

# MTNA 2021 – 2022 Competition Results

## Piano

### Junior Piano Performance Contestants

No.	Name	Teacher	Result
JP01	Shuyi Zheng	Long Ma	
JP02	Samuel Zepu Chen	Polya Bankova	
JP03	Ginger Tie	Chuhan Wang	
JP04	Henry George-Haree Leslie	Patrick Worley	
JP05	Sophie Ann Buxton	Bethany Campbell	
JP06	Claire Lin	Tamara Saakyan	Winner
JP07	Adrian Lin	Tamara Saakyan	Alternate
JP08	Felicity Phan	Tamara Saakyan	Honorable Mention

### Senior Piano Performance Contestants

No.	Name	Teacher	Result
SP01	Jennifer Hsu	Long Ma	
SP02	Rachell Son	Timothy Hoft	
SP03	Raymond Zhang	Chuhan Wang	Alternate
SP04	Sarah Son	Timothy Hoft	
SP05	Alexander Chang	Long Ma	Winner
SP06	Yueshi Lumina Lu	Chuhan Wang	Honorable Mention

### Senior Piano Duet Performance Contestants

No.	Name	Teacher	Result
SD1	Brenna Schelin	Cheryl Thornton	Winner
	Scott Tilton		
SD2	Yueshi Lumina Lu	Chuhan Wang	Alternate
	Ginger Tie		
SD3	Jennifer Hsu	Long Ma	
	Raymond Zhang		

## String

### Junior String Performance Contestants

No.	Name	Teacher	Result
JS1	Chloe Sio Lim	Shakeh Ghoukasian	
JS2	Claire Lee	Susan Kim	Winner

### Senior String Performance Contestants

No.	Name	Teacher	Result
SS1	Chloe Wang	Adam Stiber	
SS2	Jayden Jihoon Kim	Hyelin Jung	Winner
SS3	Phillippe Kosyagin	Mary Straub	Alternate

## Woodwind

### Senior Woodwind Performance Contestants

No.	Name	Teacher	Result
SW1	Emma Yvonne Calvert	Bonnie Buhler-Tanouye	
SW2	Hailey Shin	Minji Wu	
SW3	Declan Thomas Pastorino	Lindsey O'Connor	Alternate
SW4	Chantal Lee	Lindsey O'Connor	
SW5	Lily Edith Bybee	Bonnie Buhler-Tanouye	Winner

### Young Artist Woodwind Performance Contestant

No.	Name	Teacher	Result
YAW1	Sebastian Jay Carlson	Lindsey O'Connor	Winner

## Brass

### Young Artist Brass Performance Contestants

No.	Name	Teacher	Result
YAB1	Nathan Gabriele Jones	Natalie Higgins	Alternate
YAB2	Alexander Austin Fanetti	Natalie Higgins	Honorable Mention
YAB3	Tayler Duby	Jonathan Bhatia	Winner
YAB4	Robert Bartlett Smith	Robert Smith	

## Voice

### Young Artist Voice Performance Contestant

No.	Name	Teacher	Result
YAV1	Claudia Mackenzie Affan	Linda Lister	Winner

## Composition

### Elementary Composition Contestant

No.	Name	Teacher	Result
EC1	Stephen Xu	Long Ma	Winner

### Junior Composition Contestant

No.	Name	Teacher	Result
JC1	Sophie Ann Buxton	Jee Wong	Winner

### Senior Composition Contestant

No.	Name	Teacher	Result
SC1	Luke Anthony Blake	Bethany Campbell	Winner



## **Dr. Ron Anderson**

Junior Piano Performance

Senior Piano Performance

Ron Anderson holds a doctoral degree in Piano Performance, as well as degrees in Opera and Composition, and has enjoyed successes in all three endeavors.

During his 10-year singing career, Dr. Anderson performed about two dozen operatic roles, including Escamillo in Bizet's *Carmen* and the title roles in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* and Britten's *Noye's Fludde*. His oratorio credits include numerous performances of the bass solos in Handel's *Messiah*, requiems of Mozart, Fauré, and Duruflé, baritone soloist in Orff's *Carmina Burana*, and multiple performances of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, as well as other choral masterpieces.

In addition to his long list of operatic roles, he has been regularly featured as soloist (both as a pianist and a vocalist) in televised concerts with several orchestras throughout Southern California, including Torrance Symphony, the Marina Symphony, the Cypress Pops Orchestra, and the Redlands Bowl. His compositions for orchestra, choir, chamber ensembles, piano solo, and voice have been received enthusiastically, having won competitions and critical acclaim. Recently, his choral anthem "Wilt Thou Forgive?" was awarded First Prize in the Cerddorion Composers Competition, tied with Bernardino Zanetti of Italy. He is a current winner of the SMP Press composition contest in three categories (Choral, Chamber, and Solo). Dr. Anderson is presently on the Piano Faculty at Chapman University, and has also taught at several other institutions. His private studio has produced several winners in the National Chopin Foundation, MTNA, Composers Today, Robert Avalon International Competition for Composers, and others. He is in demand as a lecturer, and often adjudicates for competitions and events, such as the Steinway & Sons Junior Piano Competition, MTNA Composition Competition, the Reno Youth Music Festival, the Yamaha National Junior Original Concert, and the Composers Today State Contest. Dr. Anderson is the former State Chair for the Composers Today Young Composers Guild, and continues to serve in an advisory capacity, and as an adjudicator.



## **Dr. Yu-Jane Yang**

### **Junior Piano Performance**

Dr. Yu-Jane Yang is a Brady Presidential Distinguished Professor, Endowed Scholar/Artist of the College of Arts & Humanities, and the Director of Keyboard Studies at Weber State University. Dr. Yang is the national recipient of the prestigious 2020 Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Teacher of the Year award, recognized with the Outstanding Service Award by National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy (NCKP) in 2019, named an MTNA Foundation Fellow in 2011, and bestowed with the honor of the Utah Music Teachers Association (UMTA) Legacy Award in 2010.

In great demand as a presenter, performer, and master class teacher, Yu-Jane is the pianist of the Wasatch Piano Trio, the Weber State University Faculty Piano Trio, and the Formosan Violin-Piano Duo, and has given numerous concert performances, master classes, and piano workshops in Austria, Poland, Norway, Spain, Italy, Germany, Singapore, China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Canada, and the United States. Dr. Yang also appears frequently as an adjudicator for piano competitions nationally and internationally, including judging the MTNA Competition National Finals, and the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition preliminary auditions.

Yu-Jane's piano students have been top prizewinners in both collegiate and pre-college divisions in numerous state, national, and international piano competitions, including the national first place winner of the 2010 MTNA Steinway Young Artist Collegiate Piano Competition, and the 2020 Gilmore Young Artist Award national winner. Yu-Jane's piano students at Weber State University have received piano scholarships for graduate studies from world-renowned music schools such as the Juilliard School, Eastman School of Music, and the Cleveland Institute of Music. Her pedagogy students at Weber State University have also won state and national recognitions for their outstanding teaching, including seven state winners of the UMTA Collegiate Student Teacher of the Year, one national winner of the MTNA Studio Teaching Fellowship, and four-time national winners of the MTNA Collegiate Chapter of the Year.



## **Dr. Spencer Baker**

Junior Piano Performance

Senior Duet Piano

Dr. Spencer Baker is a distinguished Las Vegas pianist, conductor and teacher.

Spencer has been a soloist with several regional orchestras. While most of Spencer's solo appearances have centered in the Southwest, new engagements have taken him to Dallas, Washington DC, Disneyland, Niagara Falls, Montreal, Italy and China. He is in his eighth season with the International Opera Performing Experience in Mercatello sul Metauro, Italy as faculty collaborative pianist and apprentice tier director.

Dr. Baker is currently Visiting Assistant Professor of Music at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Music. In addition, he is the Director of Music for Saint Timothy's Episcopal church and frequent pianist for Opera Las Vegas and Vegas City Opera. Dr. Baker was a Liberace scholar and professional competition winner. He currently serves on the State Board of the Nevada Music Teachers.

Spencer recently was the invited guest conductor and pianist for Vegas City Opera's production of Gianni Schicchi and The Face on the Barroom Floor.

He is the pianist for the local Las Vegas chapter of Opera on Tap and was

pianist for Opera Las Vegas' West Coast premiere of Ricky Ian Gordon and Royce Vavrek's opera 27 at Art Square Theater. He was the pianist for Don Pasquale, L'elisir d'amore and Hansel and Gretel the 2019-20 mainstage productions and pianist for Falstaff and La Boheme in Italy for the Musica é Musica festival in Italy with Maestro James Carraher conducting. Opera credits with UNLV Opera Theater include Royal Flush, Orpheus in the Underworld, Dido & Aeneas, and At the Statue of Venus.

Spencer also served as immediate past Artistic Director for the GVPC:Live! concert series at Green Valley Presbyterian church; performed Schubert's song cycle, Winterreise, with internationally acclaimed tenor, Mark Thomsen; accompanied a solo recital with opera star, Denyce Graves; and co-created an interactive children's

educational theater production entitled, “Mini Musical Masters”. Dr. Baker is in demand as an adjudicator for piano festivals and competitions. He recently held an artist in residency position at Truman State University (Missouri) and maintains an active teaching studio and solo performing career.

Baker earned his Bachelor’s, Master’s, and Doctoral degrees from the University of Nevada Las Vegas in piano performance. Principal teachers include Dr. Jeffrey Shumway, Dr. Mykola Suk and Professor Carol Stivers.

For more information, please visit his website at [www.spencerbakerpiano.com](http://www.spencerbakerpiano.com)





## **Stephanie Sant'Ambrogio**

Junior String Performance

Senior String Performance

Stephanie Sant'Ambrogio, Violin & Viola Described by Gramophone Magazine as a “violinist who most often takes your breath away” and praised as an “expressive and passionate chamber musician” by the San Antonio Express-News, Stephanie Sant'Ambrogio enjoys a varied performing and recording career as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestral leader. Professor of Violin and Viola at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) and member of the Argenta Trio, she is also Artistic Director of Cactus Pear Music Festival, which she founded in 1997 while serving as Concertmaster of the San Antonio Symphony. Previously First Assistant Principal Second Violin

of The Cleveland Orchestra, under Christoph von Dohnányi, she toured and recorded internationally with this ensemble for eight seasons. Ms. Sant'Ambrogio has performed as a soloist and chamber musician throughout the U.S. as well as in Mexico, Canada, Estonia, Sweden, Ghana, Italy, Peru and Chile. In 2009, she was appointed Concertmaster of the Lancaster Festival Orchestra and the following year was appointed Concertmaster of the Fresno Philharmonic Orchestra. That same year she was awarded UNR's prestigious Alan Bible Teaching Excellence Award. In addition to her active performing career, Stephanie is devoted to teaching serious young violinists, many who have won positions in America's symphonies and universities.

Ms. Sant'Ambrogio has a discography of over seventy-five orchestral and chamber music CDs. Audiophile Review described her Johannes Brahms: The Violin Sonatas CD as one of “fine readings of great finesse, rich coloring and complete understanding.” Her other releases include Late Dates with Mozart; Going Solo: Unaccompanied Works for Violin & Viola; and Soaring Solo: Unaccompanied Works for Violin & Viola on the MSR Classics label; as well as Argenta Trio: The Piano Trios of Felix Mendelssohn on Bridge Records and Love Comes in at the Eye: Songs & Instrumental Works on Albany. In addition to her performances as violinist, violist and Artistic Director of Cactus Pear Music Festival, Ms. Sant'Ambrogio frequently performs and teaches at various festivals including: Bach, Dancing & Dynamite Society (WI); Orcas Island Chamber Music Festival (WA); Nevada Chamber Music Festival (NV); Music in the Vineyards (CA); Round Top Festival Institute (TX); and, Tuckamore Festival (Newfoundland, Canada).

Her chamber music activities have included performances and recordings with such noted artists as Jon Nakamatsu, Ida Kavafian, Richard Stoltzman, David Shifrin, Richard Goode, Walter Trampler, Anne Epperson, Jon Kimura Parker, Joyce Yang and Gunther Schuller. She is featured



in chamber music recordings under the Arabesque, Albany, Bridge and MSR Classics labels, and her live concert performances are heard on National Public Radio's Performance Today. Ms. Sant'Ambrogio has performed as first violinist with the Miami String Quartet and has been a guest artist with The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, performing at both the Lincoln and Kennedy Centers. She toured Italy with Mikhail Baryshnikov's White Oak Dance Project, toured extensively throughout Ohio with Cleveland's Myriad, and for ten years performed with the Amici String Quartet, of which she was a founding member. Ms. Sant'Ambrogio studied with and was the graduate assistant to Donald Weilerstein at The Eastman School of Music, where she received her Master of Music degree. Previously she received her Bachelor of Music degree with distinction from Indiana University as a scholarship student of Laurence Shapiro and James Buswell.

The name Sant'Ambrogio is frequently found in concert programs throughout America. John Sant'Ambrogio, former Principal Cello of the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, gave his daughter Stephanie her first violin lessons at the age of five. Her sister Sara is a cellist with the Naumberg Awardwinning Eroica Trio. For thirty years the Sant'Ambrogio family directed Red Fox Music Camp, which was founded by grandmother Isabelle Schiebler Sant'Ambrogio, a celebrated concert pianist. The legacy of teaching music has been passed down in the Sant'Ambrogio family for four generations. Ms. Sant'Ambrogio plays a violin crafted in 1757 by J.B. Guadagnini of Milan, Italy, the city from which the family name Sant'Ambrogio originates and her contemporary viola was made by Jacek Zadlo in Chicago in 2008. She and her graphic designer husband Gary Albright, enjoy exploring Lake Tahoe with their daughters, Isabel and Gabrielle.



## **Dr. Lisa Melick, flute**

### **Senior Woodwind Performance**

Flutist, Lisa Melick is a vibrant performer, educator and collaborative artist. Described as an “...exceptionally fine musician who can play anything with pizzazz, precision and feeling...” (prominent composer, Michael Daugherty), her expressive playing transports the audience into the music and has received high praise from the flute community such as “Lisa is a dynamic performer who brings her own style to the

flute...” (renowned flutist/composer/pianist, Gary Schocker).

As a solo artist with Altus Flutes and as the founder/flutist with Noteworthy Duo, Lisa has established herself as a first-rate artist and teacher, performing in concerts and giving master classes across the United States, Europe, South America and Asia. Noteworthy Duo’s discography includes two CDs of Latin American music, with their newest release “As In Dreams...Reflections for flute and guitar” receiving rave reviews from the music community, hailing it “...enchanted, mystical and breathtaking!” (The Flautist, The Victorian Flute Guild Magazine).

Lisa is a frequent artist and speaker at the annual National Flute Association Convention, as well as a guest artist for flute societies across the country. As a low flutes specialist, she enjoys integrating her knowledge and excitement for the alto and bass flute in recitals and clinics. Lisa is the winner of the 2009 National Flute Association Convention Performers Competition and a consecutive winner (2008-2011) of the Professional Flute Choir Competition performing as the principal bass flutist during the Kansas City, New York City, Anaheim and Charlotte Conventions.

In 2015, Lisa received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree with honors in flute performance and pedagogy from the University of Iowa, where she was awarded the prestigious Iowa Performance Fellowship. She also holds flute performance degrees from the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at California State University Long Beach (M.M.) and Middle Tennessee State University (B.M.).

Known for her passion and zest for education, Dr. Melick has over twenty years of experience teaching flute to all ages and ability levels. She has served on the faculty at California State University San Bernardino, Vanguard University of Southern California, Golden West College and Cerritos College. Her students have won distinguished awards for flute performance and many have gone on to professional careers in music. Currently, Dr. Melick conducts the Las Vegas Flute Ensemble at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, performs regularly with the Las Vegas Philharmonic and maintains a thriving private studio.



## **Dr. Barbara Hull, trumpet**

### **Young Artist Brass Performance**

Barbara is Assistant-Professor-in-Residence of trumpet at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Before joining the faculty at UNLV she lived in Rochester, NY where she taught applied trumpet and brass at Nazareth College and was a member of Symphoria (formerly the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra). She also played regularly with the Skaneateles Summer Music Festival, Rochester Chamber Orchestra, Rochester Oratorio Society and the Kunde Chorale. From 2008 through 2013, she taught at the Hochstein School of Music and Dance. Barbara also teaches trumpet and music theory each summer at the Csehy Summer School of Music, which is held on the beautiful campus of Houghton College in Houghton, NY.

Barbara Hull holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Trumpet Performance and Literature from the Eastman School of Music, where she studied with James Thompson and was Assistant Conductor of the Eastman Brass Guild. She earned her Masters Degree at Eastman in the studio of Charles Geyer. She is a recipient of the Eastman Performer's Certificate, and, as winner of Eastman's Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Concerto Competition, performed as soloist with the Eastman Wind Ensemble under Donald Hunsberger. Barbara also served as principal trumpet of the Eastman Wind Ensemble during the collaboration between the EWE and the Canadian Brass. The CD for that project, Manhattan Music, was released in 2008.

Barbara was tenured as Principal Trumpet with the Albany Symphony Orchestra (1995-1998), recording there under the Decca and Albany Records labels. She played with the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra from 2000-2003. While living in Albuquerque she also performed regularly with the New Mexico Brass Quintet, the New Mexico Symphony Brass Quintet, the Chamber Orchestra of Albuquerque, and Opera Southwest. She has also performed with the Rochester Philharmonic and Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra.

Dr. Hull is principal trumpet with Ensemble Monterey. She has also performed with the Modesto Symphony, Fremont Symphony, Grass Valley Music Festival, the San Francisco Lyric Opera, Opera San Jose and the SF Masterworks Chorale. Barbara's work has also included masterclasses with Barbara Butler, Vincent Cichowicz, Allen Vizzutti, Mark Gould and Niklas Eklund.

Barbara Hull is a Yamaha Performing Artist .



## Karen Tanaka

### Composition

Karen Tanaka is an exceptionally versatile composer and pianist. She has composed extensively for concert music, film scores and electronic media. Her works have been performed by distinguished orchestras and ensembles worldwide including the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Netherlands Radio Symphony Orchestra, NHK Symphony Orchestra in Tokyo, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Brodsky Quartet, Gothic Voices, Anúna, among many others. Various choreographers and dance companies, including Wayne McGregor and Nederlands Dans Theater, have often featured her music.

She has scored numerous short films, animations and documentaries. In 2012, she was selected as a fellow of the Sundance Institute's Composers Lab for feature film and mentored by Hollywood's leading composers. In 2016, she served as an orchestrator for the BBC's TV series, Planet Earth II. The animated film she scored, Sister, was selected for prestigious film festivals including Sundance, Annecy, Ottawa, and nominated for the 92nd Academy Awards for Best Animated Short Film.

In recent years, she has received numerous commissions from, most notably, Radio France, the Canada Council, Arts Council of England, BBC, National Endowment for the Arts in the United States, Royal Academy of Music in London, Gaudeamus Foundation in the Netherlands, among many others.

Born in Tokyo, she started formal piano and composition lessons as a child. After studying composition with Akira Miyoshi at Toho Gakuen School of Music in Tokyo, she moved to Paris in 1986 with a French Government Scholarship to study with Tristan Murail and work at IRCAM. In 1987 she was awarded the Gaudeamus Prize at the International Music Week in Amsterdam for her piano concerto Anamorphose. She studied with Luciano Berio in Florence in 1990-91 with funds from the Nadia Boulanger Foundation and a Japanese Government Scholarship. In 1996, she received the Margaret Lee Crofts Fellowship at the Tanglewood Music Center. In 1998 she was appointed as Co-Artistic Director of the Yatsugatake Kogen Music Festival, previously directed by Toru Takemitsu.

Her music is published by Chester Music in London (Wise Music Group), Schott Music in New York (PSNY), ABRSM in London and Editions BIM in Switzerland. Karen Tanaka lives in Los Angeles and teaches composition at California Institute of the Arts