2026 UMTA State Conference — Schedule

FRIDAY

7:30–7:50 Registration

8:00–8:20** Welcome **- Shawn Bastian, NCTM

8:20–9:20** Keynote **– Jenny Oaks Baker: Creativity, Hard Work & Inspiration

Garden Room	Pine Room	Oak/Maple Room
9:30–10:30 ***Jensina Oliver*** Maestro! Cultivating Rhythmic Artistry	**9:30-10:20 Caroline Jennings** AIM to Connect: An introduction to UMTA's 10-level	**9:30-9:55** ***Jenny Song*** Reflections in Sound: Water Imagery in Debussy's Reflets dans l'eau and Ravel's Jeux d'eau
		10:00–10:25 ***Jenny Boster*** Piano Music of America
***10:30–11:00** — Visit Exhibits*		
11:00–11:50 ***Jason Cassel*** How Mozart Tuned His Piano	**11:00–11:50** ***Ashlee Leonard*** UMTA & You: Q&A	**11:00–11:50** ***Audry Ricks & Cahill Smith*** "Level Up" Your AIM Prep: Introducing new video games designed specifically for AIM!
***12:00–1:00** — Lunch with your Chapter*		
1:00–1:50 ***Houston Hill*** The Singing Brain: The Neurological Magic	**1:00-1:50 Rich Parkinson - Piano Gallery** Using Today's Technology to Introduce Core Elements of Songwriting and Composition (Showcase)	**1:00-1:50** ***Michelle Sisler – Keys to Imagination*** Music Games in Action (Showcase)
2:00–2:50 ***Jared Pierce*** How to Boost Your Improv Skills: 6 Easy Steps	**2:00–2:50** ***Shelle Soelberg*** Beyond Notation	**2:00–2:50** ***Michelle Sisler & Shana Kirk*** Immersive & Multimedia Ideas for Your Studio
***3:00–3:30** — Visit Exhibits*		
3:30–5:00 ***Jensina Oliver & Kay Zavislak*** Collegiate Masterclass	**3:30–4:20** ***Aaron Garner – Piano Marvel*** Duets and Ensembles for Your Students	**3:30–4:20** ***Christie Sowby*** The Copying Conundrum: Sheet Music and Copyright
	4:30–4:55 ***Emilie Blake*** Certification is for you!	**4:30–5:20** ***Eric Barnhill*** Keeping group piano classes on the edge of their seats
5:00–6:30 Banquet Setup (90 minutes)	**5:00–5:50** ***Ashlee Leonard*** The Imposter Case Files	***5:30-6:30 Banquet Artists Warm-up***

6:30–8:30 — Awards Banquet and Concert – Duo Cascadia (Jensina Oliver & Kay Zavislak)

SATURDAY

Garden Room	Pine Room	Oak/Maple Room
	7:00–7:50 State Board Meeting	
8:00–8:25 ***Laurisa Cope*** Composer Commission: Natural Wonder: A Musical Quilt for Utah	**8:30–8:55** ***Jenny Boster*** Teaching Memorization with Intention	**8:00–8:50** ***Penny Eads*** Tai Chi Gung Standing Exercises
8:30–8:55 ***Sasha Kasman Laude & William Tegtmeier*** The Virtuoso Pianist's Guide to Creating a Piano Transcription		
9:00–10:00 ***Kay Zavislak*** From the Land of the Rising Sun: Introduction to Japanese Composers	**9:00–9:50** ***Laurie Swain – Desert Sunrise Publications*** Beyond the 88: Unlocking the Organ for Your Piano Students (Showcase)	**9:00–9:50** ***Brandon Bascom*** Connecting with Students through Teaching Harmonizing, Arranging and Composition in Your Studio
***10:00–10:30** — Visit Exhibits*		
10:30–11:20 ***Eunjin Kim*** Understanding and Managing Performance-Related Musculoskeletal Disorders for Keyboard Players	**10:30–10:55** ***Carlin Troska*** Utilizing Music Therapy Techniques to Teach Piano to Students with Autism	**10:30–10:55** ***William Tegtmeier*** Folding Melodies: Transforming Origami into Music
	11:00–11:25 ***Ally Yardley*** Musical Engagement and Emotional Development in Children	**11:00–11:50** ***Juliet Gamero-Preston*** Mapping Strategies for Efficient Movement in Challenging Passagework
11:30-11:55 ***Laurissa Neuenschwander*** Teaching Intermediate Pianists to Create Their Own Hymn Arrangements	**11:30–11:55** ***Brooke Ballard*** Feeling Music First: Flipping the Script on Notation	
	***12:00–1:00** — Lunch with your Chapter*	**12:00–12:50 Duet Derby**
1:00–2:00 ***Jensina Oliver & Kay Zavislak*** Intermediate Masterclass	**1:00–1:25** ***Christopher Reil*** Demystifying Atonality: Pedagogical Approaches to Original Intermediate-Level Piano Music	**1:00–1:25** University Share Set Up
	1:30–1:55 Carrie Campbell- RCM RCM Certificate Program: Demystifying the Exam Experience (Showcase)	**1:30–2:50** **University Share**
2:10–3:00 ***Fabio Menchetti*** Ligeti's Musica Ricercata: Between Personal Search and Protest	**2:00–2:50** ***Caroline Jennings*** The AIM Roadmap: Navigating Levels, Resources, and Evaluation	

3:00–3:30 Final Drawings and Closing Remarks – Shawn Bastian, NCTM

4:00–5:30 Student Reception