

THE INTERNATIONAL KEYBOARD COLLABORATIVE ARTS SOCIETY

COLLAB FEST 2025

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS
DENTON, TEXAS

OCTOBER 15-18

COLLABFEST DAY
NOVEMBER 8, 2025

VIRTUAL



WWW.IKCAS.ORG

EMPOWERING THE POTENTIAL OF PARTNERSHIP



from the Artistic Director

October 2025

Welcome!

This is a celebration! A celebration of partnership, a celebration of resilience, a celebration of community.

It is a pleasure and an honor to welcome you to CollabFest 2025 held at the University of North Texas, where CollabFest was first held in 2016.

To paraphrase Lady Billows in Britten's *Albert Herring*, "I'm full of gratitude to be here in your midst, on such a day as this..."

I'm also full of awe.

In the ten years since the first CollabFest, we have become an international association with hundreds of members on five continents. We have launched the first scholarly journal devoted to collaboration. We have prepared a handbook of guiding principles to foster healthier workplace environments. We have built a global network of collaborative pianists, engaging international and intergenerational dialogue and providing access to information to any who seek it. We have shared stories, performances, and experiences. We have laughed, learned, and cried together. We have found solutions and asked questions. What will the next ten years bring?

The first CollabFest was dedicated to honoring our mentors, and allow me to renew that dedication here, with my thanks to all our fabulous presenters, past and present, for sharing their scholarship, skills, and experience so generously with our community. Thank you in a particular way to Ann Baltz, who presented at our first CollabFest with her mentor, Margaret Singer.

Profound gratitude goes to all our IKCAS Core Team, and to my right and left hands in this endeavor, ChoEun Lee and Lauren Koszyk, without whom IKCAS would not be what it is: you are treasures to me, and you are treasures to our community. Core Team: thank you for your longstanding, generous, creative, and tireless work, you superheroes!

In a particular way, I honor our past keynote speakers, who represent our profession's highest level of artistry and accomplishment: Jean Barr, Margo Garrett, Alan Smith (may he rest in peace), Warren Jones, Martin Katz, Graham Johnson, Rita Sloan, and Anne Epperson - who was the first CollabFest keynote speaker, and who will celebrate this 10th anniversary with us by reprising that role. Anne, thank you for your leadership, example, and tireless advocacy for our profession, and thank you for your championing of IKCAS and its mission.

On a personal note, I wish to express gratitude to another mentor of mine, my first. From her, I learned about touch, tone, flexibility, versatility, support, and listening. I learned how to read, sightread, and go with the flow. I witnessed compassion, empathy, graciousness, and generosity. I saw how, through performance, you could lift others - both performing partners and listeners - and bring healing, self-expression, and wholeness through music. More than any other, hers is the model in my head and heart, and it always will be.

Finally, thank *you* for being here and for being part of our rich collaborative community. We are stronger together, and we are here for you.

Onward we go!



Elvia Puccinelli
CollabFest Artistic Director
IKCAS Founder and President

Special Dedication



*Dedicated to the inspiration, example, and memory of Marlene Puccinelli
February 28, 1936 -September 8, 2025*

CollabFest

TeamWork Makes DreamWork

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

University of North Texas

Denton, Texas

October 15-18, 2025

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

All times are listed Central (CDT)

Schedule subject to change

Wednesday, October 15: Pre-Conference Teaching Mentorship Intensive

Sessions in the Recital Hall

1:00-1:50pm

Neil Mitchell

2:00-2:50pm

Abigail Silverberg

3:00-3:50pm

Maria Menendez

4:10-4:55pm

Nataliya Sukhina

5:00-5:50pm

Louisa Peng

Find session materials in 'CollabFest 2025 Programs'

Session 1: Vocal Coaching - Elvia Puccinelli

Session 2: Vocal Coaching - Elvia Puccinelli

Session 3: Vocal Coaching - Ann Baltz

***Session 4: Instrumental Collaborative Piano -
Anne Epperson***

***Session 5: Instrumental Collaborative Piano -
Anne Epperson***

Thursday, October 16

9:00-9:45am Graham Green Room (Room 251)

Registration Table Open

9:45-10:00am Room 282

Elvia Puccinelli

Welcome Remarks

10:00-10:25am Room 282

Linxi Zhao

Blurring the Lines: Paul Schoenfield's Stylistic Borrowing in Four Souvenirs

This lecture explores Paul Schoenfield's Four Souvenirs, focusing on how stylistic elements from samba, tango, Tin Pan Alley, and square dance are integrated into classical chamber music. The session offers analytical and performance insights, illustrating how Schoenfield reframes popular genres with intentional idiomatic borrowing.

10:30-10:50am Room 282

Claire Marquardt

Felipe Pedrell and His Songs

Felipe Pedrell (1841-1922) was a Catalan teacher, musicologist, and composer. His teaching influenced most of the Catalan composers who are remembered today. He advocated for new nationalist-flavored works based on the ancient music and folk songs of Spain. This presentation will introduce a number of his songs.

11:00-11:25am Room 282

Ziyi Wang

Linxi Zhao

Introducing Ned Rorem's Four Dialogues: From Song Cycle to Chamber Work

This presentation explores Ned Rorem's Four Dialogues as an overlooked yet emotionally potent vocal chamber work. Through poetic text, concise form, and rich interaction between two pianos and two voices, Rorem crafts a vivid narrative landscape. Performance suggestions and historical context highlight the work's continued relevance and interpretive potential today.

11:30-11:55am Room 282

Karen Savage

Cooking from the Same Hot Pot: Effective Imagery and Communication in Rehearsal and Coaching

This session explores strategies, language, and tools for effective collaborative rehearsal, coaching, and performance including impactful language and imagery, score shorthand notation, group warmup and team-building exercises, and shared leadership and negotiation techniques, as shown through musical and real-life examples.

12:00-1:00pm

Lunch Break

1:00-1:50pm Recital Hall

Verónica Villegas Rojas

Strategies for Teaching Lyric Diction to Non-Native English Speakers

Most diction resources are addressed to the English-speaking public, leaving others with the task of adapting these materials or creating new ones. The main purpose of this presentation is to share teaching strategies to adapt existing manuals acknowledging the needs of speakers of other languages.

2:00-2:50pm Recital Hall

Alison D'Amato

Midori Koga

Ana María Otamendi

***Round Table Conversation:
Maintaining Performance***

Partner Relationships

Short-term and long-term, for love and for money, local and long distance... the collaborative pianist has a variety of performing partnerships. Various aspects of sustaining long-term partnerships will be explored in particular in this conversation led by three artists who have done exactly this.

3:00-3:50pm Recital Hall

Allison Gagnon

***Pianistic Slight of Hand: Mastering
Reductions of Mozart's Concerto
Scores***

Mozart's concertos continue to be core repertoire for instrumental musicians and a part of the collaborative pianist's experience. What makes renditions of these piano reductions compelling? Join Allison Gagnon in a workshop that offers tips on both choosing an edition and playing it as a convincing orchestral presence with conductor.

4:00-5:50pm Recital Hall

Anne Epperson

***Masterclass: The Art of Accompanying
Piano Concerti***

Program available in 'CollabFest 2025 Programs'

6:00-7:00pm

Dinner Break

7:00pm

Voertman Hall

CollabFest in Concert

Program available in 'CollabFest 2025 Programs'

Friday, October 17

8:30-9:00am Graham Green Room (Room 251)

Registration Table Open

9:00-9:50am Recital Hall

Yoshiko Arahata

Beyond Ballet: Collaborative Piano Techniques for Tango and Contemporary Dance

Building on my presentation on ballet accompaniment at CollabFest 2024, this session explores collaborative piano techniques in tango and contemporary dance. It highlights adapting keyboard technique, understanding authentic Argentinian tango performance practice, and guiding dancers through rhythmic clarity and expressive phrasing. Attendees gain practical tools for collaborating across dance styles.

10:00-10:25am Recital Hall

Allie Su

The Collaborative Piano Landscape in China

This presentation explores the evolving landscape of collaborative piano in China, highlighting the establishment of degree programs, training models, and their alignment with international standards. It examines career pathways, employment opportunities, and challenges for collaborative pianists, offering insights into how China's conservatories shape this specialized field in today's global context.

10:30-10:55am Recital Hall

Edith Ruiz Zepeda

Sight-Reading and Neuroeducation: Learning, Teaching, and Improving

What brain functions do we use when sight-reading? A general overview of how the brain works when we acquire a skill and how to apply it in a sight-reading class or our own practice time. We will share ideas, strategies, and tools you can use whether you are a teacher, a beginner, intermediate or sight-reading expert.

11:00-11:50am Recital Hall

Laura Loewen

Danna McDonald

Yonghyun Kim

Die Schöne Müllerin Project: Bringing Yourself Fully to Music-Making: The Radical Connections of Music and Wellness

Dream Big is a Canadian-based organization that provides support and inspiration to collaborative pianists through its biennial conferences and innovative events. Die Schöne Müllerin Project (DSM) is one of its key projects. In 2022, Laura Loewen joined forces with colleagues to create DSM, a workshop that explores the song cycle through the lens of healthcare and wellness. Dream Big's co-directors will talk about DSM's powerful impact on the DSM team and the musicians who have experienced it.

12:00-1:00pm

Lunch Break

1:00-1:45pm Recital Hall

Anne Epperson

***Keynote Address:
The Collaborative Pianist....
No Longer Invisible!***

2:00-3:15pm Recital Hall Ann Baltz **Masterclass: Playing the Same Story**
Each of us has a part to play in the story in songs and arias. We need to know not only the text and music, but also the drama. This session will explore creative ways to explore different versions in order to arrive at one that is unique to each partnership.

Program available in 'CollabFest 2025 Programs'

3:30-4:15pm and 4:30-5:15pm **Breakout Sessions: Choose One for Each Time Block**

Recital Hall	Chanda VanderHart	<i>A Performer's Guide to Scholarship</i> <i>You'll want to check out this eye-opening introduction to scholarship for the performer.</i>
Room 221	Casey Robards	<i>Secco Recitative: How to Sing, Play, and Teach</i> <i>This workshop will explain how to teach singers to learn secco recitative, and then present several guiding principles for playing secco recitatives. Using examples from Mozart's Da Ponte operas, participants will have the opportunity to play a few lines in real time (with singers) to experiment with the concepts discussed.</i>
Room 232	Ann Baltz	<i>Improvisation's Creative and Collaborative Benefits</i> <i>The traditional product-oriented teaching model can lead to a hyper-fixation on mistakes and fear-based thinking. Musical improvisation is one of the most effective methods to reduce the Right-Wrong mindset, increase listening skills and deepen an emotional connection to the music. The results are powerful collaborations that liberate each partner's distinctive musical voice.</i>
Room 250	Anne Epperson	<i>Mentoring Q&A</i> <i>Do you have questions for master teacher Anne Epperson? Join this informal and personal session.</i>
Room 289	Willem van Schalkwyk	<i>German Diction Intensive</i> <i>Deepen your understanding of German diction and explore the beauty and expressivity of the language in this forty-five minute session. Ach ja!</i>
Room 293	Jessica Modaff	<i>Enhancing Aural Perception in Classical Playing Through Vernacular Accompaniments</i> <i>This session explores how vernacular styles—from musical theatre to Billy Joel—can strengthen aural collaboration skills in classical pianists. By addressing gaps often left by traditional training, such as groove, rhythm, and harmonic fluency, participants will discover how engaging with popular idioms can enrich classical musicianship and interpretive flexibility.</i>
Room 320	Verónica Villegas Rojas	<i>Spanish Lyric Diction</i> <i>Come develop your awareness of Spanish diction in this interactive session.</i>
Room 326	Edith Ruiz Zepeda	<i>Sightreading Strategies and Workshop</i> <i>Join sightreading expert in a session devoted to improving and teaching this foundational skill.</i>

5:15-7:00pm

Dinner Break

7:00pm Recital Hall

CollabFest in Concert

Program available in 'CollabFest 2025 Programs'

Saturday, October 18

9:30-10:00am Voertman Lobby

Registration Table Open

10:00-10:25am Recital Hall

Jeong-Eun Lee
Jacob Schafer

**Demystifying Mythes: A Closer Look at
Szymanowski's Mythes for
Violin and Piano, Op. 30**

Polish composer Karol Szymanowski, often called the next "Frédéric Chopin" of Poland, wrote Mythes for violin and piano, op.30, in 1915. It reflects his fascination with ancient mythology and legends and represents a transition in his composition style. With musical and technical challenges in both instruments, this work represents an equal partnership in the ensemble.

10:30-10:55am Recital Hall

Regiane Yamaguchi

**Universal Challenges and Solutions -
A Perspective from the Brazilian
Collaborative Piano Association**

Collaborative Piano challenges are universal around the world - that is what research by former president, current vice-president of the Brazilian Collaborative Piano Association has found. Most importantly, solutions collected can also be universally applied. This presentation brings together the minds and hearts of professionals and professors of collaborative piano from around the world.

11:00-11:25am Recital Hall

Christine Teng

**Instrumental Duo Repertoire for
Developing Pianists:
Designing the Rubric**

With an abundance of repertoire in collaborative piano, choosing the right piece for students can pose a challenge. This presentation features a new instrumental grading rubric based on piano pedagogue Jenna Braaksma's four-tier grading rubric for vocal music, assessing music, technical, and ensemble challenges.

11:30-11:55am Recital Hall

Jordan Langehennig
Nataliya Sukhina

**Secular and Sacred Folk Melodies:
Reconnecting with the Fundamentals
of Expressive Storytelling**

Traditional musicians are deeply connected to storytelling. When academic training lacks that organic connection, mechanics overpower meaning. This session explores the benefits of intersecting these two models by taking music-making out of familiar aural context via unusual combinations of timbres and repertoire, forcing our brain to process music differently.

12:00-1:00pm

Lunch Break

1:00-1:50pm Recital Hall

Tomoko Kashiwagi

**Interpersonal Musicianship in
Collaborative Piano: Cultivating Active
Listening Skills**

This presentation explores interpersonal musicianship in collaborative piano, emphasizing active listening as key to ensemble cohesion and expressive connection. It discusses practical strategies for developing responsive listening in

rehearsal and performance, framing collaborative playing as a dialogic process where attentive listening shapes shared musical meaning and genuine interaction.

2:00-2:25pm Recital Hall

Sehee Lee
Byunghee Yoo

***Summer Music Festivals: A Gateway
for Collaborative Pianists***

This session explores how summer music festivals support the artistic and professional growth of collaborative pianists. Topics include repertoire preparation, real-world challenges, and festival opportunities. Practical strategies and personal experiences will highlight how these programs foster independence, adaptability, and valuable long-term musical relationships.

2:30-3:20pm Recital Hall

Kathleen Kelly
Elvia Puccinelli
Chanda VanderHart

***Accompaniment in America:
Contextualizing Collaborative Piano
Practices***

Join contributors to the new hybrid book from Routledge, "Accompaniment in America: Contextualizing Collaborative Piano." From stories of pioneering figures in the field to first-person interviews about present day practice, this new resource brings many voices from our field together, painting a picture of where we are and how we might go forward together. Add your voice to the conversation!

3:30-4:00pm Recital Hall

Elvia Puccinelli

***Closing Remarks and Unveiling of
The IKCAS Collaborative Piano
Playbook***

CollabFest Day

Saturday, November 8, 2025

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

all CollabFest Day materials are available here

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|---------------|--|--|
| 8:45-9:00am | Elvia Puccinelli | <i>Welcome and Introductions</i> |
| 9:00-9:50am | Nico de Villiers | <i>Repertoire Barometres: How do we discern the difficulty level of repertoire within our practices?</i>
<i>A workshop discussion to consider and harness the different criteria and processes in which we consider repertoire appropriateness for our students. Information gathered from this workshop would actively add to a research project currently in process.</i> |
| 10:00-10:50am | Serena Hill-Laroche
Catherine H. Garner | <i>Unsung Gems: Music for Voice and Piano by American Women Composers</i>
<i>This performance invites audiences to immerse themselves in the vocal music and stories of early 20th-century American women composers, celebrating their creativity and resilience. Through a dynamic program featuring works by trailblazers such as Ruth Crawford Seeger, Carrie Jacobs-Bond, and Miriam Gideon among others, participants will explore the rich tapestry of styles that helped launch a century of innovation in the soundscape of American art song.</i> |
| 11:00-11:25am | K.M. “Melody” Ng | <i>Humanities Through Music: Cultivating Lifelong Joy in Piano Collaboration</i>
<i>This presentation demonstrates how collaborative piano enriches both musical and interpersonal development through mindful repertoire and pedagogical approaches. This session showcases how collaborative piano playing has the potential to cultivate joy, connection, and artistic growth throughout a pianist’s lifetime, from young children to any stage of life. The presentation will also explore pedagogical strategies that integrate humanities and music, promoting cultural awareness, confidence,</i> |

3:00-3:50pm

Yolanda Tapia

***Aire y Tierra: Transforming Art Song Through
Ancestral and Immigrant Narratives***

This session, grounded in Aire y Tierra—a multidisciplinary art song project by Obsidiana Duo—explores how lived experience and cultural identity shape storytelling. We'll discuss how collaborative practice, theatrical tools, and intentional curation can expand art song's role in representing diverse narratives and fostering deeper connection with audiences.

4:00-4:15pm

Elvia Puccinelli

Closing Remarks



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
Aram Arakelyan, Strategy Team and AV Coordinator
Nicole Ying, Video and Media Team
Alissa Cox, Strategy Team
Jaime Namminga, Strategy Team
Michael Cooper and CCS Interactive, IKCAS Webmaster
Faron Vassen, 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. In particular, Dean John Richmond, Assoc. Dean Warren Henry, Assoc. Dean Kirsten Soriano, Steven Harlos, Sarah Trachsel, Jordan Batson and team, Matt Hardman, and piano technician extraordinaire Alejandro Miranda.

Announcements

On Collaborating:

The Journal of the International Keyboard Collaborative Arts Society

On Collaborating is the peer-reviewed journal of the International Keyboard Collaborative Arts Society (IKCAS). This multi-media platform is the nexus between performance and research in collaborative piano, and it aims to bring together an international community of researchers and performers to further scholarship in this particular field. As a multi-media journal, *On Collaborating* offers contributors the opportunity to showcase their work in written articles, lecture-recital presentations, or a blend of different media within the same submission.

Guidelines for Submissions:

For fully written submissions – 4000 words

For text with video embedded – 2000 words and 15-minute video

For lecture recital style video – 30 minutes

Submissions are requested by January 15, 2026 for the June 2026 issue

Article submissions and more information can be found at <https://ikcas.org/on-collaborating/>

Membership Update

Starting next year (2026), IKCAS membership will follow a calendar-year model. Instead of renewing one year from your registration date, all memberships will now begin on **January 1** and remain active through **December 31**. We hope this change brings greater clarity and consistency for all members! As always, let us know if there are any questions or if we can help further in any way.

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>

Connect with IKCAS on Facebook at facebook.com/collabpianosociety and
Instagram at instagram.com/collabpianosociety



*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