

The International Keyboard Collaborative Arts Society

# Collabfest

empowering the potential of  
partnership

2024

TEAMWORK  
MAKES DREAMWORK  
*Oct. 25-26*

The ninth annual  
collaborative piano conference,  
presented by IKCAS

## VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

Elvia Puccinelli, Founder and Artistic Director

*For more information, visit [www.ikcas.org](http://www.ikcas.org) or email [collabpianosociety@gmail.com](mailto:collabpianosociety@gmail.com)*





## from the Artistic Director

October 2024

Greetings, Superhero!

It is no secret that collaborative pianists are superheroes: all humans long to feel seen, heard, understood, accepted... and, through the real-time “listening and creatively responding” of our music-making, this is what we offer our partners. It is an opportunity we have to bring healing to the world daily - partner by partner, phrase by phrase - as we practice our craft. What a gift for everyone!

But even superheroes need time in the proverbial “BatCave” - a place to recharge (energy), replenish (resources), renew (dedication), refocus (direction). And CollabFest is intended to be part of that space for all pianists who partner: CollabFest/IKCAS (say: Eye Kay Cass) exists *for* and *because of* you, the collaborative pianist (a.k.a. Superhero!).

In my role as Artistic Director of CollabFest and Founder of IKCAS, I am honored to welcome you to the eleventh CollabFest event, and our fifth annual conference of the International Keyboard Collaborative Arts Society. Thank *you* for the gift of your time and presence at this gathering - whether you are joining us live, or at a later time.

As always, CollabFest offers interactive, intergenerational, international conversation in a supportive and encouraging safe-space community as we explore skills, techniques and repertoire. We learn and grow together!

In a special way this year, as we prepare for our 10th Anniversary conference - live at the University of North Texas, October 15-18, 2025 - we have dedicated time for Virtual Town Hall conversations about crucial professional concerns. Our hope is that these conversations will not only give you immediate support and encouragement, but that they will also help guide the directions IKCAS will take in the



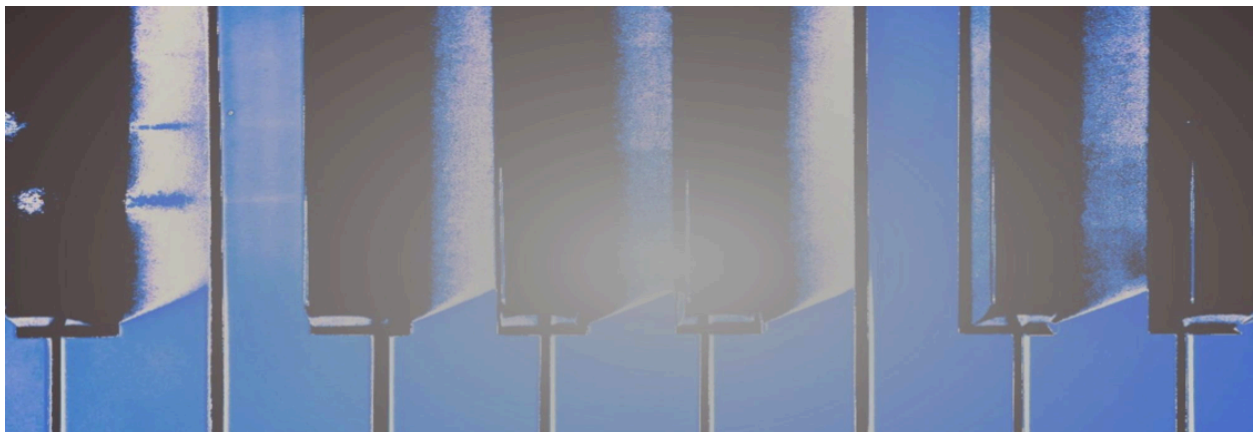
coming months and years. Superhero, your voice matters! Our mission is to lift each other up, share resources, and nurture relationships. We want to hear your perspectives and concerns about professional collaboration. Connect with us in whatever way works best for you!

*We are stronger together, and we are stronger for your presence here!*

***Welcome!***



Elvia Puccinelli  
CollabFest Artistic Director  
IKCAS Founder and President



# CollabFest

## TeamWork Makes DreamWork

CollabFest is the annual conference of the  
International Keyboard Collaborative Arts Society

**“Virtual Town Hall”**  
*for Collab Pianists*  
*by Collab Pianists*

**October 25-26, 2024**

**Welcome to our annual CollabFest event, where we celebrate YOU, the collaborative super-hero!**

*all sessions via password-protected zoom*

*all times are listed central (CDT)*

*convert to your time zone [here](#)*

*schedule subject to change*

*find presenter bios [here](#)*

### **Friday, October 25**

2:30-3:50pm

Kathy Kelly

***Equal Partnership:***

Casey Robards

***The Intimacy of Musical Collaboration***

*At heart, we are chamber musicians who learn to marry our playing to another's in the most detailed and supportive way. We will talk about the specifics of how instrumentalists and singers experience breath and articulation, and how we can learn and practice these things as we develop collaborative skill. And, since real intimacy happens in an atmosphere of shared understanding and trust, we will also talk about how to communicate with our partners about what we need as pianists.*

- 4:00-4:50pm Bobby Pace ***What's Your Tempo?  
Playing for Musical Theatre Auditions***  
*Playing for musical theatre auditions is a common gig that arises for collaborative pianists, but it requires a unique skill set that can be intimidating to many pianists. This presentation will break down the basic requirements to successfully work as an audition pianist for musical theatre.*
- 5:00-5:25pm Jiyeon Lee ***Exploring Korean Art Song: The Early Works of Isang Yun***  
*This presentation examines three art songs by Korean composer Yun Isang from the perspective of the collaborative pianist. This will provide guidance on basic accompanying skills as well as insight into Yun's fusion of Korean and Western musical elements that will guide pianists to meaningful and well-informed interpretations.*
- 5:30-6:25pm Kathy Kelly ***The Bigger Picture: Improvisation, Sounding Like  
Casey Robards an Orchestra and the Mystery of Conductors***  
*Intimate we may be at heart, but much of the collaborative field is about standing in for an orchestra. That means dealing with orchestral reductions - which means learning to play what is not on the page - which just may lead to improvisation! We'll talk about how to practice sight reading and how to approach improvisation, and how those skills come to bear on tackling orchestral reductions. There will probably also be some conductor talk - you've been warned.*
- 6:30-7:20pm Yoshiko Arahata ***The Pianist's Guide to Collaboration with Dance***  
*Dance collaboration is a great gateway for pianists to deepen and broaden skills in music performance, sight-reading, improvisation, composition, and mastery of collaborations encompassing musicianship and broader interdisciplinary artistry. This presentation will explore methods of developing dance collaboration skills and how that can strengthen pianists' keyboard versatility and collaborative skills.*
- 7:30-8:30pm ***Dance Panel and Interactive Session***  
Panelists: Yoshiko Arahata, Peter Douglas, Neil Mitchell

## Saturday, October 26

- 10:30-11:30am      Kathy Kelly                      ***Hard Deadlines and Soft Skills***  
Casey Robards  
*Are you a freelancer trying to figure out personal branding? Or working within an institution but still spending a significant amount of time on organizational tasks? We'll talk about personal time management and organization, technology skills and when to use them, job applications, and all things regarding proper and effective communication. That will lead into talk about softer skills - after all, nobody has more relationships to navigate than the collaborative pianist. You'll leave way more ready to read the (Zoom) room!*
- 11:40am-12:30pm      Sehee Lee                              ***Creating a New Orchestral Reduction: Insights from the Sibelius Violin Concerto***  
*This presentation addresses challenges in orchestral reductions, focusing on the Sibelius Violin Concerto. It critiques common flaws in published reductions and introduces a revised version that more accurately reflects the composer's intentions. Techniques for creating effective reductions and comparing existing scores will be discussed, aiming to enhance performance quality.*
- 12:30-1:00pm                      **Lunch/Stretch Break**
- 1:00-1:50pm                      Brooks Hafey                      ***Seriously, Schumann?***  
*Robert Schumann's metronome markings in his chamber music with piano are often perplexing. This presentation explores the research into the markings' accuracy, the challenges each ensemble must address, and the approaches favored by current and past concert artists. The tempi of Märchenerzählungen, Op. 132, will be considered in detail.*
- 2:00-2:25pm                      Minjung Seo                              ***Management of Collaborative Pianists in University Settings***  
*In higher education institutions, the role of collaborative pianists is pivotal in supporting music students and enhancing their performance experiences. Despite their crucial contributions, collaborative pianists often face disparities in workload distribution compared to other faculty members. This presentation explores the management of full-time and part-time collaborative pianists within university settings.*

2:40-3:55pm

Kathy Kelly

***Sustainable Practice: Thriving with your Institution***

Casey Robards

*Our institutions need us in every department, every day, in so many ways. Yet the structure of our positions within the field varies wildly. How can we work together - and reach across the aisle - to make our positions more sustainable? We will talk about the different workload and compensation structures out there, share with each other what's working and what needs to be better, and dive into strategies for involving colleagues, navigating bureaucracy, advocating for ourselves, and getting everyone on board with making our profession increasingly stable, sustainable, and fair.*

4:00-4:15pm

In Memoriams and Closing



## Gratitudes

First of all, thank YOU for being here with us!  
IKCAS acknowledges with profound gratitude all those who, in their many and varied ways, have extended support, inspiration and encouragement for IKCAS and CollabFest, particularly our members who have shared presentations for this year's event.

Thank you -  
We are stronger together!

In a particular way, we acknowledge our past CollabFest keynote speakers

Jean Barr,  
Anne Epperson,  
Margo Garrett,  
Graham Johnson,  
Warren Jones,  
Martin Katz,  
Rita Sloan and  
Alan Smith:

you are SuperHeroes of the Highest Order

It is a profound privilege to make music, and to be part of the lineage,  
heritage and legacy of partner-pianists across the generations.

In this spirit, we acknowledge all our mentors, those now living, and those living beyond.



*We extend a very special acknowledgement to CollabFest Team members who have given freely of their time, energy, creativity, ingenuity, enthusiasm and loving encouragement, including:*

Elvia Puccinelli, CollabFest Artistic Director  
Lauren Koszyk, Assistant Artistic Director  
ChoEun Lee, Assistant Artistic Director  
Bobby Pace, IKCAS Social Media Team  
Zachary Peterson, IKCAS Communications Team  
Sara Steele, IKCAS Communications Team  
Karen Savage, Strategy Team  
Anatolia Ioannides, Strategy Team  
Sallie Pollack, Strategy Team  
Lisa Sylvester, Strategy Team  
Aram Arakelyan, Strategy Team  
Michael Cooper, IKCAS Webmaster  
Sarah England, CollabFest Cover Art

IKCAS also extends sincere thanks to the University of North Texas College of Music for its long standing encouragement and support of CollabFest and IKCAS.

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*What are your takeaways from this year's event?  
How will it help you shape the future?  
Let us know!*

**Here are some of our favorite takeaways from past events:**

**“Onward!”**

Anne Epperson, CollabFest 2016

**“Know what you know and show it and don't be afraid of who's listening or what they think!”**

Jean Barr, CollabFest 2017

**“Listening. Intention. Integrity.”**

**“Know who you are and be that. You are enough.”**

Margo Garrett, CollabFest 2018

**“Love. Curiosity. Honesty.”**  
Alan Smith, CollabFest 2019

**“Kick the door open.”**  
Warren Jones, CollabFest 2020

**“Our job is to help our partner be their best.”**  
Martin Katz, CollabFest 2021

**“The challenges deepen us.”**  
Graham Johnson, CollabFest 2022

**“We must always be evolving.”**  
Rita Sloan, CollabFest 2023

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IKCAS welcomes and invites your unique perspective and experience. If you have ideas about how we can serve our collaborative world, or if you are interested in taking a leadership role in IKCAS, please contact us at [collabpianosociety@gmail.com](mailto:collabpianosociety@gmail.com).

<http://www.ikcas.org>

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Instagram at [instagram.com/collabpianosociety](https://www.instagram.com/collabpianosociety)

