

IMTA Teacher of Year nomination -- Kate Boyd

It is my pleasure to nominate Dr. Kate Boyd for IMTA Teacher of the Year. While Kate has achieved many professional accomplishments, I believe that the strength of this nomination lies in the personal connection and impact that she has had on her students. Primarily a teacher of university students, I regularly hear from these students about the strength of their teacher-student relationship and the personal attention that she provides. Here are a few first-hand accounts from recent graduates:

"I had the fortune of studying with Dr. Kate Boyd for four years during my BM Piano Performance degree at Butler University. She is an exceptional musician with no ego, and a masterful teacher. We have stayed in touch since my graduation --just recently I drove to Indianapolis to see her play a recital. Dr. Boyd's teaching style is student-focused and it was clear to be from my first few lessons to her. Upon entering college, I was a person who continually compared myself to others. None of that mattered in Dr. Boyd's studio. Her only focus was to train my highest potential--something at which I believe she succeeded. There was a high level of rigor in my time as a student of Dr. Boyd, yet an equally high level of understanding and personalized support. Other students have observed her ability to strike this balance as well so I know it's not an individual observation. She is more than deserving of the IMTA Teacher of the Year Award."

"Kate Boyd has had such a tremendous impact on my life as a musician, and as a person. Dr. Boyd consistently exhibited deep commitment to musical excellence in lessons and in her own performance. She holds her students to high standards and pushes their musical horizons beyond where they themselves thought possible; at the same time, she is also compassionate and caring, readily allow students to open up and discuss personal concerns when necessary. Dr. Boyd regularly goes above and beyond. When I was preparing for DMA auditions, she readily gave of her free time, including weekends, to meeting for additional lessons and offering personal encouragement in order to make sure I was prepared. Three years into my doctorate, I still keep in contact with her and even call her for advice. Dr. Boyd exemplifies the ideals of the Indiana Music Teachers Association, and she is a highly deserving candidate for Teacher of the Year."

"Dr. Boyd was not only an excellent piano teacher, but was also supportive of our personal endeavors. When I made the switch to focusing on composition, she was interested in the possible connections and integrations that could be applied to regular lessons. I think it's important that she supported interdisciplinary endeavors and understood their impact. As well, she was very attuned to our personal lives, moods, and circumstances and was able to effectively alter her own teaching style in consideration of the situations we encountered."

Recent professional accomplishments include:

- Recently promoted to Full Professor at Butler University
- Recognized as Outstanding Professor of the Year by Butler University for 2016-17
- 2019 – named chair of the piano area for Interlochen Arts Camp, after serving many years as summer camp faculty.
- Founder and curator of the Piano at Butler recital series for ten years
- Recognized at Butler for use of technology in teaching, including Panopto video recording platform to create an ongoing digital dialogue with students between lessons
- Ongoing, active performer and advocate for contemporary music; numerous world premieres; has appeared as a soloist with each of Butler's large ensembles in performances ranging from Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy* to Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*.

IMTA service includes:

- founding advisor of the Butler MTNA Collegiate Chapter, and co-advisor since 2007
- founding advisor of new student organization (2019) at Butler -- Piano Club, which focuses on performance opportunities (vs the teaching emphasis of MTNA Collegiate Chapter)
- chair of Hoosier Auditions
- state conference chair
- state conference artist with Oracle Trio

FULL BIO available at:

<https://www.butler.edu/directory/user/kboyd>