

Dear IMTA,

It is with great enthusiasm that we, the MTNA at IU Collegiate Chapter, nominate Dr. David Cartledge for consideration for the 2020 IMTA Teacher Award of the Year.

As co-chair of the Jacobs School of Music Department of Piano, coordinator of the Secondary Piano program, and instructor of piano literature classes for master's and doctoral students, David Cartledge provides exceptional care, support, and assistance to piano faculty and students, the graduate students that teach as Associate Instructors in the secondary piano program, and the over 850 Indiana University students that take secondary piano each semester. His thorough attention to detail and high-level organizational and communication skills have been truly indispensable in ensuring that such a large piano department--with so many students, faculty, auditions, competitions, and juries--functions as smoothly as it does.

As the coordinator of the Secondary Piano program, Dr. Cartledge has designed and supervised the curriculum for dozens of group piano classes for both music majors and non-majors, creating not only the syllabus for in-person instruction (pre-COVID), but also instructional videos and quizzes for the online component of these classes. He strongly values inclusion and equity in these classes and in private lessons, working closely and proactively with the IU Office of Disability Services for Students and with the Associate Instructors under his supervision to work out accommodations for students who may need them. One such student expressed appreciation for Dr. Cartledge's flexibility and willingness to work with her needs, noting that his attentiveness stood out in her experience with other departments. In the dozens of hours of proficiency exams and juries that he proctors at the end of each semester, Dr. Cartledge has shown himself to be someone who prioritizes students' well-being, taking the time to be patient, careful, clear, and helpful when evaluating each student. Recently, due to the pandemic, Dr. Cartledge has reworked all curriculum for remote instruction to ensure the safety of both Associate Instructors and their students. He has also gone to great lengths to organize safe spaces for all Associate Instructors to teach on campus, if they choose to do so.

As a piano teacher of one-on-one lessons, Dr. Cartledge has demonstrated himself to be positive and detailed, providing students with practical guidance on technique in addition to a broad, holistic perspective on music and life. One such student writes: "Dr. Cartledge has been a guiding and profound influence on my musical life. As a teacher, he has inspired me to work harder and strive to be the best that I can be. His lessons are always filled with detailed observations and insightful advice. He has always guided me in looking at piano as not just instrument-specific, but as part of music and life as a whole. A lesson with him can draw relevant connections from piano music to a variety of topics, from physics to opera, history, and

beyond. His wisdom, his demonstrations, and his positive attitude have all helped me immensely, not just as a pianist or musician, but also as a human being.”

In addition to managing the secondary piano program and teaching private lessons, Dr. Cartledge also teaches core keyboard literature classes for master’s and doctoral students. His curriculum is thorough, thoughtful, and comprehensive, providing piano majors with a solid foundational understanding of the breadth of their canonical repertoire. In addition, Dr. Cartledge is an important contributor to the pedagogical world, maintaining active memberships at MTNA, NCKP, CMS, and more, whilst regularly presenting at conferences and participating in panel discussions throughout the country

Dr. Cartledge has been a vital figure in the formation of the MTNA Collegiate Chapter at IU, working closely with the founding president to write the chapter’s constitution and to set up the chapter in a way that adheres to the mission of the larger MTNA organization and Indiana University’s criteria for student organizations. As the MTNA Collegiate Chapter’s faculty advisor, he has always supported and facilitated the chapter’s projects and ideas, while also respecting their autonomy in their visions and goals.

It is with the utmost enthusiasm that we, the MTNA at IU Collegiate Chapter, nominate Dr. David Cartledge for this award. Thank you for your consideration.