Dr. Theresa Chen

**Keyboardist, Composer/Arranger, Educator**

49 Ponderosa Dr, Apt 6, Syracuse, New York, 13215, USA

585-732-7848˙theresachen7963@gmail.com[www.facebook.com/theresachenpianist](http://www.facebook.com/theresachenpianist). [www.theresachenjazzpiano.com](http://www.theresachenjazzpiano.com)

**EDUCATION**

DMA, Jazz and Contemporary Media, Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY, 09/15-08/18

Jazz piano studies with Prof. Harold Danko, Bill Dobbins and Gary Versace

Music Theory Minor with Dr. Dariusz Terefenko

Advanced Certificate in the Art of Improvisation with Prof. Edoardo Bellotti and Vincent Lenti

MM, Jazz and Contemporary Media, Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY, 09/13-05/15

BFA, College of Music, National Taiwan Normal University, Taipei, Taiwan, 09/09-06/13

Classical piano studies with Prof. Lina Yeh

Flute and Voice Minor with Prof. Ya-Hui Christine Yu and Prof. Stephen Hsueh

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Songwriting Part-Time Instructor,** *2021–Present,* Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY

Teach basic concepts of songwriting in various styles, as well as lyric writing and practical composing/arranging skills. This is a new course which occurs every semester.

**Jazz/Funk Combo Part-Time Instructor**, *2020–Present,* Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY

Coach 7- to 8-piece small group annually, including music majors and non-music majors students, on the performance practice of jazz fusion and well-known repertoire by fusion bands from the United States, Japan and Taiwan.

**Applied Jazz Piano/History of Jazz Part-Time Instructor**, *2018–Present,* Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY

Teach university students primary/secondary private lessons on the fundamentals of jazz piano performance and History of Jazz course in every other Spring semester.

**Functional Jazz Piano Teaching Assistant**, *2013–2018,* Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY

The purpose of the course is to introduce practice routines for sophomore non-pianist jazz major students to acquire the harmonic vocabulary and repertoire of jazz piano. The focus is on basic chord progressions and keyboard skills needed to apply idiomatic voicings to both arrangements and original compositions as well as to build a solid foundation for linear improvisation. Apply advanced harmonies.

**Secondary Jazz Piano Teaching Assistant**, *2013–2018,* Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY

Teach university students private lessons on the fundamentals of jazz piano performance

**PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCES**

Virtual Concert: The Meaning of Journey—A Solo Piano Recital, Church of Most Holy Rosary, Syracuse, 2020

Concert: The Dai Wan Za Mo Project (Taiwanese Women in Jazz), Shemin Auditorium, Syracuse University, 2020

Concert: Pas de Deux (Feat. Dr. Jonathan Embry on pipe organ), Crouse Auditorium, Syracuse University, 2020

Concert: Piano/Organ Solo Recital, Immaculate Conception Church, Fu-Ren University, Taipei, Taiwan, 2019

Concert: Bria Skonberg and Friends, Crouse Auditorium, Syracuse University, 2018

Concert: An Afternoon of Sacred Jazz Music, St. Anne Catholic Church, 2018

Lecture Recital: Free Improvisation in Marian McPartland’s ‘Portraits’, Eastman School of Music, 2018

Certificate Recital in the Art of Improvisation, Eastman School of Music, 2018

Recital: Salute to the Great Jazz Ladies Part IV, Ray Wright Room, Eastman School of Music, 2017

Degree Recital: Salute to the Great Jazz Ladies Part III, Hatch Recital Hall, Eastman School of Music, 2017

Recital: Salute to the Great Jazz Ladies Part II, Ray Wright Room, Eastman School of Music, 2016

Degree Recital: Salute to the Great Jazz Ladies Part I, Hatch Recital Hall, Eastman School of Music, 2016

Degree Recital: Re˙Departure, Hatch Recital Hall, Eastman School of Music, 2015

Solo Recital: Am I Done Yet?, College of Music, National Taiwan Normal University, 2013

Solo Recital: Metamorphosis, Ching-Shui Senior High School, Taichung, Taiwan, 2009

**PUBLIC PREMIRES OF ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS AND ARRANGEMENTS**

Upcoming premiere: *Birdsongs in A Mist.* Artists: Hanna Li (flute), Felicia Ping Feng (piano), Nai-Han Cheng (bass), Yu-Hsin Chang (drumset). TBD.

Upcoming premiere: *A Love Supreme—Part 1: Acknowledgement.* Composed by John Coltrane. Artist: Jonathan Embry (organ). Cathedral of St. Helena, Helena, Montana, TBD.

Upcoming premiere: *Suite “For Love, For Our Passion.”* Artists: Theresa Chen (piano), Jonathan Embry (organ). TBD.

*The Red Egg.* Composed by Yu-Hsien Deng. Artist: Fen-Fang Chen (piano). Anne MacGregor Jenkins Recital Hall, Florida Southern College, Lakeland, Florida, 03/2020

*Island’s Sunrise.* Composed by Sam Yang. Artists: Chien-Chien Lu (vibraphone), Nick Abelgore (trombone), Jeff Stockham (trumpet), Theresa Chen (piano), Darryl Pugh (bass), Nicole Wen-Ting Wu (drumset). Shemin Auditorium, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, 02/2020

*Echo.* Artists: Chien-Chien Lu (vibraphone), Nick Abelgore (trombone), Jeff Stockham (trumpet), Theresa Chen (piano), Darryl Pugh (bass), Nicole Wen-Ting Wu (drumset). Shemin Auditorium, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, 02/2020

*The Mountain Train in the Misty Moonlight.* Artists: Morton Schiff Jazz Ensemble. Director: Dr. John Coggiola. Shemin Auditorium, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, 11/2019

*Silly Me*. Artists: Ingrid Jenson (trumpet), Melissa Gardiner (trombone), Theresa Chen (keyboard) and Byron Cage (drumset). The 443 Social Club & Lounge, Syracuse, New York, 03/2019

*Let’s Go All In.* Composed by Bria Skonberg. Artists: Bria Skonberg (vocal, trumpet) and Morton Schiff Jazz Ensemble. Director: Dr. John Coggiola. Crouse Auditorium, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York. 09/2019

*A Jazz Mass for St. Anne Church*. Artists: Mary Mowers(vocal), Nathan Kay(trumpet/flugelhorn), Theresa Chen(piano), Eugene Bisdikian (bass) and Stephen Morris (drumset). St. Anne Catholic Church, Rochester, New York, 04/2018

*Busyness in Taipei City.* Artists: Colin Gordon (soprano sax), Theresa Chen (piano), Scott Kwiatek (bass) and Stephen Morris (drumset). Ray Wright Room, Eastman School of Music, Rochester, New York, 02/2018

*Suite for Lent.* Artists: Colin Gordon (alto sax), Kenny Nunn (tenor sax and clarinet), Drew Voghel (baritone sax), Charlie Carr (trumpet), Adrian Eldridge (trombone), Theresa Chen (piano), Taylor Kroma (bass) and George Darrah (drumset). Hatch Recital Hall, Eastman School of Music, Rochester, New York, 04/2017

*Lonely Moments.* Composed by Mary Lou Williams. Artists: Colin Gordon (alto sax), Kenny Nunn (tenor sax and clarinet), Charlie Carr (trumpet), Adrian Eldridge (trombone), Theresa Chen (piano), Taylor Kroma (bass) and George Darrah (drumset). Hatch Recital Hall, Eastman School of Music, Rochester, New York, 04/2017

*The Song of Taibalang.* Artists: Colin Gordon (soprano sax), Ben Britton (tenor sax), Charlie Carr (trumpet), Aaron Eckert (trombone), Theresa Chen (piano), Jakob Ebers (bass), Chase Ellison (drumset), Angela Xing and Yuan-Ju Liu (violin), Chanelle Huang (Viola) and Nadine Sherman (cello). Hatch Recital Hall, Eastman School of Music, Rochester, New York, 03/2015

*Eagle Drive.* Artists: Allen Peng (alto sax), Cheng-Hsien Huang (trumpet), Jia-Hao Hsu (trombone), Theresa Chen (piano), Chun-Chuan Hu (bass) and Catherine Chen (drumset). Concert Hall at National Taiwan Normal University, Taipei, Taiwan, 05/2013

*Latin Ferry* and *Fantasy on a Theme of Flowers in the Rainy Night.* Artists: Chia-Fen Tsai (flute), Chung-Da Huang (piano), Shan-Wei Chen (bass), and Yu-Hsiang Lin (drumset). Fifth Asia Flutists Federation Congress. Concert Hall at the Taipei National University of the Arts, Taipei, Taiwan, 12/2012

**PRESENTATIONS, MASTERCLASSES, ONLINE FORUMS AND INVITED LECTURES**

**Online Forums**

East Tennessee State University *“Writing A Jazz Standard: Some Basics”* February 15, 2021

Florida Southern College *“A Brief History of Instrumental Women in Jazz”* October 21, 2020

Second Annual Sacred Music Webinar Series *“Music and My Faith”* August 5, 2020

Taiwanese Jazz Musician Forum *“Jazz Education in Taiwan and US—How to Improve Our Existing Teaching System? ”* July 28, 2020

Taiwanese Jazz Musician Forum *“Pedagogy of Jazz History: Finding the Answer to the Question of ‘What is Jazz?’”* July 9, 2020

**Poster Session**

*Willow Weep for Me: A Closer Look at Marian McPartland's Solo Piano Style*, Jazz Education Network Conference, Galt House Hotel, Louisville, KY, January 8, 2016.

**Lectures and Presentations**

*Free Improvisation in Marian McPartland’s ‘Portraits*,’ Jazz Education Network Conference, Hyatt Regency, New Orleans, LA, January 8, 2020.

*Modal Improvisation and Basic Hymn Harmonization Techniques*,Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Taipei, Taiwan, December 21st, 2019

*Improvising and Accompanying Techniques in Catholic Church Services*,Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Taipei, Taiwan, July 27th, 2019

*A Brief History of Instrumental Women in Jazz*, Sizhukong Institute, Taipei, Taiwan, August 6, 2017.

*The Relationship between Jazz and Classical Music Improvisation*, Ching-Shuei Senior High School, Taichung, Taiwan, July 26, 2017.

*Advanced Jazz Harmony, Arranging and Compositional Techniques based on Messiaen, Milton Babbit and Schoenberg*, Center of Pop Music, Tainan Cultural and Creative Park, Tainan, Taiwan, July 23, 2017.

*Willow Weep for Me: A Closer Look at Marian McPartland's Solo Piano Style*, Intersection of Jazz and Classical Music Piano Festival, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV, USA, June 4, 2017.

Rhythm Alley Lectures, Taipei, Taiwan, July 13, 27 and August 3. 2015.

*Effective Ways of Practicing Improvisation in Bebop Style—Fundamentals of Creative Ideas*, Madker Café & Bar, Kaohsiung, Taiwan, May 30, 2015, National Taiwan Normal University, Taipei, Taiwan, May 26, 2015.

*Early Jazz Piano Style*, National Taiwan Normal University and Sizhukong Institute, Taipei, Taiwan, June 9-10, 2014.

**Masterclasses**

*Basic Jazz Composition and Arranging,* Ching-Shui Senior High School, Taichung, Taiwan, August 1, 2019

*Rhythm Section Master Class*, KoSwing Big Band, Tainan, Taiwan, July 11, 2019.

*Modal and Blues Improvisation Master Class*, Ching-Shui Senior High School, Taichung, Taiwan, June 21, 2019

*Organ Improvisation Master Class*, Dongmen Prebysterian Church, Taipei, Taiwan, May 30-June 13, 2019.

*New Orlean Dixieland Combo Master Class*, Center of Pop Music, Tainan Cultural and Creative Part, Tainan, Taiwan, July 22, 2017.

*Rhythm Section Master Class*, National Cheng-Gong University, Taipei, Taiwan, May 17-31, 2014.

**AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

DownBeat Student Music Awards Outstanding Arrangement—Small Ensemble, Graduate College, 2018

First Place, James Miltenberger Jazz Piano Competition, Morgantown, WV, 2017

DownBeat Student Music Awards Outstanding Composition, Original Composition—Small Ensemble, Graduate College, 2017

Rayburn Wright Jazz Recognition Fund, Eastman School of Music, 2016-2017

Kohei & Iwa Watanabe Scholarship, Eastman School of Music, 2013-2017

Eastman Teaching Assistant Award, Eastman School of Music, 2013-2017

Marian McPartland Endowed Fellowship, Eastman School of Music, 2013-2017

**PUBLICATIONS**

Theresa Chen, “A Blessed Hope in Jazz Education,” WIJAZZ 2 (February 2016): 49-53.

Theresa Chen, "Discovering the Musical Personality of Art Tatum from the Solo on Willow Weep for Me," Yueh-Yuan 37 (June 2014): 72-77.

Theresa Chen, "The Potential of Jazz Education in Music Colleges in Taiwan," Yueh-Yuan 35 (April 2012): 108-113.

Theresa Chen, "The Art of Improvisation in Jazz," Yueh-Yuan 34 (December 2011): 92-93.

Theresa Chen, "Discussion on Bill Evans' Style through Exploration on Impressionism," Yueh-Yuan 34 (December 2011): 84-86.

**Collaborative Publication:**

“Latin Ferry” and “Fantasy on a Theme of Flowers in the Rainy Night” from Chia-Fen Tsai, *The Sound of Antigua: Classic Taiwanese Folk Songs for Flute,* © 2013 by Dixon Foundation for Cultural and Art.

**REFERENCES FOR RECOMMENDATION LETTERS:**

**Dr. Dariusz Terefenko**, Associate Professor of Jazz Studies and Contemporary Media,

Eastman School of Music, 26 Gibbs Street, Rochester, NY 14604

(585) 274-1025

dterefenko@esm.rochester.edu

Relationship: Adviser of Advanced Certificate in the Art of Improvisation program, 5 years

**Prof. Bill Dobbins**, Professor of Jazz Studies and Contemporary Media,

Eastman School of Music, 26 Gibbs Street, Rochester, NY 14604

(585) 274-1431

bdobbins@esm.rochester.edu

Relationship: Jazz composition/arranging instructor, 5 years

**Dr. Jeffrey Benatar,**

Assistant Professor of Music, Director of Jazz Studies/Coordinator of Music Management

Florida Southern College, 111 Lake Hollingsworth Drive, Lakeland, FL 33801

(614)218-1849

jbenatar@flsouthern.edu

Relationship: Doctoral colleague at Eastman School of Music’s jazz program (3 years)

**ADDITIONAL REFERENCES TO BE CONTACTED:**

**Dr. Shigefumi Tomita,** Assistant Professor (String Bass, Jazz)

University of Massachusetts—Amherst,

273E Fine Arts Center, 151 Presidents Drive, Amherst, MA 01003

(646)734-0235

[stomita@music.umass.edu](mailto:stomita@music.umass.edu)

Relationship: Doctoral colleague at Eastman School of Music’s jazz program (3 years)

**Mr. Vincent Lenti,** Emeritus Professor of Piano,

Eastman School of Music, 762 Hightower Way, Webster, NY 14580

585-571-4363

[vlenti@rochester.rr.com](mailto:vlenti@rochester.rr.com)

Relationship: Classical piano instructor, 5 years