



Ms. Eden Esters Brown

Adjudicator #1

Eden Esters Brown, NCTM, is a pianist and independent music teacher in Elon, NC. Raised in New Jersey, she received classical and jazz training from the late, Mr. Morris Nanton, a nationally renowned jazz artist and Julliard graduate. She holds a B.A. in Piano Performance from Elon University, and a Master of Music in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from Louisiana State University.

Eden currently serves on the music faculty at Elon University where she teaches applied piano to non-piano music majors and non-majors, as well as class piano and piano pedagogy. Eden is experienced in teaching students of all ages and ability levels, in private and group settings; however, she has a special affinity towards pre-college children and youth. Her professional affiliations include the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) with national certification, Pi Kappa Lambda national music honor society, and the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. Eden is the current Piano Section chair for the North Carolina Music Teachers Association.

Eden has a thriving private studio of beginner and intermediate students based in Elon, NC since 2009, and she is committed to cultivating the arts in Alamance County. She directs the Children's Music and Handbells program at Elon Community Church, which includes a preschool Musikgarten class. Making and sharing music is a true passion, and she is dedicated to increasing the availability of classical music training for children and families of all socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds.



Dr. Paula D. Harrell

Adjudicator #2

Paula D. Harrell received the B.A. in Music Education from North Carolina Central University, the first student to present two senior honors recitals in organ and piano. She earned the Master of Music degree in Sacred Music and Organ from The Ohio State University and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Organ Performance from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She is the first African-American woman to earn the DMA degree in organ performance. Dr. Harrell has served as organist for churches in North Carolina and Ohio, and is active as a recitalist. Dr. Harrell began her professional

career as an elementary school music teacher in Fairmont, NC, She later served on the faculty at North Carolina A&T State University as Piano Instructor where she also accompanied the University Choir.

Dr. Harrell is a retired Chair of the Department of Music at North Carolina Central University where she served as University Organist, University Choir accompanist, Music Education coordinator, and coordinator/professor of the Sacred Music program. She also taught piano, organ and handbells. Dr. Harrell presently serves as organ accompanist for the North Carolina A&T State University Choir. She also serves as organist at the White Rock Baptist Church in Durham, NC where she also directs the JuBellate Handbell Choir.



Dr. Gregory Thompson

Adjudicator #3

Pianist, Gregory Thompson, has been praised by The New York Times for his "intuitive feeling for phrase shapes" and his ability to "make a melodic line sing and inflect it with delicate rubato effects". He has performed as a solo and collaborative artist in the United States, Europe, and Asia in such venues as Carnegie Hall in New York, Schloss Leopoldskron, Marmolle Hall, and the Steinway Gallerie in Salzburg, Austria. He has also been recitalist and collaborative pianist in concert halls and colleges and universities in the U.S., Europe, and Asia.

Dr. Thompson has performed as soloist with orchestras and chamber ensembles in concerti by Bach, Grieg, Franck, Liszt, as well as chamber works by Schumann, Beethoven, Mozart, Shostakovich, Arensky, and others.