

WMTA

INAUGURAL CONFERENCE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

Howard University, Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts
Childers Hall, 2445 6th St NW, Washington DC 20059



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

9:30 AM	COFFEE & REGISTRATION Check-in, grab your swag bag, and enjoy coffee
10:00 AM	OPENING REMARKS Grace McFarlane, WMTA President Brian Shepard, President & CEO, MTNA: "The Power of Community"
10:40 AM	KEYNOTE SPEAKER Catherine Kautsky
11:50 AM	LUNCH BREAK
12:15 PM	POSTER SESSIONS "The Rainbow Method: A Colorful Introduction to Staff Reading and Piano Playing" Ariel Nathanson Bolinja "Beyond the Ghost Notes: The Legacy of Florence B. Price," Brian Bethea "Giving Equal Time for the Left Hand," Christopher Kies "Zyutune Studio: A Digital Practice Accountability Tool for the Modern Music Teacher," Topher Ruggiero
12:50 PM	GUEST SPEAKER "Building Artistry through Piano Music by Black Composers for Beginning and Intermediate Students," Leah Claiborne
1:35 PM	LIGHTNING SESSIONS "You Told Me That Last Week?": Turning Music Lessons into Score-Linked Practice Plans," Crystal Zheyu Jiang "Dalcroze Eurhythmics and Embodied Learning in Young Children," Yingjun Chen "Beyond Imitation: Chopin's Legacy and Scriabin's Emerging Voice," Yuhe Wang "Making Sound Visible: Teaching Impressionist Music Through Visual Art," Minji Kim
2:35 PM	MASTERCLASS WITH CATHERINE KAUTSKY
3:50 PM	BREAK
4:00 PM	PANEL DISCUSSION Brian Shepard, Catherine Kautsky, Leah Claiborne
4:20 PM	CONCERT FINALE: A CELEBRATION OF AMERICAN MUSIC Featuring the United States Air Force Band Ceremonial Brass Quintet; Emil Chudnovsky, violin; Katie Chambers, soprano; and pianists Ariel Nathanson Bolinja, Eric Himy, Natalia Kazaryan, and Grace McFarlane
5:30 PM	CONFERENCE CONCLUDES