

SMU Institute for Piano Teachers 2012: Presenter Information

GUEST PRESENTERS

Karen Austin

As a long-time member of Dallas Music Teachers Association, Karen has served as President and has held many other offices within the organization. She has also served on the board of Texas Music Teachers Association. Karen maintains a private piano studio in McKinney.

Marvin Blickenstaff (via Skype)

Marvin Blickenstaff teaches at The New School for Music Study and in his home studio in Pennsylvania. Blickenstaff's teaching career is associate with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and with Goshen college. In 2007, *Piano Pedagogy Forum* published tributes to Blickenstaff honoring his contribution to piano teaching in America. In that same year he was named Fello of the Rooyal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. In 2009, MTNA selected him for their highest honor, the Achievement Award. He serves as President of the Frances Clark Center for Keyboard Pedagogy and is on the executive planning committee for NCKP.

Sara Ernst (via Skype)

Sara Ernst is the Administrative Director at The New School for Music Study. During the summer, she teachers at the Interlochen Arts Camp, and she has served on the faculty of the University of Missouri-Columbia, teaching piano and piano pedagogy. Ms. Ernst is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Oklahoma and received degrees from Luther College and the University of Missouri. She maintains an avid interest in piano pedagogy research and in contemporary music.

Scott McBride Smith

Scott McBride Smith is the Cordelia Brown Murphy Professor of Piano Pedagogy at the University of Kansas. A recognized leader in music education, his philosophical and cognitive approach, combined with a sense of humor, has made him an audience favorite around the world. His numerous practical initiatives to improve today's piano lesson experience include serving as co-author of the ground-breaking new series *American Popular Piano* and his work as President of the renowned summer program *International Institute for Young Musicians*. Dr. Smith is an active teacher, author, editor, and Immediate Past President of the *California Association of Professional Music Teachers*.

Hando Nahkur

Estonian pianist Hando Nahkur, now a Performer's Diploma student of Joaquin Achucarro at SMU, is one of the most brilliant and engaging young pianists of his generation. Performing repertoire that ranges from Bach-Busoni to his own transcriptions of Frank Sinatra classics, Mr. Nahkur will present an utterly engaging and entertaining solo recital. Visit Hando online at handonahkur.com.

Wendy Stevens

Wendy Stevens is a composer, pianist, and teacher. Wendy enjoys encouraging creative teaching and composing in her presentations and on her blog, www.ComposeCreate.com <<http://www.ComposeCreate.com>> . Wendy's own compositions are published by Hal Leonard, Concordia Publishing House, and Augsburg Fortress.

Robert Vandall

A prolific composer, Robert D. Vandall has published more than four-hundred piano works. He and his wife, Karen, operate an independent piano studio in Ohio. Forty of his publications appear on current syllabus lists in North America.

Kristin Yost

Kristin Yost is the Executive Director of the Centre for Musical Minds, where pop music is central to the learning process. Yost is a published author and regular presenter in business sessions for local, state and national conferences across the US. In 2011 Yost made her professional European speaking debut when she was invited to Hungary to speak on the importance of popular music as core repertoire in piano lessons. You can find out more about Ms. Yost by connecting with her on LinkedIn or visiting the following websites: CentreforMusicalMinds.org <<http://CentreforMusicalMinds.org>> and PianoTeacherSchool.com <<http://PianoTeacherSchool.com>>

SMU FACULTY PRESENTERS

For biographical information on the following presenters, please visit the SMU faculty web page: <http://www.smu.edu/Meadows/AreasOfStudy/Music/Faculty>

Jose Antonio Bowen

Kevin Gunter

Sam Holland

Matthew Kline

Carol Leone

Catharine Lysinger