

# The Northeastern Music Difference

## Mikayla Hyunkyung Jang

Master of Arts in Applied Music Pedagogy '22



**Areas of Study:** Piano and Violin

**Hometown:** Busan, South Korea

**Pre-NEIU School or Academic**

**Institution:** Harold Washington City College of Chicago

**Where did you live while studying at NEIU:** Edgewater, Chicago

**What outside work were you doing while studying at NEIU:** Community Music Program Piano Teacher

**What brought you to the NEIU Department of Music?** I heard that NEIU had a great education program which led me to audition for the music department.

**What was your most memorable NEIU experience?** My first audition here was the most memorable. This is because I thought that I had performed poorly. So after the audition as I was in the hallway very upset, I met Dr. Susan Tang for the first time. She was very kind and comforting and made me feel confident in my performance.

**What will you miss the most about NEIU?** I will definitely miss being a member of the studio group (for piano and violin). The relationships I have built with the members in each studio group will be unforgettable. It has been a warm and supportive environment all of these years.

**What are your post-graduation plans?** I will focus on teaching piano here in community music programs, and look for more pedagogical training programs.

**Who has been the most instrumental in helping you get to where you are now?**

I have always thought that I have been very fortunate due to the fact that I always had great professors and mentors in my life. But, there is one person who has always supported me and believed in me no matter what, my husband. If my husband wasn't there for me, I wouldn't be able to achieve what I've done so far.

**What surprised you most about your time at NEIU?** I was very surprised that there are many opportunities for students. For example, not a lot of schools give students a chance to perform a concerto with the orchestra. There are also opportunities for professors and students to work together with performance projects.

*Mikayla has been such a positive force in the piano studio since she began as a transfer student. Always with a smile, she has consistently worked towards her goals and took advantage of all the opportunities and resources offered at NEIU. This included teaching in our community music program, playing violin in the orchestra, and to top it off, winning the concerto competition and performing with the NEIU orchestra in Liszt's Totantanz. In the summers she received support to expand her experiences by attending a workshop by Irina Gorin, completing Suzuki piano certification, and working as an intern with the Chicago Chamber Music Festival. We are so proud of all she has accomplished as she graduates with a M.A. in Piano Pedagogy and know she will continue to do great things in the music world!*

-Dr. Susan Tang, associate professor of piano



Department of Music

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