

About the Artist

Dr. Jody Graves maintains an exciting, diverse and active performing career, and is recognized nationally and internationally as a distinguished concert solo artist, collaborative pianist and teacher of piano. Her recital engagements as a solo artist and collaborative pianist take her across the United States and abroad. In 2019 she was honored with a Distinguished Service Award from the **National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy** and in October 2019 she was inducted into the **Steinway Piano Teacher Hall of Fame** by the Steinway Company in New York. Jody was named as in 2021 **MTNA Foundation Fellow** and was honored for her contributions to the music field at the national **MTNA Conference** in 2022.

She has performed concerts in Europe, Asia, South America, and the Middle East regions where she has served as a **Cultural Ambassador for the U.S. State Department**. Jody is the pianist with the acclaimed Sapphire Trio and their Middle East Tours have included concerts in Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, Jerusalem, Ramallah, and many more. The press reviews have called their performances **“exciting...imaginative and compelling.”** and the Ambassadors’ report to the White House named their 2006 concert series as the ‘Number One’ cultural exchange for that year. Her work in the Middle East since then has continued, serving as a judge for the National Palestinian Piano Festival in Jerusalem, and following that event touring the West Bank region performing concerts and giving master classes. She returned to the Middle East for concert tours and master classes in 2011, and again in 2012 which included teaching at the Edward Said Conservatory in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Ramallah and Nablus.

In 2016 Jody performed concerts and gave master classes in Bogota and Medellin, Colombia, returned to Colombia as a featured guest artist for the Music Festival at the Universidad del Norte in Barranquilla in 2018, and is a planned guest artist in 2024.

Dr. Graves is in great demand as an adjudicator for piano competitions and festivals and she has an active schedule each year as a workshop presenter for teachers. Jody has been a presenter and Keynote Speaker at the **National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy**, has been a presenter and performer at numerous **State and National MTNA** conferences such as the National MTNA Conference (*Kansas City, Seattle, Milwaukee, San Antonio, Las Vegas, etc.*) and has been the invited guest artist/clinician for the Utah State, Idaho State and Montana State MTNA conferences. Dr. Graves has served as a judge for the **International Piano Competition** at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, has authored articles for the **American Music Teacher** and **Clavier** magazines, and has served on the editorial board for the **AMT** e-journal. She served as the NW Division Director and on the national board of directors for the **Music Teachers National Association 2020-22**.

Her 4th recording CD project '**ANANDA – Notes from the Heart**' features the music of Brahms, Liszt, Berg, Copland and others. She performs solo and chamber recitals across the country, and has been a featured performing artist on many public radio programs. Jody has been a soloist with the Spokane Symphony, Butte Symphony, Wenatchee Valley Symphony, and featured with the Spokane Jazz Orchestra in the 2022-23 season in the original scoring of Gershwin's '*Rhapsody in Blue*'. She is the guest soloist with the Mid-Columbia Symphony in 2024 playing the Ravel G major piano concerto.

Dr. Graves also offers her popular "Artists' Retreat" seminars, titled "The Heart of Performance" addressing everything from the issues of stage delivery, teaching and performing with intention, to living a balanced and joyful artistic life. Jody is especially interested in promoting concert art music, creating unique and contemporary ways to foster a collaborative experience between artist and listener, and is dedicated to maintaining the life of music in our schools and culture. Jody is recognized for her creative ability to engage the audience during her concerts with anecdotes, historical perspectives, and humor, and often uses multi-media to highlight the musical works. The press once referred to her as "***Victoria Borge***".

She holds a Doctorate Degree in Piano Performance and Literature from the Eastman School of Music Conservatory in Rochester, New York and is currently the **Director of Music Programs and Professor of Piano Performance Studies at Eastern Washington University**.