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## Music Student Multicultural Association's Music and Disability Convocation, April 15, 2023

Illinois State University School of Music

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### Recommended Citation

Illinois State University School of Music, "Music Student Multicultural Association's Music and Disability Convocation, April 15, 2023" (2023). *School of Music Programs*. 4920.

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**Illinois State University  
Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts  
School of Music**

## **Event Schedule & Program**

1:00 -1:45 p.m.	<i>Disability Justice</i>	Dr. Catherine Lewis
2:00 -2:45 p.m.	<i>No Shame in the Kane</i>	Andy Slater
3:00 -3:45 p.m.	<i>Access and the Arts</i>	Dr. Catherine Lewis
4:00 - 4:45 p.m.	<i>Panel Discussion</i>	Molly Joyce, Dr. Catherine Lewis, and Andy Slater

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## **Music Student Multicultural Association's Music and Disability Convocation**

**Featuring Guest Artists  
Molly Joyce, Catherine Lewis, and  
Andy Slater**

*Sponsored by the Harold K. Sage Foundation,  
the Illinois State University Foundation Fund,  
and the School of Music*

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**Center for Performing Arts  
April 15, 2023  
Saturday Afternoon  
1:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

### **Convocation Recital**

5:00 p.m.

Opening Remarks by MSMA Officers

August 1999 (2023)	Molly Joyce (born 1992)
Weakness (2020)	Molly Joyce
Crip (2023)	Molly Joyce
Grito del Corazon (2001)	Judith Shatin (born 1949)

Katherine Freimuth, *trumpet*  
Kirsten Townander, *flute*  
Trent Nolin, *clarinet*

Electroacoustic Improvisation for multiple white canes	Andy Slater (born 1975)
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**This is the one hundred and fifty-fifth program of the 2022-2023 season.**

## Biographies

**Molly Joyce** has been deemed one of the “most versatile, prolific and intriguing composers working under the vast new-music dome” by *The Washington Post*. Her music has additionally been described as “serene power” (*New York Times*), written to “superb effect” (*The Wire*), and “unwavering” and “enveloping” (*Vulture*). Her work is concerned with disability as a creative source. She has an impaired left hand from a previous car accident, and the primary vehicle in her pursuit is her electric vintage toy organ, an instrument she bought on eBay which engages her disability on a compositional and performative level.

**Dr. Catherine Lewis** serves as Director of Disability Services at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), where she is honored to lead a socially just team committed to ensuring Disabled students have equitable access and empowered experiences in higher education. Having worked in higher education for over a decade, Dr. Lewis is committed to the idea that access matters in all aspects of the college experience and has held accessibility-focused leadership roles in college admissions and community engagement departments. Prior to centering her career fully on accessibility, Dr. Lewis maintained an active career as a flutist and music educator. A passionate advocate of integrating disability advocacy and the arts, she received a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship to research the role of art in social activism around the globe. During this 2008 fellowship year, Dr. Lewis founded the *Music of Difference* project: an international concert series designed to facilitate creative conversations about disability and diversity. Two *Music of Difference* albums have since been released and the project has been presented at venues including Harvard University and the VSA International Disability Arts Convention in Washington, DC. An alumnus of Rice University and the Eastman School of Music, her doctoral research explored intersections between disability advocacy and the arts. Dr. Lewis is a frequent guest lecturer at colleges and universities across the United States, and teaches courses on disability, the arts, and inclusive higher education at University of Rochester and Harvard University. Recently, Dr. Lewis and her team at RIT were awarded a grant by Microsoft to launch the Disability Leadership and Scholarship Program, an innovative initiative designed to intentionally recruit and retain cohorts of Disabled college students.

**Andy Slater** is a blind Chicago-based media artist, writer, performer, and Disability advocate/loudmouth. Andy holds a Masters in Sound Arts and Industries from Northwestern University and a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He is a 2022 United States Artists fellow, 2022-2023 Leonardo Crip Tech Incubator fellow and a 2018 3Arts/Bodies of Work fellow at the University of Illinois Chicago

He is a member of the Society of Visually Impaired Sound Artists and a teaching artist with the Atlantic Center for the Arts’ Young SoundSeekers program, Midwest Society For Acoustic Ecology, and 3Arts Disability Culture Leadership Initiative. Andy’s current work focuses on advocacy for accessible art and technology, Alt-Text for sound and image, the phonology of the blind body, spatial audio for extended reality, and sound design for film, dance, and digital scent design.

In 2020 Andy was acknowledged for his art by the New York Times in their article, “28 Ways To Learn About Disability Culture.” His research on Crypto Acoustic Auditory Non-Hallucination was published in McSweeney’s Quarterly Concern volume 61. Andy’s audio description production for Alison O’Daniel’s film, *The Tuba Thieves*, was featured at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival. Andy has been published in *Array: The International Computer Music Journal* (2021), *Curating Access: Disability Art Activism And Creative Accommodation* (Cachia 2023), the *Chicago Reader*, *There Plant Eyes* (Godin 2021), and *Roctober* magazine. He has exhibited and performed at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, the Contemporary Jewish Museum SF, American Writers and Publishers conference, Transmediale Festival Berlin, Chicago Inclusive Dance Festival, Ian Potter Museum of Art Melbourne, Critical Distance Toronto, College Art Association, Gallery 400 Chicago, Experimental Sound Studios Chicago, the Art Institute of Chicago, and Momenta Dance Company Chicago.

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