



The International Keyboard Collaborative Arts Society

Collabfest

TEAMWORK
MAKES DREAMWORK
Oct. 12-14

empowering the potential of
partnership

2023

The eighth annual
collaborative piano conference,
presented by IKCAS

Featuring

RITA SLOAN
KEYNOTE SPEAKER AND MASTER CLINICIAN

For more information, visit www.ikcas.org or email collabpianosociety@gmail.com

Elvia Puccinelli, Founder and Artistic Director





from the Artistic Director

October 2023

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 tenth CollabFest event, and our fourth as the 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.

During this year’s CollabFest, we’ll explore new ways to nurture skills and techniques foundational to impactful collaboration in a variety of genres.

We’ll consider ways to train pianists, from pre-collegiate years on forward, and we’ll take a fresh look at a variety of repertoire through discussions and performances.

We will flex our courage muscles, working together on some of the most challenging passages and pieces in the collaborative repertoire in Rita Sloan's masterclasses.

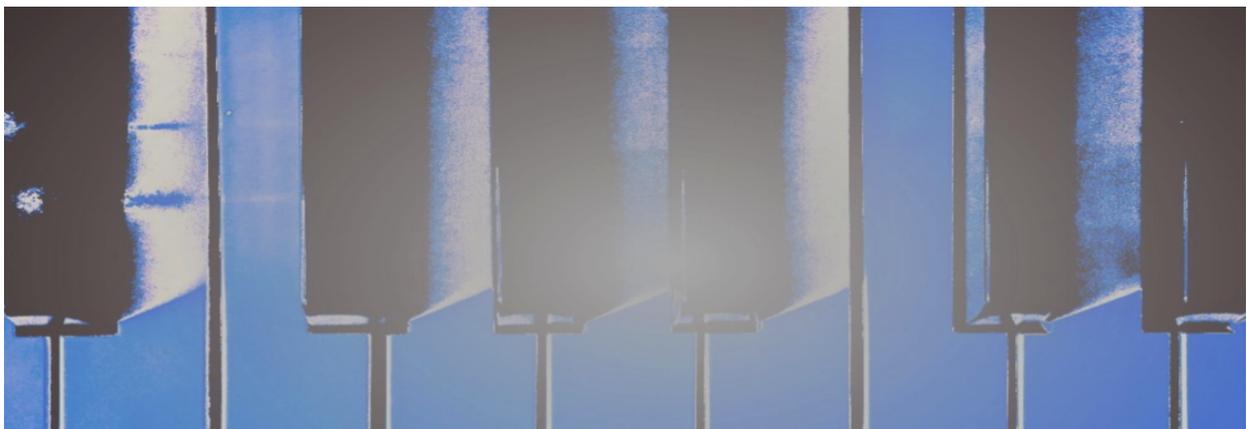
Most of all, we will gather together for interactive, intergenerational, international conversation in our supportive and encouraging safe-space community to lift each other up, share resources, and build relationships.

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

“SuperHero Summit”

for Collab Pianists

by Collab Pianists

October 12-14, 2023

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](#)

Thursday, October 12

14:00-14:30

Gathering and Welcome

14:30-15:45

Jenna Braaksma

***Versatility at the Piano: Exploring a
Developmental Curriculum for***

Beginner Collaborative Pianists

This session introduces a developmental collaborative piano curriculum for beginner collaborative pianists through a summary of the grading rubric, an analysis of repertoire examples from four difficulty levels, recommendations for effective use of the grading criteria, and insight into the selection and sequence of pieces used to teach collaborative skills.

16:00-16:50

Nicole E. DiPaolo ***Learning the Licks: How Galant Schemata Can Make Your Rep Learning and Sight-Reading More Efficient***

As busy collaborators, we are always seeking ways to learn our repertoire more efficiently. Mastering the specific two-voice stock phrases, called schemata, that 18th and 19th-century composers and performers learned and manipulated can afford us greater sight-reading ease, learning speed, and improvisational facility in the tonal repertoire. I will introduce the schema concept using Robert O. Gjerdingen's work, show how they were taught using partimenti, and analyze some schemata in standard collaborative repertoire from Schirmer's 24 to Strauss.

17:00-17:50

Frank Corliss ***Who's Afraid of Playing from Full Score?: An Introduction to Score Reading***

To be honest, I am! As I started off in my professional career I quickly learned that there is not a piano reduction for everything out there and found that, frighteningly often, I was being asked to play from full score. Though I had never taken a score reading class I realized quickly that I had to figure out a method for playing from full score. In this session I plan to share some ideas and strategies that I have used to manage this most complicated challenge for a working pianist. We will talk about the different kinds of full scores one might encounter, how to deal with transposing instruments, how to reduce 15 or 20 separate parts down to two hands worth, and the many other issues involved with playing from full score. Playing from full scores is always challenging—but perhaps it can be a little less scary, and maybe even fun!

18:00-18:50

CollabCafé open for conversation, networking and drop-in mentoring

We particularly welcome conversations about higher education, both for those in teaching/staff/administrative positions, and those in their graduate school training years.

19:00-20:30

Collabaret!

A member-sourced celebration of collaboration through performance videos

Find program and performer bios [here](#)

Program curated by Lauren Koszyk and produced by Aram Arakelyan

Friday, October 13

8:30-8:55 Cadis Ying Jie Lee ***Clara Schumann's 'Ihr Bildnis' and 'Ich stand in
Xin Ying Ch'ng dunkeln Träumen' (Sechs Lieder, Op 13):
A Collaborative Pianist's Perspective***
Clara Schumann's Sechs Lieder, Op. 13 was a loose collection of songs. This lecture recital intends to provide insights into Schumann's compositional processes on 'Ihr Bildnis' (later revised to 'Ich stand in dunkeln Träumen') based on Kofi Agawu's analysis, and demonstrate performance interpretation from a collaborative pianist's perspective.

9:00-9:50 Anatolia Ioannides ***The Pre-Collegiate Collaborative Pianist:
Karen Savage Piano Pedagogy through the Collaborative
Pianist's Lens***
Join Anatolia Ioannides and Karen Savage in a discussion about pre-collegiate collaborative piano and chamber music study. Topics of conversation will include: the benefits of early guided collaborative experiences for pianists; sample repertoire, teaching topics, and other suggestions to get started; how we can reach historically under-represented pre-collegiate populations; and challenges and rewards for the students and community. Two directors of long-running pre-collegiate chamber music programs, Daphne Gerling (UNT) and Jackie Lee (Heartland Chamber Music Program, KS) will join the presentation to share their experiences and give advice gained from leading their highly successful programs.

Keynote Speaker and Master Clinician Rita Sloan

10:00-11:30

Masterclass:

The Most Difficult Thing I Ever Played, Part 1

Come work through some of the most challenging passages in the repertoire with Superhero Rita Sloan! Grab a keyboard, access scores [here](#), and come explore along with us!

11:45-12:30

Keynote Address: "The Road Not Traveled"

BREAK

- 13:00-14:20 Tamar Sanikidze ***The Collaborative Pianist and Audition Playing***
Nino Sanikidze
Knowledge of repertory, strong pianism, experience, stamina, compassion - all equally necessary skills for a pianist playing professional auditions. During this session, among other things, we will have an open conversation about accumulating essential skills for a successful audition season, creating an individualized library, expectations from performers and the panel, techniques on how to rest your body, fingers and mind between auditions, importance of hydrating, and tricks to keep energy up. The conversation will be open to any inquiries, so please bring your questions!
- 14:00-14:50 Pamela Palmer Jones ***Beethoven's Grand Sonata for Piano and Cello in A Major, Op. 69, Second Movement: Reexamining the Origins of a Controversial Performance Tradition of How to Perform Tied Pairs of Notes Marked with 4-3 Piano Fingerings***
This lecture-demonstration discusses the controversy of how to perform the tied pairs of quarter notes marked with 4-3 fingerings in Beethoven's Op. 69 sonata. What's up with this seemingly nonsensical piano notation? And should the piano be performed in an identical manner as the cello part... or not? Come find out!
- 15:00-15:50 Bobby Pace ***Demystifying the Wind and Brass Sonatas of Paul Hindemith***
"Hindemith." A word that strikes fear into collaborative pianists everywhere. But should it? To help pianists become less intimidated by the unique compositional language and technical difficulty of Hindemith's duo sonatas, this presentation will include a survey of the technical/ensemble challenges and salient style characteristics of Hindemith's wind and brass sonatas with piano written between 1936 and 1955.
- 16:00-16:50 Angela Miller-Niles ***Two Piano Works by Women***
Come expand your knowledge of this repertory in this presentation which will discuss works for two pianos by women from a variety of time periods, countries and styles, including some living composers. Brief histories of composers will be included, as well as a description of their two-piano works and clips of their music.

- 17:30-18:15 **CollabCafé with Rita Sloan**, focusing on navigating family and career
Is this a topic in your life? Come discuss it with us!
- 18:30-19:50 Kathleen Kelly ***Just Make it Up!***
You've opened that Baerenreiter opera score - now how to decide what to play and what to leave out? Improvisational skills, even basic ones, can help you build and strengthen your repertoire of orchestral sounds. We'll explore this using examples from Mozart, Verdi, Strauss, and Heggie. Zoom in from your keyboard of choice for some experimentation along with us!
- 20:00-20:45 **CollabCafé with Kayo Iwama** open for conversation
Our Cafe focus for this hour is on Asian, Asian-American and Asian Diaspora Pianists in CollabLand, though all conversation related to collaboration is welcome.

Saturday, October 14

- 10:00-11:30 Kayo Iwama ***Musical Voices of the Asian-American***
I began my career as a collaborative pianist over thirty-five years ago, when not many women - and even fewer Asians - were in the field. In addition, I was aware of very few musical compositions by Asians or Asian-Americans, and when any did appear on concert programs, they were touted as exoticisms. Over the subsequent years I've been fortunate enough to witness a sea-change in the representation of the Asian voice in both the profession of collaboration and especially vocal coaching, as well as in the repertoire that is studied and performed in academic and professional settings. Now different challenges have arisen as our current musical community and the society at large grapple with fundamental questions of identity and inclusion. This presentation will trace my personal journey through the music and people who have inspired me throughout my career, tracing the development of the Asian-American voice through generational changes.

11:45-12:45

Frank Corliss

“Why is that strange person waving their arms at me?”: Pianists Playing for Conductors

Playing for conductors, whether within the orchestra or as a rehearsal pianist, presents special challenges for collaborative pianists. How do you translate the conductor's silent motions into sound and musical character? What exactly do they want you to do? When you are playing within the orchestra how do you follow the conductor and play together with the orchestra? When you are taking the place of the whole orchestra, how do you recreate the color, expression and momentum of eighty or more musicians? Through examples drawn from the repertoire, and a few real life experiences, we will explore these questions and more.

13:00-13:50

CollabCafé open for all conversation,

And in particular discussing future plans for IKCAS and CollabFest. Do you have ideas? Please join us for this!

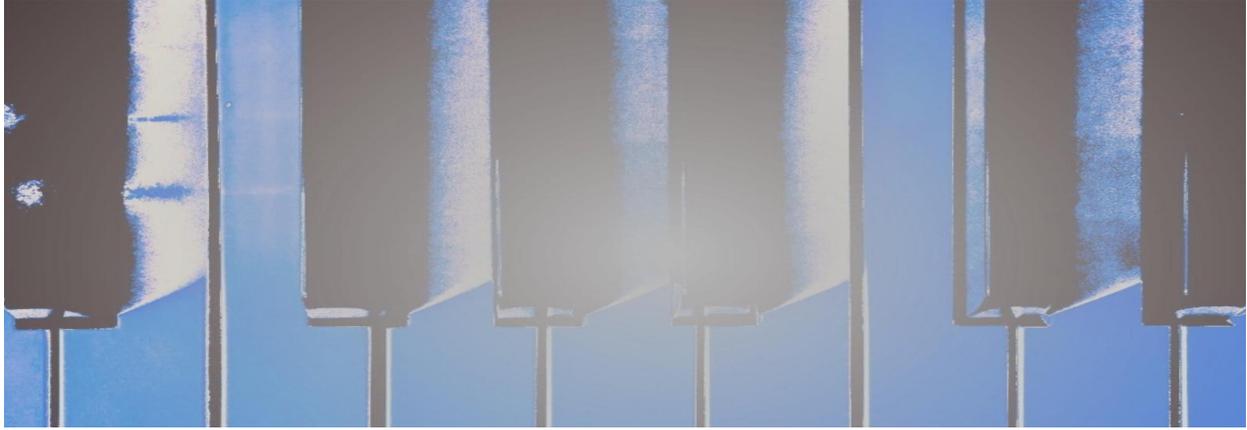
14:00-15:30

Rita Sloan Masterclass “The Most Difficult Thing I Ever Played” Part 2

We continue our session from Friday, AND include the opportunity for you to interact live with our clinician about your favorite challenging passages. Access scores [here](#). Please have your own scores ready to share in the Zoom chat.

15:45-16:15

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 and performances 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, 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 also acknowledge, with profound gratitude, leaders in our collaborative world who have left us this year

Russell Miller

Paula Fan

Margaret Singer

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 and Collabaret 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, Masterclass Materials Coordinator and Strategy Team
Anatolia Ioannides, Strategy Team
Sallie Pollack, Strategy Team
Lisa Sylvester, Strategy Team
Aram Arakelyan, Concerts Production Manager and Technical Director
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.

*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

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.

<http://www.ikcas.org>

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

