

**Beth Gigante Klingenstein** dedicated herself to her much-loved independent piano studio for the first twenty-five years of her career, during which time she published her first book, *A Business Guide for the Music Teacher*. Moving from Northern Virginia to North Dakota in 1994, she accepted a teaching position at Valley City State University (VCSU). In addition to her VCSU teaching duties, she founded and directed the VCSU Community School of the Arts, including community arts programs such as a community orchestra, an annual chamber music festival, a women's choir, a children's choir, visual arts classes, and a literary magazine. In honor of her energy and determination in bringing the arts to underserved rural communities, she received the North Dakota Governor's Award for the Arts in 2007. While at VCSU, Klingenstein created internationally successful online piano pedagogy courses and published her second book, *The Independent Piano Teacher's Studio Handbook*, a widely-used resource among current independent and pedagogy teachers.

After teaching at VCSU for twenty years, eventually becoming department chair, Klingenstein took the position of Executive Director of the North Dakota Council on the Arts, a position she held until her retirement.

Klingenstein has served Music Teachers National Association throughout her career, including serving as Secretary/Treasurer of the Board of Directors, as West Central Division Director, on the 2009 national conference planning committee, and for five years on the American Music Teacher editorial committee. She was the original author of AMT's popular column, "It's All of Your Business" and became a Foundation Fellow in 2006. In 2023 she received MTNA's Distinguished Service Award as well as recognition as a 50 Year Member. She currently serves as MTNA's first Business Resources Coordinator. As such, she has been instrumental in creating and maintaining the MTNA Business Resources webpage, establishing the Business Resources Network and editing the MTNA's quarterly online Business Digest. Klingenstein's many local and state positions include president of Northern Virginia MTA and the Valley City MTA, as well as two terms as president of North Dakota MTA. Klingenstein received two awards from NDMTA: Teacher of the Year in 1997 and Service to the Profession in 2016. Her numerous articles and 160+ presentations on business, pedagogy, and advocacy issues have been enthusiastically received nationwide.

Klingenstein earned degrees in piano performance from Syracuse University (BM) and the University of Michigan (MM), and a PhD in educational leadership from the University of North Dakota. She holds the designation of MTNA Permanent Professional Certification.