



REBECCA PENNEYS PIANO FESTIVAL

JUNE 27TH - JULY 17TH



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH FLORIDA



WELCOME TO RPPF 2025!

Dear Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival Family and Friends, Students, Guest Faculty, and Community,

It is with immense joy that we welcome you to the 13th summer season of the Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival (RPPF), taking place from June 27 to July 17, 2025, at the University of South Florida in Tampa! This tuition-free, three-week immersion is a celebration of music, artistry, and connection, bringing together 40 exceptional collegiate pianists from around the globe and our esteemed, multi-generational faculty of 23 world-class artist-teachers.

To our students: you are the heart of RPPF, selected from hundreds of applicants for your talent and passion. Here, you'll craft your own journey—choosing lessons, masterclasses, and performances with as many faculty members as you wish, gaining nearly a semester's worth of private instruction in a vibrant, supportive environment. Expect inspiring legacy forums, special topic classes, and unforgettable moments like our Piano Extravaganza, Soirée Series, and Satellite Concerts.

To our guest faculty: your expertise and generosity create the soul of this festival. From daily private lessons to lecture recitals and "SoundStories" sharing your personal journeys, you inspire our students to find their unique voices. Your presence fosters a collegial atmosphere that makes RPPF truly extraordinary.

To our family, friends, and community: your support—through attendance, volunteering, or donations—fuels this tuition-free haven for young artists. They flourish here, at the piano and through our annual traditions, from the dolphin cruise to the museum excursions, beach day with dinner, and fireworks. Please plan to attend one of our Satellite Concerts and join us at Barnes Hall for free events, from thrilling student recitals to faculty performances. Explore our YouTube channel and Archives for a glimpse of past seasons.

Founded by Rebecca Penneys as her gift to collegiate pianists, RPPF remains a "musical Turkish Bazaar," fostering creativity, individuality, and lifelong connections. As we embark on this new season, we're grateful for the Tampa Bay community, our donors, and the all-Steinway facility at USF. Let's make this summer unforgettable!

Visit rebeccapenneyspianofestival.org for the full schedule and ways to get involved. Here's to music, inspiration, and the RPPF spirit!

Warmest regards,

Rebecca Penneys



REBECCA PENNEYS is celebrated as a recitalist, chamber musician, orchestral soloist, educator, and adjudicator. A child prodigy, she began playing piano by ear at age three and gave her first solo recital at nine after winning the Young Musicians Foundation Competition. By eleven, she performed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. At seventeen, she became the youngest contestant at the 1965 International Chopin Competition in Warsaw, earning an unprecedented Special Critics' Prize created in her honor. Rebecca later won the Most Outstanding Musician Prize at the Vianna Da Motta Competition (1970) and was a top prizewinner at the Paloma O'Shea Competition (1975). She made her New York Debut at Alice Tully Hall in 1972. Penneys has performed globally across six continents, representing the U.S. on State Department cultural tours, including a solo tour of Japan (1980) and European tours with the New Arts Trio, which she founded in 1974 and won two Naumburg Awards. An International Steinway Artist inducted into the Steinway Teacher Hall of Fame (2021), she is renowned for her "Motion and Emotion" keyboard technique, enabling strain-free, expressive playing. Her CD's and DVD's on Naxos, Fleur De Son Classics, and Centaur Records and HD teaching-performance videos on YouTube have earned worldwide acclaim for their vivid colors and revelatory interpretations. As an educator, she served as Professor of Piano at Eastman School of Music (1980–2017), now Professor Emerita, and chaired the Chautauqua Institution Piano Department (1985–2012). In 2013, she launched the tuition-free Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival at the University of South Florida, fostering collegiate pianists. Her students hold prestigious teaching posts and competition prizes globally. Rebecca's mentors include Aube Tzerko, Leonard Stein, Rosina Lhevinne, Artur Rubinstein, Menahem Pressler, György Sebök, Janos Starker, and Josef Gingold. Her artistry, blending technical daring with profound musical insight, continues to inspire. Learn more at <https://rebeccapenneys.com/>

EVENT DETAILS

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 6 - 3:00pm - **Student Showcase** *Featuring ALL 40 RPPF Artist Students, Part I*

July 12 - 2:00pm - **2 Piano 8 Hand Extravaganza** *What Pianos & Pianists Do For Fun*

July 13 - 7:00pm - **Student Showcase** *Featuring ALL 40 RPPF Artist Students, Part II*



Satellite Concerts

July 5 - 3:00pm - **Steinway Piano Gallery Clearwater** (5990 Ulmerton Rd, Clearwater), FREE

July 5 - 7:30pm - **New Tampa Performing Arts Center** (8550 Hunters Village Rd, Tampa), \$10

July 8 - 5:30pm - **The James Museum of Western & Wildlife Art** (150 Central Ave, St Petersburg), Included With Admission

July 13 - 8:30am & 11:00am Worship Services - **Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church** (3501 West San Jose Street, Tampa)

July 13 - 1:00pm - **Museum of Fine Arts** (255 Beach Dr NE, St Petersburg), \$15 for Museum Members

July 13 - 3:00pm - **Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church** (110 S Fort Harrison Ave, Clearwater), FREE

HEAR LIVE Performances & Interviews on WUSF 89.1/WSMR 89.7: July 2 @ 11:00am, July 10 @ 1:00pm



Soirée Performances: Music & Conversation

June 28 - 8:00pm - **Student Soirée I**

June 29 - 2:00pm - **Lydia Artymiw**

July 1 - 4:00pm - **Staff Soirée**

July 3 - 8:00pm - **Student Soirée II**

July 7 - 3:00pm - **Jerome Lowenthal**

July 10 - 8:00pm - **Student Soirée III**

July 11 - 10:00am - **Ursula Oppens**

July 14 - 3:00pm - **HieYon Choi**

July 15 - 3:00pm - **Arthur Greene**



Masterclasses

June 28 - 2:00pm - **Angela Cheng** (Oberlin)

June 28 - 6:00pm - **Sofya Gulyak** (IU)

June 29 - 6:00pm - **Antonio Pompa-Baldi** (CIM)

June 30 - 3:00pm - **Lydia Artymiw** (UMN Emerita)

June 30 - 6:00pm - **Boris Slutsky** (Yale/Peabody)

July 1 - 2:00pm - **Alvin Chow** (Oberlin)

July 1 - 6:00pm - **Rebecca Penneys** (ESM Emerita)

July 2 - 6:00pm - **Olga Kern** (MSM)

July 3 - 2:00pm - **Douglas Humphreys** (ESM)

July 3 - 6:00pm - **Alan Chow** (ESM)

July 5 - 6:00pm - **Gila Goldstein** (Longy)

July 6 - 6:00pm - **James Giles** (Northwestern)

July 7 - 6:00pm - **Christopher Harding** (U Michigan)

July 8 - 6:00pm - **Tamás Ungár** (TCU)

July 9 - 6:00pm - **Jerome Lowenthal** (Juilliard)

July 10 - 2:00pm - **Asaf Zohar** (Buchmann-Mehta)

July 10 - 6:00pm - **Ursula Oppens** (CUNY/Mannes)

July 12 - 3:00pm - **Kathryn Brown** (CIM)

July 12 - 6:00pm - **Spencer Myer** (IU)

July 13 - 2:00pm - **José Méndez** (Oberlin)

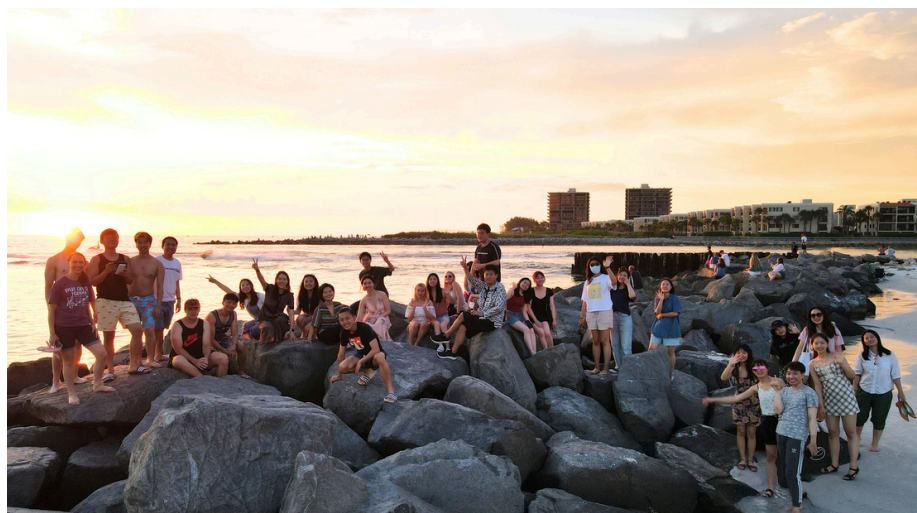
July 14 - 6:00pm - **Arthur Greene** (UMichigan)

July 15 - 6:00pm - **Roberto Plano** (RNCM/CSI Lugano)

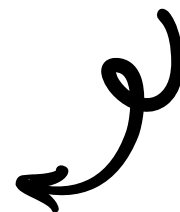
July 16 - 2:00pm - **HieYon Choi** (Peabody)

DAILY CALENDAR

KEY COLORS				Friday - June 27	Saturday - June 28	Sunday - June 29
					2-4pm MC: Cheng	2-3pm Soirée: Artymiw
				5-6:30pm Orientation & Pizza		3-4pm Q&A: Faculty Forum
					6-8pm MC: Gulyak	6-8pm MC: Pompa-Baldi
Private Event	Soirée Performance				8-9pm Student Soirée	8-9pm Student Faculty Dinner
Satellite Concert	Celebration Concert					
Monday - June 30	Tuesday - July 1	Wednesday - July 2	Thursday - July 3	Friday - July 4	Saturday - July 5	Sunday - July 6
		11am-11:30am WUSF Live Interview				
2-3pm STC: A. Murray Dance	2-4pm MC: Alvin Chow	2-3pm STC: Dr. Ray	2-4pm MC: Humpherys	BEACH & FIREWORKS DAY		
3-5pm MC: Artymiw	4-5pm Soirée: RPPF Staff	3-4pm STC: Humpherys			3-4pm SC: Steinway Gallery	3-4:30pm Student Showcase
6-8pm MC: Slutsky	6-8pm MC: Penneys	6-8pm MC: Kern	6-8pm MC: Alan Chow		6-8pm MC: Goldstein	6-8pm MC: Giles
			8-9pm Student Soirée		7:30-9pm SC: NTPAC	
Monday - July 7	Tuesday - July 8	Wednesday - July 9	Thursday - July 10	Friday - July 11	Saturday - July 12	Sunday - July 13
			1pm-1:30pm WUSF Live Interview	10am-11:30am Soirée: Oppens	11-12pm SC: ASPEC	8:30am & 11am SC: Palma Ceia Church
2-3pm Q&A: Faculty Forum	2-3pm STC: Kidgell Chiro	2-3pm STC: Ungár-Penneys	2-4pm MC: Zohar	JAMES MUSEUM & DOLPHIN CRUISE	2-3pm Piano Extravaganza!	1-2pm SC: Mus of Fine Arts
3-4pm Soirée: Lowenthal		3-4pm STC: Penneys			3-5pm MC: Brown	2-4pm MC: Méndez
	5:30-7pm SC: James Museum					3-4pm SC: Peace Memorial
6-8pm MC: Harding	6-8pm MC: Ungár	6-8pm MC: Lowenthal	6-8pm MC: Oppens		6-8pm MC: Myer	4-5pm SC: Canterbury Towers
8-9pm Student Faculty Dinner			8-9pm Student Soirée			7-8:30pm Student Showcase
Monday - July 14	Tuesday - July 15	Wednesday - July 16	 (c) Gloria Matyszyk			
2-3pm Q&A: Faculty Forum	2-3pm STC: Mann Acupunc.	2-4pm MC: Choi				
3-4pm Soirée: Choi	3-4pm Soirée: Greene	2025 Wrap-Up & Party!				
6-8pm MC: Greene	6-8pm MC: Plano					
8-9pm Student Faculty Dinner						



Learn more



FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES



Recipient of an Avery Fisher Career Grant and Andrew Wolf Chamber Music Prize, **LYDIA ARTYMIW** has performed with over one hundred orchestras world-wide. Solo recital tours have taken her to all major American cities, important European music centers, and throughout the Far East. Critics have acclaimed her seven solo recordings for the Chandos label, and she has also recorded for Bridge, Centaur, and Naxos. Her debut Chandos “Variations” CD won Gramophone Magazine’s “Best of the Year” award, and her Tchaikovsky Seasons CD sold over 25,000 copies. In 2018 her CD of “The Complete Cello-Piano Works of Felix Mendelssohn” with cellist Marcy Rosen for the Bridge label was nominated for a Grammy award. Her festival appearances include Aspen, Badenweiler (Germany), Bantry (Ireland), Bay Chamber, Bravo! Vail Valley, Caramoor, Chamber Music Northwest, SaltBay, Chautauqua, Grand Canyon, Hollywood Bowl, Marlboro, Montréal, Mostly Mozart, Seattle, and Tucson. Artymiw has collaborated with celebrated artists Yo-Yo Ma, Richard Stoltzman, Marcy Rosen, Arnold Steinhardt, Michael Tree, Kim Kashkashian, John Aler, Benita Valente, and the Guarneri, Tokyo, American, Alexander, Borromeo, Daedalus, Miami, Orion, and Shanghai Quartets, and has toured nationally with Music from Marlboro groups. A recipient of top prizes in the 1976 Leventritt and 1978 Leeds International Competitions, she graduated from Philadelphia’s University of the Arts and studied with Gary Graffman for twelve years. Artymiw has served on juries for international competitions worldwide, including the 2024 Gina Bachauer International Artists Piano Competition. From 2015 to 2019, Artymiw was a frequent guest at Juilliard where she also served on over twenty piano concerto competition juries. She has also presented masterclasses at Juilliard, Curtis, the Manhattan School, Tanglewood, and Chautauqua. From 1989-2020 Artymiw was Distinguished McKnight Professor of Piano at the University of Minnesota and now holds an Emerita title. Visit 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 appeared in concert at New York’s 92nd Street Y. She has been featured on the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series in Chicago, Cleveland’s Severance Music Center, the German Embassy, the Philips Collection, and the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. International highlights include concerts at Prague’s Rudolfinum Hall, University of London, and National Theatre in Ghana, Africa. She has appeared on Columbia Artists’ Community Concert Series and performed an extensive tour of Sweden, Africa, and Estonia as winner of the United States Information Agency Artistic Ambassador Program. Recipient of the Darius Milhaud Prize and Louis Sudler Prize for the Arts, Brown 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 also 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. Brown also performed at Carnegie Hall with The Cleveland Orchestra as orchestral keyboardist under the baton of Christoph von Dohnanyi. She has been featured on the British Broadcasting Network, PBS Artistry of... series, Chicago’s WFMT Radio, and NPR’s Performance Today. Her discography includes releases for Telarc, New World, Albany, and Crystal. Brown presents masterclasses, lectures, and is a juror of competitions nationally and internationally. Currently, she is Head of the Keyboard Division at the Cleveland Institute of Music.



Praised for her brilliant technique, tonal beauty, and superb musicianship, Canadian pianist **ANGELA CHENG** is one of her country’s national treasures. She has performed with virtually every orchestra in Canada, in addition to the symphonies of Saint Louis, Houston, Indianapolis, Colorado, Utah, San Diego, Fort Worth, Jacksonville, and the philharmonic orchestras of Buffalo, Louisiana, Rhode Island, London, Israel and Minas Gerais in Brazil. Recent performances include the Edmonton Symphony, Boulder Philharmonic, Minas Gerais Philharmonic, Music Toronto, and the Vancouver Recital Society for the Brahms Festival. Next season includes the Richmond Symphony, Akron Symphony, Regina Symphony, and a recital at Art Spring. Cheng has performed recitals and concertos at Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center/Washington, D.C., the 92nd Street Y/New York and Wigmore Hall/London. She appears on recital series throughout the U.S. and Canada and has collaborated with 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 (Quebec). Cheng has made several recordings for CBC, including Mozart and Shostakovich concerti and a CD of four Spanish concerti with Hans Graf and the Calgary Philharmonic, in addition to an allChopin recital CD released by Universal Music Canada. Cheng was Gold Medalist of the Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Masters Competition and the first Canadian to win the prestigious Montreal International Piano Competition. Other awards include Canada Council’s coveted Career Development Grant and the Medal of Excellence for outstanding interpretations of Mozart from the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria. A native of Hong Kong, Cheng studied with Menahem Pressler at Indiana University and Sascha Gorodnitzki at The Juilliard School. She is currently on the artist faculty of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, where she was honored with the 2011-12 Excellence in Teaching Award.



One of the most sought-after pianists of her generation, **HIEYON CHOI** gained international recognition after winning prizes at competitions such as Kapell, Epinal, Busoni, and Viotti. She has since performed with renowned orchestras, including the National Symphony (Washington, D.C.), Berliner Rundfunk, Seoul Philharmonic and Korean Broadcasting Symphony, across Europe, the U.S., and Korea. A milestone in her career was her four-year (2002-2005) Beethoven piano sonata cycle at Kumho Art Hall, which earned her the Nanpa Award and the Arts Award of the Year in Korea. She later continued her Beethoven cycle with all his violin sonatas, cello works, and piano trios at the same venue. Her second complete Beethoven sonata cycle took place across Korea, Germany, Sweden, Croatia, and the U.S., concluding in 2018. She has also led notable concert series exploring Brahms and the French school and has collaborated with artists such as Truls Mørk, Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi, Jennifer Koh, Soovin Kim. A strong advocate of contemporary music, she was the inaugural Artist-in-Residence of Tong-Yeong International Music festival. She performed works of Olivier Messiaen, György Kurtág, Sofia Gubaidulina, York Höller, Unsuk Chin among others with the Seoul Philharmonic. Her recordings include “complete Debussy Études”, “Chopin Études Op. 10 & 25”; and the most recent “Beethoven 32 sonatas”. After 24 years as a tenured professor at Seoul National University, Choi joined the Peabody Institute in 2023. She has taught masterclasses at major conservatories worldwide and serves as a jury member for prestigious competitions, including Beethoven, Maj Lind, and Orléans. Born in Incheon, Korea, Choi made her debut at six with the Incheon Philharmonic. She received early training from Joong-Won Koh and later studied with Klaus Hellwig and the late Hans Leygraf at Hochschule der Künste Berlin and with the late György Sebök at Indiana University. Visit hieyonchoi.com



Steinway artist **ALAN CHOW** won First Prize in the Concert Artists Guild, UCLA, and Palm Beach Invitational International Piano Competitions. Winner of the Silver Medal and Audience Favorite Prize at the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition, Chow has performed at major U.S. music centers including New York, Boston, Los Angeles, Chicago, Washington, D.C., Cleveland, Seattle, Atlanta, New Orleans, and Miami. Concerto performances include appearances with the National, Utah, Oakland, Kansas City, Omaha Symphonies, and Tulsa Philharmonic. Tours in Asia include performances with the Hong Kong Philharmonic, Shanghai Philharmonic, and the Pan-Asia Symphony. Chow has collaborated with the American, Pacifica, Miami, and Escher String Quartets and as a guest artist at numerous chamber music festivals. He also appears in joint recital engagements in the Cheng-Chow Trio with pianists Angela Cheng and Alvin Chow. Masterclasses in North America, Asia, and Europe, have included Indiana University, Manhattan School of Music, New Orleans and Gina Bachauer International Piano Festivals, Chicago International Music Festival, Bay PianoFest, Leon Fleisher Academy, John Perry Academy, Las Vegas Piano Festival, Classical Music Festival (Austria), Tunghai International Piano Festival (Taiwan), MK Piano Academy (Korea), Yunnan International Piano Festival (China), and Singapore. Recently guest professor at Central Conservatory (Beijing) and honored visiting professor at Shenyang Conservatory, Chow is currently Visiting Professor of Piano at the Menuhin School (Qingdao). He has presented recitals, masterclasses, and lectures for conservatories in Shanghai, Chengdu, Xian, and Wuhan. Chow studied with Nelita True at the University of Maryland, with Sascha Gorodnitzki at The Juilliard School, and with Menahem Pressler at Indiana University. He also studied at the Mozarteum Sommerakademie with Carlo Zecchi. Chow previously served on the faculty of the University of Arkansas and Northwestern University. He is currently Professor of Piano and Chair of the Piano Department at the Eastman School of Music.



ALVIN CHOW has appeared throughout North America and in Asia as an orchestral soloist and recitalist. In addition, he has performed extensively in duo-piano recitals with his wife, Angela Cheng, and his twin brother, Alan. Chow graduated summa cum laude and co-valedictorian at the University of Maryland as a student of Nelita True. He received the Victor Herbert Prize in Piano upon graduation from the Juilliard School, studying with Sascha Gorodnitzki, and held the Joseph Battista Memorial Scholarship at Indiana University as a student of Menahem Pressler. Since 1999, Chow has been a member of the artist faculty at Oberlin Conservatory of Music, where he is chair of the Piano Department and the Ruth Strickland Gardner Professor of Music. He has presented masterclasses and lectures throughout the U.S. and abroad, including the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Taichung University in Taiwan, Colburn School in Los Angeles, Indiana University, University of Michigan, University of Texas, and Northwestern University. Chow has also been invited as a convention artist to state MTNA conferences in Colorado, Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, and Ohio. He has been on numerous competition juries, including the New Orleans International Piano Competition, MTNA Student Competitions (national finals), and Hilton Head International Piano Competition (screening). Chow has performed in such concert halls as the Kennedy Center (Washington, D.C.); Orchestra Hall (Chicago); Weill and Steinway Halls (NYC); and Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria. He has presented recitals in Hong Kong, Los Angeles, Seattle, Denver, Detroit, and Miami, and appeared as soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra, Colorado Symphony Orchestra, Alabama Symphony Orchestra, Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Pan-Asia Symphony in Hong Kong, and Mozarteum Orchestra in Salzburg. He has also been featured on NPR’s Performance Today and CBC Radio in Canada.



JAMES GILES regularly performs throughout America, Europe, and Asia. Recent tours include recitals in Toronto, Paris, Naples, Budapest, Manchester, England, and Denmark. In an eclectic repertoire encompassing solo and chamber music literatures, Giles is equally at home in the standard repertoire as in the music of our time. He has commissioned and premiered works by William Bolcom, Stephen Hough, Lowell Liebermann, Ned Rorem, Augusta Read Thomas, and Earl Wild. A native of North Carolina, Giles studied with Byron Janis (Manhattan), Jerome Lowenthal (Juilliard), Nelita True (Eastman), and Robert Shannon (Oberlin). He received early career assistance from the Clarisse B. Kampel Foundation and was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Italy with legendary pianist Lazar Berman. Giles was the recipient of a fellowship grant and the Christel Award from the American Pianists Association. He won first prizes at the New Orleans International Piano Competition, Joanna Hodges International Piano Competition, and Music Teachers National Association Competition. He regularly serves on competition juries and has been conference artist for many state music teachers associations. Giles is coordinator of the piano program and director of music performance graduate studies at Northwestern's Bienen School of Music and director of the summer 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 at 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, RPPF, and the Schlern Festival in Italy. His classes have occurred throughout China as well as at Seoul National University, Hanyang University, Ewha Woman's University, the Royal Danish Academy of Music, the Sibelius Academy, the Chopin Academy, the Royal Northern College of Music, and the Royal College of Music.



Pianist **GILA GOLDSTEIN** is a versatile musician, captivating audiences around the world with her unique artistry and soulful interpretations. Goldstein has performed as soloist and collaborative pianist throughout the U.S., Canada, Mexico, China, Korea, the Philippines, Europe, and Israel. Notable performances include the Berliner Symphoniker, Israel Symphony Orchestra Rishon LeZion, Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, and Orquesta Da Camera (Mexico City), Lincoln Center (New York City), Progetto Martha Argerich (Lugano), Beijing Concert Hall, South Bank Center (London), Berlin's Konzerthaus, Musée de Louvre (Paris), Kennedy Center (Washington D.C.), Gardner Museum (Boston), Chicago's Symphony Hall, and the Tel Aviv Museum. A Board member of the American Liszt Society (ALS) and Founder-President of its New York Chapter, she is a frequent guest performer at ALS annual festivals around the U.S. and Canada. She has performed at festivals such as High Peaks, Amalfi Coast, La Jolla, Yellow Barn, Sonus, Summit, OpusFest, RPPF, Jewish Music Festivals in Atlanta, Pittsburgh, and London, and the Israel Festival. A sought-after pedagogue, Goldstein has given masterclasses in the USA, China, Korea, and Israel. She is a member of the piano faculty at Longy School of Music in Boston. A champion of the music of Israel's leading composer, Paul Ben-Haim, Goldstein has recorded two volumes of his entire piano and chamber works on the Centaur label. In July 2024, Centaur released her recording Latin American Piano Gems. On February 2025 her recording of 24 Preludes of Dusk and Dawn by composer Ronn Yedidia was released on the Albany label/PARMA Recordings. Her albums received rave reviews in the USA, UK, Germany, and Argentina. Goldstein obtained degrees in piano performance from Manhattan School of Music, where she studied with Prof. Nina Svetlanova, and Tel-Aviv University School of Music, with Prof. Victor Derevianko. www.gilagoldstein.com, www.facebook.com/gilagoldsteinpianist



RAY GOTTLIEB, O.D., Ph.D., FCOVD, FCSO, is a distinguished optometrist and researcher renowned for his contributions to vision therapy and syntonics phototherapy. Born in 1940, he graduated with highest honors from the University of California, Berkeley, School of Optometry in 1964, later earning a Ph.D. in Humanistic Psychology from Saybrook University in 1978, with a dissertation on the neuropsychology of nearsightedness. His career spans decades of innovative work in behavioral optometry, the Bates Method, and stress-point training, focusing on natural vision improvement. Gottlieb eliminated his own myopia using natural vision exercises and invented the world renowned Presbyopia Chart and Read Without Glasses Method to remedy presbyopia available at www.raygottlieb.com. As Dean of the College of Syntonic Optometry since 1985, he has advanced phototherapy research and practice. His professional experience includes faculty positions at the University of Houston and UC Berkeley, clinical roles at psychiatric hospitals, and low vision specialization. In the 1980s, he founded Eye Gym Optometry in Santa Monica, a unique vision improvement center. A prolific writer, Gottlieb authored Attention and Memory Training (2005), The Fundamentals of Flow in Learning Music (1993), and numerous journal articles. He served as research editor for Brain/Mind Bulletin (1982–1991) and lectures globally on vision therapy and natural vision training. His contributions earned him the H. Riley Spitler Award from the College of Syntonic Optometry and the Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation Association's Advancement of Science Award. Now retired from practice, Gottlieb continues to research, write, and lecture, maintaining a faculty role at the Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival, where he enhances musicians' learning skills. His website reflects his lifelong mission to improve vision and promote a sustainable world.



Born in New York, **ARTHUR GREENE** studied at Juilliard with Martin Canin, and received a bachelor's degree from Yale University and a doctorate from Stony Brook. Greene was a Gold Medal winner in the William Kapell and Gina Bachauer International Piano Competitions, and a top laureate at the Busoni International Competition. He performed the complete solo piano works of Johannes Brahms in a series of six programs in Boston and recorded the Complete Etudes of Alexander Scriabin for Supraphon. Greene has performed the 10 Sonata Cycle of Alexander Scriabin in many important international venues, including multi-media presentations with Symbolist artworks. He has made many recordings together with his wife, the violinist Solomia Soroka, for Naxos and Toccata Classics, including the Violin-Piano Sonatas of William Bolcom. Greene recently recorded the Concord Sonata of Charles Ives, available for free high-resolution download at arthurgreene.com on his homepage. Greene has performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra, the San Francisco, Utah, and National Symphonies, 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 and Beijing. He toured Japan and Korea many times. He was an Artistic Ambassador to Serbia, Kosovo, and Bosnia for the United States Information Agency. Greene has been on the faculty at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance since 1990. He has won the Harold Haugh Award for Excellence in studio teaching. His current and former students include prizewinners in international competitions, and his former students hold important teaching posts throughout the United States. He is a frequent judge at international competitions, including the Gilels Competition in Odessa and the Isangyun Competition in Tongyeong, South Korea.



SOFYA GULYAK is associate professor of music in piano at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. She was previously a piano professor at the Royal College of Music (London). In 2009, Gulyak was awarded First Prize and the Princess Mary Gold Medal at the 16th Leeds International Piano Competition, the first woman to achieve this distinction. Other prestigious awards include first prizes at the Kapell, Maj Lind, Tivoli, Isangyun, and San Marino international piano competitions, second prize (first not awarded) at Busoni, and third prize at the Long-Thibaud-Crespin Competition. Gulyak has performed in such venues as La Scala Theatre in Milan, Herkulessaal in Munich, Salle Cortot, Salle Gaveau and Salle Pleyel in Paris, Wigmore Hall in London, Moscow Conservatory, Konzerthaus in Berlin, Gewandhaus in Leipzig, Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., Hong Kong City Hall, Shanghai Grand Theatre, and Tokyo OperaCity Hall. She has played with the London Philharmonic, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Hallé, BBC Scottish and Finnish Radio symphony orchestras, Helsinki Philharmonic, St. Petersburg Philharmonic, Budapest Philharmonic, Orchestre National de France, and Shanghai Philharmonic. Conductors with whom Gulyak has collaborated include Mark Elder, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Sakari Oramo, Donald Runnicles, Vasily Petrenko, Eivind Gullberg Jensen, Theodor Guschlbauer, Lahav Shani, Karl-Heinz Steffens, Alan Burybaev, and others. Gulyak's 2013 recording of Russian piano music (Champs Hill Records) received a five-star review in Diapason magazine and glowing reviews in Gramophone and The Guardian. Her 2015 all-Brahms CD (Piano Classics) and latest CD (Champs Hill Records) of piano chaconnes received similar critical acclaim from American Record Guide, Fanfare magazine, and The Arts Desk. Born in Kazan, Russia, Gulyak studied at the Kazan State Conservatoire under Elfiya Burnasheva before continuing her studies with Boris Petrushansky at Imola Piano Academy in Italy and Vanessa Latarche at the Royal College of Music in London. www.sofyagulyak.com



CHRISTOPHER HARDING maintains a flourishing international career, appearing at the Kennedy Center and Phillips Collection (Washington, D.C.); Suntory Hall (Tokyo); National Theater Concert Hall (Taipei); Jack Singer Concert Hall (Calgary); and other venues in Newfoundland, Israel, Romania, and China. He has performed with leading orchestras, under such conductors as Andrew Sewell, Eric Zhou, Taijiro Iimori, Gisele Ben-Dor, Fabio Marchetti, Randall Craig Fleisher, John DeMain, Ron Spigelman, Daniel Alcott, and Darryl One. His chamber collaborations include renowned artists such as clarinetist Karl Leister, flautist Andras Adorjan, members of the St. Lawrence and Ying String Quartets, and frequent projects with colleagues at the University of Michigan. He has taken 25 first prizes in national and international competitions and was awarded the special "Mozart Prize" at the 1999 Cleveland International Piano Competition. Harding has recorded solo and chamber CDs for the Equilibrium and Brevard Classics labels, and he has edited and published critical editions and recordings of works by Debussy and Mozart for Schirmer Performance Editions (Hal Leonard). He presents masterclasses and lecture recitals across the U.S. and Asia, in Israel, and Canada. Recent tours included Taiwan, Hong Kong, and mainland China. He has also performed and lectured numerous times at Seoul National University, Ewha Womans University, and Dong Duk University. He served extended tours as a Fulbright senior specialist at Sichuan Conservatory of Music in Chengdu, China (2008), and Seoul National University (2011). Currently Department Chair of Piano and Professor of Music at the University of Michigan, Harding also serves on the faculty of the Indiana University Summer Piano Academy. His collegiate studies were with Menahem Pressler and Nelita True. Prior to college, he worked 10 years with Milton Kidd at the American University Department of Performing Arts Preparatory Division, where he was trained in the traditions of Tobias Matthay.



Since winning the gold medal at the first Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition, **DOUGLAS HUMPHERYS'** concert career has spanned four decades across four continents. Currently listed as 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 at numerous universities and festivals. He has concertized and taught in Argentina with Teachers del Norte-Pianists del Sur, a project sponsored in-part by the U.S. Embassy. 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. In high demand as a teacher, he has taught hundreds of masterclasses, including 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. In 2016, Professor Humpherys received Eastman's Eisenhart Award for Excellence in Teaching, and in 2021 he was inducted into the Steinway and Sons 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 International 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.



OLGA KERN is widely recognized as one of the great artists of her generation. At seventeen, she was awarded first prize at the Rachmaninoff International Piano Competition, and in 2001, she launched her U.S. career, winning a historic Gold Medal at the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. A Steinway Artist and Spirio Steinway piano ambassador, Olga has served on the piano faculty of the Manhattan School of Music since 2017. That same year she received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor (NYC). In 2019, she was appointed the Connie & Marc Jacobson Director of Chamber Music at the Virginia Arts Festival. Olga regularly serves on the juries of high-level international competitions, and in 2012 she established the Kern Foundation "Aspiration," which supports talented musicians around the world. Olga has appeared on tours with prominent orchestras and in solo recitals around the world. Recently, in the 2023–2024 season, she performed Rachmaninoff's four piano concertos and Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini with the Austin Symphony and with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, appeared with the Czech Philharmonic on a nation-wide telecast, and toured South Africa and Asia. Olga's discography includes a Harmonia Mundi recording of the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1 with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and Christopher Seaman; her Grammy-nominated disc of Rachmaninoff's Corelli Variations and other transcriptions; and Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 1 with the Warsaw Philharmonic and Antoni Wit. Other notable releases include Chopin's Piano Sonatas Nos. 2 and 3, and SONY's release of the Rachmaninoff Sonata for Cello and Piano with Sol Gabetta. Olga released a new CD in 2022 on the Delos label of Brahms and Shostakovich quintets with the Dalí Quartet. She is also featured in award-winning Cliburn documentaries: The Cliburn: Playing on the Edge, They Came to Play, and Olga's Journey. Visit olgakern.com



KRISTIN KIDGELL, D.C. is fully licensed, insured, and certified with the state of Florida and all four National Boards, specializing 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. Her other qualifications include the Emotion Code which is a type of energy work that removes our subconsciously trapped emotions from our past traumas and drama. 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 about her work at drkidgell.com

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American pianist, **JEROME LOWENTHAL**, was born in 1932 and has been a Juilliard faculty member since 1991. He received prizes in international competitions in Brussels, Bolzano, and Darmstadt, and has appeared with major orchestras in the U.S., including Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, New York, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, National, Baltimore, Cleveland, St. Louis, and Minnesota. He has premiered solo music by Rochberg, Capanna, and Reise, Rorem's Piano Concerto No. 3., and he played the New York premiere of Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 3 with the New York Philharmonic. Lowenthal studied with Olga Samaroff, William Kapell, and at Juilliard with Edward Steuermann. He also studied with Alfred Cortot at the École Normale de Musique on a Fulbright Grant and received coachings with Artur Schnabel. Lowenthal debuted with the New York Philharmonic playing Bartok's Concerto No. 2 in 1963. Since then, he has performed everywhere, from the Aleutians to Zagreb, collaborating with conductors such as Barenboim, Ozawa, Tilson Thomas, Temirkanov, and Slatkin, as well as Leonard Bernstein, Eugene Ormandy, Pierre Monteux, and Leopold Stokowski. He has played duo recitals with Denis Brott, Itzhak Perlman, Ronit Amir, and Ursula Oppens. He has adjudicated the world's great piano competitions: Leeds, Cliburn, Rubinstein, Horowitz, Cleveland, Young Concert Artists, and Beijing. Lowenthal's discography includes Liszt's complete Années de Pèlerinage, Tchaikovsky's complete concerti, Beethoven's Fourth Concerto with eleven different cadenzas, Gershwin's Concerto in F and Rhapsody in Blue, Ned Rorem's Concerto No. 3 (written for him), Liszt Concerti, and solo discs of George Rochberg and Christian Sinding, as well as two-piano and four-hand music (Messiaen, Debussy, Rzewski, Corigliano) with his partner, Ursula Oppens. Lowenthal celebrated 50 summers at Music Academy of the West in 2019 and regularly joins the summer festivals of Pianofest in the Hamptons, Beijing (BIMFA), Perugia, Amalfi, Uelzen, Tampa (RPPF), and Northern Colorado.



MATTHEW MANN, DAOM, AP, is an expert in the field of acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine, especially when it comes to chronic and seemingly hopeless cases. He has trained throughout the U.S. and internationally with some of the brightest minds in the field to provide exceptional care for difficult-to-treat cases. With 9 years of clinical experience, specialized training in geriatrics and chronic conditions, Dr. Mann brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Tampa Bay area. His focus has been on treating chronic pain, failed surgeries, and rheumatoid conditions. Dr. Mann finds great joy from the opportunity to help his patients on their journeys to embrace life without the chronic health conditions that have prevented them from living their fullest life potential for so long. Please visit stpaim.com to learn more.



JOSÉ RAMÓN MÉNDEZ is one of the most exciting Spanish pianists of today. 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, as well as numerous solo and chamber music performances in the U.S., Europe, and Asia. His playing has been featured on WQXR's "Performance Today" and on Classical KMFA. He has been a guest performer at festivals such as the Caramoor Festival, Barge Music Series, Festival Internacional de Piano de las Islas Canarias, Music at Penn's Woods, Amalfi Coast International Music Festival, "Tocando el Cielo," Musica en Compostela, Stony Brook International Piano Festival, Santander International Music Festival, and RPPF. Méndez has also collaborated with distinguished artists Karl Leister, Itzhak Perlman, Michael Tree, Pascual Martinez-Nieto, and Pinchas Zukerman. He completed bachelor's and master's degrees in piano performance with Solomon Mikowsky at Manhattan School of Music and completed his DMA under the tutelage of Byron Janis and Miyoko Lotto. He won top prizes at Pilar Bayona International Piano Competition, Hilton Head Island International Piano Competition, Frederick Chopin Competition in New York, and Hermanos Guerrero International Piano Competition, among others. Méndez has given masterclasses throughout Spain, as well as in the U.S. at schools such as Oberlin Conservatory, Northwestern University, University of Michigan, and Columbus State University. Méndez taught as an assistant teacher to Miyoko Lotto at the Perlman Music Program and was formerly on the keyboard faculties of University of Texas at Austin, New York University, The Pennsylvania State University, Northwestern University, and Northern Arizona University. Currently, Méndez is associate professor of piano at Oberlin Conservatory. He is also the artistic director and on the faculty of the Gijón International Piano Festival in Gijón, Spain. Visit www.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, the Indianapolis, New Haven and Phoenix Symphony Orchestras and Beijing’s China National Symphony, collaborating with conductors Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Michael Christie, Robert Franz, Bernhard Gueller, Jahja Ling, Kevin Rhodes, Thomas Wilkins and Victor Yampolsky. 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, he has appeared with cellists Lynn Harrell and Ralph Kirshbaum, and enjoys a recurring partnership with the Miami String Quartet at the Kent/Blossom Music Festival. Other artistic partners include clarinetist David Shifrin, soprano Nicole Cabell, and the Jupiter and Pacifica String Quartets. Myer’s 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 was a member of Astral Artists’ performance roster from 2003-2010. Previously on the piano faculty of Boston’s Longy School of Music, he 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 six CDs on the Steinway & Sons label — Piano Rags of William Bolcom, the Four Chopin Impromptus, and four discs with cellist Brian Thornton, most recently the Chopin and Rachmaninoff Cello Sonatas. Spencer Myer is a Steinway Artist. Visit www.spencermyer.com



URSULA OPPENS is widely admired particularly for her original and perceptive readings of new music, but also for her knowing interpretations of the standard repertoire. No other artist alive today has commissioned and premiered more new works for the piano that have entered the permanent repertoire. With five Grammy nominations to her credit, Oppens established her reputation early on with a classic recording of Frederic Rzewski’s *The People United Will Never Be Defeated*. She has released *Piano Songs*, music by Meredith Monk, with pianist Bruce Brubaker; *Winging It: Piano Music of John Corigliano*; *Oppens Plays Carter* (complete Carter piano works); *Piano Music of Our Time*; *Keys to the City*, (complete Picker piano music); and, with pianist Jerome Lowenthal, *Visions de l’Amen* by Messiaen and Debussy’s *En blanc et noir*. As an orchestral guest soloist, Oppens has performed with virtually all of the world’s major orchestras; highlights include the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Berlin Symphony, and London Philharmonic Orchestras. She is also an avid chamber musician and has collaborated with the Arditti, Cassatt, Juilliard, and Pacifica quartets. In addition to *The People United Will Never be Defeated* and *Friendship*, Rzewski wrote the following pieces for Oppens: *Four Pieces for Piano*, *Mayn Yingele*, the two-piano version of *The Winnsboro Cotton Mill Blues*, *Moonrise with Memories*, and *A Machine*. Currently, Oppens is performing special 80th birthday programs for Messrs. Corigliano, Rzewski, and Wuorinen. Other performances appearances will include performances of works by Jonathan Harvey, and a joint recital with pianist Phillip Moll which will feature Mozart’s *Concerto for Two Pianos*. Oppens joined the faculty at Mannes College in 2017 and is a Distinguished Professor of Music at Brooklyn College and the CUNY Graduate Center in New York City. In 2019, she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from The New England Conservatory.



1st Prize Winner of the 2001 Cleveland International Piano Competition, 2018 American Prize, 15 international competitions in Italy, and prizewinner at Van Cliburn, Honens, Dublin, Sendai, Geza Anda and Valencia Competitions, **ROBERTO PLANO** performs throughout the world, notably at Lincoln Center, Salle Cortot, Wigmore Hall and the Herkulessaal. His engaging personality has made him a favorite guest on NPR’s “Performance Today” and on TV shows for PBS, Mezzo, and NHK. He has appeared with orchestras worldwide, under renowned conductors Sir Neville Marriner, James Conlon, Pinchas Zuckerman, Miguel Harth-Bedoya. 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 the most important music magazine, *Amadeus*. Described as the “Pavarotti of the Piano” for his lyricism, Plano studied at the Verdi Conservatory in Milan, Lake Como Academy, and the Ecole “Cortot” in Paris, where he earned the *Diplôme Supérieur de Concertiste*. After joining the faculty of Boston University (2016), he was appointed Associate Professor of Piano at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music (2018). One of the most sought-after teachers in the world, Plano regularly teaches at Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival and at Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival. Since 2024 he has been Head of the School of Keyboard Studies and Professor of Piano at the Conservatorio della Svizzera Italiana (Lugano, Switzerland) and International Visiting Professor of Piano at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester (UK). A frequent juror, this season he was invited to the Jury of the Seoul International Music Competition, the Screening Jury of the 2025 Van Cliburn Competition, and the Jury of the 2025 Honens Competition. www.robtoplano.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. Pompa-Baldi appears at the world's major concert venues including New York's Carnegie Hall, Cleveland's Severance Hall, Milan's SalaVerdi, 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 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. A Steinway Artist since 2003, Pompa-Baldi 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.



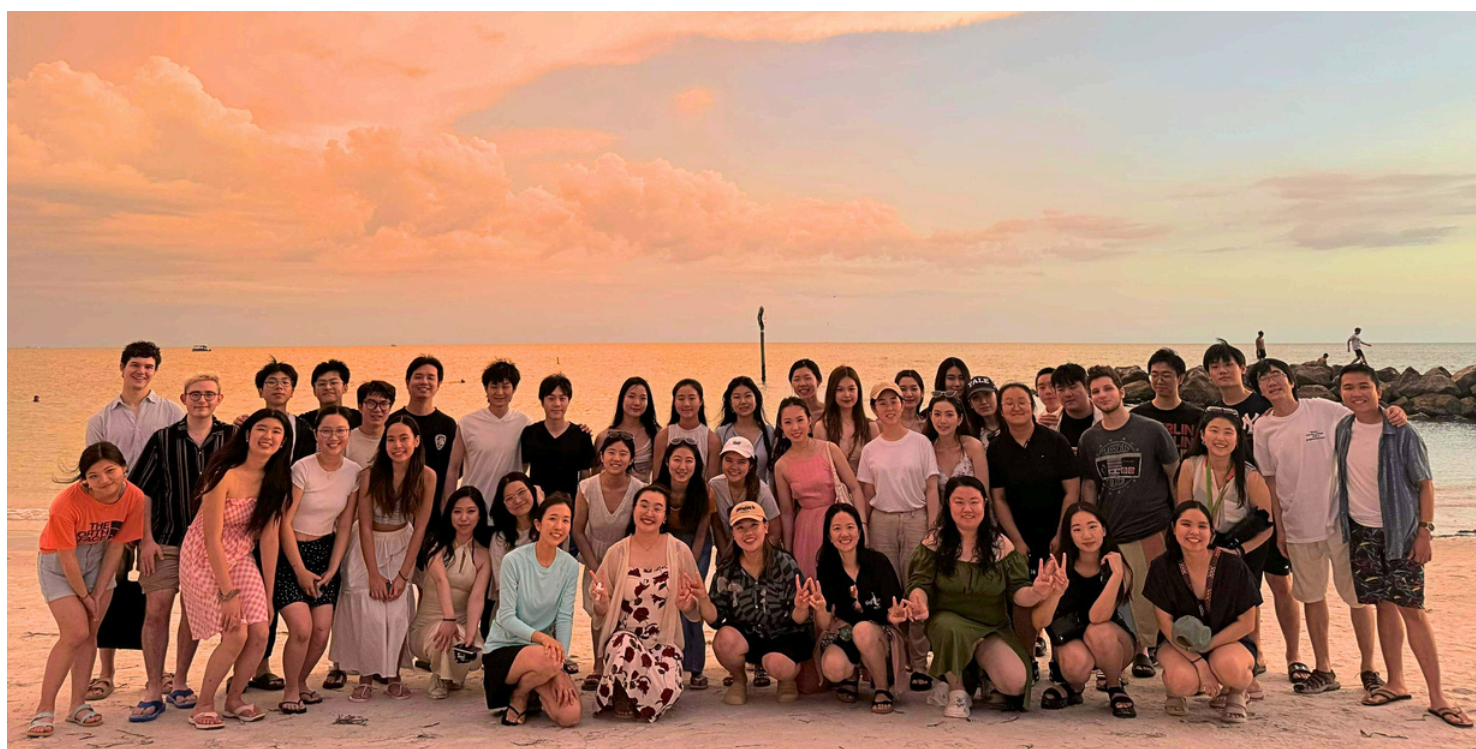
BORIS SLUTSKY emerged on the international music scene when he captured the First Prize, Audience Prize, and Wilhelm Backhaus Award, at the 1981 William Kapell International Piano Competition. His other accomplishments include first prizes at the Kosciuszko Chopin Competition and San Antonio International Keyboard Competition, and major prizes at the International Bach Competition in Memory of Glenn Gould, Gina Bachauer, Busoni, Rina Sala Gallo, and Ettore Pozzoli International Piano Competitions. Slutsky has appeared on nearly every continent as soloist and recitalist, collaborating with such eminent conductors as Dimitri Kitaenko and Valery Gergiev. He has performed with the London Philharmonic, Stuttgart State Orchestra, and Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Neuss am Rhein in Germany, Bern Symphony Orchestra in Switzerland, Bergen Philharmonic in Norway, RAI Orchestra in Milan, KBS Symphony Orchestra in Korea, and orchestras in the U.S., Spain, Russia, Colombia, Brazil, and South Africa. Slutsky has been heard on recital series throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe, Israel, Latin America, and the Far East, and his chamber music collaborations include the critically acclaimed recording of Schumann's Sonatas for Violin and Piano with Ilya Kaler (Naxos), as well as performances with many renowned artists. Slutsky has served as a jury member of international piano competitions and presented masterclasses throughout North America, Europe, and Asia. Slutsky completed his formal studies at the Juilliard School and Manhattan School of Music, studying with Nadia Reisenberg, Nina Svetlanova, John Browning, and Joseph Seiger. In addition, he has worked for many years with his mentor Alexander Eydeleman. Slutsky joined the faculty of The Peabody Conservatory of Music in 1993. He was visiting faculty at Bienen School of Music of Northwestern University (2017-2018), and Visiting Professor of Piano at Eastman School of Music (2018-2019). In 2019 he was appointed Visiting Professor of Piano at The Yale School of Music.



Pianist **TAMÁS UNGÁR** has earned worldwide acclaim for his powerful performances and innovative programming. His distinguished career spans the U.S., Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, England, Taiwan, The People's Republic of China, Korea, and Japan. Notable highlights included the Bartók Centenary Recital in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London; soloist/conductor of Mozart Piano Concertos at Leeds University, world première with the Albany Symphony Orchestra and Geoffrey Simon of the Barry Conyngham's "Monuments" – Double Concerto for Piano, Violin and Orchestra, the world première of Lawrence Leonard's piano concerto version of the Pictures at an Exhibition with the Sacramento Symphony Orchestra with Geoffrey Simon, and special visits for solo recitals and masterclasses at the Liszt Academy in Budapest. Ungár is Founder - Executive Director of PianoTexas International Festival & Academy, and he joined the TCU School of Music in 1978 where he is Professor of Music. He was Artistic Director of the Beijing International Piano Festival 2006-2014 and he continues to be Artistic Advisor for the Zhou Guangren Summer Piano Institute. Ungár has also taught at the Semper International Music Festival (Italy), Banff Piano Master Classes (Canada), Hamamatsu Master Classes (Japan), Tel-Hai Master Classes (Israel), International Master Classes (Katowice), Chopin Festival (Poland), and Chetham's International Summer School and Festival (England). He has received the prestigious Presidential Scholar Program's Teacher Recognition Award (2010) and in 2013 the Music Teachers National Association named him "The Teacher of the Year". The Senate of Texas has proclaimed Ungár as a "Distinguished Citizen" in recognition for his lifetime work and achievements in the fine arts. Ungár's most influential teachers included Alexander Sverjensky at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Lajos Hernádi at the Liszt Academy in Budapest, and György Sebök at Indiana University, where he was awarded the Doctorate in Music.



Born in Israel, **ASAF ZOHAR** is one of the most sought after Israeli pianists and pedagogues. He is a graduate of the Givatayim Conservatory and Tel Aviv University's Rubin Academy of Music (currently known as the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music). Zohar received his Doctoral degree from the Indiana University School of Music, where he has also been a visiting lecturer. His teachers include Hana Shalgi, Arie Vardi, Menahem Pressler, Leonard Hokanson, and Michele Block. He has been awarded prizes in Israel and in international competitions in Pretoria, Sydney, Vienna, and the Robert Casadesus Competition in Cleveland. He has also performed with leading Israeli orchestras including the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra under the batons of Zubin Mehta, Gary Bertini, David Robertson, Mendi Rodan, Noam Sheriff, David Shalon, Jan Pascal Tortelier, Urs Schneider, and others. Zohar appeared in numerous recitals in Israel as well as on Israeli Radio and TV. He has performed concerts and recitals in the United States, Austria, Germany, France, Great Britain, Spain, Italy, Russia, Georgia, India, South Africa, Australia, Japan, and China. He is frequently invited as a guest teacher to give masterclasses in music schools throughout the U.S. Zohar is Professor of Piano and Chairman of the Piano Department at the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music at Tel-Aviv University. He also taught at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance, where he served as Chairman of the Keyboard Department and Dean of the Faculty of Performing Arts for ten years. In addition, Zohar teaches at the Givatayim Conservatory, the Jerusalem Music Center and the Tel-Hai Summer Piano Festival in the south of Israel. In recent years, he has edited, lectured, and performed in a series of concerts in Israel presenting Beethoven's Sonatas, Mozart's Concerti, and the works of Chopin, Brahms, Schubert, and Schumann, among others.



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TABITHA COLUMBARE enjoys a busy, musical life juggling her various roles of pianist, pedagogue, administrator, Army wife, and mom! She studied piano performance with Dr. Richard Shuster as an undergraduate at Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas, earning 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 was awarded 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 headed the staff for RPPF since its inception in 2013. She is honored to be the Associate Director and thrilled to see how the festival continues to change and grow!



Chinese-born pianist **CHEN LIANG** is a recording artist for KNS Classical in Spain and a performing artist for Chengdu City Concert Hall in China. He has played with the Chong Qing Philharmonic in China, Greece Symphony Orchestra in New York, and Lynn Philharmonic in Florida. Chen is 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 the "ArsClassica" International Piano Competition in Italy, Piano Texas Music Festival Concerto Competition, and Chautauqua Music Festival Piano Competition. Currently, Chen serves as Vice President of South King County Music Teachers' Association in Seattle and Artistic Board for the Seattle International Piano Competition. He is also on the piano faculty at the Chopin Academy of Music. Chen performs as a Collaborative Pianist for the Pacific Northwest Ballet and the Seattle Choral Company. Before moving to Seattle, Chen was formerly 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). 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) with Roberta Rust and the Eastman School of Music (MM, DMA), with Natalya Antonova. This is his second summer on the RPPF Staff and his first as Director of Transportation.



JANNINA ELIANA (JANNA) G. PEÑA is a Filipina pianist and educator whose artistry bridges performance, pedagogy, and cultural advocacy. A 2024 Ani ng Dangal awardee from the Philippine National Commission for Culture and the Arts, she has garnered top honors, including first prizes in the Big Arts Classical Music Scholarship Competition and GCC Artist of the Year. She has performed with the Philippine Philharmonic and Manila Symphony Orchestras, has given solo recitals at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, and has performed internationally across Asia, the U.S., and Mexico. An advocate for contemporary music and chamber collaboration, Janna has premiered works by Eric Estrada and was a finalist in the MTNA Chamber Music Competition with Trio Veritas. As a pedagogue, Janna is a Graduate Student Instructor at the University of Michigan, teaching group and applied piano. She has previously taught at the University of Houston and the Lynn Conservatory Preparatory School. Certified by the Asia Region Suzuki Association, she also serves regularly on the faculty of the Philippine Suzuki Association National Camp. Besides teaching, Janna holds administrative roles at the Frances Clark Center and Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival, and is on the planning committee for the 2026 MTNA Collegiate Symposium. Currently pursuing her DMA in Piano Pedagogy and Performance at the University of Michigan with Professors Logan Skelton and John Ellis, her research focuses on Philippine piano repertoire and injury prevention. She has presented her work at conferences such as MTNA, NCKP, and the Conero International Piano Festival.



GABRIELLE SIENA is a classical pianist from Portland, Connecticut starting piano at the age of seven. Having participated in numerous Connecticut State Music Teachers Association festivals and competitions, Siena placed in the Audrey Thayer Piano Competition for two consecutive years, earning an honorable mention in 2018 and first prize in 2019. She also participated for three years in the Connecticut Bach Festival. Siena studied music at the precollege level at The Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts, where she was awarded a certificate of the arts with a concentration in piano performance. Siena went on to attend the Longy School of Music of Bard College in Boston, MA in the studio of Hugh Hinton, where she was awarded an undergraduate diploma in piano performance. While in this program, Siena also studied jazz performance for three years privately under Peter Casino, performing with various ensembles around Boston. Siena jointly attended Emerson College to earn a Bachelor of Music. She has recently attended the Adamant Music School and Emerald Coast Chamber Music Festival. Siena has premiered multiple works of contemporary composers, most recently including two vocal and piano duo pieces by composer Peter Aldins. Masterclass appearances have included Norman Krieger, Jeffrey Cohen, Virginia Weckstrom, and Angelina Gadeliya. Siena is currently at the LYNN Conservatory of Music where she is studying under the tutelage of Roberta Rust as a Master of Music candidate. This is her first summer as part of the team working at RPPF.



E-NA SONG is a Korean-born concert pianist, collaborative pianist, educator, and the Associate Director of the Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival (RPPF). An active performer, Song loves presenting a variety of music and styles to audiences. Recent highlights include a solo program on the Spotlight Concert, "World Serenade: An Evening of Musical Voyage," and on the Live from Hochstein Concert Series, "Celebration of Dance: Beethoven, Kodály, Liszt, and Albright," in addition to a collaborative recital with her violinist colleague called "Timeless Melodies: Brahms, Kreisler, Beach, Schoenfeld," that was broadcast on WXXI Classical 91.5 FM. Song is on the piano faculty at Rochester Institute of Technology, Roberts Wesleyan University, and the Hochstein School, in addition to holding collaborative pianist positions at SUNY Geneseo and the Eastman Community Music School. She is the Co-Chair of the Piano Department and the co-director of Adult Chamber Music Connection at the Hochstein School of Music. 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.



JOY THURMON was born in Nashville and began piano studies at age three. From the ages of six to twelve, she gave annual solo recitals to raise funds for non-profit charities in her hometown. At nine, she performed the Schumann Piano Concerto with the Vanderbilt Orchestra, and by thirteen, she was a finalist in the prestigious Bach International Piano Competition in Washington, D.C. Joy holds her DMA from Florida State University, where she developed a deep passion for the music of living composers. Her principal teachers include Johana Harris, Enid Katahn, Leonard Mastrogiacomo, and Read Gainsford. She has performed as soloist, collaborator, and chamber musician at the Aspen Music Festival, Blue Lake Fine Arts Summer Festival, and Interlochen Center for the Arts, with performances spanning the U.S., Canada, Norway, Peru, France, and Turkey. Currently residing in Tampa, Joy is President of the Mid-State Music Teachers Association and an active member of the Florida State Music Teachers Association. She has been a featured presenter at state conferences for music teachers' associations in Florida, California, Tennessee, and Texas, and has served as a guest lecturer at numerous institutions. A dedicated and passionate educator, Joy teaches private students of all ages and levels. She is on the faculty of Hillsborough Community College and previously held teaching positions at Belmont University, Lipscomb University, Vanderbilt University, Abilene Christian University, and Pepperdine University. Her students have earned recognition at local, state, and regional levels. This is Joy's second summer as Program Assistant for RPPF.



(c) Dick Caldwell

STUDENT BIOGRAPHIES



21-year-old pianist, **ANTONIO “NIO” AJERO**, has garnered many accolades such as the 2021 and 2022 National YoungArts Award for Classical Piano and 3rd prize in the National MTNA Senior Piano Competition. He has performed Tchaikovsky’s Piano Concerto No.1 twice with the Marshall Symphony under the direction of Maestro Kermit Poling and Brevard Music Center Orchestra under the direction of Maestro Keith Lockhart in the Brevard Music Center Concerto Competition winners concert. He has also performed the Saint-Saens Piano Concerto No. 5 with the Central Texas Philharmonic under the direction of Maestro Stefan Sanders in Georgetown, TX as the Colonel Ben Gomez Scholarship Winner at the Texas State International Piano Festival. Nio performed on NPR’s From the Top in 2017 and 2019 as well as being featured on From The Top’s “Daily Joy” series. Most recently, he was awarded the Howard Karp 3rd Prize Award at the 2024 Peter Takacs Beethoven Competition at Oberlin College and Conservatory. He has studied in masterclasses and lessons with renowned teachers such as Kirill Gerstein, Alexander Kobrin, Alexander Korsantia, Norman Krieger, Jeremy Denk, Logan Skelton, Veda Kaplinsky, Julian Martin, Vadym Kholodenko, Yakov Kasman, Gilles Vonsattel, William Grant Nabore, and Alexander Moutouzkine. Nio is currently pursuing his undergraduate studies at the Oberlin College and Conservatory under the tutelage of 2001 Van Cliburn gold medalist, Professor Stanislav Ioudenitch.



Hong Kong-born pianist **HIN SING AU** combines an international performance career with significant entrepreneurial leadership. After early piano studies at Hong Kong GMC Music, he earned Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music under Antonio Pompa-Baldi in 2024. Now age 23, he is pursuing a Doctor of Music (Piano Performance, minors Music Ed/Comp Sci) on full scholarship under Arnaldo Cohen at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where he also serves as Associate Piano Instructor. Au performs across the US, Europe, and Asia. Notable achievements include winning the 2024 IU Concerto Competition, bronze at the 19th Asian International Chopin Piano Competition, the Carles and Sophia International Piano Competition’s Golden Hand Award and Best Bach Prize (2023), Wetherford College International Piano Competition’s Jury Discretionary Prize (2023), and finalist placements in the Singapore and James Mottram International Piano Competitions. An RPPF alum, he has also served as a featured artist in the RPPF Satellite Concert Series. Au’s entrepreneurial spirit shines through his ventures. He co-founded the 2025 DFestival, an intensive piano festival in Xiamen, China. As Executive Director of Hong Kong Fantasia Music Management Ltd., he manages concert tours and recording opportunities for emerging artists. He founded Fantasia Music Space, a professional studio in Hong Kong with acoustically engineered practice rooms, and runs Fantasia Studio, a media production studio based in the USA. Au also plays saxophone and published performance psychology research, “Building Better Performance Routines: Adapting Pre-Performance Protocols from Sports Psychology for Music Education,” in IJSRET.



DORA-ZIYAN CHEN is a 20-year-old pianist from Seattle, Washington. She began playing piano at the age of 4, and her list of achievements includes winning first prize at the Chicago International Music Competition in 2022 and third prize at the Vancouver Young Artist Competition in 2021. Dora’s orchestral debut in 2019 at age 14 with the Florence Conservatory Orchestra at Music Festival Perugia in Italy marked a pivotal moment in her career. Dora’s talent has also been acknowledged by the Music Teacher’s National Association competition in Washington State, where she earned an honorable mention in 2020, alongside her bronze medal at the Outstanding Artist Competition in 2016. She has twice been a playoff finalist at the Seattle Young Artist Music Festival and Competition in 2018 and 2019. She has since attended many music festivals, including the Vivace International Music Festival, John Perry Academy, Chicago International Music Festival, and most recently the Gijón International Piano Festival. During the course of her studies, she has honed her craft through masterclasses with world-renowned pianists such as Richard Goode, Alexander Kobrin, Garrick Ohlsson, John Perry, and Boris Slutsky. Dora is the recipient of the Leon Fleisher Scholars Fund at the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University, where she is currently pursuing a bachelor’s degree in Piano Performance under the tutelage of Steven Spooner. Prior to her collegiate studies, she studied with Sasha Starcevich.



YIHANG CHEN was born in Taiwan, China, in 2001. He studied at the middle school attached to Wuhan Conservatory of Music in China studying with Hong Xu and later got a Bachelor's Degree of Music at Oberlin Conservatory of Music with Alvin Chow in the USA. He currently attends The Juilliard School and is pursuing his Master of Music Degree with Professor Jerome Lowenthal. Chen's numerous achievements include winning first prize in the 2015 YAMAHA Scholarship Piano Competition at Wuhan Conservatory and the 2017 Piano Department Competition of the "College Cup." In 2019, he earned second place in the High School Group at the Hainan First National Piano Competition and reached the semi-finals of the 3rd Kawai Competition in Japan. In 2020, he advanced to the Salt Lake City Round of the Gina Bachauer International Competition's Young Artist Group. His accolades continued with a first prize at the 2021 Chicago International Music Competition in the Professional Category, second prize in the 2022 Peter Takacs Beethoven Competition, first prize in the 2023 John Elvin Competition, and first prize in the 2024 Arthur Dann Competition. Throughout his studies, Chen has had the privilege of working with more than 20 prominent piano educators and performers, including Alexandr Fomenko, Douglas Humpherys, Nagai Yoshikazu, and Zhu Xiaomei. His artistry continues to evolve as he makes his mark in the world of classical piano.



HSIN-PEI CHENG is an 18-year-old pianist from Taiwan who has pursued musical excellence from an early age, studying with international masters and attending top music schools. At age 13, Hsin-Pei performed her first solo recital at the National Concert Hall, an experience that ignited a passion for performance and led to an additional recital in the Hall. She has won first prizes in the Kawai Piano Contest, Piara Piano Competition, Taipei Culture Music Contest, and TSB National Concerto Competition. She was also a finalist in the Livorno International Piano Competition and earned the Gold Prize at the Singapore Music Competition. These achievements continue to motivate Hsin-Pei along her musical journey. She currently studies at The Affiliated High School of National Taiwan Normal University with Ming-Hui Lin.



Born in Shandong, China in 2007, **HAORAN CUI** is a growing young pianist, passionate chamber musician, and classical music sharer. He has been studying at the Tianjin Juilliard School Pre-College division with Professr Ching-Wen Hsiao since 2020. Haoran's musicality has been recognized in competitions and festivals, including the 18th Xinghai Cup China National Piano Competition, Russia Tchaikovsky International Music Competition for Young Musicians, and Irmeler International Piano Competition. Haoran has also participated in numerous festivals, including Music@Menlo Chamber Music Festival and Institute, Tianjin Juilliard Piano Festival and Juilliard Summer Program. He was a recipient of the "Outstanding Artists Project" program from the Tianjin Conservatory of Music. Haoran is a dedicated chamber musician and seizes every ensemble opportunity he can get. He has participated in 50+ chamber music projects and played as the youngest musician of Tianjin Juilliard School's first Chamber Music Intensive Program in 2022-2024, collaborating with concert musicians and receiving guidance from exceptional artists. Starting with a Russian tour in 2019, Haoran has been giving solo and chamber music recitals and performing in major concert halls throughout China. He is beyond grateful to experience RPPF 2025.



CES NIA DA ROSA, age 20, is pursuing a major in Piano Performance and a minor in Musical Technology Applied Composition (TAC) at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. In her third year of coaching with Professor Yoshigazu Nagai, she has given two solo piano recitals, two performances as the representative of the piano department at SFCM, and one chamber performance playing the Mendelssohn Trio in D minor. She has held a student benefit concert as the Co-Director for 'Compass Family Services,' a community that helps homeless families in San Francisco. Currently, she is a teacher at the Music City Academy in San Francisco, a student assistant at SFCM, and is also working on creating a social media presence in hopes of connecting with more music audiences. Due to her musical talent and pursuit of excellence, Ces nia is generously supported by the school's donors for her remarkable talent on the piano, receiving a full four-year scholarship for her bachelor's degree. Outside of her studies at SFCM, she has attended numerous music festivals and performed in front of esteemed faculty members, such as Professors Shai Wosner and Jerome Lowenthal (both from the Juilliard School), Boris Slutsky (Yale School of Music), James Giles (Northwestern University), and Joseph Racker (Eastman School of Music). She is firm in her belief about the healing power of music and will continue to spread positive messages through music.



SON DUONG, age 20, is a Vietnamese-American pianist from Potomac, Maryland currently attending the Eastman School of Music. He is in his third year of undergrad studying under Professor Douglas Humpherys. He studied previously in high school with Professor Yong Hi Moon. Son has garnered multiple national and international accolades. He won 1st prize in the Young Artist Division of the Marian Garcia International Piano Competition (2021) along with awards in the Canadian International Piano Competition (2020), MTNA (2021), YoungArts, NPR's From The Top, Chopin Foundation, and West Virginia International Piano Competition (2019). He has also played in venues including Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center (UT), Strathmore Music Center (MD), Studzinski Hall (ME), and Salle Gilles-Lefebvre Hall (QC). Son has had the privilege to work with artists such as Dang Thai Son, Matti Raekallio, Veda Kaplinsky, Robert McDonald, Boris Slutsky and Haesun Paik, among others. He has attended festivals including Bowdoin, Chautauqua, and Gijón. Son also enjoys playing chamber music, and has been selected as part of Eastman's Honor Chamber program as well as in the MTNA national finals. Son is currently pursuing a dual-degree in economics from the University of Rochester, and in his free time enjoys reading, watching soccer, and traveling.



IVY FAN, age 20, is an undergraduate piano performance major student at the Eastman School of Music, studying with Professor Joseph Rackers. Born in Montreal, Canada, she began piano studies at age five and trained in both China and Canada, shaping her multicultural artistic perspective. She made her recital debut at Renmin University of China in 2019 and has performed in several competitions and festivals. Her achievements include winning the 2024 Heddy Kilian Empire State Competition, First Prize at AIMC Cleveland 2023, the Elsje de Ridder Armstrong Chamber Music Competition in 2022, and the Gold Award in the 2021 Steinway Canada Young Artist Piano Competition. A dedicated chamber musician, Ivy has collaborated with both string and woodwind players in various ensembles, including piano trios and duo piano. She also has a strong interest in composition, having written solo works and ensemble works for piano, strings, and woodwinds. Outside of her musical endeavors, Ivy is passionate about community engagement. She has volunteered as a group leader at summer camps, providing support for children, and regularly performs for senior residents, bringing music to their lives. Ivy enjoys exploring film and traveling, drawing inspiration from different cultures and artistic perspectives.



TRINITY FAN, age 23, made her first Weill Recital-Carnegie Hall appearance at the age of 8 as a Grand Winner of the NLPA International Young Artists Competition and has been a top prizewinner of several competitions since then, including the YoungArts and Camerata Artists International Competitions. Recently, Trinity was awarded 1st Prize in the 2025 Rosamund P. Haeberle Competition and Honorable Mention in the Michigan MTNA Young Artist Piano Competition. In 2022, Trinity was a finalist in the Spotlight International Piano Competition, where she also won the Audience Award. Previously, Trinity studied with Edward Auer at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music as a Founders Scholar and was a recipient of the Music Faculty Award, Premier Young Artist Award Scholarship, Dorothy L. Herriman Scholarship, and the György Sebők Scholarship. Aside from performing, Trinity has a love for teaching. She is a former faculty member of IU's Young Pianists Program and is currently a Graduate Student Instructor at the University of Michigan, and teaches at SMTD's Piano Pedagogy Laboratory Program. As a composer, she was awarded Second Prize in the 2024 MTNA National Composition Competition for her piece, "Reminiscence." Trinity previously studied composition with Shuyu Lin, Corey Chang, and Wong Chun Wai. Trinity is currently pursuing a masters degree in Piano Performance and Pedagogy at the University of Michigan. She studies with Christopher Harding and jazz piano with Andy Milne.



YIXUAN (FAFA) HAN, an award-winning concert pianist born in Anshan, China in 1995, began his piano training at an early age under the guidance of his father, an amateur pianist and painter, and his grandfather, a violinist and conductor. He is currently completing his Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) in Piano Performance at the University of Michigan, having previously earned a Master of Music (MM) at the New England Conservatory and a Bachelor of Music (BM) at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. Prior to his undergraduate studies, Yixuan attended the Attached Middle and High School of the Shenyang Conservatory of Music. His principal teachers include Arthur Greene, Dang Thai Son, Alexander Korsantia, Angela Cheng, and Danwei Wei. He has appeared in solo and chamber concerts and led masterclasses across Asia, Europe, and North America, collaborating with vocalists and instrumentalists worldwide. Yixuan has also taken part in renowned festivals such as Music Fest Perugia, the Beijing International Music Festival and Academy, the Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival, the Sicily Music Festival, and the Borromeo Music Festival. His recent accolades include the Grand Prize at the American Virtuoso International Music Competition, the Nevada School of the Arts International Music Competition, and the Charleston International Music Competition, as well as First Prize at the Concert Artist International Competition.



CHI LENG (MELODY) HO started learning the piano under the guidance of Ms. Wong Hio Cheng at the age of 4. She is currently 21 years old and studies with Professor Hung Kuan Chen at The Juilliard School in New York. She has performed alongside renowned pianist Liu Shih Kun for the former Prime Minister of Japan, Yukio Hatoyama, at the Wynn Palace in Macau, as well as in venues such as Rachmaninov Hall at the Moscow Conservatory of Music, Act City Concert Hall in Japan, Music Hall at the Martin Luther University in Germany, and Carnegie Hall in New York. She has also received top prizes in competitions, including first prize (Youth Class and Open Class) at the 15th and 16th Hong Kong (Asia Pacific) Piano Competition, Gold Medal (Senior C) in the 23rd Piara Piano Competition in Japan, three first prizes and the Cultural Affairs Bureau Prize (a scholarship equivalent to the first-year tuition at a music conservatory) in the 37th Macau Young Musicians Competition. Following the competitions, she was invited to take part in an interview and performance for the broadcast of Hong Kong TVB's "Cultural Engine 4U", and she was later featured in the CHOPIN magazine in Japan.



21-year-old pianist **YIFAN (EVAN) HOU** began piano studies at age four. In 2014, he continued his musical education at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music Affiliated Secondary School. Currently, Evan is pursuing a Bachelor of Music at the Oberlin Conservatory in the studio of renowned pianist Dang Thai Son. Throughout his career, Evan has garnered numerous prestigious awards, including first place at the Mozart International Piano Competition (China Finals, 2017), a gold medal at the Cleveland International Piano Competition (Youth Junior Group, China Finals, 2018), and third place at the 27th Chopin International Youth Piano Competition (Poland Finals, 2019). He has performed concertos with prominent orchestras, such as the Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra, the Ningbo Symphony Orchestra, and the Bulgarian National Symphony Orchestra. Notably, Evan was invited to perform at significant events, including the opening and closing ceremonies of the Changning International Grassland Piano Music Festival. In 2021, Evan was one of the youngest participants in the prestigious 18th International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw, where his performances received acclaim from international audiences. He has also studied with distinguished pianists, including Piotr Paleczny, Dina Yoffe, Andrzej Jasinski, Katarzyna Popova-Zydroń, Jorge Luis Prats, and Chen Hongkuan, earning praise for his musical sensitivity and refined technique. Evan continues to establish himself as a compelling performer with a thoughtful artistic vision and promising international career.



MIU ISHIKAWA is a 25-year-old pianist who began her musical journey in Japan. She completed her B.M. at New England Conservatory, studying with Professor HaeSun Paik, and is currently pursuing an M.M. at the Yale School of Music with Professor Boris Slutsky. After winning prizes at numerous competitions in Japan such as the Tokyo International Piano Competition, Concert Marronnier 21, and Osaka International Music Competition, she was invited to international competitions such as Hilton Head International Piano Competition in 2017, as a finalist at New York International Piano Competition and at the 2nd Betty Dickinson Piano Competition. Recent achievements include third prize at 2023 Pacific Stars International Piano Competition, second prize at Texas State International Piano Festival, and a recital opportunity in Blanco Performing Arts, Texas. She has performed in masterclasses with renowned teachers such as Michelle Cann, Dina Yoffe, Mikhail Voskresensky, Julian Martin, Robert McDonald, Erik T.Tawaststjerna, Yong-Hi Moon, Emanuel Ax, Piotr Paleczny, and Soo-Jung Shin. Moreover, she has always been an enthusiastic chamber musician and enjoys collaborating with various instruments from piano duo to large ensembles. Recent repertoire includes Beethoven's "Archduke" Piano Trio Op. 97, Schumann's Piano Quintet Op. 44, Schubert's "Trout" Quintet. Outside of music, she takes an interest in learning psychology and neuroscience for musicians, taking courses at Yale College. Due to her own and colleagues' experiences on the stage, she is eager to master this area and wishes to help young musicians with their mental wellness in the future.



Born in 2003, Chinese-American pianist **RYAN JIA** has studied piano since the age of five. He is a recent UCLA graduate where he studies with Professor. David Kaplan, and is soon to be a student at the Manhattan School of Music in New York with David Fung. He has also previously studied with Anna Semyanovsky and the late William Wellborn. An avid performer, he has concertized alongside numerous orchestras, with works by Bach, Moszkowski, Prokofiev, and Shostakovich. Former accomplishments also include first place at the 2025 Atwater Kent Piano Concerto Competition, second place of the Longer Works Division and winner of the "Best Performance of an Opera Paraphrase" at the 2024 Los Angeles Int'l Liszt Competition, and second place at the 2024-25 Culver City Symphony Parness Concerto Competition with his performance of Sergei Prokofiev's second Piano Concerto. Ryan has received masterclasses from world-renowned artists such as Mike Cheng-Yu Lee, Sharon Mann, Antonio Pompa-Baldi, and Ory Shihor. As a "Beverly Hills National Audition Recommended Artist", he was also involved with the UCLA Gluck Fellows program, which offers free educational performances to over 150 schools, libraries, senior centers, and other nontraditional venues throughout Los Angeles. Other community engagements include playing at the Chancellor's Residence at UCLA and interning at various summer festivals. In his free time, he enjoys portrait and wildlife photography, recording projects, and travel.



Born in Wuhan, China in 2006, **QIFAN JIANG** is currently studying piano performance at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music in Singapore with Professor Ning An. He started playing piano at the age of 5. He studied at the Affiliated Middle School of Wuhan Conservatory of Music with Professor Congcong Chai and also subsequently studied at Pre-College of The Tianjin Juilliard School, mentored by Professor Xiaohan Wang. Qifan has earned top prizes at many prestigious competitions, including winning the 7th ASEAN Chopin International Piano Competition and placing third at the 2nd World Piano E-Competition “Napolinova” in Italy. He was also invited to participate in significant competitions like Gina Bachauer, Khachaturian, and Singapore International Piano Competitions recently. Qifan has performed extensively across Asia, highlighted by a concerto performance with Maestro Jiajing Lai and the Qingxin Ensemble at the Closing Concert of the 2023 Inaugural Tianjin Juilliard Piano Festival, and he has given notable recitals featuring the complete Chopin Etudes, Rachmaninoff Etudes Op. 33, and complete Kapustin Concert Etudes. As a passionate chamber enthusiast, he has been accepted into the Chamber Music Intensive Program at The Tianjin Juilliard School, collaborating closely with the MILA Quartet and training under Professor Weicong Zhang. He has been selected to perform in chamber masterclasses conducted by Wu Han & David Finckel and the Shanghai Quartet. He has also taken part in piano masterclasses with renowned musicians, including Eliso Virsaladze, Michel Dalberto, Dang Thai Son, Arie Vardi, and Yoheved Kaplinsky.



24-year-old **YAJING KANG** is a dynamic pianist and doctoral candidate at the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, where she is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance under the guidance of Bernadene Blaha. She holds a Master of Music from the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University (2024), where she studied with Yoshikazu Nagai and Hieyon Choi, and a Bachelor of Music from the Shanghai Conservatory of Music (2022). An accomplished performer, Yajing has delivered notable solo recitals at venues such as the Pearl River Piano Art Center and Bechstein Center in Shanghai (2024), as well as at Goodwin Hall, Peabody Institute (2024). Her repertoire spans works by Haydn, Schumann, Ravel, and Bach, showcasing her technical precision and emotional depth. Beyond performance, Yajing is a creative leader. She directed the Shanghai Conservatory Promotional Video (2022) and contributed original music to China Education TV’s National Anti-Pandemic Music Campaign (2021). Yajing has earned top prizes at the “Wonderlic” Piano Competition (2024), Charleston International Music Competition (2024), and Lugano International Music Competition (2024). As an educator, Yajing founded a Piano Studio and XianGe Music Study Abroad Agency in Fujian, China, and has taught masterclasses to aspiring pianists. She has further honed her artistry through masterclasses with distinguished pianists such as Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Richard Goode, and Roy Howat.



WILLIAM LAURICELLA is a 19-year-old pianist, percussionist, and composer. He began private piano lessons at age 5 and percussion lessons at 9. William is currently majoring in piano performance at The Juilliard School and is a piano student of Julian Martin. William attended pre-college programs as a pianist and percussionist during high school at both The Manhattan School of Music and The Juilliard School. William has attended Bowdoin Music Festival, the Brevard Music Festival, and the Luzerne Music Festival. He was a member of the Empire State Youth Orchestra’s Symphony Orchestra and the ESYO Youth Percussion Ensemble. He performed with the Schenectady-Saratoga Symphony Orchestra and the Albany Symphony Orchestra. William won first place prizes in various competitions including the 2023 & 2020 ESYO Lois Lyman Concerto Competition, the 2022 Manhattan School of Music Precollege Philharmonic Piano Concerto Competition, the 2022 CDCYM Chopin Competition - Master level category, the 2022 & 2021 Luzerne Music Center International Senior Concerto Competition, the 2019 Junior Luzerne Music Center International Concerto Competition, as well as the 2018 Schenectady Symphony Louise DeFeo Parillo Concerto Competition and the 2018 Tchaikovsky Music Competition at the New Russia Cultural Center. William placed second in the 2022 Uel Wade Scholarship competition, the 2019 Leschetizky International Concerto Competition and the 2019 CDCYM Chopin Competition - Intermediate level category. William was featured on PBS as the WMHT Classical Student of the month in 2019. He was a finalist in the 2023 Solo Piano Competition at Brevard Music Center.



Pianist **XINJIE JACK LI** was born in 2004 in Sichuan, China. Currently, he is a student of Dang Thai Son at Oberlin Conservatory, having previously studied at the Music Middle School Affiliated to Shanghai Conservatory of Music under Yun Sun. Xinjie has performed in China and Austria, appearing with such orchestras as the Sichuan, Tianjing, and Shaanxi Youth symphony orchestras. He won the first prize at the 15th Xinghai Cup National Piano Competition in China and is returning to RPPF this year for his second summer in the program.



Born in the US and raised in Bangkok, 20-year-old **BRIAN LIN** began his piano lessons at the age of five and has won numerous prizes in national and international competitions such as the Chopin International Piano Competition in Asia, the Steinway Youth Competition Thailand, the Yokohama International Music Competition, and the Hong Kong Music Competition for Young Pianists, among others. He recently performed Prokofiev's third concerto in Thailand with the Thai Youth Orchestra and a Haydn piano concerto in Hungary. His past mentors and teachers include Jamorn Supapol, Rolf-Dieter Arens, Poom Prommachart, Grigory Gruzman, and Christopher Janwong McKiggan. A frequent performer in Thailand, Brian has also performed extensively in Taiwan, Japan, Hungary, Germany, and Portugal. He has participated in masterclasses with renowned pianists such as Andrzej Jasinski, Vanessa Lata arche, Boris Berman, James Giles, Eugen Indjic, Akiko Ebi, Dina Yoffe, Andrea Bonatta and Ronan O'Hora. Brian is currently a second-year undergraduate student studying at Oberlin Conservatory studying with Alvin Chow.



A native of Taiwan, **CINDY TING-YU LU** grew up in a vibrant musical community, earning numerous top prizes in competitions and performing both locally and internationally as a soloist and chamber musician. Now 25 years old, Cindy began piano studies with her mother at the age of four. Early educational influences that supported her path include formative training in Gifted Music Programs in Taiwan, where she won multiple accolades such as top prizes in Yamaha National Piano Competition, Taiwan National Student's Music Competition, and Cheer Taiwan International Piano Competition. Since coming to the States for her collegiate studies, Cindy has been featured as a soloist and competition winner, performing Chopin Piano Concerto No. 2 in F minor with the Utah Philharmonic Orchestra in their "Paris Connections" Concert. She has also performed with the Weber State University Symphony Orchestra as the winner of the Concerto Night Competition. Additionally, she won the Utah Music Teacher Association Concerto Competitions and was invited to perform in the UMTA State Conference Honors Recitals during her time in Utah. Cindy is currently pursuing her Master of Music degree in Piano Performance at the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University, studying under acclaimed pianist Alexander Shtrarkman. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Keyboard Performance from Weber State University, where she studied with Professor Yu-Jane Yang.



21-year-old pianist **LEO LU** was born in Shenzhen, China and began to study piano at the age of four. When he was young, he was admitted to study with Bei Chen, faculty at Shenzhen University. At 15 years old, he began studies with Swedish pianist Leonard Lindweld. Currently, he is a junior at Oberlin Conservatory, under the tutelage of Professor Alvin Chow. Leo's numerous competition achievements include first place awards in the 5th Guangzhou Piano Competition, 17th Hong Kong Piano Competition, 5th Cadenza Piano Competition in Beijing, Magnus Piano Competition in Beijing, Asian Youth Piano Competition in Dongguan, and 1st Rae de Lisle Piano Competition in New Zealand.



Born in Thailand, **CHINDANAI NUKULVUTTHIOPAS** is a 23-year-old pianist currently pursuing a Master of Music in Piano Performance and Literature at the Eastman School of Music under Professor Alan Chow. He graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where he studied with Professor Thomas Rosenkranz. Prior to UMKC, he studied at the Piano Academy of Bangkok with Professors Pornphan Banterngansa and Christopher Janwong McKiggan. Chindanai has showcased his artistry on prestigious stages, including solo performances at Yamaha Music Hall in Bangkok, Thailand, in 2024 and Royal Festival Hall in London, England, in 2019. As a versatile musician, he has also collaborated in chamber music settings, performing with a saxophone ensemble at the Kauffman Center for Performing Arts in Kansas City, Missouri, in 2021 and in a flute and piano duo at Wigmore Hall in London, England, in 2019. In addition to his achievements as a performer, Chindanai is a dedicated and passionate educator. He has taught students ranging from beginners to competition-level pianists, tailoring lessons to meet each student's unique needs and goals. His teaching experience includes mentoring young musicians at the Piano Academy of Bangkok and guiding beginner students, as part of the pedagogy program at UMKC Conservatory Academy. Recently, Chindanai was offered an internship in teaching at the Eastman Community Music School.



YU QIN was born in 2004 in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, and began studying piano at the age of five under Professor Chang Hong of the Inner Mongolia Art Institute. At age eleven, he continued his musical development with Zhang Quming, a former professor at the Shenyang Conservatory of Music. His early training laid a solid foundation for both his pianistic and musical growth. In 2019, he was admitted to the Composition Department of the High School Affiliated to the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, where he studied under Yue Miao. His education during this period not only deepened his understanding of music theory and composition but also broadened his artistic vision. In 2022, he was simultaneously accepted into both the Music Engineering Department and the Piano Department of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, where he studied with Liu Hao and Hao Duanduan, respectively. This dual focus reflected his wide-ranging musical interests and strong academic capabilities. In 2023, he was offered admission to several of the most prestigious music institutions in the United States. Ultimately, he chose to pursue undergraduate studies in piano performance at The Juilliard School, where he currently studies under Professor Hungkuan-Chen.



Named one of Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's Hot 30 under 30 Canadian Classical Musicians, 27-year-old Chinese-Canadian pianist **LINDA RUAN** is passionate about sharing the potential of music to overcome boundaries across cultures. Since being introduced to the drums at age 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 from a young age broadened her horizons and cultivated a fascination for diverse cultures. Her curiosity guided her beyond her solo piano studies, expanding to music pedagogy, community engagement 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 prizewinner of the ARD International Music Competition 2021. She has performed in venues worldwide, 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 Professor Corey Hamm. Visit www.lindaruan.com, www.instagram.com/lindaruanpiano to connect with Linda online.



ALEKS SHAMETI is an Albanian-American pianist studying at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre and Dance under a full scholarship with Professor Christopher Harding. As a soloist, Aleks has garnered success in many competitions such as winning the University of Michigan's 2024 Concerto Competition, placing 1st in the Steinway Piano Competition in Michigan, and being awarded an Honorable Mention in the 2021 David D. Dubois Piano Festival and Competition. In Albania, he also performed in an array of concerts and competitions such as "EPTA" in Tirana, "Pjetër Gaci" in Shkoder, and "Këngët e Tokës" in Ksamil, winning first prizes in the first two, and the Grand Prize in "Këngët e Tokës". Most recently, Aleks participated in the 2025 Chopin National Piano Competition. As a chamber musician, he has placed 2nd in the Briggs Chamber Music Competition with his trio, the Grasshopper Trio. Now 22 years old, Aleks' love for the piano started at the age of 10 when he had his first private lesson in Tirana, Albania.



CHAU MINH TRAN a 20-year-old pianist from Hanoi, Vietnam, began her piano studies at the age of four. In 2019, she graduated from the Colburn Academy with a full scholarship after 3 years of studying under Professor Fabio Bidini. Chau is currently working towards her Bachelor's Degree in Piano Performance with Professor Alvin Chow at the Oberlin Conservatory. In her second year at Oberlin, Chau was the recipient of the Rudolf Serkin Award for Sophomore Pianists. Previously, she has won competitions such as the Ricard Vines for Juniors Competition (Lleida, Spain), the Maria Herrero International Piano Competition (Granada, Spain), the Lansom International Piano Competition (Los Angeles, USA), in addition to receiving 2nd prize at the FIPMA Piano Competition (Malaga, Spain), among others. Chau has had the opportunity to perform with the Vietnam National Symphony Orchestra, the Vietnam National Chamber Orchestra, and the Wrastislavia Chamber Orchestra in Germany. She has also participated in masterclasses with notable professors and musicians such as Jerome Lowenthal, HieYon Choi, Dang Thai Son, Pavel Nersessian, Alexander Shtarkman, Antonio Pompa Baldi, and Logan Skelton.



Born in Costa Rica, 21-year-old **DANIEL CHEN WANG** began his piano studies at the age of five under the guidance of Professor Alexandr Sklioutovski. In June 2021, he graduated with honors from the Central Musical School in Moscow, where he studied with Professor Daria Riabova. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree at the New England Conservatory of Music, working with Professor Pavel Nerssesian. Daniel has earned numerous accolades in both national and international competitions. His achievements include first prizes at the “A Step Towards Mastery” competition in Saint Petersburg and the “La Rioja” Piano Competition in Spain, as well as third prize at the EPTA Belgium W-B competition. He was also a finalist in the Third International Competition for Young Pianists “Grand Piano” competition. As a soloist, Daniel has performed in prestigious venues worldwide, such as the National Theatre of Costa Rica, Tchaikovsky Hall, Rachmaninoff Hall, Malii Hall, and the Grand Hall of the Moscow State Conservatory. His performances have also included collaborations with prominent orchestras, including the Symphonic Orchestra of Kostroma, the Moscow Symphony Orchestra, the Saint Petersburg Symphony Orchestra, and the State Academic Symphony Orchestra of Russia “Evgeny Svetlanov.” In addition to his solo work, Daniel is a passionate chamber musician. He is a member of the piano quartet “242 Strings,” a 2024-2025 NEC Honors Ensemble that debuted at Jordan Hall in April. The quartet will also record as part of the ESYO - L’Atelier Musical Fellowship for Young Musicians.



YIJIAO WANG, born in 2003, began her undergraduate studies in piano performance at the Eastman School of Music in 2022, where she currently studies with Professor Douglas Humpherys. Originally from China, she began playing the piano at the age of five and, since 2019, studied under Professor Xuan Dong at the High School Affiliated to the China Conservatory of Music in Beijing. Yijiao has been recognized in numerous competitions, including winning the Gold Medal at the Third Franz Liszt International Youth Competition (China Semi-Final) in 2021. She also received Second Prize and the Award for Outstanding Performance of Romantic Repertoire in the Artist Group of the Korea-China International Piano Vocal Competition in both 2018 and 2020. In 2020, she performed Grieg’s Piano Concerto in A minor with the Tangshan Symphony Orchestra in China. She has participated in many festivals such as the Gijón International Piano Festival in Spain (2023) and the Adamant Music School (2024), and has performed in masterclasses with distinguished artists including Robert McDonald, Christopher Elton, James Giles, and Logan Skelton.



Recipient of the Hnatyshyn Foundation’s Developing Artist Grant, awarded to promising young Canadian artists, 23-year-old pianist **NAOMI WONG** is an active performer and teacher, currently based in Baltimore. She made her concerto debut in 2017 with the North York Concert Orchestra and has performed concerti by Brahms, Chopin, and Schumann in recent years with the University of Toronto Campus Philharmonic Orchestra, York Symphony Orchestra, and the Kindred Spirits Orchestra, among others. In the solo realm, Naomi cherishes the opportunity to interact with and introduce lesser-known repertoire to her audiences. She regularly appears in concert series throughout Canada, and as the winner of the Betty Dickinson Competition, she has presented solo recitals at Steinway Hall in New York City, the Blanco Performing Arts Series, and the Austin Steinway Gallery. Naomi began her piano studies at age six and is currently pursuing her Master’s in Piano Performance at the Peabody Institute, where she is a graduate assistant in Keyboard Studies. She is greatly indebted to her current teacher, HieYon Choi, as well as her former teachers: Steven Philcox and Enrico Elisi at the University of Toronto, Ken Marple at the University Settlement Music & Arts School, and Rachel Yu, all of whom have contributed to her passion for music and have guided her to discover her artistic voice. Learn more about Naomi online at <https://www.naomiwongpiano.com/>



CHRISTY WU is a third-year undergraduate student at the Colburn Conservatory of Music, where she studies piano on a full scholarship under the guidance of renowned pianist Fabio Bidini. Now 21 years old, she began piano studies at the age of five with Jingwen Tao and later continued her education at Guting Elementary School and National Taiwan Normal University Affiliated High School, studying under Shan Shan Wang and Chiao-han Liao. At 14, Christy was admitted to the Colburn Music Academy, where she was accepted to the studio of Fabio Bidini. Christy has earned multiple prestigious awards, including the Absolute First Prize at the 12th Valencia International Performing Arts Competition (VIPA) and the Absolute First Prize at the 5th Malaga International Piano Arts Competition (FIPMA). She was a finalist in the 2024 Colburn Concerto Competition and was featured on the 2020 “From the Top” program. Her performances have taken her to renowned venues such as the National Concert Hall in Taiwan, the Centre del Carme in Spain, and more. Christy has received invaluable guidance from esteemed musicians including Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Boris Slutsky, Chun-Chieh Yen, Ning An, Grace Chung, Edith Fisher, Yoheved Kaplinsky, and Juan Lago, among others. Notable performances in her career include her first solo recital at age 10 at Eslite Performance Hall, her 2022 recital at the Taiwan National Concert Hall, and her 2023 piano duo concert with her twin sister, which received excellent reviews.



21-year old pianist, **EMILY WU**, was born in California and began studying piano in Taiwan. She continued her studies in the Artistic Talent Program at Guting Elementary School and the Junior High Division of the Affiliated Senior High School of the National Taiwan Normal University, where she studied with Chiao-Han Liao. At 15, she was accepted into the studio of Fabio Bidini at the Colburn Music Academy. She graduated in 2022, and continued studying with Professor Bidini at the Colburn Conservatory of Music, holding a full room, board, and tuition scholarship. She has received masterclasses from Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Yoheved Kaplinsky, Edith Fischer, Boris Slutsky, Jerome Rose, Louis Lortie, and Juan Lago, and has attended the Valencia International Performing Arts Summer Festival and the Festival International de Piano de Malaga, as well as the 2021 and 2022 Colburn Piano Seminar. She won the Concerto Competition in the Festival International de Piano de Malaga Piano Competition and performed as a soloist with the Malaga Symphony Orchestra. She also won Second Prize in the Valencia International Performing Arts Summer Festival Piano Competition. She gave her first solo recital at the age of 10, and has performed in concert halls including the Taiwan National Concert Hall, Thayer Hall, Zipper Hall, Mondavi Center, Walt Disney Concert Hall, The Soraya, and Teatro Manuel Espana Mijas. She was a finalist in Colburn's Concerto Competition and a participant in the 7th Aarhus International Piano Competition For Young Pianists and the 11th National Chopin Piano Competition.



ENLE WU began piano in his native China at the age of 3. He studied with his first teacher Xiaoi Liu and performed at Musikverein at Vienna at the age of 9. In 2013, Enle began studies under Professor Vlasova Valentina at the Langlang Music Academy in Shenzhen, where he won the highest scholarship of the school every year. He has performed in masterclasses with great pianists such as Yoheved Kaplinsky, Antonio Pompa-Baldi, Boris Slutsky, Gary Graffman, Jerome Lowenthal, Zhe Tang, Mingqiang Li, and Yafen Zhu. He has also performed multiple times with the famous pianist Lang Lang and accepted his guidance. In 2017, Enle came to the US and studied under Professor T.J. Lymentstull at Interlochen Arts Academy with a full scholarship. During his years at Interlochen, he was invited to interview and perform on the classical music radio station IPR. He has won several international competitions such as Hongkong International Chopin Competition, Langlang Futian International Competition, Shanghai International Competition, and IAC International Competition. In 2021, Enle was invited to give several lecture-recitals in Shenzhen, where he continued to invite more younger generations to the classical music world. Now age 22, he is studying with Christopher Harding at the University of Michigan pursuing his undergraduate degree with a minor in Economics. Enle is also the president of the only Chinese Consulting Club at the University of Michigan. Besides music, he is also interested in sports such as American football, soccer, and basketball.



WENBO XING, age 24, is a classical pianist currently pursuing a master's degree at the Eastman School of Music under the guidance of Professor Douglas Humpherys. A passionate musician from a young age, Wenbo soon found this undeniable passion stretches beyond just a hobby. During his high school years, he made the bold decision to leave behind everything familiar and dive headfirst into the unknown world of professional music. After graduating from the renowned Interlochen Arts Academy, Wenbo went on to complete undergraduate studies at the Eastman School of Music, where he quickly found a home among its world-class faculty and vibrant musical community. Drawn to continue the pursuit of excellence, he decided to stay at Eastman to further hone his craft as a graduate student. In addition to his academic achievements, Wenbo has participated in prestigious summer programs such as the Bowdoin International Music Festival and the Amalfi Coast Music Festival, further enriching his musical journey. With an ever-developing artistry, he continues to explore the emotional and technical complexities of the classical repertoire, capturing the heart and soul of each piece performed.



JIAHAO XU, age 20, was born in Zhejiang, China. He was admitted to the Music Middle School affiliated with the Shanghai Conservatory of Music at the age of 13, where he studied under Professor Xiao Luo. During his time at middle school, he held solo recitals and received multiple scholarships, including the Niu Ende Scholarship, the Yamaha Scholarship and the School Scholarship almost every semester. Currently, Jiahao is studying at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music under the guidance of Stanislav Ioudenitch. He has won awards in competitions such as the Rachmaninoff International Youth Competition in Moscow, the International Youth Competition in St. Petersburg, and the National Youth Competition at Zhejiang Conservatory of Music. He has also participated in many music festivals, receiving masterclasses from renowned musicians such as Pi-Hsien Chen, Zhaoyi Dan, Katarzyna Popowa-Zydrón, Grant Nabore, Vladimir Ovchinnikov, Ian Fountain, Gabriel Kwok, Douglas Humpherys, Hung-Kuan Chen, Aquiles Delle Vigne, and Ching-Yun Hu.



SARAH YANG, age 19, is a second-year student at the Manhattan School of Music, where she studies with Professor Alexandre Moutouzkine. Beginning her piano studies at the age of 4, her principal teachers have included Rada Bukhman, Nicholas Rada, and Ilana Vered. Sarah is a repeat gold medalist of the Pacific International Youth Music Society Competition, and she is a silver medalist of the Vancouver International Music Competition and the Chopin NW Piano Competition. She was Overall Winner at the Vancouver Kiwanis Music Festival and First Place at the Vancouver International Festival of Russian Music. She is also a prize-winner of the Seattle Young Artists Music Festival Association and the Canadian Music Competition. Sarah has played in numerous masterclasses including for Jerome Lowenthal, Ursula Oppens, John Perry, Spencer Myer, Christopher Harding, Ian Jones, Markus Groh, Genya Paley, and Dmitri Novgorodsky. She has given performances in prestigious venues such as the Basilica di San Pietro (Perugia, Italy), Merkin Hall (New York, USA) and The Vancouver Playhouse (Vancouver, Canada).



LYNN YE, a 21-year-old pianist from China, is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Music at the Curtis Institute of Music, under the guidance of Michelle Cann and Ignat Solzhenitsyn. Her formative studies took place at The Music Middle School Affiliated to Shanghai Conservatory of Music, under the tutelage of Zhe Tang. Lynn made her solo recital debut at the age of seven, and has since performed on major stages around the world, such as the Mariinsky Theater, Kimmel Center, Kravis Center, Shanghai Oriental Arts Center, Ningbo Grand Theater, and Ningxia Grand Theater. She has also made appearances on WRTI Classical Radio Philadelphia, recording works by Rachmaninoff. Lynn has enjoyed much success in piano competitions. She is a laureate of the Manjavel International, Chengdu Beethoven International, Shanghai International Piano, Pearl River-Heilmann International, 7th Shenzhen International, Russian “Nutcracker” Youth International, Heln Cup National Piano, and Balleta International Piano Competitions. Lynn has been a participant of the Spain International Piano Festival, American North Shore International Piano Festival, Shanghai International Piano Masters Art Week, and the International Music Festival of Melbourne. She has performed in masterclasses from esteemed pianists Yuja Wang, Jonathan Biss, Robert MacDonald, Richard Goode, Mikhail Voskresensky, Imogen Cooper, Roman Rabinovich, Kathryn Brown, Jerome Lowenthal, Barry Snyder, and Daniel Shapiro.



20-year-old pianist **SUNNY LIN KAI ZHANG** has performed in some of the foremost venues in the world, including New York Carnegie Hall Weill and Stern auditoriums, Steinway Hall, Benaroya Hall in Seattle, Beijing Concert Hall, Van Cliburn Concert Hall, Vancouver Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Vancouver Playhouse, Chan Centre for the Performing Arts, and Orpheum Theatre. He has performed as soloist with the Rimsky-Korsakov String Quartet, Grosseto Symphony Orchestra, Vancouver Opera Orchestra, and the Vancouver Metropolitan Orchestra, with recent performance highlights including Rachmaninoff’s Third Piano Concerto in Vancouver’s Orpheum Theatre to a full house. Sunny has participated in many competitions: He won First Prizes at the Seattle International Piano Competition, Carmel Clavier International Piano Competition in solo and concerto categories, Orbetello International Piano Competition for Young Artists, and the Pacific International Piano Competition. He won top prizes at Fou Ts’ong, Steinway, San Jose, Sviatoslav Richter, Lancaster, and Enkor International Piano Competitions. In Canada, he won second prize in the Canadian Music Competition, received RCM’s Gold Medal for the highest marks in the LRCM certificate and became a Steinway Young Artist at the age of 16. Sunny previously studied with Matti Raekallio in the Juilliard Pre-College, and is currently an undergraduate student at The Juilliard School, under the tutelage of Hung-Kuan Chen.



XIYUAN ZHANG, age 23, is a dedicated pianist from China who embarked on her piano journey at the age of 5. She was been supported by the Janet Rose Piano Scholarship Honor during her undergraduate at San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and she is currently pursuing her master’s degree with acclaimed pianist HieYon Choi at Peabody Institute of Music. Xiyuan has been invited to music festivals such as Bowdoin International Music Festival, Art of Piano Music Festival, Philadelphia Young Artist Academy, and others. A passionate young artist, she has held several solo recitals, including New York Carnegie Concert Hall, and performed with chamber groups in China and in the United States. She was awarded the first prizes in the Crescendo Piano Competition and the Nice International Piano Competition. Besides playing, Xiyuan also worked as teaching assistant in keyboard and Music Theory at SFCM, and has taught piano in several schools where her students range from beginners to adults. Xiyuan has performed in masterclasses with several distinguished artists such as Antonio Pompa-Baldi, Bruce Brubaker, Douglas Humpherys, Boris Slutsky, Alexander Korbin, Jerome Lowenthal, Meng-Chieh Liu, and Alexander Korsantia.



21-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 winning 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 PYPA 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.

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