



REBECCA PENNEYS PIANO FESTIVAL



June 27 - July 17

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA



WELCOME TO RPPF 2024!

It is pure joy to welcome you to RPPF 2024, the 12th season of the Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival at the University of South Florida in Tampa. Our continued good fortune enables us to celebrate the healing power of global creative spirits and the incredible magic, beauty, and wisdom of music. Though the world remains troubled by profound turbulence and tragedy, we are steadfast in our faith in humanity and proud to continue our theme, Legacy of Piano and Planet.

Over 250 gifted collegiate pianists from 25 countries and 100 schools applied this season. The heart and soul of RPPF is our mission to help each aspiring pianist develop a unique artistic voice and shape a successful future. Every summer is an adventure as we alter the scope and depth of the festival and bring in fresh ideas while encouraging participants to personalize their experience according to individual needs. These exceptional young people, alongside our stellar multigenerational faculty, thrive during three weeks of piano immersion that feature intense private study, superb daily masterclasses, unparalleled legacy sessions, distinctive special topic classes, and thrilling performances.

Our “Dreamscape” programming has two aspects this summer. Arthur Murray dance instructors will teach a selection of dances that are part of the piano repertoire. My hope is that the sensation and wonder of dancing will spark new avenues of imagination and creativity. Dr. Kristin Kidgell, chiropractor and functional medicine professional, will offer group and private sessions on self-care for hands, arms, and the body in general. Feeling well means feeling free so that physical limitations do not restrict inventiveness or the execution of ideas. These offerings connect our participants to diverse, complementary modalities of knowledge and expression.

RPPF performance venues and opportunities unite our inspired musicians with enthusiastic audiences of all ages and backgrounds. Student Performance Class provides a platform for students to reach out to one another and taste the transition from student to teacher. Faculty offer Soirée Memories in an intimate setting that blends personal performance with snapshots of unique life journeys. The RPPF Satellite Concerts (formerly Ambassador Concerts) present RPPF students in venues throughout Tampa Bay, and now extend to other American cities as well. Our closing traditions are two USF events: the 2 Piano 8 Hands Extravaganza, a seriously silly event that explores what pianos and pianists do for fun, and the Student Showcase, a fabulous finale that highlights each of the 40 RPPF participants playing a short encore piece.

RPPF started on a whim, as a dream, and has grown into a renowned, much-loved, and well-established program that we hope will have an impact for generations to come. As our alumni continue to shine on the world stage, we hope that they, in turn, will nurture new generations of accomplished classical musicians. We enthusiastically support the Tampa Bay Community and embrace other charities as well. This year, RPPF has donated to the Adamant Music School in Vermont and Seaside Seabird Sanctuary here at home to sustain a rich quality of life and art for all. The RP USF Music Fund, established in 2021, provides for graduate music students at the University of South Florida.

RPPF is my tuition-free gift! As we reach further and deeper into the global music community, I remain so grateful to USF, the Steinway Piano Gallery Tampa Bay, our unmatched artist faculty and staff, family of devoted donors and volunteers, and many others, for making RPPF possible year after year. Your support means the world to us and ensures a bright future ahead.

Please join us this summer, live or virtually, as we learn, grow, create, excel, and enjoy the legendary classical piano repertoire.

Welcome to our 12th Season!

Rebecca Penneys



FESTIVAL EVENTS

USF BARNES HALL, 3755 USF HOLLY DRIVE

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND - FREE ADMISSION

DONATIONS AT THE DOOR IN ANY AMOUNT KEEP THESE PROGRAMS OPEN TO ALL!

Celebration Concerts

July 14 - 7:00pm - **Student Showcase** *Featuring ALL 40 RPPF Artist Students*

July 16 - 12:00pm - **Student Showcase** *Featuring ALL 40 RPPF Artist Students*



Satellite Concerts

June 27 - 6:00pm - **The Dalí Museum** (1 Dali Blvd, St. Petersburg)

June 29 - 3:00pm - **Steinway Piano Gallery Clearwater** (5990 Ulmerton Rd, Clearwater)

July 6 - 3:00pm - **New Tampa Performing Arts Center** (8550 Hunters Village Rd, Tampa)

July 13 - 3:00pm - **Steinway Piano Gallery Tampa** (2709 W. Kennedy Blvd, Tampa)

July 14 - 11:00am Worship Service - **Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church** (3501 West San Jose Street, Tampa)

July 14 - 3:00pm - **Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church** (110 S Fort Harrison Ave, Clearwater)

HEAR LIVE Performances & Interviews on WUSF: July 5 @ 11:00am, July 10 @ 1:00pm



Soirée Performances: Music & Conversation

June 30 - 3:00pm - **Christopher Harding:** Oh la la - Kreisleriana with Commentary

July 2 - 3:00pm - **Roberta Rust:** Native American Piano Music

July 6 - 2:30pm - **Jerome Lowenthal:** Filling Out the Composer's Intentions

July 6 - 8:00pm - **RPPF Students Performance Soirée**

July 8 - 2:30pm - **Ursula Oppens:** Outranking the Piano Teacher, Music for Ursula Oppens

July 10 - 2:30pm - **Spencer Myer:** Debussy & the Pressler Piano

July 12 - 3:00pm - **Arthur Greene:** Interpretation - Head or Heart?

July 13 - 2:00pm - **HieYon Choi:** Memoir of a Nomad

July 13 - 8:00pm - **RPPF Students Performance Soirée**



Masterclasses:

Open Lessons With Master Teachers

June 28 - 2:30pm - **Rebecca Penneys** (ESM Emerita)

June 28 - 6:30pm - **Alvin Chow** (Oberlin)

June 29 - 6:30pm - **Angela Cheng** (Oberlin)

June 30 - 6:30pm - **Kathryn Brown** (CIM)

July 1 - 6:30pm - **Christopher Harding** (UMichigan)

July 2 - 6:30pm - **Stanislav Ioudenitch** (Oberlin)

July 3 - 2:30pm - **Roberta Rust** (Lynn Conservatory)

July 3 - 6:30pm - **Alan Chow** (ESM)

July 5 - 2:30pm - **Ursula Oppens** (CUNY/Mannes)

July 5 - 6:30pm - **Roberto Plano** (RNCM)

July 6 - 6:30pm - **Tamás Ungár** (TCU)

July 7 - 6:30pm - **James Giles** (Northwestern)

July 8 - 6:30pm - **Jerome Lowenthal** (Juilliard)

July 9 - 2:30pm - **Douglas Humphreys** (ESM)

July 9 - 6:30pm - **Spencer Myer** (IU)

July 10 - 6:30pm - **Antonio Pompa-Baldi** (CIM)

July 12 - 6:30pm - **HieYon Choi** (Peabody)

July 13 - 3:00pm - **Soyeon Kate Lee** (Juilliard)

July 13 - 6:30pm - **Olga Kern** (MSM)

July 14 - 2:30pm - **Lydia Artymiw** (UMN Emerita)

July 15 - 2:00pm - **José Méndez** (Oberlin)

July 15 - 3:30pm - **Arthur Greene** (UMichigan)

FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES



Recipient of an Avery Fisher Grant and the Andrew Wolf Chamber Music Prize, Philadelphia-born **LYDIA ARTYMIW** has performed with over one hundred orchestras world-wide including the Boston Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, and San Francisco, Pittsburgh, Seattle, St. Louis, National, Detroit, Los Angeles, Cincinnati, St. Luke's, and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. Solo recital tours have taken her to all major American cities and to European music centers, and throughout the Far East. Critics have acclaimed her seven solo recordings for Chandos, as well as for Bridge, Centaur, and Naxos. Her debut Chandos "Variations" CD won Gramophone's "Best of the Year" award. Her festival appearances include Aspen, Bay Chamber, Bravo! Vail, Caramoor, Chamber Music Northwest, Chautauqua, Grand Canyon, Hollywood Bowl, Marlboro, Montréal, Mostly Mozart, Seattle, and Tucson. Artymiw's Bridge CD of Mendelssohn's "Complete Cello and Piano Music" with cellist Marcy Rosen was nominated for a 2019 Grammy award. Artymiw has collaborated with such celebrated artists as Yo-Yo Ma, Arnold Steinhardt, Kim Kashkashian, Benita Valente, and the Guarneri, Tokyo, American, Borromeo, Daedalus, Miami, Orion, and Shanghai Quartets. A recipient of top prizes in the 1976 Leventritt and the 1978 Leeds International Competitions, she graduated from Philadelphia's University of the Arts and studied with Gary Graffman for twelve years. Artymiw has been a juror for international piano competitions including the 2015 Cliburn Junior, the 2017 Lang Lang-Fujian, the 2019 Beijing First China International, the 2022 Charles Wadsworth, the 2024 Montréal International, and the 2024 Gina Bachauer. She has also been a juror for 22 Juilliard concerto competitions and guest taught at Juilliard from 2015-2019. Artymiw is Emerita Distinguished McKnight Professor of Piano at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis where she taught from 1989-2020. For more information, please visit her website at lydiaartymiw.com.



KATHRYN BROWN has performed around the globe as concerto soloist, recitalist and chamber musician. She gave her New York Recital Debut at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, and has appeared at New York's 92nd Street Y. She has been featured on the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series in Chicago, Cleveland's Severance Hall, the German Embassy, the Philips Collection, the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., Prague's Rudolfinum Hall, the University of London, and the National Theatre in Ghana, Africa. Brown appeared on Columbia Artists' Community Concert Series and performed throughout Sweden, Africa, and Estonia as winner of the USIA Artistic Ambassador Program. Recipient of the Darius Milhaud Prize and Louis Sudler Prize for the Arts, she is a powerful advocate of contemporary music and has recorded and premiered works by Menotti, Fitch, Tcimpidis, Brouwer, Hersch and Pinscher. Pianist and co-founder of the Myriad Chamber Players, Brown's chamber music credits include performances at the Marlboro Music Festival with members of the Guarneri String Quartet and Beaux Arts Trio. She has performed with the Cavani String Quartet, members of the Lincoln Center Chamber Players, and The Verdehr Trio. She was featured with Dmitri Ashkenazy on Ravinia's *Rising Stars* series and has collaborated with musicians from the world's leading orchestras. She has been featured on the British Broadcasting Network, the PBS *Artistry of...* series, Chicago's WFMT Radio, and NPR's *Performance Today*. Her discography includes releases on the Telarc, New World, Albany, and Crystal labels. An accomplished singer and recitalist, Brown has performed premieres at Severance Hall with the Cleveland Orchestra and feature roles at the Aspen Music Festival and Tanglewood Music Center. She presents masterclasses, lectures, and is a frequent juror of competitions worldwide. Currently, she is Head of the Keyboard Division at The Cleveland Institute of Music.



Consistently praised for her brilliant technique, tonal beauty, and superb musicianship, Canadian pianist **ANGELA CHENG** is one of her country's national treasures. In addition to regular guest appearances with virtually every orchestra in Canada, she has performed with the symphonies of Saint Louis, Houston, Indianapolis, Colorado, Utah, San Diego and Jacksonville, as well as the philharmonic orchestras of Buffalo, Louisiana, London, Israel and Minas Gerais in Brazil. Recent performances include a debut with the Fort Worth Symphony, performing Rachmaninoff's "Variations on a Theme of Paganini," under the baton of Robert Spano, and a return to the Vancouver Symphony, performing Ravel's Concerto in G with Otto Tausk. Cheng has performed at Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center/Washington, D.C., the 92nd Street Y/New York and Wigmore Hall in London. She appears regularly on recital series throughout the United States and Canada and has collaborated with numerous chamber ensembles including the Takács, Colorado, and Vogler quartets. North American festival performances include Banff, Chautauqua, Colorado, Great Lakes Chamber Music, Vancouver, Toronto and the Festival International de Lanaudière in Quebec. Cheng's recordings for CBC, include discs of Mozart and Shostakovich concerti and a CD of four Spanish concerti with Hans Graf and the Calgary Philharmonic. In addition, an all Chopin recital CD has been released by Universal Music Canada. Cheng has been Gold Medalist of the Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Masters Competition, as well as the first Canadian to win the prestigious Montreal International Piano Competition. Other awards include the Canada Council's coveted Career Development Grant and the Medal of Excellence for outstanding interpretations of Mozart from the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria. Angela Cheng studied extensively with Menahem Pressler at Indiana University and with Sascha Gorodnitzki at The Juilliard School. She is currently on the artist faculty of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music.

HIEYON CHOI is a distinguished South Korean pianist renowned for her achievements in prestigious competitions such as Kapell, Epinal, Busoni, and Viotti. She has performed with top orchestras worldwide, including das Rundfunkorchester Berlin, the National Symphony Orchestra, the Northern Sinfonia, the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Korean Broadcast Symphony Orchestra. She is also a regular soloist in various festivals and concert series. A significant highlight of HieYon's career was her four-year cycle of all 32 Beethoven piano sonatas at the Kumho Art Hall in Seoul, earning her the Arts Award of the year 2005 by the Korean Arts & Cultural Association. She later completed a Beethoven chamber cycle and has explored series dedicated to Brahms, French music, and collaborated with renowned musicians like Truls Mørk and Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi. HieYon's repertoire extends beyond classical music to include 20th and 21st-century works. She was the inaugural Artist-in-Residence at the Tong-Yeong International Music Festival and has performed works by Olivier Messiaen, György Kurtag, and Sofia Gubaidulina, among others. She has also led contemporary music projects at Seoul National University, such as "Orient Express" and "TripleX," an international exchange production in response to the pandemic. Since joining the piano faculty at Seoul National University in 1999, HieYon has conducted numerous masterclasses worldwide and served as a jury member at international competitions. She has also released acclaimed albums, including her Beethoven and Debussy recordings. Born in Incheon, South Korea, HieYon began her musical journey at the age of 6 and studied under Prof. Joong-Won Koh before moving to Germany to study with Prof. Klaus Hellwig. She later drew inspiration from Prof. Hans Leygraf and Prof. György Sebök. In the fall of 2023, HieYon joined the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University piano faculty.



ALAN CHOW has performed in recitals and in concert with orchestras worldwide. He has been presented at New York's Lincoln Center and Merkin Hall, Chicago's Symphony Center and Ravinia, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and Vienna's MozartHaus. He has also appeared as soloist with the National, Pan Asian, Utah, Oakland, Kansas City, and Omaha Symphonies and the Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Tulsa Philharmonics. Competition honors include First Prizes at the Concert Artists Guild International Competition, UCLA International Piano Competition, and Palm Beach Invitational International Piano Competition, in addition to the Silver Medal and Audience Favorite Prize at the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition. He has collaborated with the American, Pacifica, Miami and Escher String Quartets and has been a guest artist at numerous festivals. He also appears in recital in the Cheng-Chow Trio with pianists Angela Cheng and his twin brother Alvin Chow. He has given masterclasses throughout North America, Europe and Asia at conservatories, universities, and summer festivals and is a juror for piano competitions in the US, China, and Singapore. Chow has served as guest professor at Central Conservatory in Beijing, honored visiting professor at Shenyang Conservatory, and Visiting Associate Professor at Oberlin Conservatory. He has also presented masterclasses for the conservatories in Shanghai, Chengdu, Wuhan and Xian. Chow graduated Co-Valedictorian (with his brother) at the University of Maryland, studying with Nelita True. At the Juilliard School, he studied with Sasha Gorodnitzki and at Indiana University, with Menahem Pressler. Formerly on the faculty at Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music, Chow currently teaches and is Chair of the Piano Department at the Eastman School of Music. In 2023, he was appointed Professor of Piano at the Yehudi Menuhin School in Qingdao, China as a member of their Visiting Artist faculty. Visit esm.rochester.edu/directory/chow-alan



ALVIN CHOW has appeared throughout North America and Asia as orchestral soloist and recitalist. In addition, he has performed extensively in duo-piano recitals with his wife, Angela Cheng, and his twin brother, Alan. A native of Miami, Florida, he graduated summa cum laude and Co-Valedictorian (with his brother) at the University of Maryland, where he was a student of Nelita True. Mr. Chow received the Victor Herbert Prize in Piano upon graduation from the Juilliard School, where he studied with Sascha Gorodnitzki, and held the Joseph Battista Memorial Scholarship at Indiana University as a student of Menahem Pressler. Mr. Chow has been presented as recitalist in such cities as Hong Kong, Shanghai, Vienna, Montreal, Toronto, New York, and Los Angeles, and has appeared as soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra, Colorado Symphony, Alabama Symphony, Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Pan-Asia Symphony in Hong Kong, Shanghai Philharmonic, and the Mozarteum Orchestra in Salzburg, among others. Mr. Chow has presented numerous master classes and lectures at music institutions throughout the United States and abroad, including the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Colburn School, Eastman School of Music, and Indiana University. He has taught and performed at numerous summer festivals, including the Shanghai Piano Festival, Banff Piano Master Classes, Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival, Southeastern Piano Festival, Adamant Music School, Classical Music Festival in Eisenstadt, Austria, and the Lake Como Summer Piano School in Italy. Formerly on the faculty at the University of Colorado-Boulder, Mr. Chow has been a member of the artist faculty at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music since 1999. He currently serves as Chair of the Piano Department. From 2011-14 he was the Ruth Strickland Gardner Professor of Music, and was awarded Oberlin's Excellence in Teaching Award in 2016. oberlin.edu/alvin-chow





JAMES GILES performs in important musical centers throughout America, Europe, and Asia. Recent tours include recitals in Toronto, Paris, Naples, Budapest, Manchester, England, and across Denmark. He collaborated with colleagues at the Tucson Chamber Music Festival, the Dempster Street Promusica, the American Liszt Society Festival, and was soloist with the Peoria Symphony. This season he plays Stravinsky with Northwestern's Symphonic Wind Ensemble; performs in Italy and Portugal; tours China; and travels to Yale, Lawrence University, New England Conservatory, University of Texas, University of Michigan, and Indiana University. He will serve on the jury of the 2024 Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition. A native of North Carolina, Dr. Giles studied with Byron Janis at Manhattan School of Music, Jerome Lowenthal at Juilliard, Nelita True at Eastman, and Robert Shannon at Oberlin. He received early career assistance from the Clarisse B. Kampel Foundation and was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Italy with Lazar Berman. Dr. Giles is coordinator of the piano program and director of music performance graduate studies at Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music. He also directs the piano program at the Amalfi Coast Music Festival. He gives masterclasses and lectures at schools nationwide, including Juilliard, Manhattan, Eastman, Oberlin, Indiana, Yale, New England and has taught during the summers at the Gijon Piano Festival, Obidos Master Classes, Artcial Music Festival, Eastern Music Festival, Bowdoin, Brevard, Art of the Piano, Colburn, Interlochen, ARIA, Pianofest in the Hamptons, and the Schlern Festival in Italy. His classes internationally have occurred throughout China as well as at Seoul National University, Hanyang University (Seoul), Ewha Woman's University (Seoul), the Royal Danish Academy of Music (Copenhagen), the Sibelius Academy (Helsinki), the Chopin Academy (Warsaw), the Royal Northern College of Music (Manchester) and the Royal College of Music (London). music.northwestern.edu/faculty/profile/james-giles



RAY GOTTLIEB, O.D., Ph.D. originally from Los Angeles, is a graduate of UC California, UC Berkeley Optometry School, and Saybrook Institute. He practiced behavioral optometry for over six decades working with patients to improve visual, movement, learning and athletic skills. He worked with Rebecca Penneys at the Chautauqua Institution from 1992-2012, and since 2013, works at RPPF where he applies his stress-point learning approach to teach advanced piano students ways to improve their attention, memory, body coordination, and learning skills. He eliminated his own myopia using Bates natural eye improvement practices and prevented the onset of his presbyopia using an approach he invented. He is Dean of the College of Syntonic Optometry, or optometric phototherapy, a branch of ocular science dealing with the application of selected light frequencies through the eyes. Syntonics has been used clinically for over 80 years with continued success for strabismus (eye turns), amblyopia (lazy eye), focusing and convergence problems, learning disorders, and the after-effects of stress and trauma. Dr Ray's writings include *Attention and Memory Training: Stress-Point Learning on the Trampoline* and *The Fundamentals of Flow in Learning Music* (with Rebecca Penneys). Now retired from active optometric practice, Dr. Gottlieb lectures about his optometric training approach to educators, health professionals, and the general public in the U.S. and abroad. He lives in Florida where he researches, writes, swims, invents, and practices eye/brain/body exercises on a sunny Gulf of Mexico beach. Learn more at raygottlieb.com.



ARTHUR GREENE was born in New York City and received degrees from Yale, Juilliard, and Stony Brook. He studied with Martin Canin. Greene treasures the inheritance of our rich piano repertoire, which he considers among humanity's greatest achievements, and is grateful for the opportunity to bring it to life and share it with as many people as possible. He has performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra, the San Francisco, Utah, and National Symphonies, the Ukraine National Symphony, the Czech National Symphony, the Tokyo Symphony, and many others. He has played recitals in Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Moscow Rachmaninov Hall, Tokyo Bunka Kaikan, Lisbon Sao Paulo Opera House, Hong Kong City Hall and concert houses in Shanghai, Beijing, Seoul, and throughout Japan. He was an Artistic Ambassador to Serbia, Kosovo, and Bosnia for the United States Information Agency. Greene recorded the complete Etudes of Alexander Scriabin for Supraphon, and piano works of the Ukrainian composer Mykola Lysenko for Toccata Classics. He has made many recordings together with his wife, the violinist Solomia Soroka, for Naxos and Toccata. He has performed the 10 Sonata Cycle of Alexander Scriabin in many international venues, including multi-media presentations with Symbolist artworks. He has performed mazurkas with the Janusz Prusinowski Kompania, a Polish folk ensemble. He has been a faculty member of many summer festivals, including the Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival, Perugia MusicFest, and Vivace Music Foundation. Greene is a member of the piano faculty of the University of Michigan. There he won the Harold Haugh Award for Excellence in Studio Teaching. He and his students presented a recital series of the complete solo works of Chopin in nine concerts. His current and former students include prizewinners in international competitions, and his former students hold important teaching positions throughout the United States. Visit arthurgreene.com

CHRISTOPHER HARDING, Chair and Professor of Piano Performance at the University of Michigan, maintains an international career, presenting solo, concerto, and chamber music performances in venues as far-flung as the Kennedy Center and Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C., Suntory Hall in Tokyo, Seoul Art Center (IBK and Recital Halls), the National Theater Concert Hall in Taipei, as well as in Canada, mainland China, Israel, Italy, Russia, and Romania. His concerto performances have included concerts with the National Symphony and the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestras, San Angelo and Santa Barbara Symphonies, and the Tokyo City Philharmonic. As a duo partner and chamber musician, he has collaborated with such renowned artists as Karl Leister and András Adorján, and members of the St. Lawrence and Ying String Quartets, as well as his many distinguished colleagues at Michigan. Harding has presented numerous master classes and lecture recitals across the United States, Europe, and many parts of Asia. He has held a Fulbright Senior Specialist residency at Seoul National University, simultaneously holding a Special Chair in Piano of Piano Performance at Ewha Womans University, and is a permanent guest professor at the Sichuan Conservatory in Chengdu, China. He has taken 25 first prizes in national and international competitions and in 1999 was awarded the special “Mozart Prize” at the Cleveland International Piano Competition. He has edited several volumes of the music of Debussy and Mozart for the Schirmer Performance Editions. His recordings and live performances of American solo piano music (Barber, Bolcom, Gershwin, Copland), the violin and piano sonatas of Johannes Brahms (with violinist Stephen Boe), the complete piano chamber music of Franz Xaver Mozart, and American flute music (with Amy Porter) can be found on YouTube and at christopherhardingpiano.com



Since winning the gold medal at the first Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition, **DOUGLAS HUMPHERYS'** concert career has spanned four decades across four continents. A Steinway Artist, he has performed solo concerts and taught masterclasses throughout Asia, including twenty tours of China, plus engagements in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Korea. He has presented solo concerts in Moscow, Novgorod, Berlin, Hamburg, Prague, Barcelona, Venice, Dublin, the Czech Republic, Montenegro, Serbia, and has performed throughout the United States and Canada. He has also concertized and taught in Argentina with Teachers del Norte-Pianists del Sur. Humpherys completed graduate degrees at the Juilliard School (MM) and the Eastman School of Music (DMA), where he served for twenty years as Chair of the Piano Department, and is currently Professor of Piano. During his student days he studied with Nelita True, Martin Canin, and Robert Smith. He has taught masterclasses at the Central Music School of the Moscow Tchaikovsky State Conservatory, throughout the Chinese Conservatory system, the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, the Korean National School of the Arts, and the Royal Irish Academy of Music. His students have won prizes at the Honens, Cleveland, Maria Canals, Scottish, Olga Kern, Virginia Waring, Hilton Head, Washington DC, Poulenc, UNISA, and Sussex (UK) International Piano Competitions, and others. In 2016, Humpherys received Eastman's Eisenhart Award for Excellence in Teaching, and in 2021 he was inducted into Steinway's National Teachers Hall of Fame. Currently, he is Artistic Director and Jury Chair of the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition. He has been a guest artist and faculty member at the Beijing, Shanghai, Gijon (Spain), Wallace (New Zealand), Bowdoin, and Rebecca Penneys Piano Festivals. He has also performed and taught at the Philadelphia Young Pianists Academy, the Miami, Washington DC, Interlochen, Atlantic, Northern Lights, and North Coast, Music Festivals.



Known for ravishing technique and compelling musical conviction, pianist **STANISLAV IOUDENITCH** is part of the elite group of Cliburn Gold Medal winners, taking home the Gold Medal at the 11th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. His performances have won prizes at the Feruccio Busoni, William Kapell, Maria Callas, and New Orleans competitions, among others. Ioudenitch has performed at major international cultural centers including Carnegie Hall (New York), Kennedy Center (Washington, D.C.), Gasteig (Germany), Conservatorio Verdi (Italy), Mariinsky Theater (Russia), International Performing Arts Center (Russia), The Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory (Russia), Forbidden City Concert Hall (China), International Piano Festival of La Roque d'Anthéron (France), Théâtre du Châtelet (France), Bass Hall (Texas), Jordan Hall (Massachusetts), Orange County Performing Arts Center (California), and the Aspen Music Festival (Colorado). Ioudenitch has had the privilege to perform with conductors James Conlon, Valery Gergiev, Mikhail Pletnev, James DePreist, Günther Herbig, Asher Fisch, Stefan Sanderling, Michael Stern, Carl St. Clair, and Justus Franz, and with orchestras including the Munich Philharmonic, Mariinsky Orchestra, National Symphony (Washington, D.C.), Rochester Philharmonic, Honolulu Symphony and National Philharmonic of Russia. Chamber music partners have included the Takács, Prazák, Borromeo, and Accorda quartets. His teachers have included Natalia Vasinkina, Dmitri Bashkirov, Galina Eguiazarova, and Karl Ulrich Schnabel, Leon Fleisher, Rosalyn Tureck, William Grant Nabore at the International Piano Foundation in Como, Italy (the current International Piano Academy Lake Como). As Founder of the International Center for Music at Park University in Kansas City, he is both Artistic Director and professor of piano, while also teaching at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. Recently, his contributions to the field of music education were recognized with the prestigious appointment to The Fundación Banco Santander Piano Chair at the Reina Sofía School of Music in Madrid, Spain.



Pianist **OLGA KERN** is recognized as one of the great artists of her generation, captivating audiences and critics alike. She was born into a family of musicians and began studying piano at the age of five. At seventeen, she was awarded first prize at the Rachmaninoff International Piano Competition, and in 2001, she launched her U.S. career, winning an historic Gold Medal at the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition—the only woman in the last 50 years to do so. A Steinway Artist, Olga is a laureate of several international competitions. In 2016 she was Jury Chairman of both the Cliburn International Amateur Piano Competition and the first Olga Kern International Piano Competition, where she also holds the title of Artistic Director. In December 2021, Olga was Jury Chairman of the 1st Chopin Animato International Piano competition in Paris, France. In coming seasons, she will continue to serve on the juries of several high-level competitions. Olga's discography includes her Grammy Nominated recording of Rachmaninoff's Corelli Variations and Transcriptions (2004), the Brahms Variations (2007), the Chopin Piano Sonatas No. 2 and 3 (2010), the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto with the Rochester Philharmonic, the Chopin Concerto with the Warsaw Philharmonic, and a CD of Russian composers including works by Balakirev. She gives frequent masterclasses and since 2017 has served on the piano faculty of the Manhattan School of Music. Also in 2017, Olga received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor (New York City). In 2019, she was appointed the Connie & Marc Jacobson Director of Chamber Music at the Virginia Arts Festival. In 2012, Olga established the Kern Foundation "Aspiration," which supports talented musicians around the world. She is featured in award-winning documentaries about the 2001 Cliburn Competition: *The Cliburn: Playing on the Edge, They Came to Play*, and *Olga's Journey*. <https://olgakern.com/>



KRISTIN M. KIDGELL D.C. is fully licensed, insured, and certified with the state of Florida and all four National Boards. She specializes in total body care, inside and out. She has over 25 years of experience with what is known as "Family Care". From helping young children, athletes of all ages, people struggling with past spinal surgeries, and Olympians in training (when she lived in Colorado), she is known for being passionate about enriching lives. In addition to her chiropractic expertise, Dr. Kidgell's other qualifications include the Emotion Code which is a type of energy work that removes subconsciously trapped emotions from past traumas and drama. She is also trained in Functional Medicine, which uses a holistic, patient-centered approach to chronic conditions. When it comes to getting elite bodywork, Dr. Kidgell excels in areas of New & Old Whiplash Injuries, Slips & Falls, Disc Herniations, ART (Active Release Technique), Kinesiology, Manual Adjusting Techniques, Instrumentation Techniques, and KinesioTaping Procedures. She also coaches and mentors people struggling with weight, digestion, hormonal, or skin issues by using today's latest technology and science to identify any imbalances or issues. Learn more at <https://www.drkidgell.com/>



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A banner with a background of palm trees and a sunset. On the left is a red YouTube play button icon. On the right is a QR code.

First prize winner of the Naumburg International Piano Competition and the Concert Artist Guild International Competition, Korean-American pianist **SOYEON KATE LEE** has been lauded by The New York Times as a pianist with "a huge, richly varied sound, a lively imagination and a firm sense of style," and by the Washington Post for her "stunning command of the keyboard." Highlights of recent seasons include appearances at the National Gallery, Library of Congress, Gina Bachauer Concerts, Purdue Convocations, San Francisco Performances, and the Cleveland Art Museum. She was a member of Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society's Bowers program, and is a regular participant in numerous chamber music festivals including the Great Lakes, Santa Fe and Music Mountain Chamber Music Festivals. Ms. Lee has collaborated with conductors Carlos Miguel Prieto, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, Jahja Ling, and Jorge Mester with the London, San Diego, Hawaii, Louisiana, Naples symphony orchestras among others. Ms. Lee's discography as a Naxos artist spans the works of Scarlatti, Liszt, Scriabin, and Clementi, and her eco-awareness album on E1, Reinvented, garnered her the Classical Recording Foundation's Young Artist of the Year Award. A laureate of the Santander International Piano Competition and the Cleveland International Piano Competition, Ms. Lee is a graduate of The Juilliard School, where she earned her Bachelors and Masters degrees and the Artist Diploma. She earned her Doctorate at the Graduate Center, CUNY. She has worked extensively with Richard Goode, Jerome Lowenthal, Robert McDonald, and Ursula Oppens. She joined the piano faculty of The Juilliard School in 2022. Prior to her appointment at Juilliard, she was an Associate Professor of Music in Piano at the Cincinnati-College Conservatory of Music where she was the recipient of the university-wide A.B. Dolly Award Cohen Award for Excellence in Teaching.



JEROME LOWENTHAL, born in 1932, continues to fascinate audiences, who find in his playing a youthful intensity and an eloquence born of life-experience. He is a virtuoso of the fingers and the emotions. Mr. Lowenthal studied in his native Philadelphia with Olga Samaroff-Stokowski, in New York with William Kapell and Edward Steuermann, and in Paris with Alfred Cortot, meanwhile traveling annually to Los Angeles for coachings with Artur Schnabel. After winning prizes in three international competitions (Bolzano, Darmstadt, and Brussels), he moved to Jerusalem where, for three years, he played, taught and lectured. Returning to America, he made his debut with the New York Philharmonic playing Bartok's Concerto No. 2 in 1963. Since then, he has performed more-or-less everywhere, from the Aleutians to Zagreb. Conductors with whom he has appeared as soloist include Barenboim, Ozawa, Tilson Thomas, Temirkanov, and Slatkin, as well as such giants of the past as Leonard Bernstein, Eugene Ormandy, Pierre Monteux and Leopold Stokowski. He has played sonatas with Itzhak Perlman and piano duos with Ronit Amir (his late wife), Carmel Lowenthal (his daughter) and Ursula Oppens (his life partner). His recordings have garnered two Grammy nominations and have spanned the whole keyboard repertoire from Sweelinck to Rzewski. Teaching, too, is an important part of Jerome Lowenthal's musical life. For thirty years at The Juilliard School and for fifty-three summers at the Music Academy of the West he has worked with immensely gifted students. He gives classes annually at the Bimfa Festival in Beijing and is a regular participant in the piano festivals of Israel, Italy, France, Germany, Korea, and China, as well as those of his own country. Learn more at juilliard.edu/music/faculty/lowenthal-jerome.



Yamaha Artist **JOSÉ RAMÓN MÉNDEZ** has concertized extensively in Spain, the United States, Italy, England, Portugal, Holland, and Japan to great acclaim. Mendez began undergraduate and graduate studies at Manhattan School of Music in New York City with renowned pedagogue Solomon Mikowsky and finished his Doctorate under the tutelage of Byron Janis and Miyoko Lotto. He won top prizes in the Pilar Bayona International Piano Competition, Hilton Head Island International Piano Competition, Frederick Chopin Competition in New York, and Hermanos Guerrero International Piano Competition. Recent performances include Chopin's first piano concerto with the Cuban National Symphony Orchestra and Manuel de Falla's "Nights in the Gardens of Spain" with the Nittany Valley Symphony. His playing has been featured on WQXR's Performance Today and on Classical KMFA. He has also been a guest performer at the Caramoor Festival, Barge Music Series, Festival Internacional de Piano de las Islas Canarias, "Tocando el Cielo," Musica en Compostela, Music at Penns Woods and Palmetto, Adamant, Amalfi, Stony Brook, and Santander Festivals. As a chamber musician, Mendez has collaborated with Karl Leister, Itzhak Perlman, Michael Tree, Pascual Martinez-Nieto, and Pinchas Zukerman. He has given masterclasses throughout Spain, as well as in the United States. Mendez was also assistant teacher to Miyoko Lotto at the Perlman Music Program, a program for gifted young musicians founded by violinist Itzhak Perlman. In the summers, he is the Artistic Director and on the faculty of the Gijon International Piano Festival in Gijon, Spain, as well as frequently being invited to perform and teach at various festivals. Mendez has been on the faculty at the University of Texas at Austin, New York University, Pennsylvania State University, Northwestern University, and the University of Northern Arizona. In September he joins the Oberlin faculty as Associate Professor of Piano. Learn more at joseramonmendez.com.



Lauded for "superb playing" and "poised, alert musicianship" by the Boston Globe, and labeled "definitely a man to watch" by London's The Independent after his 2012 Wigmore Hall recital debut, American pianist **SPENCER MYER** is one of the most respected and sought-after artists on today's concert stage. He has been soloist with The Cleveland Orchestra, the Cape Town and Johannesburg Philharmonics, and the Indianapolis and New Haven Symphonies, among others. His 2005 tour of South Africa included a performance of Beethoven's five piano concerti with the Chamber Orchestra of South Africa, followed by six subsequent return tours. An in-demand chamber musician, his artistic partners have included cellists Lynn Harrell and Ralph Kirshbaum, clarinetist David Shifrin, soprano Nicole Cabell, and the Jupiter, Miami and Pacifica String Quartets. His career was launched with three important prizes: First Prize in the 2004 UNISA International Piano Competition in South Africa, the 2006 Christel DeHaan Classical Fellowship from the American Pianists Association and the Gold Medal from the 2008 New Orleans International Piano Competition. He is also a laureate of the 2005 Cleveland and Busoni International Competitions. He was a member of Astral Artists' performance roster from 2003-2010. Previously on the piano faculty of Boston's Longy School of Music, Spencer Myer is currently Associate Professor of Piano at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where he received the 2024 Trustees Teaching Award. He has released five CDs on the Steinway & Sons label — Piano Rags of William Bolcom, three discs with cellist Brian Thornton, and most recently the Four Chopin Impromptus. Spencer Myer is a Steinway Artist. Learn more at www.spencermeyer.com.





URSULA OPPENS is a legend among American pianists. No artist alive today has commissioned and premiered more new works for the piano that have entered the permanent repertoire. She has premiered works by John Adams, Luciano Berio, Anthony Braxton, Elliott Carter, John Corigliano, Conlon Nancarrow, Charles Wuorinen, Julius Hemphill, John Harbison, Tobias Picker, and many more. A prolific recording artist with five Grammy nominations, Oppens' releases include a recording of Frederic Rzewski's *The People United Will Never Be Defeated*; *Piano Songs*, a collaboration with Meredith Monk; *Winging It: Piano Music of John Corigliano*; *Oppens Plays Carter*; a recording of Elliott Carter's complete piano works for Cedille Records; *Piano Music of Our Time* featuring compositions by John Adams, Elliott Carter, and others; and a two-piano CD for Cedille Records devoted to Messiaen's *Visions de l'Amen* and Debussy's *En blanc et noir* performed with pianist Jerome Lowenthal. Her most recent release is "FANTASY: OPPENS PLAYS KAMINSKY" (Cedille). Oppens appeared in recital at Merkin Concert Hall on February 2, 2019 for the celebration of her 75th birthday, as part of the Kaufman Music Center's series, *Only at Merkin* with Terrance McKnight. She performed solo piano works written for her by Elliott Carter and John Corigliano, premiered *Ursula* by Tobias Picker, and joined the Cassatt Quartet in giving the world premiere of a piano quintet by Laura Kaminsky. Oppens has performed with most of the world's major orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Berlin Symphony, and London Philharmonic Orchestras. She is also an avid chamber musician, performing with the Arditti, Juilliard, and Pacifica quartets, among others. Oppens joined the faculty of Mannes College in fall 2017, and is Distinguished Professor of Music at Brooklyn College and the CUNY Graduate Center in New York City. Visit colbertartists.com/artists/ursula-oppens



REBECCA PENNEYS is a recitalist, chamber musician, orchestral soloist, educator, and adjudicator. For over six decades she has been hailed as a pianist of prodigious talent, concertizing in all the continents north of Antarctica and representing the USA in Information Service State Department Cultural Tours over a ten-year period. She made her recital debut at age 9 and performed as soloist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra at 11. At 17 Rebecca received the unprecedented Special Critics' Prize at the VII International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw, an award created in her honor. Other prizes include two Naumburg Chamber Music Awards, Most Outstanding Musician Prize in the Vianna Da Motta Competition, and top prize in the Paloma O'Shea Competition. She made her NY Debut at Alice Tully Hall in 1972. Critics worldwide have acclaimed her live performances and recordings. An International Steinway Artist, Rebecca has received accolades for her ability to teach *Motion and Emotion*, an approach to keyboard technique that helps pianists achieve individual performance goals without physical strain or injury. Her former students hold teaching posts worldwide and include prizewinners in international competitions. Having completed 43 years of collegiate teaching, she retired in 2017 and is now Professor Emerita of Piano at Eastman with a courtesy Steinway-Artist-in-Residence at USF. In 2021 Rebecca was inducted into the Steinway Teachers Hall of Fame. She was Chautauqua Piano Chair for 34 years and started its chamber music program. Launched in 2013, RPPF is her tuition-free festival, supported by the non-profit 501c3 Rebecca Penneys Friends of Piano, Inc. Her many CD's, DVD's, performance/teaching videos, and *Chicken Soup for Pianists* are available online. Most recently Rebecca has been a guest at the Royal Northern College of Music, Adamant Music School, and PianoTexas. A graduate of Indiana University, her teachers include Aube Tzerko, Leonard Stein, Rosina Lhevinne, Artur Rubinstejn, Menahem Pressler, György Sebök, Janos Starker, and Josef Gingold. Hear her on Amazon and Apple Music, or visit rebeccapenneys.com.



1st Prize Winner of the 2001 Cleveland International Piano Competition, the 2018 American Prize and 15 different international competitions in Italy; prizewinner at Van Cliburn, Honens, Dublin, Sendai, Geza Anda and Valencia Competitions, **ROBERTO PLANO** performs regularly throughout the world, notably at Lincoln Center, Salle Cortot, Wigmore Hall and the Herkulessaal. His engaging personality has made him a favorite guest on such radio programs as NPR's "Performance Today," and on TV shows for PBS, Mezzo and NHK. He has appeared with orchestras under the direction of renowned conductors Sir Neville Marriner, James Conlon, Pinchas Zuckerman, Miguel Harth-Bedoya. An avid chamber musician, Plano has played with the Takacs, Cremona, Jupiter, St. Petersburg, Fine Arts, Muir String Quartets, among others. He has recorded for Decca, Brilliant, Azica, Arktos, Sipario, DaVinci, Concerto, being awarded five stars by several music magazines. In Italy, he has appeared multiple times on the cover of *Amadeus Magazine*. Described as the "Pavarotti of the Piano" for his lyricism, music critic Anthony Tommasini wrote in the *New York Times*: "This Italian pianist showed artistic maturity beyond his years... there was a wonderful clarity and control of inner voices in his performances..." Plano studied at the Verdi Conservatory in Milan, the Lake Como Academy and the Ecole "Cortot" in Paris, where he earned the *Diplôme Supérieur de Concertiste*. In 2016 he joined the Faculty of Boston University; in 2018 he was appointed Associate Professor of Piano at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. One of the most sought-after teachers in the world, Mr. Plano also regularly teaches during the summer at Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival and at Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival. Starting in 2023, he will be on the Faculty of Conservatorio della Svizzera Italiana (Lugano, Switzerland) and Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester (UK). robertoplano.com

Born and raised in Foggia, Italy, **ANTONIO POMPA-BALDI** won the Cleveland International Piano Competition in 1999 and embarked on a multifaceted career that continues to extend across five continents. A top prize winner at the 1998 Marguerite Long-Jacques Thibaud Competition of Paris, France, Pompa-Baldi won a silver medal at the 2001 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. Mr. Pompa-Baldi appears at the world's major concert venues including New York's Carnegie Hall, Cleveland's Severance Hall, Milan's Sala Verdi, Boston's Symphony Hall, Shanghai's Grand Theatre, and Paris' Salle Pleyel, to name a few. He has collaborated with leading conductors including Hans Graf, James Conlon, Miguel Harth-Bedoya, Krzysztof Urbanski, Theodore Kuchar, Benjamin Zander, Louis Lane, and Keith Lockhart. He has performed with colleagues such as the Takacs String Quartet, Alison Balsom, Sharon Robinson, Ilya Kaler, and principals of the Cleveland Orchestra, Dallas Symphony, New York Philharmonic, and Juilliard Quartet, among others. Pompa-Baldi has recorded 35 albums to date, for various labels including Centaur Records, Harmonia Mundi, Steinway, TwoPianists, Azica, and Brilliant Classics. Antonio Pompa-Baldi is a Steinway Artist since 2003. He is often invited to judge international piano competitions such as the Cleveland, Hilton Head, E-Competition (Minneapolis), BNDES Rio de Janeiro, and Edward Grieg (Bergen), among others. Pompa-Baldi is the head of the piano department at the Cleveland Institute of Music, where he has been a Distinguished Professor of Piano and Artist-in-Residence for over two decades. He is also Vice Director for Education at the Lang Lang Art World organization in Hangzhou, China, and advisory board member of the Lang Lang International Piano Foundation in New York City. In 2015, Pompa-Baldi founded Todi International Music Masters. This summer festival takes place every August in the beautiful Italian town of Todi. It features internationally renowned faculty members, and students from all over the world.



ROBERTA RUST has concertized to critical acclaim around the globe and has been hailed for her recordings on the Navona, Centaur, and Protone labels. She appeared with the Lark, Ying, Serafin, Amernet and Fine Arts String Quartets, performed as soloist with the Houston Symphony and the New World Symphony, served as Artistic Ambassador for the United States, and was awarded a major National Endowment for the Arts grant. Rust serves as head of the piano department at the Lynn University Conservatory of Music in Boca Raton, Florida and has given master classes throughout Asia and the Americas. During the summers she teaches at the Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival and the Adamant Music School in Vermont. She has been a competition adjudicator for the Bösendorfer - Yamaha USASU International Piano Competition, MTNA competitions, the New World Symphony, the Chautauqua and Brevard Festivals, and the Colburn School's Music Academy. For more information please visit www.robetarust.com.



Pianist **TAMÁS UNGÁR** has earned worldwide acclaim for his powerful performances and innovative programming. A guest artist at music centers throughout the U.S., he also performs and teaches around the globe. Between 2006-2014 he performed over 70 concerts in America, Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Hungary, Romania, England, Taiwan, The People's Republic of China, Korea, and Japan. Ungár is Founder – Executive Director of the PianoTexas International Festival and a member of the TCU Piano Faculty (1978-present). His students have received prizes in national and international competitions, have performed in prestigious music centers, and have made numerous recordings. Ungár has been invited as a guest teacher to the Semper International Music Festival in Völs am Schlern, Italy; Banff Piano Master Classes, Canada; Hamamatsu Master Classes, Japan; the Tel-Hai Master Classes, Israel; International Master Classes, Katowice; and the Chopin Festival in Duzniki, Poland. Since 1989, he has also been a regular guest teacher in China and has taught in Japan, Korea, Singapore and Indonesia. From 2006 to 2014 he was Artistic Director of the Beijing International Piano Festival and he continues to be Artistic Advisor for the Zhou Guangren Summer Piano Institute. In 2010 Ungár received the prestigious Presidential Scholar Program's Teacher Recognition Award and in 2013 the Music Teachers National Association (USA) named him "The Teacher of the Year." The Senate of Texas has proclaimed Ungár as a "Distinguished Citizen" in recognition for his achievements. Dr. Ungár's most influential teachers included Alexander Sverjensky at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Lajos Hernádi at the Liszt Academy, and György Sebök at Indiana University, where he was awarded the Doctorate in Music. Prior to his present position he taught at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, the Purcell School (England) and the University of California at San Diego. Tamás Ungár records exclusively for CALA Records. https://finearts.tcu.edu/faculty_staff/tamas-ungar/



STAFF BIOGRAPHIES



TABITHA COLUMBARE enjoys a busy, musical life juggling her various roles of pianist, pedagogue, administrator, Army wife, and mom! She studied with Dr. Richard Shuster as an undergraduate at Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas and was recognized with the TWU Outstanding Undergraduate Performer Award and the Presser Foundation Award. Her Master's and Doctoral degrees were completed at the Eastman School of Music with Rebecca Penneys. There, Tabitha earned the Jerald C. Graue Fellowship, for her research on late-nineteenth-century performance practice, in addition to a Certificate in College Teaching. Her pedagogical experience includes a musicology internship at Nazareth College and adjunct positions at Texas Woman's University and Tarrant County College, where she taught applied lessons, class piano, and music appreciation. Tabitha was a featured alumna for TWU's 2014-15 Music Centennial Celebration, presenting a lecture recital entitled "Rediscovering Chopin" and performing on the *Hail, Alma Mater, Hail* Reunion Concert. Her other lecture, solo, and chamber performances have charmed audiences in Texas, Florida, New York, and São Paulo, Brazil. Currently, Tabitha lives in Temple, Texas, with her husband (an enlisted trumpet player in the U.S. Army) and three young children. Every new military assignment is an opportunity to build a fresh private studio or find other venues for teaching and performing. Despite multiple moves and a growing family, Tabitha has been on the staff for RPPF since its inception in 2013. She is honored to be the Associate Director and excited to see how the festival continues to change and grow!



ARAN KIM is a collaborative pianist in the Oakland University School of Music, Theatre, and Dance in Rochester, Michigan and plays for the voice department including the Oakland Chorale, the University Chorus, and the Symphony Chorus. She is also a music director and organist at Waterford Central United Methodist Church and actively maintains her teaching career at her home studio in Rochester as a member of MDML, an affiliate of the Music Teachers National Association. Aran holds a DMA in Piano Performance from the University of Arizona where she studied with Tannis Gibson and served as a graduate teaching assistant to Lisa Zdechlik. She earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Piano Performance graduating *Magna Cum Laude* at Texas A&M University-Commerce, where she received numerous scholarships and served as a full-time teaching/accompanying assistant, studying under the tutelage of Luis Sanchez. During her academic years, Aran's awards included 2nd place at the TMTA Young Artist Competition, finalist in the SAI Piano Concerto Competition in Chautauqua Festival, NY, winner of the Annual Concerto Competition at Texas A&M University-Commerce, and alternative winner of the President's Concerto Competition at the University of Arizona. In 2022, Aran was nominated as an award recipient of Alumni Ambassador at Texas A&M University-Commerce. An active local chamber musician, Aran and her colleague Dr. Marina Stojanovska founded the four-hand piano *Arina Duo*, performing concerts in such venues as the Steinway Piano Gallery Detroit. Aran is excited to join the team at RPPF this summer!



KLYDE LEDAMO has achieved great success in his career, with performances across Southeast Asia, Europe, and North America. His recent awards include Third Prize at the 2023 New York Liszt International Piano Competition, where he made his Carnegie Hall debut at the Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage performing Liszt's Concerto No. 1 with the Orchestra of St. Luke's. Klyde has also won First Prizes from various competitions, including the Schubert Club, National Society of Arts and Letters, Lynn Concerto, and Tampa Bay Symphony Concerto. After graduating with a BM degree from the University of the Philippines, he studied at Lynn Conservatory-Florida, where he obtained an MM degree in 2021 and "The Dean's Award for Excellence in Graduate Education." Klyde's musical journey also took him to the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna for a summer academy in 2017. Alongside his musical achievements, Klyde is committed to community outreach, organizing fundraising concerts including the *Music for Missions* in Illinois, and in his hometown in Bontoc Southern Leyte, and also serves as an inspirational speaker at Filipino-American Association Events in the United States. Currently pursuing a DMA at the University of Iowa where he was awarded the Outstanding TA Award, Klyde's passion for music education and philanthropy exemplify his dedication to enriching lives through music. His principal teachers include Roberta Rust and Uriel Tsachor. Recently, Klyde was invited as a Fellow to the prestigious 2024 Gilmore Fellowship Residency Program. This is his fourth year as a staff member at RPPF. www.klydeledamo.com



Chinese-born pianist **CHEN LIANG** is becoming an active figure on a global level. As a recording artist for KNS Classical in Spain and a performing artist for Chengdu City Concert Hall in China, Chen gives numerous recitals every year around the world. As a concerto soloist, Chen has played with the Chong Qing Philharmonic in China, Greece Symphony Orchestra in New York, and Lynn Philharmonic in Florida. Chen is the winner of the Clara Schumann International Piano Competition, Manhattan International Music Competition, Lira International Piano Competition, Big Arts Classical Music Scholarship Competition, and Lynn Concerto Competition. He also won top prizes in many other competitions including “ArsClassica” International Piano Competition in Italy, Piano Texas Music Festival Concerto Competition, and the Chautauqua Music Festival Piano Competition. Currently, Chen serves as a Board Member for the Seattle International Piano Competition, as well as the piano Faculty at the Chopin Academy of Music in Issaquah. He also performs as a Collaborative Pianist for the Pacific Northwest Ballet and the Seattle Choral Company. Before moving to Seattle, Chen was a former Piano Faculty at Eastman Community Music School in New York and an Adjunct Lecturer at the State University of New York at Geneseo (SUNY Geneseo). Back in China, Chen co-founded the “Beyond Clouds” summer piano festival in Chengdu and has been serving as the Artistic Director since 2018. Chen holds his degrees from Lynn University Conservatory of Music (BM) and Eastman School of Music (MM, DMA).



JANNINA ELIANA (JANNA) G. PEÑA, a Filipina pianist, has achieved remarkable success in various competitions, including the BIG ARTS Classical Music Scholarship, the GCC 2020 Artist of the Year, the National Music Competitions for Young Artists, and other prestigious prizes in her home country. Janna has performed with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra and Manila Symphony Orchestra, and outside the Philippines, in concert venues in Malaysia, Taiwan, Japan, Indonesia, and the United States. Janna’s passion for music extends beyond solo performance, as she garners prizes in chamber music collaborations and actively engages in music education and administration. As a pedagogue, she recently presented at the 2024 MTNA National Conference, the NCKP 2023, and the 2023 Conero International Piano Festival in Italy. Janna is an organizer and faculty member of the annual Philippine Suzuki Association National Camp. She was also the assistant director of the first Makiling Music Festival. Janna graduated from the Philippine High School for the Arts, where she received the Outstanding Student Artist Award and the Cultural Center of the Philippines Scholarship. She earned her BM in piano performance at the Lynn Conservatory of Music, where she graduated Summa cum Laude and was a recipient of the Dean’s Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Education. She is currently pursuing her MM in Piano Performance & Pedagogy at the University of Houston Moores School of Music, where she serves as a teaching assistant. Her teachers include Prof. Carmencita Arambulo, Dr. Roberta Rust, Dr. Andrew Staupe, and Dr. Todd Van Kekerix (pedagogy).




Korean-born pianist **DR. E-NA SONG** is a concert pianist, collaborative pianist, educator, and the Assistant Director of the Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival (RPPF). An active performer, Dr. Song loves presenting a variety of music and styles to audiences around the world and has performed throughout the United States, Poland, Spain, Austria, and Korea. She recently presented a solo program on the Live from Hochstein Concert Series, entitled “Celebration of Dance: Beethoven, Kodály, Liszt, and Albright,” and a collaborative recital with her violinist colleague called “Timeless Melodies: Brahms, Kreisler, Beach, Schoenfeld,” that was broadcast on WXXI Classical 91.5 FM. Dr. Song is on the piano faculty at Roberts Wesleyan University, the Hochstein School, and Roberts Community Music School, in addition to holding collaborative pianist positions at SUNY Geneseo and the Eastman Community Music School. Dr. Song earned her Bachelor’s Degree from Seoul National University, the most prestigious university in South Korea, under Professor HyungBae Kim. She completed her Master’s and Doctoral degrees in Piano Performance and Literature at the Eastman School of Music under the tutelage of Professor Rebecca Penneys.



MIKALE TANG is a current student at the University of South Florida and this is his first season as the photographer/videographer for RPPF. He has grown up in the United States for the majority of his life but was born in Saigon, Vietnam, and often visited when he was younger. Currently, Mikale’s focus is on cinematography and how images can form a narrative. However, his foundation was rooted in photography when he obtained his first DSLR camera years ago. Be sure to check out his work on Instagram! @Mikalevisual

DAILY CALENDAR

		Thursday - June 27	Friday - June 28	Saturday - June 29	Sunday - June 30	
KEY COLORS	Master Class			2:30-3:30pm STC: Kidgell	2-3pm Q&A: Faculty Forum 1	
	Special Topic Class			3-4pm SC: Steinway Gallery		
	Private Event	5-6:30pm Orientation & Pizza	6:30-8pm MC: Alvin Chow	6:30-8pm MC: Cheng	6:30-8pm MC: Brown	
	Satellite Concert	6-7pm SC: Dalí Museum		8-9pm Student Soirée		
Monday - July 1	Tuesday - July 2	Wednesday - July 3	Thursday - July 4	Friday - July 5	Saturday - July 6	Sunday - July 7
				11am-11:30am WUSF Live Interview		
2-3pm STC: A. Murray Dance	2-3pm STC: Dr. Ray	2:30-4pm MC: Rust	BEACH & FIREWORKS DAY	2:30-4pm MC: Oppens	2:30-3:30pm Soirée: Lowenthal	2-3pm Q&A: Faculty Forum 2
3-4pm Soirée: Harding	3-4pm Soirée: Rust				3-4pm SC: NTPAC	3-4pm Legacy: Ungár
6:30-8pm MC: Harding	6:30-8pm MC: loudenitch	6:30-8pm MC: Alan Chow		6:30-8pm MC: Plano	6:30-8pm MC: Ungár	6:30-8pm MC: Giles
					8-9pm Student Soirée	
Monday - July 8	Tuesday - July 9	Wednesday - July 10	Thursday - July 11	Friday - July 12	Saturday - July 13	Sunday - July 14
		1pm-1:30pm WUSF Live Interview			11-12:30pm SC: ASPEC	8:30am & 11am SC: Palma Ceia Church
2:30-3:30pm Soirée: Oppens	2:30-4pm MC: Humpherys	2:30-3:30pm Soirée: Myer	DALÍ MUSEUM & DOLPHIN CRUISE	2-3pm Q&A: Faculty Forum 3	2-3pm Soirée: Choi	2:30-4pm MC: Artymiw
				3-4pm Soirée: Greene	3-4pm SC: Steinway Gallery	3-4pm SC: Peace Memorial
6:30-8pm MC: Lowenthal	6:30-8pm MC: Myer	6:30-8pm MC: Pempa-Baldi			3-4:30pm MC: Lee	4-5pm SC: Canterbury Towers
				6:30-8pm MC: Choi	6:30-8pm MC: Kern	7-8:30pm Student Showcase
					8-9pm Student Soirée	
Monday - July 15	Tuesday - July 16					
2-3:30pm MC: Méndez	Noon-2pm Student Showcase					
3:30-5pm MC: Greene	2-4pm Photos & Party					



STUDENT BIOGRAPHIES



Nineteen-year-old **Harrison Jude Benford** is a first-year piano performance major in the studio of concert pianist Antonio Pompa-Baldi at the Cleveland Institute of Music. He began studying piano at age five and credits much of his development as a musician to Nancy O'Neill Breth of Washington, D.C. He has been a recitalist at Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage, Merkin Concert Hall, The Mansion at Strathmore, Levine Music Center, and the Steinway Gallery Annex. He is the first prize recipient in many international and national competitions including MTNA Senior Duet, the Rubato International Piano Competition, the Nora Lichtenberg Piano Scholarship Competition, AAMS International Piano Competition, and the Ylda Novik Memorial Concerto Competition. Harrison has participated in masterclasses and worked with such esteemed musicians such as Emanuel Ax, John O'Connor, Ann Schein, Arnaldo Cohen, Jean-Louis Haguener, Edward Auer, Yakov Kasman, Brian Ganz, and Blair McMillen, to name a few. Harrison takes great pleasure in collaborative piano and community outreach, and along with other musicians has brought live music to civic and senior centers throughout the greater Washington D.C. area. One of Harrison's greatest joys is spending each summer collaborating with other musicians at summer music camps and festivals including Interlochen, Tanglewood (BUTI) and Greenwood, the camp that sparked his love for chamber music. Harrison has played in many trios, quartets, and quintets, and he ultimately aspires to become a conservatory professor of piano and music theory.



Charismatic and popular with audiences in recital and concerto settings, **Huiping Cai**, age 26, is an engaging pianist known for her lyricism, musicality, and formidable technique. After winning First Prize, Best Concerto Award, and Best Recital Award at the 2017 Philadelphia International Piano Competition, she also won first prizes at the 2018 Miami Music Festival Piano Concerto Competition, the 2019 Chopin International Piano Competition in Hartford, CT, the 2022 Los Angeles International Liszt Competition, and the 2023 New York Franz Liszt International Piano Competition. Huiping made her Carnegie Hall debut at Weill Recital Hall and Stern Auditorium Perelman Stage with Orchestra of St. Luke's in 2023. As a soloist, she has performed across the United States and worldwide including Mexico, Russia, Kazakhstan, and her home country, China. She performed piano concertos with Evergreen Symphony Orchestra, Hong Kong VTC Symphony Orchestra, Jalisco Philharmonic Orchestra, Kazakhstan National Symphony Orchestra, Miami Music Festival Orchestra, Orchestra of St. Luke's, Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra, and Temple University Symphony Orchestra. Huiping received her MM in Piano Performance from New England Conservatory where she studied with Dang Thai Son and held a Teaching Assistantship. She is currently pursuing her DMA in Piano Performance & Literature under the tutelage of Alan Chow at the Eastman School of Music, along with her MM in Piano Accompanying & Chamber Music. This is Huiping's second summer at RPPF.



Bingjian Chen, born in 2003, began to play the piano at six years old and was performing by the age of ten. She entered the Middle School affiliated with the Shanghai Conservatory of Music at the age of twelve and finished her high school diploma there. In 2022 she was admitted into the Colburn Conservatory of Music and she is pursuing her Bachelor's degree there now, under Fabio Bidini. Bingjian has performed both as a soloist and a chamber musician in venues like Herbst Theatre in San Francisco, Shanghai Heluting Concert Hall, Xiamen Concert Hall, Rocca Sforzesca, and CCTV (China Central Television). She has taken lessons and masterclasses with Alan Chow, Meng-Chieh Liu, Yoshikazu Nagai, Jin Ju, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, and Anna Sheludko at the Saint-Petersburg Conservatory of Music, with whom she takes regular online lessons. Bingjian graduated from middle school with excellent grades. She has won scholarships every semester including the "Niu En De Scholarship," the school-awarded scholarship, the scholarship of Shanghai City, and the scholarship awarded by the Shanghai Municipal Education Commission. In 2021, Bingjian was invited to make a tour recital in Shandong Province, Shanghai, and Shangqiu. Most recently, in 2023, she won first prize in the Artciál Piano Competition and the Royal Piano Competition.



Celine Chen, age 20, is in her second year at the University of Southern California, where she studies piano with Bernadene Blaha and flute with Catherine Karoly. As a 2022 Grand Prize winner of the Young Musicians Inspiring Change International Competition, Celine was one of six instrumentalists invited to play a benefit concert at Carnegie Hall. She has also been awarded prizes from MTNA National Competitions, The Music Center's Spotlight, the Celia Mendez Young Pianists Beethoven Competition, and the Kaufman Music Center International Youth Piano Competition. Other honors include the Colburn School Herbert Zipper Scholar Award, the William Grant Still Arts Center Scholarship, and the National YoungArts Merit Award. An avid chamber musician, Celine and her piano trio have won prizes in the Pasadena Conservatory of Music Chamber Music Competition and the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. In the summer of 2018, they represented Junior Chamber Music as Debut Artists and toured Europe, including Prague, Vienna, and Budapest. Outside of performing, Celine shares her love for music through her work in the Back to Bach Project as a Director of Global Operations. With around 70 global regions, the Back to Bach Project aims to provide a music and arts education to inspire the next generation. At USC, Celine works as a research assistant at the Brain and Creativity Institute, where she is currently working on several projects that explore the relationship between music and the brain. She hopes her work will have future applications to musicians and non-musicians alike.



Born in Taiwan, 20-year-old pianist **Huan-Ching Chou** has won several international piano competitions, most recently the Philadelphia International Piano Competition in 2021. In the past few years, performing as an active soloist and collaborative pianist, he has given recitals at The Kosciuszko Foundation under the "Salon De Virtuosi" series in New York City, the Steinway Piano Gallery in Toronto, and the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia. Always a determined musician, Huan-Ching has attended and performed at numerous summer festivals, including the Philadelphia Young Pianists' Academy and the Gijón International Piano Festival in Spain. Last summer, as a full fellowship recipient, he enhanced his skills with Arie Vardi at the Aspen Music Festival and School. His experience is enriched further through masterclasses with esteemed pianists such as Gary Graffman, Robert McDonald, Yoheved Kaplinsky, Dang Thai Son, Christopher Elton, and Pierre-Laurent Aimard. Besides performing, Huan-Ching is also a recording artist. In May 2023, his debut studio album was released worldwide on major music platforms, featuring substantial compositions by Haydn, Chopin, Schumann, Liszt, Prokofiev, Kapustin, and Jianzhong Wang. Currently, Huan-Ching is pursuing his Bachelor of Music degree under the tutelage of Professor Jerome Lowenthal at The Juilliard School in New York City.



Samuel Goldfarb, age 19, is a passionate pianist who has been dedicated to his craft since the age of three. Originally from Houston, Texas, he was a member of the Michael P. Hammond Preparatory Program at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music from early elementary school to high school graduation, studying primarily with Dr. Richard Marshall. He also studied piano at Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts under the guidance of Rodolfo Morales. An avid competitor, Sam has won the Eleventh International Chopin Youth Competition (Chopin Society of Houston), as well as the Jan Ekier Award for Best Performance of the Most Difficult Piece (2019). More awards he has won include first place in the 2022 Clear Lake Symphony Youth Concerto Competition, first place in the 2022 HMTA Chamber Music & Piano Ensemble Competition, second place in the 2023 TMTA Piano Solo Competition, third place in the 2022 TMTA Piano Concerto Competition, and third place in the 2021 Kinder HSPVA Concerto Competition. Furthermore, Sam has a lot of experience collaborating with other musicians, whether it's accompanying vocalists at Kinder HSPVA, chamber music at Interlochen Arts Camp, or performing with orchestras including the Kinder HSPVA Symphony Orchestra, the Clear Lake Symphony Orchestra, and the University of Michigan's Symphony Orchestra. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance at the University of Michigan under the tutelage of Dr. Logan Skelton.



Nayeon Gu, a twenty-two-year-old pianist from Seoul, South Korea, embarked on her piano journey at the age of five. She pursued her education at Yewon School, then Seoul Art High School, and attended the New England Conservatory of Music for her undergraduate studies, where she studied with Haesun Paik. Nayeon made her solo debut at Kumho Art Hall in Seoul, at the age of fifteen, and has performed in ensembles at the LG Spring Festival at Lincoln Center in New York. She has had masterclasses with Alexander Korsantia, Wu Han, Yuri Slesarev, Jan Jiracek von Arnim, and Vincent Coq. In 2022, she attended the New Paltz Piano Summer Festival, performing in the Piano Summer Student Recital in Shepard Recital Hall. Currently, Nayeon studies with Sofya Gulyak at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music.



19-year-old **Rin Homma** was previously a scholarship student at the Colburn Conservatory. Since performing at the San Diego Salute to Champions at age 6, Rin has participated in several competitions, winning first place in the MTAC Piano Regional Competition five consecutive times, three of which she has won the state finals. In 2018, she appeared with the professional San Francisco Chamber Orchestra in a 3-day tour with Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 1. She also took second place in the MTNA California Junior Competition and emerged as a finalist in the 2020 SJIPC. She placed second in the 2023 Edith Knox Concerto Competition as well as first in the 2023 CYS Young Artist Competition and the 2023 All-Stars Concerto Competition, after which she performed the full Ravel G Major Concerto in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area. Previously having studied under Mina Perry, Hans Boepple, and Frank Lévy, she is a second-year student at UCLA under Professor Inna Faliks.



Adrian King, age 21, is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance at Eastman School of Music where he studies with Douglas Humpherys. Previously, he studied with Peter Mack of Cornish College of the Arts in his hometown of Seattle. Adrian began his musical studies at age four when he started learning both piano and classical guitar. Since then, he has developed a love for performing as a soloist, as well as collaborating with others. In recent years, Adrian performed in various international piano competitions and festivals. He is a National YoungArts winner and in 2019, he was granted the opportunity to attend the classical music program at the YoungArts Los Angeles program. In 2019, Adrian received the Gold Medal at the Seattle International Piano Competition. Additionally, he was the winner of the 2018 Aloha International Piano Festival Competition and performed Prokofiev's Concerto No. 3 with the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra. He has performed concerti with orchestras throughout Washington and Minnesota. When away from the piano, Adrian enjoys running, hiking, cooking, and photography. This is his second summer at RPPF.



Hanxiao Lai, age 25, was born in Shenzhen, China where she began her piano studies at the age of six. An engaging pianist, Hanxiao has given concerts in the United States, China, and Europe. As concerto competition winner, she has performed with the Idyllwild Arts Academy Orchestra as well as the Coachella Valley Symphony. She has been invited to the Malibu Friends of Music Concert Series as a featured soloist and chamber musician, and has performed in concerts held by the Steinway Society. Hanxiao has also been invited to music festivals such as Aspen Music Festival and School, PianoTexas International Festival and Academy, and Chautauqua Music Festival, among others. Most recently, she was awarded First Prize in the Steinway Society Concerto Competition, Alternate in the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Senior Piano Competition of California, and Second Place in CAPMT Honors Competition. During her time in the United States, Hanxiao has been a featured performer on National Public Radio's 'From The Top' show. Her additional accomplishments include First Prize of the KAWAI Piano Competition, Gold Medal of the Qinxin Piano Competition, and First Prize of the Imola Piano Competition in China. Hanxiao is currently pursuing her DMA in piano performance and literature at the Eastman School of Music under the tutelage of Professor Alan Chow.



Born in 2004, **Ariya Laothitipong** became the first-ever Thai pianist to win first prize at the prestigious 5th International Franz Liszt Competition for Young Pianists in Weimar, Germany. Following her success in Germany, Ariya won second prize (no first prize awarded) along with the Press Prize and the Audience Prize from the International Piano Competition in Enschede, Netherlands. In the same year, she won first prize in the 4th Thailand Steinway Youth Piano Competition. Her recent achievements include being awarded third prize from the Nashville International Chopin Competition 2023. Ariya started her piano lessons at the age of 4. She was a student of Dr. Pornphan Banterghansa and Dr. Christopher Janwong McKiggan at the Piano Academy of Bangkok. Since August 2021, Ariya has been under the tutelage of Christopher Harding at the University of Michigan. Ariya also performs actively as a soloist and chamber musician. Since 2021, Ariya has been a pianist of Trio Matisse, where she has been under the tutelage of Amy I-Lin Cheng. Their most recent achievements include being the first prize winner of the Southern Illinois Young Artist Organization 2023, first prize winner at the Briggs Chamber Music Competition 2022, the Grand Prize winner of the New York International Young Musician Competition 2022, second place at the MTNA Chamber Music Competition, and the Kronos Award at the Glass City Chamber Music Competition. Ariya has been featured as a soloist with orchestras such as the Staatskapelle Weimar, Musikgymnasium Belvedere, Pro Musica String Ensemble, and Thai Youth Orchestra.



Adella Li, age 22, began her piano studies at the age of 6 under the tutelage of Sun Yun at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. At the age of 10, upon the completion of her Grade 8 SGEM (Standard Grading Examination in Music) in China, she received the SGEM Distinction Award. Later that year, she was afforded the opportunity to move to Australia, where she began studies with Margaret Hair. Upon enrolling in the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Adella also studied with Clemens Leske. Having won numerous distinction prizes from the Greater Sydney Eisteddfods, Adella has since remained active in numerous collaborative engagements. In 2017 and 2019, she participated in the Sydney International KAWAI Piano Masterclass Festival, studying with and performing for Robert McDonald and John Perry. Having won the Sydney Conservatorium Concerto Competition in 2020, Adella made her debut as a soloist in 2022 with the Penrith Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Dr. Paul Terracini. In 2023, Adella was both an alumni and a performer at the Orford Musique Academy in Quebec and the International Holland Music Sessions in the Netherlands. As a recipient of the Ron Bresler and Erin Donohue Scholarship, she is at the Glenn Gould School in Toronto, studying under John Perry and David Louie. Adella has since played in open masterclasses for well renowned professors and soloists, including John O'Connor, Jeremy Denk, Jacques Rouvier, Ronan O'Hora, and Anton Nel.



Xinjie Li, age 19, is a second-year student at Oberlin College and Conservatory, under the tutelage of Professor Dang Thai Son. His early training took place at The Middle School Affiliated to Shanghai Conservatory of Music, with Professor Yun Sun. Li's remarkable musical achievements have garnered high praise and have been honed through participation in prestigious competitions. Selected for the preliminary round of the Chopin International Competition, his performances were broadcast globally. Additionally, he was honored to perform at the National Centre for the Performing Arts in China after winning first place in the 15th Xinghai Cup National Piano Competition. Li performed Mozart's Concerto No.19 in F Major, K.459, at the age of nine with the Sichuan Symphony Orchestra and also performed a Mozart Concerto with the Shaanxi Youth Symphony Orchestra. During a performance at the Tianjin Concert Hall, Li collaborated with renowned conductor Mr. Tang Muhai. His exceptional accomplishments have earned him recognition not only within his own nation but also internationally. Li was invited to the 40th Kirishima International Music Festival, renowned as one of Japan's oldest festivals. He has further showcased his talent through performances of Chopin's pieces, Scriabin etudes, and Brahms-Paganini Variations: Book 2 in a recital at Ehrbar Hall in Vienna. Beyond these performances, Li has received encouragement from acclaimed pianists such as Robert McDonald, Dang Thai Son, Dmitri Alexeev, Boris Slutsky, Andrei B. Diev, Dina Yoffe, William Grant Nabore, Liu Mengjie, Li Jinxing, and Zhuo Yilong, when performing in their respective masterclasses.



Born in Zhejiang, China, **Yaxi Li** is 19 years old and began playing the piano at the age of six. He previously studied with Donjun Miao and Xinyi Ruan. From 2020 to 2023, he studied at the Middle School Affiliated to the Zhejiang Conservatory of Music, where he was selected as an outstanding student to perform annually. Currently, he is a freshman at the Cleveland Institute of Music, pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree under the guidance of Antonio Pompa-Baldi. Yaxi has received numerous awards, including 1st prize in the 6th Hong Kong International Youth Performance Arts Festival, and the silver medal in the Yamaha Music Scholarship competition. He has also participated in several music festivals, such as the Shanghai International Music Festival and Todi International Music Masters. Yaxi has had the honor of attending masterclasses with renowned musicians such as Eduardo Delgado, Sibylla Joedicke, Yafen Zhu, and Min Kwon.



Edenia Maureen is a 21-year-old pianist from Indonesia. She has participated in many local, national, and international competitions and has received numerous awards. Her recent achievements include 1st prize in the YST Piano Concerto Competition, which has offered her the opportunity to perform Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 1 with orchestra in 2025. Edenia won 1st prize in the Indonesia International Piano Competition 2019 which led to her solo recital debut in Jakarta, Indonesia in December 2023. Apart from solo performances, Edenia has been a very active collaborative pianist in chamber groups, instrumental accompaniment, piano duo, as well as orchestral works. Her recent chamber performance includes Schumann Piano Quintet and Brahms Clarinet Trio. She is currently pursuing Bachelor of Music (with honors) in Piano Performance at Yong Siew Toh Conservatory, National University of Singapore, under the tutelage of Professor Ning An. Her previous teachers include Dr. Thomas Hecht and Mr. Lim Yan. Edenia has had the privilege of receiving piano masterclasses from wonderful pianists including Vanessa Latache, Stephen Hough, Christopher Guzman, Erik Tawaststjerna, Aaron Shorr, and many more. Her passion for music drives her to continuously strive for excellence and to enrich her skills as a musician.



Yiying Niu, a 26-year-old pianist, was born in Anyang, China. She has appeared internationally in venues in China, the United States, and countries in Europe. An active soloist, Yiying was honored to win the Thousand Islands International Piano Competition in 2022. She was awarded a prize for the “Best Performance of a Commissioned Work” in the Ninth New York International Piano Competition in 2018 and performed in the Stecher and Horowitz Young Artists Series. She also won second prize of the Munz Scholarship Competition in 2018, first prize in the Great Tone of China Piano Competition, and first prize in the Helen Piano Competition in China in 2014. As a chamber musician, she is a winner of the Lillian Fuchs Chamber Music Competition in 2023 and winner of the Helen Cohn Chamber Music Award in 2020. Her recent chamber music performances include venues such as the Carnegie Hall and Chamber Music Society at Lincoln Center. In addition to being a soloist, she is also a teaching assistant at the Manhattan School of Music. She has taught students in both China and the United States, whose levels range from young beginners to experienced amateurs. Yiying finished her MM degree at the Juilliard School under the tutelage of Julian Martin. She is currently pursuing a DMA degree at the Manhattan School of Music under the tutelage of Marc Silverman. She has worked with pianists such as Richard Goode, Robert Levin, Dina Yoffe, and Shai Wosner in masterclasses. This is her 2nd summer at RPPF.



Jieun Park, now 25 years old, began playing piano at age four and she studied under the tutelage of Professor Jane Hayes in Canada. She made her official recital debut in 2012 through the Kumho Prodigy Concert and also gave recitals in the US, Canada, France, Spain, China, the Bahamas, and most recently Italy. In 2019, she received 2nd prize (1st prize not awarded) and the “Iberia” Special Prize, Audience Prize, and Junior Jury Prize in the 5th Marbella International Competition. She reached the semifinals of the 63rd Busoni International Piano Competition. She won 1st place in the 40th Delia Steinberg International Competition, and the 2022 Orbetello Competition, and was a finalist in the 2022 Chicago International Music Competition. Park studied with Kyung-Sook Lee during her teenage years. She participated in the 2013 Seoul International Music Festival and also participated in the 8th Busan Music Festival where she had masterclasses with Sergei Babayan, Phillip Kawin, and HaeSun Paik. In 2016, she was invited by Olivier Gardon to the 59th Academie Internationale d’ete de Nice Summer School with a full scholarship. She was a fellow at the 2023 Norfolk Chamber Music Festival. Currently, she is studying at Yale School of Music with former Dean Robert Blocker. Before enrolling at Yale, she graduated summa cum laude from Seoul National University and where she studied with Professor Hyoung-Joon Chang, who is now the president of Seoul Arts Center.



Suji Park, currently a senior studying with Professor Angela Cheng at Oberlin Conservatory, is set to complete her Bachelor of Music degree in 2024. She spent most of her childhood learning piano in South Korea and attending international piano festivals and competitions in Russia, Bulgaria, Japan, and Germany. She made her first debut with the Primorsky Philharmonic Orchestra in Vladivostok, Russia, performing Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 3 when she was 15. Suji came to the United States as an exchange student prior to pursuing her higher education. In 2023, she advanced to the final round of the Oberlin Concerto Competition. After receiving her BM, she will pursue an MM in piano performance and arts administration. In prior summers, she has worked with Professor Norman Krieger and Terrence Wilson at the Brevard Music Festival and had masterclasses with Jeremy Denk.



Born in 2001, **Guoanni (Annie) Qin** is pursuing an MM degree with Julian Martin at The Juilliard School. Annie is a fellow at the Gilmore Festival 2024. She completed her BM degree with Angela Cheng at Oberlin Conservatory. Annie won Oberlin’s senior Concerto Competition and Rudolf Serkin Scholarship Competition. She received the Carol Nott Piano Pedagogy Prize, 3rd Prize in the Peter Takacs Beethoven Piano Competition, and performed in the Danenberg Honors Recital. Other performance highlights include Rachmaninoff’s Concerto No. 2 with the Oberlin Orchestra in 2022, and in 2021, with Xiamen Song & Dance Symphony Orchestra. She won 1st Prize in the Beijing International Piano Festival Competition and 2nd Prize in the VII Paderewski International Piano Competition. She was a finalist in the New York International Piano Competition in 2022. From 2022 to 2024, Annie was a participant in the Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival. Recognition of her talent while in Middle School led to a performance in Carnegie Hall in 2017. During high school, Annie won 1st Prize at both the Yamaha Music Scholarship Competition and Kunst und Frieden International Piano Competition in Germany. She has performed in numerous masterclasses given by artist pedagogues Andrzej Jasinski, Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Dang Thai Son, Mikhail Voskresensky, Matti Raekallio, Jerome Lowenthal, Robert Lewin, Einar Steen-Nokleberg, Klaus Baessler, Peter Donohoe, Alexander Kobrin, Stanislav Ioudenitch, Douglas Humpherys, Haesun Paik, Alexander Korsantia, Vanessa Latache, Roberto Plano, Antonio Pompa-Baldi, Robert Shannon, Logan Skelton, Alvin Chow, Yafen Zhu, Yunlin Yang, Ying Wu, Cheung-Yu Mo, and Hong Xu.



Named one of Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's Hot 30 under 30 Canadian Classical Musicians, Chinese-Canadian pianist **Linda Ruan**, age 26, is passionate about sharing the potential of music to overcome boundaries across cultures. Since being introduced to the drums at the age of four and then the piano at age seven, music has remained a stabilizing force in her diverse childhood from Tokyo, Shanghai to Vancouver. Her unconventional path has broadened her horizons and cultivated a fascination for diverse cultures. Her curiosity guided her beyond her solo piano studies, expanding to music pedagogy and community engagement, the fortepiano, conducting and a wide range of chamber music projects. Linda is a top prize winner in international piano competitions including the Lancaster International Piano Competition, VI Odin International Music Competition, and the Seattle International Piano Competition. Her piano duo La Fiammata is the second prize winner of the ARD International Music Competition 2021. She has performed in venues across the world, from Carnegie's Weill Hall and Lincoln Center's Rose Studio to a recital tour in China spanning Guangzhou to Shanghai. Linda received her Bachelor of Music with Honours and Master of Music degrees from The Glenn Gould School, The Juilliard School, and the Tianjin Juilliard School respectively. Her past teachers include James Anagnoson, Hung-Kuan Chen, Corey Hamm, Xiao Li, Li Wang, and Xiaohan Wang. Currently, she is studying at the UBC School of Music with Dr. Corey Hamm. Visit www.lindaruan.com, www.instagram.com/lindaruanpiano to connect with Linda online.



Xiaoyu Tang, was born in 2002 in Yantai, Shandong Province, China. He began learning piano at the age of 5 under the guidance of Professor Zaifeng Chen from Yantai University School of Music and Dance. In June 2013, he gained admission to the Central Conservatory of Music, Piano Academy at Gulangyu, studying piano under Professor Yang Wang. From February 2019 to August 2021, he studied with Professor Danwen Wei, director of the piano department at the Central Conservatory of Music. Subsequently, in September 2021, Xiaoyu Tang secured a significant scholarship to pursue studies at the Eastman School of Music in the United States, studying under Professor Marina Lomazov. Xiaoyu Tang has achieved notable accolades, including winning first place in the Junior Group A of the 24th American Music Open Competition China Finals. He also secured second place in the Professional Group B of the North China Zone in the 8th Steinway National Youth Piano Competition. Throughout his career, Xiaoyu Tang has showcased his talents through solo concerts in concert halls across China and as a goodwill ambassador for the American Music Open Competition in Shanghai. He has collaborated with renowned orchestras, including the Fuzhou Symphony Orchestra, and participated in grand piano performances at events such as the Golden Rooster and Hundred Flowers Film Festival. In 2023, Xiaoyu Tang won the second prize in the Thousand Island Piano Competition.



Canadian-born **Spencer Tsai**, age 19, is equally accomplished as a pianist, violinist and composer. He began his studies in violin at the age of five and piano at the age of seven. At the age of ten, he became one of the youngest performers in history to attain two ARCT Diplomas from the Royal Conservatory of Music, for both violin and piano. Already an experienced soloist, Spencer has performed piano and violin concerti with orchestras in the Greater Vancouver area more than twenty times. These include the West Coast Symphony, Richmond Symphony, Vancouver Metropolitan Orchestra, Abbotsford Orchestra, Delta Symphony and Neoclassical Symphony. Beyond Canadian orchestras, Spencer has also performed as a soloist with international orchestras, such as the Tianjin Opera Symphony in China in 2019, and the Perugia University Symphony in Italy in 2019. Piano concerti he has performed include Chopin Concerto No. 1, Tchaikovsky Concerto No. 1, and Mozart Concerto No. 20, all in their entirety. He was awarded first prize in the 2018 Canadian Music Competition, first prize at the 2021 Bellagrande International Music Competition, the Overall Prize of the 2022 BCRMTA Student Performer's guild, and first prize in the 2022 Vancouver Kiwanis Music Festival Provincial Excellence category. Spencer Tsai currently attends the Juilliard School, studying with Professor Julian Martin. He has performed in masterclasses with Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Robert Levin, Jerome Lowenthal, Ursula Oppens, Roberto Plano, Hie-yon Choi, Jose Ramon Mendez, Ian Jones, Asaf Zohar, and Markus Groh. His previous teachers include Wayne Weng and Nicholas Rada.





Praised for her deep musical sensitivity, 27-year-old American pianist **Mira Walker** is quickly building a career as a performer known for her commitment to performing the repertoire of underrepresented American composers. Mira's major teachers include Yakov Kasman, Norman Krieger, and Logan Skelton. Mira completed her B.A. in Music at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and her M.M. in Piano Performance at Indiana University. She is currently pursuing a D.M.A. in Piano Pedagogy and Performance at the University of Michigan under the instruction of Logan Skelton and John Ellis, where she also serves as a Graduate Student Instructor. Mira's honors include top prizes in dozens of competitions, including the NFMC Collegiate Piano Competition and the Alabama Symphony Concerto Competition. In recognition of Mira's excellence in teaching, she was awarded the Joanne Smith Award for Piano Pedagogy in 2023. Mira has been a featured soloist with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra and the National Ukrainian Symphony, and has appeared at international music festivals such as the Gilmore Festival, Vivace International Music Festival, and Brevard Music Institute. She has presented and performed at the MTNA and NCKP national conferences. Mira is actively involved with the MTNA Chapter at the University of Michigan, serving as the Vice President of the collegiate chapter. Recent and upcoming projects include a recording of the music of Margaret Bonds with the 2024 Michigan Recording Project, and a lecture recital on the music of Margaret Bonds at the 2024 MTNA Collegiate Symposium.



Born in 2003 in Costa Rica, **Daniel Chen Wang** began his piano studies at the age of five with professor Alexandr Sklioutovski. In June of 2021, Daniel graduated from the Central Musical School in Moscow with honors, where he studied with professor Darya Ryabova. Now he studies at the New England Conservatory of Music under the guidance of Professor Pavel Nersessian. Daniel is a laureate of many international competitions: the Spivakov Competition in Moscow, the Manuel Grynspan Burstyn Prize, Absolute First Place in the Amigdala International Competition in Italy, Diploma Winner in the International Nutcracker Competition in Moscow, and Third International Competition for Young Pianists Grand Piano Competition, 3rd Prize in the EPTA Belgium W-B competition, 1st Prize in the International Festival of Contemporary Music and Competition in Lithuania. diploma in the International Piano Competition "La Rioja" in Spain, and the International Competition "A Step towards Mastery" in Saint Petersburg. Daniel has participated in many concerts throughout the years in halls such as the National Theatre of Costa Rica, Carnegie Hall in New York, Tchaikovsky Hall, Rachmaninoff Hall, Malii Hall and the Grand Hall of the Moscow State Conservatory Tchaikovsky. He has also performed as a soloist with the Symphonic Orchestra of Kostroma, the Moscow Symphony Orchestra, and the Svetlanov Symphony orchestra.



Born in Zhejiang, China, **Jiongli Wang** started to play the piano at the age of six. From 2017 to 2020, he studied at Gulangyu Piano Academy, Central Conservatory of Music. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree at Oberlin Conservatory of Music studying with Professor Alvin Chow. Jiongli has performed in major concert halls in China, including Shanghai Concert hall, Gulangyu Concert Hall, and Ningxia Grand Theatre. He has attended several piano festivals, including Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival, Adamant Piano Festival, Shanghai International Music Festival, and Europe International Music Festival, and has been honored to play for well-known musicians such as Lydia Artymiw, Kathryn Brown, Angela Cheng, Jeremy Denk, Marc-André Hamelin, Douglas Humpherys, Rebecca Penneys, Ewa Poblocka, and Mikhail Voskresensky. Jiongli has been a prize winner of the 2022 Peter Takács Beethoven Piano Competition, 2023 Arthur Dann Competition and 2023 Concerto Competition at Oberlin.



Born in Changchun, **Zhiduo Wang**, age 22, began her piano study at the age of nine. She is currently a third-year undergraduate student and studying under Professor Stanislav Ioudenitch at Oberlin Conservatory of Music. Before studying in Oberlin Conservatory, she studied in Affiliated High School of Jilin University of Arts from 2017 to 2020. She has attended several music festivals - Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival in 2023, the CIM International Academy music festival in 2019, Artciál Festival in 2021, and won 2nd prize in the Harmony International Piano Festival. In 2020, Zhiduo participated in the Orbetello Piano Competition and took 2nd prize. She also earned 2nd prize in the Yamaha Music Scholarship Competition in 2018, the gold medal in Shanghai Youth International Piano Competition in 2019, and 3rd prize in the Chopin International Youth Competition in China. Zhiduo has attended master classes with several renowned pianists, including Boris Slutsky, Rebecca Penneys, Alan Chow, James Giles, Pavlina Dokovska, Arthur Greene, Soyeon Kate Lee, Kenny Broberg, Alexander Shtarkman, Robert Shannon.



Born in Fountain Valley California, **Fiona Wu**, age 23, is currently studying under Professor Angela Cheng at Oberlin Conservatory of Music. She has received distinguished awards in numerous competitions including the Peter Takács Beethoven Competition, Hong Kong Asia Piano Competition, Taiwan National Student Music Competition, Tainan Municipal Student Music Competition, International Art and Music Festival Piano Competition, Asia Piano Open, Kawai Asia Piano Open, Asia International Junior Piano Competition, and Osaka International Music Competition. She enjoyed participating in many festivals such as the Sejong International Music Festival, Lee University Piano Festival, Enlightenment Summer Music Festival, Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival, and Chicago International Music Competition and Festival. Other than playing the piano, Fiona also enjoys playing the clarinet and performing on stage. She had her first solo recital at age 12 and had a chance to perform the violin and piano duo recital with violinist Vladimir Chang in Tainan prior to the Covid pandemic. From 2018 to 2021, she served as the Global and Regional Director for the Back to Back Project, where she shared the gift of classical music with underprivileged schoolchildren and championed music education in Taiwan. Through her tireless dedication, Fiona continues to inspire and uplift others, leaving an enduring legacy both on and off the stage.



Born in California and raised in Taiwan, **Natasha Wu**, age 24, started to play the piano under the guidance of her mother at the tender age of six. Her artistry was clear from an early age and by age nine she had won the first prize in the Japanese Classical Music competition in Tokyo. In recent years, Natasha has been awarded numerous scholarships including the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra Treasury of Young Musicians for 2018-2021 and 2024-2025, the CYH Full Scholarship to attend the 2020-2021 PYP Young Virtuosi, the 2021 Chi-Mei Arts Award and was the 2012 Presidential Award recipient in Taiwan. Natasha had her first two solo recitals at Wansha Performance & Arts Center in Tainan and Taipei National Performance Hall in 2012-2013. She has collaborated with several world-renowned symphonies, including the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra with Maestro Miguel Harth-Bedoya, Hunan Youth Symphony Orchestra, Taiwan Artist Symphony Orchestra, Evergreen Symphony Orchestra, and the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra. In addition, Natasha has amassed a startling collection of prizes at several national and international competitions including first prize in the National Student Music Competition in Taiwan, Perfect Performance Award of Dumka at the 9th International Tchaikovsky Competition for Young Musicians, first prize of the Tureck International Bach Competition, first prize at the David D. Dubois Piano Festival and Competition, the John Elvin Prize at Oberlin Conservatory, and the fourth Prize at the Lyon International Piano Competition. Natasha is a student of Dang Thai Son. She graduated from Oberlin Conservatory with a full scholarship and now pursues her MM at the New England Conservatory.



Born in China, **Tianmi Wu**, age 26, began piano lessons when she was 5 years old. From elementary school until high school, she studied at Shanghai Conservatory of Music with Professor Yunlin Yang. Wu completed her BM in Oberlin Conservatory as a student of Piano Performance Major and Music History Minor under Professor Angela Cheng. During her time at Oberlin, she won the 2017 Rudolf Serkin Prize, 2018 John Elvin Prize, and First Prize in the Oberlin Concerto Competition in 2019. Besides competitions, she was selected to perform in special events such as the orientation concert, the graduation concert and she also performed the Grieg Piano Concerto with the Oberlin Orchestra. After graduating from Oberlin in 2019, Wu continued to pursue her MM and DMA at The University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music with Professor Ran Dank. During her time in CCM, she gained the Three Arts Scholarship, and won the CCM Concerto Competition, performing with the CCM Orchestra in 2021. In 2023, She won the first prize of Lima Piano Competition, and was invited to perform with the Lima Symphony Orchestra in December. Currently she is a third-year DMA student in CCM.



Yilin Wu, age 21, embarked on her musical journey at age 3 under the guidance of Russian professor Evelina Semenikhina. By age 6, she performed on diverse stages across China. At 13, driven by her musical aspirations, she embarked on a journey to Europe to experience its rich history, culture, and musical heritage. Choosing Warsaw, Poland, Chopin's birthplace, She studied under the mentorship of Dr. Radosław Sobczak, who teaches at The Chopin Conservatory. At 16, she further honed her skills at the Royal Danish Academy of Music with renowned pianist and composer Nillas Sivelöv. Immersing herself in chamber music with German pianist Dr. Marie-Luise Bodendorff added depth to her artistry. Currently pursuing a master's degree, Yilin anticipates graduating in June 2024. She is slated to commence the Artist Diploma program at McGill University's Schulich School of Music in fall 2024. Eight years of European studies and living amidst diverse cultures nurtured her profound passion for music. Europe's rich musical traditions have offered Yilin a unique musical journey, with Chopin's hometown leaving a lasting impact, infusing a distinctive charm into her playing style. In recent years, Yilin has actively participated in performances across China, Poland, Romania, Netherlands, and Denmark. Notably, in summer 2023, she performed four recitals in Beijing and other Chinese cities, showcasing her musical prowess.



Sarah Yang, an 18 year old Canadian pianist currently studying with Alexandre Moutouzkine at the Manhattan School of Music. Her past principal teachers include Ilana Vered, Nicholas Rada, and Rada Bukhman. She is a prize-winner of the 2022 Canadian Music Competition, the 2022 Seattle Young Artists Music Festival Association, and a repeat gold medalist of the Pacific International Youth Music Society Competition. Sarah has been awarded Overall Winner of the Diploma Category at the 2021 Vancouver Kiwanis Music Festival, and First Place at the 2018 Vancouver International Festival of Russian Music. In 2017, she was a silver medalist of the Vancouver International Music Competition and the Chopin NW Piano Competition. Sarah has played in masterclasses with Jerome Lowenthal, Ursula Oppens, Markus Groh, Ian Jones, Genya Paley, Dmitri Novgorodsky, Gregg Pauley, Wayne Weng, and Grace Chung. She has performed in venues such as the Basilica di San Pietro (Perugia, Italy), and The Vancouver Playhouse (Vancouver, Canada).



David Yu (28) is a graduate of The Juilliard School with a Susan W. Rose Fellowship, where he studied with Jerome Lowenthal and Julian Martin. After a year of graduate studies at the New England Conservatory under the tutelage of Victor Rosenbaum, David served as active-duty personnel in the Republic of Korea Navy Symphonic Band as a pianist, translator, and interpreter (2020 to 2022). He then studied with Soo-Jung Shin before returning to the US in 2023. Raised in Southern California, David studied with Norman Krieger, Daniel Alfred Wachs, and Yung-Mee Rhee as a teen. He has performed as a soloist, chamber musician, and with orchestras at Disney Hall, the Kennedy Center, New World Center, Lincoln Center, Jordan Hall, and Carnegie Hall, in addition to Lotte Concert Hall and Art Center Incheon in South Korea. As a volunteer with the American Cancer Society's Los Angeles Branch, he has performed at galas to raise funds for cancer patients and research. David appeared on National Public Radio (NPR)'s show From the Top as a recipient of the \$10,000 Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award, participated in the 2014 National YoungArts Week in Miami, and has earned a Certificate of Recognition from the Legislature of the State of California. Currently, David studies with Dr. Carol Leone at Southern Methodist University in Dallas with a full scholarship, assistantship and stipend. This summer, he will take the stage in Siena (Italy), Florida, Pennsylvania, and California. This is his second time at RPPF.



Guang Yuan, age 23, is currently a first-year master's (MM) student at the Manhattan School of Music, where he studies with the distinguished Professor Marc Silverman. Prior to his arrival in the United States, Guang received his piano training at the school affiliated with Sichuan Conservatory in China under the expert guidance of Professor Zhaoyi Dan. After that, Guang pursued his Bachelor of Music degree at the Manhattan School of Music. His awards included 1st prize in Chinese Piano Marathon Race and 1st prize in the Asian Piano Competition.



Ningxin Zhan is a 21-year-old classical pianist with a passionate artistic mission to share music with diverse audiences around the world. She has performed on important stages in China, Italy, and the USA. She started playing piano at the age of five. At the age of nine, Ningxin was accepted to attend the music school affiliated with the Shanghai Conservatory of Music as a recipient of annual and multiple other scholarships. Currently, she studies with Dr. Steven Spooner at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University. Ms. Zhan is the recipient of the 2nd prize at the 2023 New York Franz Liszt Piano Competition, from which she made her debut at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall and Stern Auditorium with St. Luke's Orchestra playing Liszt Concerto No.1. She was also won 1st Prize and Best Scriabin Performance Award at the renowned 2019 Virginia Waring International Piano Competition. Following this victory, she was invited by the Gulf Coast Symphony to play the Chopin Concerto No.2 in F minor in March 2022. Ningxin was also awarded top prizes at the 2023 Jacob Flier Piano Competition, the 2022 Yale Gordon Competition, the 2020 Sviatoslav Richter International Piano Competition, and the 2021 Vladimir Krainev Moscow International Piano Competition. This is her second summer at RPPF.



Born in 2002, **Jiusi (Jameson) Zhang** began his piano studies at the age of four in his hometown Langfang, China. He did not receive any professional training until 2020, when he was admitted to the Oberlin College & Conservatory. He is currently a senior at Oberlin, pursuing a Bachelor of Music with Professor Dang Thai Son. Jiusi has been elected to membership in the National Music Honor Society, which represents the dual achievement of excellent academic work and outstanding musicianship. In addition to his formal studies, he is dedicated to bringing classical music to Oberlin's retirement community and performed a series of recitals at Heiser Auditorium at Kendal at Oberlin. He attended the 2022 PianoTexas International Piano Festival and the Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival in 2022 and 2023. He was one of three winners of the PianoTexas International Piano Festival Concerto Competition in 2022. Subsequently, Jiusi made his orchestral debut with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Mr. Peter Bay at Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU, performing Beethoven's third piano concerto. He has attended numerous masterclasses from highly acclaimed musicians, including Asaf Zohar, Rebecca Penneys, Anne-Marie McDermott, Tamas Ungar, Pascal Nemirovski, Fabio Bidini, Stanislav Ioudenitch, and Dina Yoffe. Most recently, he won 1st Place, Marilyn Fischer & Joan Marie Scherer Scholarship at the 2024 Tuesday Musical Association Scholarship Competition in Akron. This fall, Jiusi will pursue a Master of Music degree with Professor Wei-Yi Yang at the Yale School of Music, where he received a full scholarship.



Born in 2002, **Rongzhi Zhang** is currently pursuing her bachelor degree with Professor Stanislav Ioudenitch at Oberlin Conservatory. She was born in Shenyang, China, began studying the piano at the age of 7 and attended the middle school affiliated to Shenyang conservatory of music, studying with Professor Danwen Wei. Rongzhi has performed in many concert halls in China and the United States, including Liaoning Grand Theater in Shenyang, Chamber music recital hall in Shenyang, Mixon Hall, Cleveland, OH, Baisi Musical hall, Liaoning Shenyang, China, Warner Hall, Oberlin, OH, and Shenzhen Concert hall. She has participated in several competitions and won awards including the 2nd Prize in the 3th KAWAI Asia Piano Competition, 3rd Prize in the Prime Golden Bell Concerto Award, 2nd Prize in the 1st Cleveland Music Festival Piano Competition, and 1st Prize in the Brandenburg International Music Competition in 2018.



Sixuan Zhang was born in 2001 in Baoji, Shaanxi province in China. She began studying piano at the age of five. At the age of thirteen, she went to the middle school attached to the Xi'an Conservatory of Music and studied with Professor Shuzhen Ren. During this time, she won 1st prize in the New York International Music Festival & Competition and Gold prize in Odysiad International Music Festival. She also won the Yamaha scholarship for 2018 & 2016. She completed her Bachelor's degree at the Queens College Copland School of Music in 2023, where she studied with Professor Ming Fong. She was the winner of the ACSM concerto competition and performed the Liszt Concerto No. 1 with the ACSM orchestra in LeFrak Hall last April. In March 2023, Sixuan successfully completed her degree recital and Basalm Trio recital in Queens College. She is currently pursuing Master Degree at the Mannes School of Music with Professor Pavlina Dokovska. This is her second summer at RPPF.



20 year-old pianist **Feitai Zhao** was born in Shanghai, China. She began her piano studies at the age of 6 with Professor Wei Zhou, then attended the Middle & High School attached to The Shanghai Conservatory of Music from the age of 12, where she studied with Professor Jin Tang. While there she won the school scholarship each semester and the Niu Ende Scholarship. Feitai is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Music Degree at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee under the tutelage of Professor Michael Lewin. She also serves as the Piano Department Assistant. Feitai has won awards in both national and international competitions including 1st Prize in the Boston Conservatory's Piano Department Concerto Competition with the Mozart C minor Concerto in 2022-2023, 2nd Prize in the 2022 Churchill Piano Competition, Grand Prize of the 3rd VCU Global Concerto Competition in 2016, and 1st Prize of the 2nd ICOM Hamburg Composers Piano Competition 2017. She has participated and performed in a variety of prominent international music festivals, including the 26th Amalfi Coast Festival, the 11th PYP A Piano Festival (Philadelphia Young Pianists' Academy), Puerto Piano & Strings (2023), the 27th Walnut Hill Annual Music Festival, the 3rd VCU Global Summer Institute of Music and the 2024 Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival.



Xiaohe Zhao was born in Beijing in 2004 and began her piano study at age four. She studied at Central Conservatory of Music middle school from 2014 to 2023 with Professor Hua Chang. While there, she got the Tan Xiaowei scholarship in 2019 and the Fan Jianqin scholarship in 2022. She currently studies with Professor Soyeon Kate Lee at the Juilliard School. Xiaohe is a member of the “Yangtze-River Piano national young artist cultivation training program”. She won 1st prize in the Santa Cecilia International Competition in Porto, Portugal in 2019. She also participated in the recording of the demonstration performance of the Cramer Etudes published by the People's Music Publishing House in 2021. Xiaohe has performed in master classes with several distinguished artists such as Bruce Brubaker, Antoinette Perry, Antonio Pompa-Baldi, Christopher Elton, David Kuyken, Douglas Humpherys, Ewa Poblocka, Georg Friedrich Schenck, Jin Ju, Matti Raekallio, Stefano Fiuzz, Susan Starr, Tamás Ungár, Vovka Ashkenazy, Young Hi Moon, Boris Berman, and Vanessa Latache.



Catherine Zhou, 19, is currently studying with Dr. Marina Lomazov at the Eastman School of Music, where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance. She began her musical journey in Toronto, where she attended the Phil and Eli Taylor Performance Academy for Young Artists at the Royal Conservatory of Music. Catherine's recent accolades include being named a National YoungArts Winner and securing the runner-up position in the MTNA Senior Piano competition in New York. Her previous awards include top prizes at the Orbetello International Piano Competition, Piano Star International Competition, Canada International Piano Competition and the Tkaczewski International Piano Competition. In 2021, she earned her ARCT Diploma from the Royal Conservatory of Music with the National Gold Medal for highest mark awarded across Canada. Catherine is also a regular performer in both solo and chamber music series at venues such as Mazzoleni Hall, Kilbourn Hall, and Hatch Recital Hall. Beyond performance, Catherine has a deep passion for music education and arts administration, contributing to these fields through current roles at the Eastman School of Music and Berkovsky-Solomon Academy of Music.

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