greg Anderson	Ballet from <i>Orphée et Eurydice</i>

\*Program Subject to Change