

NCSA 2014 President's Award
David Kushner
Professor Emeritus of Music, University of Florida

This year's recipient was born in a small town in the Catskills, where his parents nourished his early love of music by buying a piano for him when he was eight. With the Empire State Music Festival in town every summer, local and area recital possibilities, and easy access to all the opportunities of New York City, the young pianist flourished and nurtured talents that took him to Boston University, where he earned a Bachelor's in Music with a major in piano performance. Working summers in his family's paint store, **David Kushner** went on to study historical musicology at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and, having earned his Master's there, on to the University of Michigan for his Ph.D. David taught his way through graduate school, also taking positions at Mississippi University for Women and Radford University before completing his dissertation and accepting a position at the University of Florida.

A devoted and wide-ranging teacher, David has lectured and performed all over the world, presenting papers and recitals in Jerusalem, Kenya, and Hawaii, for the College Music Society, the International Jewish Music Society, and (of course) NCSA, among many others too numerous to list here. David was also consistently a generous member of many other communities. He did a program, "Music from Florida," for the local fine arts radio station, in the 1970s, and subsequently served on the station's advisory board. David was also active as a member of the Arts in Education committee, an agency of the Arts Councils of Alachua County, since David has been a regular and generous advocate of the need for more arts instruction and opportunities for students. He has given generously and consistently of his own time toward such efforts, arranging and delivering programs to elementary students in many schools, as well as for the middle and high school levels in his "Recitals in the Schools" program. On campus, he initiated the musicology lecture series, worked for the Faculty Senate, and taught classes on music literature both at the University of Florida and in Florence, Italy, all while continuing his devotion to the artist he studied in graduate school, Swiss-American composer Ernest Bloch.

His first book, *Ernest Bloch: A Guide to Research* (Garland 1988), is one that, according to *Notes*, "provides well-written evaluative annotations that easily stimulate a researcher's interest in examining the sources." His next book, *The Ernest Bloch Companion* (Greenwood, 2001), encourages a reconsideration of Bloch among the history of 20th century music and also integrates life and work, creativity and theology in its discussion of Bloch and his career. David has also published numerous articles on Bloch and other music and musicians over the course of his career, as well as pieces in such standard reference works as the *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* and a wide variety of journals. Unsurprisingly, all his efforts have already garnered him many awards, ranging from the Teacher of the Year Award from the College of Fine Arts at the University of Florida to the International Biographical Centre's Award of Excellence.

David has also been a very active member, and even founder, of a variety of organizations, ranging from his initiation of the American Liszt Society to his presidency of the College Music Society Southern Chapter. But he is receiving this award today because of his life-long commitment to NCSA and the ways in which this Association has been a part of his career. For he has generously shared his expertise in a number of recitals for the conference over several decades; he has served as a member of the Board of Directors for more than one term and he continues to serve as a member of our Senior Advisory Committee. David's musical expertise and background have been a vital voice within our interdisciplinary Association, and his consistent advocacy for our interdisciplinary identity have been better served by his presence and advice. It is my honor to be able to acknowledge his long service and extraordinary contributions to nineteenth century studies with this 2014 President's Award.

Lucy Morrison
NCSA President
March 21st, 2014