

Ingrid Clarfield MEA Lifetime Achievement Presentation
April 8, 2018

presented by Charlene Step at the MEA-NJ Gala, Drew University

I first met Ingrid Clarfield 20 years ago when Dan Crisci and I were in Westminster Choir College's Piano Pedagogy Program. No longer offered, it was touted as one of the best programs of its kind in the U.S.

We encountered many wonderful teachers. But the most enthusiastic, innovative and dynamic piano teacher I'd ever met was Ingrid. One class with Ingrid Clarfield and the image of the "piano teacher" was forever shattered! She taught teachers how to approach music in new ways and her classroom presentations were always lively. The series of books that evolved from her experiences, for example, *From Mystery to Mastery*, presented an urtext score, a workout score and an "artistic" performance score: a step-by-step approach that became the teacher's best friend.

Her other collections, great resources co-authored with such notables as Dennis Alexander and Phyllis Lehrer, have also become standards in the piano studio: the most recent series — *Classics for the Developing Pianist with Study Guides*.

As Professor of Piano and Coordinator of the Piano Division at Westminster, Ingrid teaches college-level students who have won top honors in state, national and international competitions. Many have performed in concert halls in NYC, the Kennedy Center in Washington,

D.C. and in Beijing, China. She still directs Westminster's Piano Week for High School students, and maintains her own independent studio.

She also partnered with Lillian Livingston, giving duet and duo performances for years. Lillian, incidentally, was a long-standing MEA member until just recently.

Beyond Princeton, Ingrid has given lecture-recitals, workshops and master classes in more than 150 cities in 40 states across North America. She has made presentations and directed pedagogy sessions at MTNA conferences, the National Conference of Keyboard Pedagogy, the Van Cliburn Institute, and the World Piano Pedagogy Conference, among others. She just returned from the MTNA Conference in Florida and gave a presentation titled: "Keeping the Spark Alive after 50 years: Teaching Tips from A to Z." We hope she'll share these with us at an MEA meeting!

In recognition of her outstanding contributions to the teaching profession, Ingrid was selected in 2006 as an MTNA Foundation Fellow. In 2009, she received the Teacher of the Year Award from the NJMTA, and in 2012, the prestigious Teacher of the Year Award from the MTNA. A Lifetime Achievement Award was bestowed on her in 2015 by the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy (NCKP). And in 2017, for her inspiration and tenacity in overcoming the effects of a debilitating stroke thru the love of music, she received the first-ever Jacobs Music – Al C. Rinaldi Lifetime Achievement Award.

Today in 2018, the Music Educators Association of NJ is proud to present our Lifetime Achievement Award to Ingrid Clarfield, an MEA

member for over 40 years, for your lasting contributions to piano pedagogy and for the inspiring life lessons learned through music that you've shown us.



Congratulations, Ingrid!