

# Senior Piano Adjudicator – Connor O’Kane

Known for his versatility, pianist Connor O’Kane is a highly sought-after soloist, chamber musician, vocal coach, conductor, and pedagogue. As a soloist, he has appeared with the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony under the baton of Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser, and is a prizewinner at several competitions and festivals, including the CMC Stepping Stone in 2022. He has been featured at Ottawa’s Chamberfest, Lyon’s Tempo Vivace Festival, Western University’s Faculty Concert Series, and the Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber Music Society.

A passionate collaborative musician with an affinity for opera, Connor is the assistant conductor of Western University’s opera program, a position he has held since 2019. During this period, he has helped shape ten full opera productions, including the March 2023 run of Verdi’s *Falstaff*. He has worked alongside many acclaimed opera conductors including Alain Trudel, Simone Luti, Tyrone Paterson, and Leslie De’Ath. Connor is also an avid chamber musician and has collaborated with musicians across the globe, including the Lyon-based improvisation collective *Si noir que bleu*.

Connor is in the final stages of a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in piano performance at Western University, in the studio of Stéphan Sylvestre. His research has earned him several grants and scholarships including the SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship. Connor’s previous teachers include David Jalbert, Heather Taves, Manuel Schweizer, and Joan Walker. Connor holds an ARCT in piano performance and a Kodaly teaching certificate. He is particularly fond of adjudicating music festivals and sharing musical ideas with aspiring young musicians.