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Ohio Music Teacher Receives MTNA MarySue Harris Studio Fellowship

CINCINNATI, OHIO (May 18, 2020)—Karen Zhang of Mason, Ohio, has been honored by Music Teachers National Association as the recipient of the MarySue Harris Studio Teacher Fellowship. This \$3,000 grant, funded by the MarySue Harris Endowment Fund, is presented annually to a recently graduated independent studio music teacher who demonstrates commitment to the music teaching profession and outstanding studio development.



A National Merit Scholarship Finalist and Recipient, Zhang attended the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music on a full scholarship, where she studied with Eugene Pridonoff and Soyeon Kate Lee. While at CCM, she was a winner of the Van Cliburn Scholarship Competition at the College-Conservatory of Music and the Glenn Miller Society Scholarship Competition in Iowa. She was also the first-prize winner of the \$9,400 prize at the Three Arts Scholarship Competition. Zhang has studied in Austria at the Wienermusikseminar with Peter Efler and Wolfgang Watzinger. In 2017, she was one of 23 pianists to be selected for

Pianofest in Hampton, New York, where she shared the stage with the highest level students in the country in numerous concerts. Zhang is one of the youngest students to be selected as a graduate assistant in secondary piano while a master's student at CCM.

Zhang is a passionate teacher, directing her studio Musical Moments with her husband, Korean pianist Jaesung Kim, in Cincinnati. Her students have been winners of the Nathaniel Patch Piano Competition, OhioMTA Auditions Festival, 88 Tri-State Piano Concerto Competition and have been recognized with distinction-level certificates from the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music. Zhang has also taught for the Whiz Kids Music Program, working with teams to put on after-school music programs for at-risk youth in the urban area. She has been invited to teach and perform in numerous pre-colleges and venues in Asia, including the cities of Seoul, Chengdu, Chongqing, Taishan and Beijing.

MarySue Harris, a long-time MTNA member from Nebraska, has devoted her teaching career to nurturing young music students. Her commitment to pedagogy and the beginning music teacher led to her establishment of the MarySue Harris Endowment Fund.

MTNA is a nonprofit organization of some 20,000 independent and collegiate music teachers committed to furthering the art of music through teaching, performance, composition and scholarly research. Founded in 1876, MTNA is the oldest professional music teachers association in the United States.

For additional information, please contact MTNA national headquarters at (888) 512-5278, mtnanet@mtna.org or visit the website at www.mtna.org.

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