

Nomination for IMTA Teacher of the Year

Christina Whitlock (by Amy Chaplin)

I would like for the committee to strongly consider Christina Whitlock for the *2022 IMTA Teacher of the Year*. Christina has been teaching piano since age 14 and is one of the best cheerleaders for the profession I have ever known.

Christina has built a vibrant and thriving piano studio over the past 20-plus years, becoming one of the most sought-after independent studios in the Muncie area. Peaking at more than 45 students in recent years and maintaining a waiting list, she has proven herself to be not only an excellent teacher but more importantly, a “carer of people.” Her self-proclaimed #1 reason that piano lessons are important is not just about music, but about the relationship that is developed through the process - displaying an incredible amount of love, devotion, and attachment to her students.

In August 2020, Christina launched a podcast for piano teachers called “[Beyond Measure with Christina Whitlock](#)” which quickly rose to one of the most popular podcasts out there for piano teachers. With more than 15,000 downloads and counting, the independent teacher community quickly embraced her light-hearted, upbeat, unique, and down-to-earth musings. Here are just a few reviews:

In every single episode, I've had something in teaching reframed in a positive way, I've felt relief that I'm not alone (and crazy!) in experiencing issues with the topic of the day, and I've been motivated to rethink some teaching and mindset approaches, and I've smiled multiple times because Christina's laugh is contagious!

This is a refreshing piano teaching podcast with gems from years of experience. I love the happy tone and frankness. I also appreciate her openness to other ideas and acknowledging others.

When I found this podcast it was like reconnecting with a long-lost friend. I find I have so much in common with Christina and every episode so far has been like having coffee with a teacher friend. I have come away with new ideas for my teaching and a reassurance that I am in the right profession for me.

Besides her studio and podcast, Christina recently launched a [consulting service](#) for teachers. She is a sought-after [presenter](#) for local groups and frequently presents at the state and national levels. If that wasn't all, Christina runs the undergraduate Piano Pedagogy Program at Taylor University and currently serves as Recording Secretary and Chair of the Trustees and on the IMTA State Board, having filled a variety of roles in the past 15 or so years including President.

I'm so blessed to have her not only as a colleague but as a dear friend and I can think of no one else in this moment more worthy of this award than Christina!