

**Michelle Wachter** is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Piano Pedagogy at the University of South Carolina. An avid performer and musical collaborator, Michelle accompanies both vocalists and instrumentalists, and she is a frequent adjudicator at festivals and competitions across South Carolina. Michelle teaches undergraduate group piano classes at USC, as well as private piano lessons through the Community Music School. She previously served as president of the Music Teachers National Association Collegiate Chapter at USC.

Dedicated to excellence in research and pedagogy, Michelle won the William H. Nolte Graduate Assistant Teaching Award in Music and the LeDare Robinson Graduate Award for Academic Excellence at the University of South Carolina. She has presented at the Music Teachers National Association National Conference, the College Music Society Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference, and the South Carolina Music Educators Association Conference. Her article “Chamber Music for the Elementary and Intermediate Student” recently appeared in the *Clavier Companion* online journal as the runner-up essay of the 2011 *Clavier Companion* Collegiate Writing Contest.

Michelle also works at South Carolina ETV Radio, where she produces and hosts a weekly show, *Legacy of Opera*, which comments on the widespread influences of operatic music.

Michelle currently studies piano with Joseph Rackers and piano pedagogy with Scott Price. She holds a Masters degree in Piano Performance from the University of South Carolina, as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree in both Music and English from Messiah College in Grantham, Pennsylvania, where her professors included Rebecca Wilt and Ya-Ting Chang.