

MATTHEW FIGEL

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Education

2026	EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC	Rochester, NY
	Doctor of Musical Arts with a Major in Performance & Literature – Piano	
	Advanced Certificate in Early Music / Minor in Early Keyboards	
2022	Master of Music with a Major in Performance & Literature – Piano	
2020	Bachelor of Music in Applied Music – Piano	
	Bachelor of Music in Musical Arts	
	Area Studies Concentration in Art History	
	Take Five Scholars Program in Art History and Museum Studies	
	Cumulative GPA: 4.00 / 4.00 – <i>summa cum laude</i> – Member of Pi Kappa Lambda	

Competitions

2026	<i>Second Prize</i> , First Steve Kahng International Piano Competition	San Marcos, TX
2025	<i>First Prize</i> , New York Music Teacher's National Association YA Piano Competition	Rochester, NY
	<i>Special Prize</i> , H.R.H. Princess Lalla Meryem International Piano Competition	Rabat, Morocco
	<i>Finalist (4)</i> , National Federation of Music Clubs Young Artist Piano Competition	New York, NY
2022	<i>Sixth Place</i> , International Leipzig Johann Sebastian Bach Competition	Leipzig, Germany
	<i>First Prize</i> , New York Music Teacher's National Association YA Piano Competition	Rochester, NY
2017	<i>First Prize</i> , Fifth Rosalyn Tureck International Bach Competition	New York City, NY
	<i>First Prize</i> , Texas State International Piano Festival Concerto Competition	San Marcos, TX
	<i>First Prize</i> , Harold Protsman Classical Period Competition	Norfolk, VA
2016	<i>First Prize</i> , Eastman School of Music Concerto Competition	Rochester, NY

Concerto Appearances

2026	American Classical Orchestra	Lincoln Center, Alice Tully Hall: New York City, NY
	W.A. Mozart – <i>Piano Concerto No. 17 in G Major, K. 453</i>	<i>cond. Thomas Crawford</i>
2025	Rochester Institute of Technology Chamber Orchestra	Ingle Auditorium: Henrietta, NY
	W.A. Mozart – <i>Piano Concerto No. 27 in Bb Major, K. 595</i>	<i>Yunn-Shan Ma</i>
2022	Mendelssohn Chamber Orchestra Leipzig	Hochschule Felix Mendelssohn: Leipzig, Germany
	J.S. Bach – <i>Keyboard Concerto No. 2 in E Major, BWV 1053</i>	<i>Peter Bruns</i>
2018	Orchard Park Symphony & Chorale	First Presbyterian Church: Orchard Park, NY
	C. Lambert – <i>The Rio Grande</i>	<i>David Hahn</i>
2017	Round Rock Symphony	Evans Auditorium: San Marcos, TX
	W.A. Mozart – <i>Piano Concerto No. 27 in Bb Major, K. 595</i>	<i>Wesley Shulz</i>
2016	Eastman Philharmonia	Kilbourn Hall: Rochester, NY
	W.A. Mozart – <i>Piano Concerto No. 27 in Bb Major, K. 595</i>	<i>Michael Wheatley</i>
2015	Interlochen Arts Academy Orchestra	Kresge Auditorium: Interlochen, MI
	E. Grieg – <i>Piano Concerto in A Minor, Op. 16</i>	<i>Carolyn Watson</i>
2015	Philharmonic Orchestra of the University of Alicante	Sala dei Notari: Perugia, Italy
	C. Saint-Saëns – <i>Piano Concerto No. 2 in G Minor, Op. 22</i>	<i>Mihnea Ignat</i>

Upcoming Performances

2026	<i>Brahms Piano Concerto No. 1</i> with Rochester Institute of Technology Orchestra	Henrietta, NY
	<i>Bach to Basics: Advanced Certificate in Early Music Lecture Recital on J.S. Bach</i>	Rochester, NY
	MozArte Piano Festival and Competition	Aachen, Germany
2027	Solo Harpsichord Recital at Rosette Early Music Festival	Asheville, NC

Selected Solo Recitals

2026	<i>Threads Between Bach, Mozart, Liszt, and Currier</i>	Beckwith Recital Hall: Wilmington, NC
	<i>Chopin and His World</i>	Christ the King Church: Irondequoit, NY
	<i>Contemporary Conversations</i>	Texas State University Recital Hall: San Marcos, TX
	<i>Scarlatti Parti</i>	Valley Manor: Rochester, NY
	<i>Impasta Diva: Chopin's Spurious Casta Diva Transcription</i>	Ciminelli Lounge: Rochester, NY
2025	<i>Princess Lalla Meryem Intl. PC Winner's Recital</i>	Mohammed VI University: Ben Guerir, Morocco
	<i>An Evening of Paired Visual Art, Music, and Poetry</i>	Baker House Concert: Rochester, NY
	<i>Music of William Grant Still and Florence Price</i>	St. Margaret Mary Church: Irondequoit, NY
	<i>1-Man Band: Symphony at the Piano</i>	Holtz House Concert: Austin, TX
	<i>Goldberg Variations</i>	Morgan House Concert: Brighton, NY
	<i>Bach to the Future: Solo Doctoral Degree Recital II</i>	Kilbourn Hall: Rochester, NY
2024	<i>Song & Dance of the 1st Viennese School: MA Festival & Competition</i>	Concertgebouw: Brugge, Belgium
	<i>Soler Sonatas and Fandango</i>	Parsons House Concert: Abilene, TX
	<i>Fresh Ink: Contemporary Commissions of Today's Composers</i>	Valley Manor: Rochester, NY
	<i>Chopin and Warsaw</i>	Sage Chapel: Ithaca, NY
2023	<i>Bijou Barbecue: Music of Rudolf Friml</i>	Rochester Academy of Medicine: Rochester, NY
	<i>A Parade of Preludes: Solo Doctoral Degree Recital I</i>	Kilbourn Hall: Rochester, NY
	<i>The Golden Age</i>	Westin: Jekyll Island, GA
	<i>Baroque Inspirations</i>	Benedict House Concert: Webster, NY
	<i>Beethoven Through the Years: Early, Middle, and Late Sonatas</i>	Horseshoe Bay Resort: Horseshoe Bay, TX
	<i>Handel's Keyboard Music</i>	Ciminelli Lounge: Rochester, NY
	<i>Clementi and His Contemporaries</i>	St. Margaret Mary Church: Irondequoit, NY
	<i>Music For Children</i>	Messinger Hall: Rochester, NY
	<i>Reinventing Inventions</i>	Garcia House Concert: Ithaca, NY
2022	<i>The Story & the Blank Page: Programmatic & Absolute Music</i>	Arts at Messiah Series: Savannah, GA
	<i>English, French, and Other Works of J.S. Bach: Master's Degree Recital</i>	Kilbourn Hall: Rochester, NY
	<i>Haydn and His Humor</i>	Valley Manor: Rochester, NY
	<i>Off the Beaten Path: Treasures of Franz Schubert</i>	Martinez House Concert: Brighton, NY
	<i>Songs Without Words</i>	Ranlet Lounge: Rochester, NY
2021	<i>Ballet at the Piano</i>	Giuliani House Concert: Canandaigua, NY
	<i>Preludes and Fugues of J.S. Bach and D. Shostakovich</i>	Valley Manor: Rochester, NY
	<i>The Many Dances of Frédéric Chopin</i>	Sandora House Concert: Buffalo, NY
	<i>Preludes of F. Chopin and F. Kalkbrenner</i>	Horseshoe Bay Resort: Horseshoe Bay, TX
2020	<i>Liszt as Heavenly Priest and Hellish Virtuoso</i>	Ashley Woods: Penfield, NY
	<i>Divine and Devilish Dances</i>	Summerville Presbyterian Church: Irondequoit, NY
2019	<i>Works of Clara Schumann: Gala Concert</i>	Jardín Botánico Atlántico: Gijón, Spain

Collaborative Positions

St. Cecelia, St. Margaret Mary, and Christ the King Catholic Churches

Irondequoit, NY

Choral Accompanist for St. Kateri Parish

2022 – Present

- Accompany the cantors and church choirs on piano and organ 3-4 times each week
- Rehearse weekly with choir, conductor, and instrumental musicians
- Provide additional solo and accompanimental music for meditations and interludes
- Assist in directing the choral ensemble, cantors, and musicians in rehearsals and performances

Eastman School of Music

Rochester, NY

Student Accompanist

2015 – Present

- Accompany instrumental and vocal majors yearly in duo partnerships
- Form chamber groups each year and lead weekly rehearsals
- Attend weekly lessons, coachings, and studio classes with collaborative musicians
- Perform for recitals, competitions, and juries of soloists and chamber partners each year
- Receive numerous recognitions, including the Verdehr Trio and John Celentano Award for Excellence in Chamber Music

Selected Collaborative Recitals

2026	<i>Cello and Piano Dialogues with Garri Hovsepyan</i>	Ouriel House Concert: Canandaigua, NY
	<i>Schubertiade</i>	Ranlet Lounge: Rochester, NY
	<i>Beethoven and Mozart Wind Quintets</i>	Ciminelli Lounge: Rochester, NY
2025	<i>The Three B's: Collaborative Doctoral Degree Recital</i>	Hatch Recital Hall: Rochester, NY
	<i>Encounters with the Schumanns: Chamber Works of Clara and Robert</i>	Howard Hanson Hall: Rochester, NY
	<i>John Rutter's Choral Works</i>	St. Margaret Mary Church: Irondequoit, NY
2024	<i>Magnificent Mozart</i>	Thalian Hall: Wilmington, NC
	<i>Brahms & Dvorak: Doctoral Degree Recital of Angela Kim, Violin</i>	Hatch Hall: Rochester, NY
2023	<i>Carnegie Hall Perspectives: Workshop with Mitsuko Uchida</i>	Carnegie Hall: New York City, NY
	<i>Beethoven Academy: Complete Piano Trios</i>	Smithsonian Museum: Washington D.C.
	<i>2-Man Band: Symphonic Transcriptions for Duo Piano</i>	Kroger Center: Columbia, SC
	<i>Chamber Music of Mozart, Brahms, and Fauré</i>	Holley Hall: Sarasota, FL
2022	<i>Commissions by the Verdehrs: Inaugural Verdehr Trio Award Recital</i>	Kilbourn Hall: Rochester, NY
	<i>Songs With, and Without, Words</i>	Jackson House Concert: Buffalo, NY
	<i>Chamber Music of Ludwig van Beethoven: Theory and Practice</i>	Hatch Hall: Rochester, NY
2021	<i>French Gems: 4-Hand Works of Debussy, Bizet, and Fauré</i>	St. Cecilia Church: Irondequoit, NY
	<i>Beethoven's Variations: Works for Cello and Piano Trio</i>	Ciminelli Lounge: Rochester, NY
	<i>Spanish Sensation: Gaspar Cassadó's Piano Trio</i>	Potter House Concert: Fairport, NY
	<i>Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time</i>	Howard Hanson Hall: Rochester, NY
2020	<i>4-hand Music of W.A. Mozart and F. Schubert</i>	Martinez House Concert: Brighton, NY
2019	<i>Mozart & Danielpour: Bachelor's Degree Recital of Angel Rhodes, Violin</i>	Kilbourn Hall: Rochester, NY
	<i>Chamber Music of Johannes Brahms: Theory and Practice</i>	Hatch Hall: Rochester, NY
	<i>Flute Masterworks: Elena Rubin Bachelor's Recital, Flute</i>	Ciminelli Lounge: Rochester, NY
	<i>Bartók's Sonata for 2 Pianos & Percussion: Aaron Lockheart, Degree Recital</i>	Hatch Hall: Rochester, NY
	<i>An Evening of Piano Duets</i>	Southampton Cultural Center: Southampton, NY

Conference Presentations

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
19-Century Piano Playing Styles Conference

Birmingham, United Kingdom
2024

Reimagining Chopin's Purported 'Casta Diva' Transcription as Inspired by His Nocturnes

A recently resurfaced piano transcription of Bellini's 'Casta Diva,' misattributed to Frédéric Chopin, contains musical inconsistencies that cast doubt on its authorship. Rather, this sketch was prepared by Wojciech Nowik decades ago, who has been erased in a game of telephone awry. But instead of dismissing this work entirely, it can serve as a springboard for imagining how Chopin might have embellished Bellini's aria during performance. This lecture-recital explores Chopin's improvisatory style, particularly the fanciful ornamentation that saturated *bel canto* and Romantic performance practice. In a musical scavenger hunt, one can find variants of melody, harmony, texture, and embellishment, all throughout Chopin's nocturnes and other works, and one can apply similar figurations to transform the barren sketch of Bellini's aria into an imagined Chopinesque improvisation. Performed alongside other Chopin works that offer further opportunities for personal extemporization, ultimately, this project demonstrates how historical style and performance practice can transform even rudimentary arrangements into richly expressive interpretations.¹

Additional Fields of Research

Back to Basics – Teaching J.S. Bach's Keyboard Works

2024 – Present

This project aims to clarify J.S. Bach's keyboard works for students of all levels by creating new practice editions of various works. While most of Bach's keyboard works lack slurs, dots, and other articulation markings, these notations abound in other instrumental and vocal sources, particularly his cantatas. The careful examination of instrumental sources will involve copy-and-pasting articulations to emulate string bowings and other markings that are missing in later keyboard transcriptions, particularly in his keyboard concerti that draw from his earlier violin concerti and cantata movements. Ornately decorated music will also be simplified into fundamental melodic and harmonic outlines in a practical proto-Schenkerian approach. These skeletons provide a new basis for improvisation, enabling students to add ornaments with simplicity and effectiveness. Finally, the complete keyboard fugues of the *Well-Tempered Clavier*, *Art of Fugue*, and other works will be published as an open score and partbook, allowing students to visualize counterpoint across multiple staves while practicing all combinations of 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6-voices.

Ornamenting for Dummies: A Practical How-To Guide

2024 – Present

Most historical treatises discuss extemporization rather generally, often lacking finite musical examples that showcase possible figurations. Yet, one needs to look no further than myriad examples in the repertoire, where rondos, fantasias, and sonatas of Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, showcase an individualized approach to embellishment. This project aims to demystify this elusive practice, providing students with practical ways to ornament their repertoire. Careful study of a particularly neglected source, Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach's *Sechs Sonaten mit veränderten Reprisen*, showcases the wealth of possibilities in ornamenting repeated material. This project culminates in a breakdown of Franz Joseph Haydn's *Andante with Variations in F Minor*, Hob. XVII: 6, where deconstruction of melodic figurations into simple linear skeletons allow students to navigate embellishing variations within a variation form, beginning a lifelong journey of spontaneity and imagination.

¹ Matthew Figel, "Reimagining Chopin's Purported 'Casta Diva' Transcription as Inspired by His Nocturnes" (Conference lecture, 19th-Century Piano Playing Styles, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, February 6, 2024.

Decoding Ravel: Instances of Numerical Manipulation in the Sonatine and Other Compositions 2022 – 2024

Exploring the complex origins of Maurice Ravel's *Sonatine*, this project examines the controversial results of the 1903 *Weekly Critical Review* composition contest. Many scholars disagree about the outcome of this competition, though Ravel was likely disqualified from the competition by exceeding the allotted 75 bars in the first movement. Coupled with an embittered history from numerous competition failures in the *Prix de Rome*, Ravel completes the *Sonatine* two years later, including the opening cyclic motive throughout the work. Scattered throughout the third movement, an ostinato of 3 quarter-notes appear, which Ravel slyly includes in only 74 bars, perfectly fitting within the competition's original guidelines. Interpreting this rebellious gesture toward the magazine and/or a demonstration of artistic license, the *Sonatine* further highlights Ravel's interest in numerology and his meticulous approach found throughout his oeuvre.

Music at Rochester's Memorial Art Gallery and George Eastman Museum 2020 – 2021

Through examining the *Memorial Art Gallery* and the *George Eastman Museum* in Rochester, this project studied how art museums creatively incorporate music into their galleries. Surveys collected responses on how visitors' experiences could be improved through various techniques, such as curating playlists and other interactive approaches, while also considering music's impact on multi-sensory accessibility. Concluding with innovative suggestions for how museums might continue to integrate music within their spaces, this research explored the intriguing intersection of multidisciplinary art and its connection to a modern audience.

Residencies

Valley Manor Living Center

Rochester, NY

Artist-in-Residence

2019 – 2022

- Organize 1-8 solo and collaborative piano recitals for the community every month
- Program each recital centered on a creative theme, such as *The Four Elements* or *Divine & Devilish Dances*
- Engage the audience with oral program notes, providing context and interpretations to guide one's listening
- Curate other creative musical events, such as concert pairings between visual art and music
- Interact and participate with the residents in a variety of social settings

Collegiate Teaching

Eastman School of Music

Rochester, NY

Primary and Secondary Piano Instructor

2022 – 2025

- Offer primary and secondary piano lessons for 50+ Eastman and University of Rochester music and non-music majors who audition to receive 2-4 credits each semester
- Mentor students on technique, repertoire, theory, aural skills, and all other areas of musicianship
- Prepare students for department recitals, required juries, and extra-curricular competitions, where students have received numerous prizes, including top prizes in the University of Rochester's annual concerto competition
- Lead studio classes where students perform and provide suggestions in a workshop setting
- Organize master classes between 6+ other teaching studios to create a space for student and teacher growth
- Grade and schedule all primary and secondary piano juries, offering detailed feedback for each student
- Recruit students to enroll in Eastman's primary/secondary piano program through hosting events at Eastman and the University of Rochester

Additional Collegiate Teaching

Eastman School of Music

Rochester, NY

Instructor of Piano Literature III: 20th and 21st-Century Repertoire

2022 – 2025

- Design all aspects of course on modern piano repertoire required for all undergraduate piano majors
- Transform piano literature pedagogy to prepare musicians for a modern music career, centering assignments and projects around thoughtful programming, audience interaction, and entrepreneurship
- Lecture 4 hours weekly on historical context, composers, style, and piano music of the 20th and 21st-centuries
- Curate hours of weekly listening assignments and repertoire lists preceding projects and exams
- Design creative activities that synthesize composer life and repertoire, such as a Final Scavenger Hunt
- Incorporate underrepresented music and discriminated composers to rethink today's canon

Eastman School of Music

Rochester, NY

Teaching Assistant for Joseph Rackers

2022 – 2025

- Provide extra lessons each semester for every undergraduate and graduate student of Dr. Rackers
- Prepare each first-year student for the annual technique exam as part of their jury
- Coach solo repertoire through troubleshooting technical areas and inspiring thoughtful interpretations
- Assist in leading studio classes by providing suggestions and feedback for each student

Eastman School of Music

Rochester, NY

Instructor of Class Piano

2020 – 2022

- Lead group piano classes required for all undergraduate students
- Design curriculum, syllabus, and course schedule for each of the six levels of piano class
- Create activities and assignments on basic to advanced keyboard skills, technique, and musicianship
- Integrate jazz and popular genres with lead sheets, transpositions, and improvisation
- Accommodate the pandemic and following years through developing virtual and hybrid piano class formats
- Offer additional one-on-one lessons in repertoire and concepts to fit each student's needs and interests

Community Teaching

Eastman Community Music School

Rochester, NY

Piano Faculty

2023 – Present

- Instruct in-person and virtual piano lessons to 10+ yearly students of all ages and abilities
- Adapt to students' individual needs, covering technique, repertoire, theory, and keyboard skills
- Lead studio and master classes to promote individual and communal learning
- Evaluate students' progress in showcase recitals, community concerts, and juries
- Recruit students each year through visiting local public schools and organizations

Private Piano Teacher

Rochester, NY – Midland, TX

2013 – Present

- Manage a studio of 10+ private students of all levels, from elementary, middle-high, college, and adult students
- Provide in-person and virtual piano lessons, teaching technique, repertoire, and keyboard skills
- Cater to the needs of each student, considering their experience and skill level
- Incorporate other genres like pop and jazz for each student's diverse interests
- Prepare students for yearly recitals, competitions, exams, and juries, in which students receive awards and recognition

Summer Festival Teaching

Summer @ Eastman's Keyboard Explorations

Rochester, NY

Early Keyboard and Piano Faculty

2023 – Present

- Educate 80+ students on history and performance practice of harpsichord, clavichord, organ, and fortepiano
- Provide group lessons in modern and historical keyboards, teaching technique and repertoire
- Coach rehearsals for students' piano duets performed in the festival's culminating recital
- Monitor practice sessions, offering tricks and tips to practice efficiently
- Run group piano classes that cover keyboard skills such as sightreading, transposition, and improvisation

Tianjin Haihe International Piano Concerto Music Festival

Tianjin, China

Piano Faculty

2026

- Evaluate prescreening recordings for applicants to the festival and solo competition
- Provide online masterclasses and lessons to festival participants
- Adjudicate and award prizes in solo competition in partnership with the festival

Masterclass Teaching

2026 Tianjin Haihe International Piano Concerto Music Festival

Tianjin, China

Eastman School of Music

Rochester, NY

University of North Carolina Wilmington

Wilmington, NC

Eastman Community Music School

Rochester, NY

2025 Eastman School of Music

Eastman Community Music School

2024 Eastman Community Music School

Zehao Bai Private Studio

Wuhai, China

2023 Eastman Community Music School

Rochester, NY

Administrative Experience

Vivace International Music Festival

Wilmington, NC

Artist Liaison

2021 – 2022

- Create personalized itineraries and teaching schedules for all piano and strings faculty
- Communicate with students, parents, staff, and faculty to maintain efficient operations
- Arrange all transportation, dinners, concerts, and events for the festival
- Assist with each concert's livestream with recording engineers and directors
- Schedule private instruction, rehearsals, and recitals for all student participants

Southeastern Piano Festival

Columbia, SC

Festival Associate

2020 – 2022

- Serve as Chair of the Young Jury for the Arthur Fraser International Piano Competition
- Perform in featured concerts around town, such as outreach recitals on The Concert Truck
- Organize teaching, practice, and rehearsal schedules for faculty and participants
- Aid in festival operations, including managing backstage, selling tickets, and recording concerts

Professional Development

Eastman School of Music

Rochester, NY

ARTs + Change – Activate. Reimagine. Transform.

2026

- Consider ways in which artists of all disciplines have created projects that enhance society
- Challenge oppressive systems that have discriminated against communities
- Reflect on the political and societal role of today's modern artist to shape and improve humanity

University of Rochester

Rochester, NY

Future Faculty Series

2025 – 2026

- Attend workshops detailing the responsibilities of academic professorship
- Navigate growing challenges in today's academic world, including fostering accessibility
- Complete training on safe work environments, following anti-harassment and anti-discrimination policies

Eastman School of Music

Rochester, NY

Context Conference – Resonate: The Best Harmony Takes All of Us

2025

- Rethink today's canon to include works of neglected composers due to race, gender, and sexuality
- Broaden knowledge of global musical styles that inform a broader context of musical practice
- Collaborate with peers to consider relevance, inclusion, and innovation in the classroom and studio
- Brainstorm ways in which diversity, equity, and inclusion can be fostered in today's music world

Gilmore Piano Festival

Kalamazoo, MI

Festival Fellow

2022

- Attend creative seminars on entrepreneurship, business, and career development in today's world
- Participate in lessons and masterclasses with Artists-in-Residence Inna Faliks and Lori Sims
- Engage and interact with the audience through performances in community and outreach concerts

Academic Services

Eastman School of Music

Rochester, NY

Comprehensive Exam Tutor

2026 – Present

- Assist doctoral students preparing for the Eastman Comprehensive Exam through private and group tutoring
- Provide students with study materials, including overviews of major history and theory texts
- Offer practice exams including unknown terms, score identifications, and analysis examples

Eastman School of Music

Rochester, NY

Music Theory Tutor

2023 – Present

- Cater to needs of all levels of undergraduate and graduate level students who require additional theory assistance
- Offer group study sessions and classes prior to periodic tests and exams on key concepts
- Maintain close communication with Eastman theory faculty and students to ensure progress

American Record Guide

New York City, NY

Reviewer

2023 – 2024

- Listen to 20+ hours of new Classical music released each month on piano and early keyboards
- Demonstrate knowledge and experience through writing detailed reviews of performances
- Publish monthly critiques for America's oldest classical review magazine

Academic Scholarships

Eastman School of Music	Rochester, NY
Max Landow Doctor of Musical Arts Scholarship	2022 – 2026
<i>Instructed by: Marina Lomazov and Joseph Rackers</i>	
The Honorable William H. Stapleton Piano Scholarship	2020 – 2022
<i>Instructed by: Marina Lomazov</i>	
Take 5 Scholars Program at University of Rochester	2019 – 2020
▪ 1 year of tuition-free study for personal enrichment in Art History and Museum Studies	
Orazio Frugoni Piano Scholarship	2015 – 2020
Howard Hanson Scholarship	2015 – 2020
K.W. Conners & H.T. Sullivan Scholarship	2015 – 2020
<i>Instructed by: Nelita True</i>	

Academic Awards

Eastman School of Music	Rochester, NY
Teaching Assistant Prize for Excellence in Teaching	2022
▪ Recognized for superior teaching in class piano and applied music lessons	
Verdehr Trio Award	2022
▪ Sponsored by the Verdehr Trio to perform contemporary commissions for piano trio	
John Celentano Award for Excellence in Chamber Music	2019
▪ Awarded for commitment to collaboration and chamber music	
Anne T. Cummins Prize in Humanities	2019
▪ Acknowledged for excellence in history, receiving <i>summa cum laude</i>	

Additional Keyboard Studies

Mike Cheng-Yu Lee & Ji-Young Kim	Eastman School: Rochester, NY
Fortepiano and 19 th -Century Piano	2022 – Present
Malcolm Bilson	Cornell University: Ithaca, NY
Fortepiano and 19 th -Century Piano	2022 – Present
Eduardo Bellotti	Eastman School: Rochester, NY
Harpsichord & Fortepiano	2017 – 2024
Lisa Goode Crawford	Eastman School: Rochester, NY
Harpsichord	2022 – 2023

References

<i>Marina Lomazov</i>	mlomazov@esm.rochester.edu / (803) 361-0902
Eastman School of Music	Professor of Piano / Artistic Director of Vivace International Music Festival
<i>Joseph Rackers</i>	jrackers@esm.rochester.edu / (803) 929-0776
Eastman School of Music	Professor of Piano / Artistic Director of Vivace International Music Festival
<i>Mike Cheng-Yu Lee</i>	mikechengyulee@gmail.com / (917) 282-9469
University of California, Los Angeles	Assistant Professor of Music / Concert Pianist and Fortepianist

<i>Tamari Gurevich</i>	tgurevich@esm.rochester.edu / (585) 315-7411
Eastman School of Music	Assistant Professor of Piano / Supervisor of Primary & Secondary Applied Piano

MATTHEW FIGEL

Biography

“With a tone and approach entrancing from the outset,” (New York Concert Review, Inc.) Matthew Figel is presently completing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the Eastman School of Music, where he studies with Marina Lomazov and Joseph Rackers. The first musician in his family, Matthew began his piano studies at age ten in Midland, Texas, making his recital debut that same year. Since then, he has performed extensively throughout North America, Europe, and Africa, in venues such as Alice Tully Hall of Lincoln Center, Weill Recital Hall of Carnegie Hall, Smithsonian Museum of American National History, and the Concertgebouw Brugge.

His successes in competitions have included top prizes in the Rosalyn Tureck International Bach Competition, Harold Protsman Classical Period Competition, and Steve Kahng International Piano Competition. Additionally, he was also named a finalist and awarded sixth place at the 2022 International Johann Sebastian Bach Competition, where he performed with the Mendelssohn Chamber Orchestra in Leipzig in the final round.

Eager to specialize in 18th and early 19th-century repertoire, Matthew has studied harpsichord and fortepiano with Eduardo Bellotti and Lisa Goode Crawford in addition to lessons in historical performance practice under Paul O’Dette. Additionally, he attended the inaugural Forte / Piano Academy held at the Cornell Institute for Historic Keyboards, where he studied with Mike Cheng-Yu Lee and Malcolm Bilson. A dedicated scholar, he has presented his research on the intersection between historical and modern performance styles. These studies have led him all over the United States and Europe, including presenting at *19th-Century Piano Playing Styles*, a conference held in Birmingham, United Kingdom on early pianos. Lately, he recently made his Lincoln Center debut at Alice Tully Hall, where he performed Mozart’s *Piano Concerto No. 17 in G Major, K. 453* on fortepiano and period instruments in the season finale of the American Classical Orchestra.

Matthew received his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Applied Music and Musical Arts from the Eastman School of Music as well, previously studying with Nelita True. Here, Matthew was admitted into the music honor society, Pi Kappa Lambda, in addition to graduating with Highest Distinction and receiving the Anne T. Cummins Prize in Humanities. While in his sophomore year, Matthew was named winner of the Eastman Concerto Competition, becoming one of the youngest students to solo with the Eastman Philharmonia in the school’s 100-year history.

Matthew has performed in masterclasses instructed by Richard Goode, Simone Dinnerstein, Paul Lewis, Pascal Rogé, Hung-Kuan Chen, Emanuel Ax, and Lori Sims. He also recently participated in Carnegie Hall's Perspectives series, where he performed in a Mozart Piano Concerto masterclass presented by Mitsuko Uchida. A past fellow at PianoFest in the Hamptons and PianoTexas International Festival and Academy, he has also attended summer festivals such as the Sarasota Music Festival, Gijón International Piano Festival and the Aspen School of Music.

He is also an avid collaborative pianist, performing in masterclasses for artists such as Renée Fleming and Jon Nakamatsu while receiving coachings from the Ying Quartet, Steven Doane, and Natalya Antonova. While at Eastman, he received the John Celentano Award for Excellence in Chamber Music and the Verdehr Trio Award at the Commencement ceremony to recognize his commitment to chamber music.

An alumnus of Interlochen Arts Academy, he was chosen as the school's first-ever Senior Performer, an honor given to a student to represent the graduating class with a solo performance at the final Commencement ceremony. His teachers here included Thomas Lymenstull and Michael Coonrod, following Matthew's studies with Mark Puckett.

An enthusiastic teacher, Matthew taught primary and secondary applied piano lessons, piano literature, and class piano at Eastman, where he received the Teaching Assistant Prize for Excellence in Teaching. Additionally, he has served as a reviewer for the American Record Guide, as well as the Artist-in-Residence at Valley Manor Living Center, where he performed monthly recitals in Rochester, New York for the senior community and outreach centers.