

## **2016 IMTA State Conference Presenters' Biographies**

### **Dr. Jody Graves, Convention Artist**

Jody Graves maintains an exciting, diverse and active performing career, and is recognized nationally as a distinguished artist and teacher of piano. Her recital engagements as a soloist and collaborative pianist take her across the United States and abroad. She has performed concerts in Austria, Norway, France, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, Japan, and has toured in the Persian Gulf serving as a Cultural Ambassador for the U.S. State Department. Ms. Graves has been a presenter at the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy, and in 2015 was a Keynote Speaker in Chicago, IL.

She has been a presenter and performer at numerous state and national MTNA conferences such as the MTNA National Conference (Milwaukee) in 2011, 2013 and again in 2015 in Las Vegas. She holds a doctoral degree in Piano Performance and Literature from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York and a masters degree from Catholic University in Washington D.C. Dr. Graves is currently Associate Professor of Piano at Eastern Washington University, in Cheney, WA and was recently awarded the Fosseen-Kusaka Distinguished International Exchange Scholar Award which took her to Japan as a solo artist and master class clinician in 2014.

### **David Biedenbender, Commissioned Composer**

David Biedenbender is a composer, conductor, performer, educator, and interdisciplinary collaborator. David's music has been described as "simply beautiful" [twincities.com], "striking" and "brilliantly crafted" [Times Argus] and is noted for its "rhythmic intensity" [NewMusicBox] and "stirring harmonies" [Boston Classical Review]. "Modern, venturesome, and inexorable... The excitement, intensity, and freshness that characterizes Biedenbender's music hung in the [air] long after the last note was played" [Examiner.com].

In addition to composing, David is a dedicated teacher. In the fall of 2016, he will join the Michigan State University College of Music as Assistant Professor of Composition. He received the Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music degrees in composition from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and the Bachelor of Music degree in composition and theory from Central Michigan University.

### **Jovanni-Rey de Pedro**

Filipino-American pianist Jovanni-Rey de Pedro appears as a performer, pedagogue, and speaker on five continents. He received top prizes in competitions in the United States, Canada, Spain, Austria, and England, and has been supported by grants from Belgium, Ireland, Austria, and the University of Idaho. Jovanni has presented for MTNA, CMS, EPTA/World Piano Teachers Association, and was a keynote speaker and recitalist for numerous conferences in Australia. Passionate about the next generation of pianists and teachers, he has chaired the Young Professionals Track at the MTNA National Conference, and currently serves as advisor for the University of Idaho's MTNA Collegiate Chapter, and co-founder and committee chair of the MTNA Piano Pedagogy Symposium – an annual national conference for college students and young professionals. A California native, Jovanni holds performance degrees from the Vienna

Conservatory in Austria and Trinity College of Music in London, and a doctorate in piano pedagogy and performance from the University of Michigan, where he researched the music of Friedrich Gulda and Alberto Ginastera. Jovanni was appointed Assistant Professor of Piano and Piano Pedagogy and co-director of the preparatory division at the University of Idaho's Lionel Hampton School of Music in 2014. For more information, please visit [www.jdepedro.com](http://www.jdepedro.com)

### **Walden Hughes**

Dr. Walden Hughes was one of three United States music teachers awarded the 1995 "Master Teacher Certificate" by the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA). Dr. Hughes has 75 publications in national and international music journals. He holds five degrees in music, including two in piano performance and one each in piano pedagogy, music history and literature, and music theory. Dr. Hughes teaches piano, music history, composition and counterpoint at Northwest Nazarene University, where he has served for the past 38 years. Dr. Hughes has written 100 piano ensemble compositions and arrangements for 1 piano 4 hands, 2 pianos 4 hands, 1 piano 6 hands, 2 pianos 8 hands, 2 pianos 12 hands, 4 pianos 16 hands, 4 pianos 8 hands, 4 pianos 24 hands and 8 pianos 16 hands, which have been performed widely by professional pianists, piano faculty and student ensembles in 63 different countries. Dr. Hughes was the 2007 recipient of the NNU Alumni Association Professional Achievement Award.

### **Barton Moreau**

Barton Moreau made his concert debut in a New York City performance with the New England Youth Ensemble at the age of 15. He has since performed as a featured soloist with a number of American orchestras, including the Northwest Florida Symphony, Mesa Symphony (Arizona), New Orleans Symphony, the Gulf Coast Symphony, and the Boise Baroque Orchestra (Idaho).

As a collaborative artist, Moreau has performed with a diverse array of distinguished international players, including clarinetist Robert Spring, oboist Gonzalo Ruiz, violinist Rachel Barton Pine, and composer-violinist Daniel Bernard Roumain (DBR). He has performed at a number of national and regional conferences, including the College Music Society National & Pacific Northwest Regional, International Double Reed Society, Montana-Idaho Clarinet Festivals, and ClarinetFest.

Moreau's honors include a top prize at the Debose National Piano Competition and a collegiate artist award from the Alabama Music Teachers Association. In 2007, he was a finalist at the World Piano Pedagogy Conference's PIANOvision Most Wanted Piano Competition.

Moreau holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Arizona State University. From 2007-2016, he has served on the adjunct faculty at Boise State University. He currently serves as Lecturer of Music at Boise State, teaching studio piano, coordinating the group piano program, and lecturing in the areas of music theory and music history.

### **Nadine Reece**

Nadine Reece, NCTM, holds Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from Boise State University, where she studied under Dr. Madeleine Hsu and Dr. Del Parkinson. Between degrees Ms. Reece toured for two years playing synthesizers with a music group, concertizing in nine countries as well as throughout the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. Ms. Reece has taught piano for

over 20 years to all ages and levels and was adjunct faculty for several years at Northwest Nazarene University. She is a frequent adjudicator, accompanist, church choral director, and active church musician. Her students are successful in local festivals, competitions and talent shows, and are active pianists in their schools and churches. She is a member of Treasure Valley Music Teachers Association and Boise Tuesday Musicale, and leadership roles include former IMTA State Treasurer, past TVMTA Sonatina Competition chairman, and the Joyce A. Chaffer scholarship chairman. Ms. Reece loves Idaho and resides in Meridian with her husband and two young sons.

### **Nancy Reese**

Nancy Reese has performed as award-winning soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States and Asia. Holding Bachelor and Master's Degrees in Piano Performance she is passionate about helping pianists play with total physical ease and musicality. Years of rigorous technical training in the direct lineage of Isabelle Vengerova, von Sauer and Rudolf Serkin led to two hand surgeries and being told she would not play again. But after a 13-year hiatus from playing and with a strong desire to regain what she had lost, she ultimately went on to study piano technique for 11 years in New York City, Amherst College and Williams College with Edna Golandsky. While achieving extraordinary and rapid success with her students who had the most severe of the piano-related repetitive stress injuries, focal dystonia, Nancy developed her own unique method of teaching piano technique, "Effortless Playing". Her ability to enable every pianist to reach his/her full technical and artistic potential draws students to her studio from around the world. In the U.S and Australia Nancy has taught performers, university faculty, doctoral degree candidates, and students of all levels to play with freedom and comfort. Her U.S. lectures, master classes and workshops on piano technique have been presented to MTNA, NFMC, Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts, University of Colorado, Transylvania University, University of KY, Marshall University, University of North Carolina, BYU-Idaho, Idaho State University and Metropolitan State University of Denver.

### **Sean Slade**

Sean Slade studied piano performance and pedagogy for 6 years with Paul Pollei, founder of the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition. He is co-creator of the Standard Assessment of Sight Reading. He consults and trains teachers, colleges, and universities on how to use technology to engage music students at a higher level of neurological learning.

### **Paul Zeller**

Paul Zeller is currently a student at the University of Idaho, where he is pursuing a master of music degree in piano performance under the tutelage of Dr. Roger McVey. He holds a bachelor of music in piano performance from Concordia College, Moorhead MN, where he studied under Dr. Jay Hershberger. While studying in Idaho, Paul has competed in several competitions and participated in local piano organizations. During the 2015-16 school year, Paul won the University of Idaho concerto competition, through which he was able to perform Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3 with the University of Idaho Orchestra. Paul was also selected to perform in the honors recitals for the North Idaho Piano festival in the fall, as well as for adjudications in the spring. He also participated in the MTNA Idaho division piano competition, in which he received an honorable mention. Finally, Paul was an active member of the University of Idaho

MTNA chapter during the previous academic, and intends to contribute to a number of chapter projects for the upcoming school year.