

Bio Sketch
Helen Charuhas Gleason

Helen Charuhas Gleason, a native of Washington, D.C., is currently adjunct instructor of piano at Belmont Academy, a division of Belmont University's College of Visual and Performing Arts in Nashville, Tennessee. Prior faculty appointments include full-time positions at Columbia State Community College, Columbia, Tennessee, and Northern Virginia Community College, Sterling, Virginia.

Helen is active as adjudicator for state and local affiliates of MTNA as well as National Federation of Music Clubs, WinterFest, and the National Guild of Piano Teachers. For the past nine years, she has chaired the Tennessee State Music Teachers Competition. Other professional affiliations include election to Pi Kappa Lambda and membership in Sigma Alpha Iota; Tennessee Music Teachers Association; Music Teachers National Association; National Federation of Music Clubs (Bellnote Junior Club); and membership in and board of Nashville area chapter of the National Guild of Piano Teachers as first V-P Programs (2000-2001). She also serves on the Steering Committee, Belmont Academy, Belmont University.

In NAMTA leadership roles, Helen worked with the 1995 Pianorama, leading redesign of the logo and tee shirt sales. She served two years as NAMTA historian, managed social events for two TMTA state conventions hosted by NAMTA and has served as PR chair for the past several years.

Ms. Gleason's students participate in local, state, and regional auditions and competitions, often receiving marks of distinction and awards. In 2007, her students won first place prizes in the Tennessee Music Teachers Association state auditions; placed as finalist at Clavierfest; won scholarships to 2007 Tennessee Governor's School and individual scholarships awarded by the Nashville Symphony Orchestra League and Belmont Academy; and achieved the High School Diploma of the National Guild of Piano Teachers. Thus far in 2008, her students have continued earning high marks, six ranking superior in NAMTA performance auditions, two winning Outstanding Performer Awards at TSMTC, one reaching finals at Clavierfest and another winning the Steinway Fun Competition. In 2006 and in previous years, her students earned highest rankings at Tennessee State Music Teachers Competition, Clavierfest, and NAMTA's Young Artist Achievement Awards.

During the 2007-2008 academic year, Helen teamed with Dr. Jerome Reed at Lipscomb University in joint instruction for several advanced students. In June, 2008, she will participate with other Belmont piano faculty leadership to guide the first Belmont University Young Artist Piano Invitational camp.

Helen holds a B.M. in piano performance from East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina, where she studied with Dr. Robert L. Carter and graduated magna cum laude. Subsequently she attended George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville, Tennessee (Blair Fellowship), studying with Dr. Lucien Stark and graduated with an M.M. in piano performance. Additional work included private studies with Elizabeth Travis, Millikin University, Decatur, Illinois, numerous piano seminars and workshops, and informal studies at the Divinity School, Vanderbilt University.

Mrs. Gleason is married to William H. Gleason, founder of the Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church. Their married daughter, Anna Kauderer, lives in Denver, Colorado with her husband, Dave, and they expect her first child in September. Mrs. Gleason also works with the Dean's Office of Vanderbilt University's Peabody College of Education and Human Development, Nashville, Tennessee.