

INSTRUMENTALISTS, ENSEMBLES, VOCALISTS, COMPOSERS  
FROM AROUND THE WORLD

*Empowering tomorrow's musicians*



# LAUREATE GALA

## WEILL RECITAL HALL AT CARNEGIE HALL

JUNE 20, 2023, AT 7:00PM  
NEW YORK, NY



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**James Welch**  
*Progressive Musicians*



**Anna Ouspenskaya**  
*Sound Espresso & Virtual Concert Halls*

Welcome to the very first Laureate Gala hosted by Progressive Musicians, Sound Espresso, Virtual Concert Halls, & The New York Chamber Players Orchestra. Today's program will feature musicians from numerous countries who have won our 2022-2023 Laureate's Auditions.

Progressive Musicians' and Sound Espresso's mission is to help musicians of all ages achieve their goals by advancing artistically through innovative formats of online competitions. Since 2020, we have been hosting online and Internet TV events that provide musicians with a live virtual platform to reach out to world-wide audiences, receive expert feedback from professional musicians, share their artistic views, new albums, and to compete for prizes ranging from our Internet TV showcases, to the most prestigious performance venues around the world. We believe that it is important to recognize all the instruction and support that goes into the development of a musician. We also recognize the value of experience and progress. Progress does not always happen at a consistent rate, it may be quicker at one stage, and slower at another. Aspirations also vary at different stages of life, and from person to person. As one steps out of their comfort zone, it takes courage to share one's art for humanity.

Music is an artistic vehicle that brings together storytelling, math, history, art, imagery. Most significantly, it provides an environment and a language for deeply emotional connections. Although music is appreciated by many, art can never be perfected, providing an opportunity for eternal evolution and enjoyment. Music illuminates the gifts of many cultures, our world's biggest historical events, and continues to inspire stories, movies, dance, and enhance social gatherings. Some key ingredients to strong musical training include engaging highly qualified instructors, supportive family and community of friends and fans. It also demands a disciplined practice routine, collaborations with other artists, and many opportunities to perform on various stages and venues. There are endless musical possibilities and unique artistic voices being discovered.

We are thrilled to be working with an amazing team of professionals that continue educating, encouraging, and rewarding musicians of all ages and stages of their careers. Today we are honored to have pianist James Adler to offer the James Adler Audience Favorite Award, as well as to present additional awards from iClassical Academy.

It would be impossible for us to continue these types of events without the dedication and support of all our families and everyone who contributed!

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING! Enjoy the Gala!

**Progressive Musicians  
Sound Espressivo  
Virtual Concert Halls &  
The New York Chamber Players**

*proudly presents its*

**LAUREATE GALA**

*Weill Recital Hall at  
Carnegie Hall*

**June 20, 2023**

*with special guests  
Lorenzo Meo & Alexander Peskanov*

# Program

## Opening Announcements James Welch & Anna Ouspenskaya

|   |   |               |
|---|---|---------------|
| Valse No. 1, Op. 83                                 | <i>Vincent Yang, piano</i>                                      | A. Durand     |
| Sonata in C Major, K. 545<br>III. Rondo: Allegretto | <i>Sophia Zhang, piano</i>                                      | W.A. Mozart   |
| Bourrée   | <i>Michael Kim, violin<br/>Jennifer Wang, piano</i>             | J.S. Bach     |
| Saper Vorreste<br><i>from Un Ballo in Maschera</i>  | <i>Yung-Hsuan Lee, soprano<br/>Hsiao-Huan Hung, piano</i>       | G. Verdi      |
| Julia Florida                                       | <i>Catalina Wert, guitar</i>                                    | A. Barrios    |
| Sonata in E Major, K.380/L.23                       | <i>Sonya Wert, guitar</i>                                       | D. Scarlatti  |
| Suggestion Diabolique, Op.4 No.4                    | <i>Samuel Rhoades, piano</i>                                    | S. Prokofiev  |
| Cat and Mouse                                       | <i>Alexis Dyche, piano</i>                                      | A. Copland    |
| Ebben? Ne andrò lontana<br><i>from La Wally</i>     | <i>Adriana Mihaela Zarzu, soprano<br/>Jennifer Wang, piano</i>  | A. Catalani   |
| Soliloquy, Op. 44                                   | <i>Elinor Dixon, flute</i>                                      | L. Liebermann |
| Gdyby rannym słońkiem<br><i>from Halka</i>          | <i>Courtney Daniels, soprano &amp; Narmina Sultanova, piano</i> | S. Moniuszko  |
| Paraphrase on Verdi's Rigoletto                     | <i>Ting-Yu Liu, piano</i>                                       | F. Liszt      |
| Lachrymae   | <i>Aria Cheregosha &amp; Lauren Spaulding, viola duo</i>        | T. Mansurian  |

- Duo for Violin and Cello, Op. 7 Z. Kodály  
 I. Allegro serioso, non troppo  
*Nayoung Kim, violin & Nayoung Lee, cello*
- El cant dels ocells (The Song of the Birds) P. Casals  
*Marta Casas Vázquez, soprano & Teresa Laiz Monsalve, castanets*  
*Igor Zubkovsky, cello & Jennifer Wang, piano*
- In Memoriam, from Pieces From A Distant Land, Series 1 ++ \*\*Peter Dickson Lopez  
*Jennifer Wang, piano*
- Cruda Sorte!...Già so per pratica G. Rossini  
*from L'Italiana in Algeri*  
*Francesca Bartolo, mezzo-soprano*  
*Leesa Kellerman, piano*
- Uzh polnoch' blizitsya P. Tchaikovsky  
*from Queen of Spades*  
*Valerija Iljinaite, soprano*  
*Leesa Dahl, piano*
- Un bel di G. Puccini  
 Tu, tu piccolo iddio  
*from Madama Butterfly*  
*Venicia Sandria Rasmussen, soprano*  
*Jennifer Wang, piano*
- Western Vista O. Amelkina-Vera  
 I. Nightfall  
 II. The Sunfisher  
*Chinnawat Themkumkwun, guitar*
- Remarks**  
 James Adler, The Adler Oaks Foundation
- \*\*\*\*\*
- The New York Chamber Players Orchestra  
**Conductor: Maestro Giacomo Franci**
- Concerto No. 7 in G minor, BWV 1058 J.S. Bach  
 I. Allegro  
 II. Andante  
 III. Allegro assai  
*Giacomo Franci, piano*
- Concerto in D Major, RV 93 A. Vivaldi  
 I. Allegro giusto  
*Julio Reyes, guitar*
- Concerto No. 10 'Italian' \*\*A. Peskanov  
 II. Romance  
*Lutao Guo, piano*

|  |  |                |
|--|--|----------------|
| Divertimento in C Major, Hob.XIV:4<br>I. Allegro   |  | J. Haydn       |
|  | <b>Louise Ting, piano</b>                              |                |
| Concerto in C Major, IG.V. 9<br>I. Allegro Moderato  |  | G.J. Vogler    |
|  | <b>Amelia Xu, piano</b>                                |                |
| Concerto in D Major, Hob. XVIII:11<br>III. Rondo all'Ungherese                             |  | J. Haydn       |
|  | <b>Aria Zhao, piano</b>                                |                |
| Concerto No. 20 in D minor, K. 466<br>II. Romanze  |  | W.A. Mozart    |
|  | <b>Uno Yanagi, piano</b>                               |                |
| Nel profondo cieco mondo<br><i>from Orlando furioso</i>                                    |  | A. Vivaldi     |
|  | <b>Andrew Chukwuka Egbuchiem, countertenor</b>         |                |
| Concerto for Alto Saxophone, Op. 109   |  | A. Glazunov    |
|  | <b>Doron Hazan, saxophone</b>                          |                |
| Concerto in G minor RV. 317<br>III. Allegro  |  | A. Vivaldi     |
|  | <b>Nahvy Baek, violin</b>                              |                |
| Concerto in E minor, Op. 11<br>II. Romanze – Larghetto                                     |  | F. Chopin      |
|  | <b>Ben Batalla, piano</b>                              |                |
| Flute Concerto in D Major, K. 314<br>I. Allegro aperto                                     |  | W.A. Mozart    |
|  | <b>Anastasiya Squires, flute</b>                       |                |
| Concerto No. 1 in D minor, BWV 1052<br>I. Allegro<br>III. Allegro                          |  | J.S. Bach      |
|  | <b>Lorenzo Meo, piano</b>                              |                |
| Concertino in F minor, Op. 113<br>I. Allegro di molto<br>II. Andante<br>III. Allegro molto |  | F. Mendelssohn |
|  | <b>Wenzheng Mu &amp; Guangzhao Huang, clarinet duo</b> |                |

++ Laureate Composer

\*\* Composer in the Audience

# The Host



## Steve Robinson

Steve Robinson is an American radio manager, producer and executive producer. He has held senior management positions with numerous American radio stations, including WFMT and the WFMT Radio Network/Chicago, WBUR/Boston, WGBH/Boston, WCRB/Boston, KPFA/Berkeley, WBGO/Newark, Vermont Public Radio and Nebraska Public Radio Network. Robinson served as general manager of the statewide Nebraska Public Radio Network (1990-2000) and WFMT and the WFMT Radio Network from 2000 until October 2016.

A 50-year radio veteran, he has produced programs ranging from classical music documentaries to public affairs programs and has directed over 100 on-air pledge drives.

In 1984, he co-founded AIR, the Association of Independents in Radio, a service organization to assist independent radio producers in the United States. Robinson wrote AIR's first two successful grants from the New York State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Throughout his career, Robinson has produced dozens of radio programs that have been heard throughout the world, including live broadcasts from Salzburg, Austria (on the occasion of Mozart's 250th birthday); Durbin, South Africa (for the world premiere for the opera, "Princess Mago"); Quebec City, Canada (for a live broadcast of Mahler's Symphony of a Thousand with 1000 performers); Jerusalem, Israel (for a broadcast from the Jerusalem International Chamber Music Festival); and has produced numerous live broadcasts from Chicago and throughout the U.S. He has worked with William Schuman, Elliott Carter,[14] Charles Dodge,[15] Roger Reynolds, Alan Hovhaness and other composers on programs about their music. In 2003, he created the daily classical music appreciation radio program, Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin. The series is carried by state networks throughout the world including Australia and China. At the WFMT Radio Network he created the first classical music radio exchange between the United States and China.

In 2000, Robinson became the general manager of WFMT and the WFMT Radio Network. Founded in 1951, WFMT is considered as one of the most admired classical music stations in the U.S. and under his leadership many new programs were added to the local schedule, including Introductions, Impromptu and others. Robinson worked on diversifying the programs of WFMT by expanding the amount of live broadcasting from the station.

One of his most important initiatives at the WFMT Radio Network was the creation of Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin, in 2003. This daily, one-hour music appreciation program is heard on over 60 U.S. stations and has a weekly audience of over 400,000 unique listeners. The program is also heard in Australia, Guam, the Philippines and in Beijing. Initial funding for Exploring Music was provided by the National Endowment for the Arts with additional funding from individuals and foundations.

The station under his leadership focused on live music by broadcasting a wide array of local Chicago groups and ensembles. In 2007, the Chicago Tribune named him "Chicagoan of the Year" in the arts.

In 2015, he executed a cross-cultural broadcast relationship between America and China by exporting to China for the first time broadcasting concerts by the NY Philharmonic, LA Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Dallas Symphony, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall. He also arranged for concerts from the Shanghai Spring International Music Festival and the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra to be exported to the West with broadcasts in the U.S., Canada and Europe.

In 2004 and again in 2010, Robinson created and produced two, live, 17-hour fundraising campaigns involving all Chicago radio and TV stations to aid victims of the tsunami in southeast and the earthquake in Haiti. Each campaign raised over \$3 million. Robinson received two Wesbury Award from the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago for the fundraising campaigns. [

In 2008, Robinson and Bill McGlaughlin received the Dushkin Award for Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin from the Music Institute of Chicago. He has received local and national awards for his work in Chicago, including the Champion Award from the Merit School of Music, the ASCAP/Deems Taylor Award for creative programming and others.

# Audience Favorite Award



James  
Adler

## **James Adler AdlerOaks Music Library**

James Adler is a pianist who “can create whatever type of music he wants at the keyboard” (Chicago Sun-Times) and a composer who writes “with uncommon imagination” (Atlanta Journal-Constitution). He has been commissioned by the Curtis Institute of Music to compose a work as part of the Curtis Centenary Commissioning Initiative “100x100”. Mr. Adler will compose a work for solo piano to be performed and recorded by him in 2023, marking the 50th anniversary of Mr. Adler’s graduation from Curtis.

In April, Mr. Adler returns to the Arts on Bergen midday concert series at Saint Peter’s University, where he will premiere a new work by Henco Espag: *Mistieke Feetjies*, composed for and dedicated to him. Throughout the season, Mr. Adler will be recording his theater and art songs at the Yamaha Artist Services Piano Salon for a forthcoming release by Albany Records. The release also features Mr. Adler’s latest work, “Hope” is the thing with feathers (poetry by Emily Dickinson).

He recently joined the Sound Espresso Advisory Board. Sound Espresso - Virtual Classical/Jazz music is known for the competitions and events it hosts. For the 2022-23 concert season, they will be introducing auditions to compete for an in-person concerto appearance at Carnegie Hall, New York City, as well as with orchestras around the world, in addition to offering online Virtual Concert Halls concerts and events. The James Adler Audience Favorite Award is presented at Carnegie Hall during the Laureates Gala.

Mr. Adler made his orchestral performing debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and has appeared in recital on the Orchestra’s Allied Arts Piano Series, and the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts Series. His appearances have brought him from Chicago’s Grant Park, to London’s Royal Albert Hall (broadcast by the BBC), to Thessaloniki, Greece, to New York’s Alice Tully Hall, Symphony Space, and the Paramount Theatre at Madison Square Garden.

His extensive list of compositions is headed by *Memento mori: An AIDS Requiem*. Performed worldwide, recorded by AmorArtis Choral and Orchestra, and published by Alfred Music, *Memento mori* features a “range of expression [that] is expansive” and is “a unique, well-crafted, emotionally rich piece” (American Record Guide). Other compositions include *Reflections upon a September morn* (poetry by Walt Whitman); *Songs of Innocence and of Experience* with poetry by William Blake; *A Winter Triptych* (recorded by the choir of Judson Memorial Church, Henco Espag, music director); *Monday’s Child*, performed at The Cathedral of Saint John the Divine and at The Metropolitan Museum of Art; *Daughters of Music* (lyric by Debra Rue), commissioned by Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity Fort Worth Alumnae Chapter and performed at the SAI National Convention in 2018; *Carols of Splendour*, premiered at Carnegie Hall (“A cheerful, splashy tour de force, skillfully constructed and full of clever ideas,” *The Choral Journal*); *It’s Gotta Be America*, commissioned for the Centennial Celebration of the Statue of Liberty; *FANFARE XL* for symphonic band, written for the 40th anniversary of The Lesbian & Gay Big Apple Corps; *Elegy and Impromptu* for Oboe and Piano (commissioned and premiered by Ian Shafer); and *Canticle For Peace*, written for the opening of the 43rd session of the United Nations General Assembly (published by Colla Voce Music). Mr. Adler is also the composer of *Concerto in G for Piano and Orchestra* (published by Alfred Music and distributed by Luck’s Music Library), the children’s “pOpera” *Herbie and Carnie: A Dinosaga*, the *Classic Rag-time Suite* for orchestra, numerous solo, chamber, and choral works, and the award-winning film score for *The Hat Act*. As performer and composer, Mr. Adler can be heard on recordings from Albany Records, Capstone, Navona, and Ravello Records. He is a member of the Department of Fine Arts at Saint Peter’s University, a National Arts Associate in the Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity and was selected in 2018 for membership in the SAI Composer’s Bureau. James Adler is a recipient of the 2017 Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Adler is a Yamaha Artist.



# The New York Chamber Players



The New York Chamber Players is a Professional Chamber Orchestra of 42 players . It is dedicated to producing performances of mostly classical music. About 2/3 of the Orchestra is core and the remaining 1/3 is new at every production chosen through regular auditions: in NYC there is a wealth of talented musicians and we want to give the opportunity to all deserving professionals . The Artistic Director welcomes professionals from all nationalities and races as a reflection of the true spirit of New York City . Our main mission is to promote live classical music through presentations of classical music to contemporary audiences, using different formats to enliven and inspire musical experiences. The formats include spontaneous communication with the audiences, unusual in most concert settings, as well as full awareness of proper alternative visual effects such as alternative lightings (inserted sometimes during the performance of contemporary or modern music) and / or insertion of dancers that can enrich the communication especially during the performance of contemporary music. The organization will fulfill its mission by :

- enhancing the career and musical activity of its artists, mostly young professionals who have graduated from colleges, universities and conservatories.
- promoting classical music to contemporary audiences.
- expanding beyond traditional presentation (musicians in tuxedos, on a stage,silent except while playing music)
- giving particular attention to contemporary music and lesser known but great composers.

## **Violin I**

Garry Ianco (concertmaster)  
Michelle Stern  
Susan Mitchell

## **Violin II**

Siona Loughnane (principal)  
Samuel Gray  
Amelia Muccia

## **Viola**

Dorothy Kim (principal)  
Ann Roggen

## **Cello**

Igor Zubkovsky (principal)  
Sam Chung

## **Bass**

Tom Forletti

## **Flute**

Philippe Delage

## **Oboe**

Jim Ferraiuolo  
Andres Ayola

## **Clarinet**

Fred Rosenberg

## **Bassoon**

Devin Di Mauro

## **French Horn**

Jessica Santiago  
Juvenal Santiago

## **Piano Continuo**

Jennifer Wang

# The Maestro



*Giacomo*

*Franci*



**Italy**

Maestro Giacomo Franci is the Artistic Director and the Conductor of The New York Chamber Players, an organization he founded in 2004. For the 2010-11 season Maestro Franci was elected Guest Maestro of Escuela de Direccion de Orquesta in Cordoba, Spain.

Giacomo Franci is world renowned as the leading interpreter of the music of Aaron Copland. He earned this highly coveted position based on the merits of his acclaimed world premiere recording “The Complete Edited Piano Works by A. Copland”, a triple CD released by Fone’ Classics. Maestro Franci performed at Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center, for the centennial of Copland’s birthday in February 2000, receiving rave reviews for his performance.

In December 2010, his World Premiere Recording “Igor Stravinsky: The Complete Published Piano Works” was released by Fone’ Classics. The double CD recording was praised by Audio Review Magazine as “...the Great Igor Stravinsky in the outstanding performance by Giacomo Franci.” In 2016 he started the Recordings of The Complete Piano Sonatas by Beethoven on Sheva Collection Record Company, this year (2020) he has in program the 3rd CD Recording. In 1998 Franci debuted at the Carnegie Recital Hall and the Italian Music Magazine “Musica” compared him to Glenn Gould and Arturo Benedetti Michelangeli. Mr. Franci hails from Tuscany and now resides in New York City. When not performing he works at The Tribeca Music Studio, a teaching studio for aspiring pianists and singers.

Maestro Franci started his Concert Career in Italy with appearances at Teatro Comunale “Guglielmi”, Teatro San Filippo di Torino, Circolo della Musica di Bologna, and Teatro Comunale di Ferrara. When Franci is not performing as a featured pianist/soloist he devotes his time to conducting his new chamber orchestra. He is very excited about the recent attention which he and the orchestra are receiving. The chamber orchestra had their debut at the CAMI Concert Hall in New York City in May 2004, performing the Bach Piano Concerto in D minor, and they have been in growing demand ever since. Franci who is constantly looking to interpret new works, studied with Gaetano Gaeta and Giampiero Semeraro while earning his Bachelor’s Degree in Piano from the Boccherini Music Institute in Lucca, Italy. He was awarded his Master’s Scholarship from the Scuola di Alto Perfezionamento Musicale in Saluzzo, Italy, studying with Jean Fassinat and the famed Aldo Ciccolini. He also studied conducting with Piero Bellugi and Gustav Kuhn at Teatro Comunale di Pisa. Over the last few seasons Franci has been a featured soloist for engagements throughout the USA, Italy, England, Finland, France, Bulgaria, Chile, Turkey, China, Hungary. He is a returning soloist with: Philharmonic Orchestra of Veneto, Orchestra Sinfonica di Grosseto (where he has been featured as Soloist/Conductor), La Grande Ronde Symphony Orchestra, ISO Symphony, Turkey State Symphony in Istanbul, Richmond County Orchestra, New York Chamber Players, Orchestra da Camera Fiorentina, Bacau Philharmonic Orchestra, Ensemble Orchestral de Bordeaux and The Beijing Symphony Orchestra (where he has been featured as Soloist/Conductor). Since the year 2004 when he founded his Orchestra in New York, he has conducted many great Orchestras such as: The Shanghai Baroque Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra Sinfonica di Grosseto, Beijing Symphony Orchestra, New York Chamber Players, Concepcion Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra dei Pomeriggi Musicali di Milano, Orchestra Modigliani, Boston Chamber Orchestra in Tanglewood and Richmond County Orchestra. Very recently he has been featured in 2 Radio Programs by David Dubal: “Piano Matters” on WWFM Radio and “Reflections from the Keyboard” on WQXR. These radio programs feature the most legendary pianists of today and of all times. He has also appeared on radio and television aired by New York One, ABC, WPIX, Manhattan Cable, Hofstra University Radio, Blusat Radio 2000 (an hour long interview broadcast to an audience of over 2 million people) and Antenna 3. In 2008 Maestro Franci was selected to the Cambridge Who’s Who Registry which lists the most accomplished professionals in the U.S.

# Feature Pianist



## Lorenzo Meo



**Italy**

Lorenzo Meo is an Italian pianist and composer, currently living in Zurich, Switzerland. He made his debut concerto appearances performing the Rachmaninov Second Piano Concerto and Mozart's Piano Concerto K.491 in 2002. Since then Lorenzo has made several significant appearances, performing with ensembles such as the Milano Classica Orchestra, the Orchestra of Teatro Comunale in Bologna, the Chioggia Symphony Orchestra, the Bologna Conservatory Orchestra and the Zarlino Orchestra, the New York Chamber Players in prestigious Italian venues such as the Auditorium Parco della Musica in Rome, Teatro delle Muse in Ancona, Teatro Comunale in Bologna, Teatro Comunale in Modena, Teatro Comunale in Ferrara, Teatro Flavio Vespasiano in Rieti, Auditorium Giovanni Arvedi in Cremona, Teatro della Fortuna in Fano, Auditorium del Carmine in Parma, Fairmount Auditorium in Kiev, Mystetskyi Arsenal in Kiev, Plivka Dovzhenko Center in Kiev, National Philharmonic in Lviv, Liederkrantz Hall in New York.

Actively engaged in the performance of contemporary music, Lorenzo Meo regularly premieres works written expressly for and dedicated to him. As a particularly renowned interpreter of Estonian composer Jaan Rääts, he recorded his piano works for the albums "Boundaries" (2005) and "The E.P.M. Project" (2009). As a renowned contemporary music interpreter, he was invited to perform in the closing concert event for the New Music Festival at the International Art Arsenal in Kiev in 2012, playing the piano music of Jaan Rääts and Erkki-Sven Tüür. In 2015 he performed at Lviv National Philharmonic with a program entirely dedicated to new music for piano solo by women composers. In 2016 he performed the Italian premiere of Concert for Piano and Orchestra No.2 Op.70 and No.3 Op.83 by Jaan Rääts followed by the USA premiere in New York City. His discography includes, beside the previously mentioned compositions of Jaan Rääts, recordings of works by Hilding Rosenberg, Erkki-Sven Tüür, Arnold Schoenberg, and Toru Takemitsu, alongside several recordings of works of 21st Century Composers.

As a chamber musician he performed with various ensembles and interpreters. From 2000 to 2005, he played in an acclaimed duo with violist Antonello Farulli. His activity with electroacoustic composer Luigi Pizzaleo has been of particular interest, ranging over a wide variety of productions for piano and live electronics, from 20th Century repertoire to improvisation and multimedia projects. Since 2014 he regularly plays in duo with the violinist Anastasiya Petryshak, the repertoire ranging from the classical period to the 21st century and including pieces of contemporary music expressly dedicated to the duo.

# Feature Composer



*Alexander*

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*Peskanov*

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**Ukraine**

"This brilliant pianist can create incredible excitement and knows how to please the crowd," the Washington Post reported in a review of Rachmaninoff's Third Concerto performed by Alexander Peskanov and the Richmond Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center. Peskanov American debut as an orchestral soloist was with the National Symphony Orchestra conducted by Mstislav Rostropovich, and since then he has appeared internationally with orchestras such as the London Symphony Orchestra, SABC Symphony Orchestra, Cape Town Symphony Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra, Polish Chamber Philharmonic orchestra, Czech Janacek Chamber Orchestra and Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, and in the United States with orchestras in Baltimore, St. Louis, Houston, Salt Lake City, Richmond and many other cities. Over the years, Alexander has performed with concerts in Central and South America, including with the national orchestras of Colombia, Venezuela, Costa Rica and Guatemala. Mr. Peskanov has participated in many prestigious international music festivals, including Grant Park in Chicago, Wolf Trap in Washington, Aspen, Colorado, Newport, Rhode Island, Seattle, Vancouver, Canada, Monterrey, Mexico, Sarasota, NY and Flagstaff, Arizona and many other locations. He also frequently performs in piano recitals throughout the United States, including Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center as part of the series "Russian Splendor," in New York, Kennedy Center in Washington, the prestigious Van Cliburn series at Fort Worth, Texas and Gina Bachauer of the Salt Lake City, Utah Festival Series of Pianists. In the past few years, Peskanov performed Tchaikovsky's First Concerto at the opening of the International Music Festival in Sopot, Poland and was also invited to perform a solo program at the Rachmaninoff Hall of the Moscow Conservatory in honor of the 90th anniversary of Leonid Kogan, where he awarded some of his solo works. Among the renowned musicians with whom he has had the opportunity to collaborate are Maurice André, Jean-Pierre Rampal and Yo-Yo Ma. Alexander Peskanov is also a successful composer of classical works, including piano solos, flute and piano, concertos for piano, saxophone, trumpet and chamber music. He has written twenty Piano Concertos, two of which, Concerto No. 1 for Piano and Strings and the Spring Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, were selected by the National Federation of Music Clubs for 2016-2024. Peskanov Music Festival at Medellin, Colombia in early June of 2023 will feature 120 young pianists performing exclusively Peskanov compositions, including his 18 piano concertos, numerous piano solos, duets and trios for six hands. In recent seasons, the premieres of Azery Rhapsody for Piano and Orchestra and Spring Concerto at Carnegie Weill Hall (New York) and London, England. Premieres of Alexander Peskanov piano concerts were also held in Moscow and St. Petersburg (Russia), Tallinn (Estonia), Baku (Azerbaijan), Vancouver (Canada), Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide (Australia), Cape Town, Durban and Pretoria (South Africa), Friedberg, Germany, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia, Thailand and Bogota, Colombia. Recently, Peskanov piano concertos have also received international acclaim and have premiered in Europe, Asia, South America and Africa, including the premiere of his Concerto No. 2 (Ukrainian Concert) in Mexico at the Zacatecas International Music Festival. Peskanov four concertos (nos. 1, 4, 6 and 10) were broadcasted and performed by young soloists of the Tallinn Chamber Orchestra on Estonian National Radio. His new publications include 13 piano trios, 5 piano concertos, as well as a concerto for saxophone and concerto for trumpet. Alexander Peskanov is the founder of the BMTG Intercontinental Piano Competition - Music of Immortal and Living Composers whose winners perform in New York at Carnegie Hall. He is currently the President of the Brooklyn Guild of Music Teachers. Alexander Peskanov has received three special awards from the American Union of Composers (ASKEP). His recordings include a CD of his piano compositions entitled Spirits of the Winds - Peskanov Plays Peskanov, which was broadcast on satellite broadcasts on all American national radio stations. Other recordings include music by Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms, Liszt and Scott Joplin. He recorded the music for the American series Naxos Classic. Alexander Peskanov graduated from the Stolyarsky School of Music in Odessa, Ukraine, and received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the Juilliard School in New York. He is also the author of a six-book series titled "Russian Technical Mode for Piano," published by Willis Music and the founder of the popular Olympic Piano Program.



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# Season Events

## 2023-2024

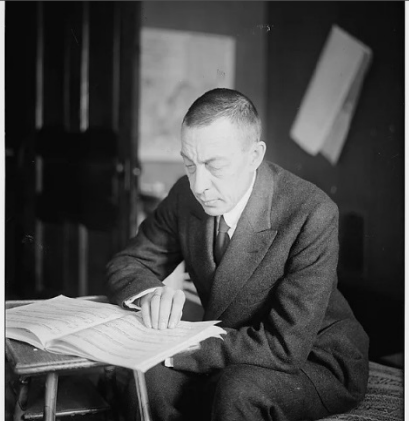
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ONE solo/ensemble piece  
or  
One Movement of a larger work  
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One Vocal work (Romance/Aria)

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*Huajun Zhang*

*Jia Shi*

*Alla Arutyunyan*

*Jean-Denis Michat*

*Jennifer Madge*

*Bronson Kwan*

*Jeremy Collins*

*Ruirui Johnson*

*Hsiao-Huan Hung*

*Dr. J-Young Kim*

*Joan Rodger CBE*



# Collaborative Musicians



Jennifer Wang

pianist

USA



Jennifer Wang, piano is a pianist, professional accompanist and collaborator based in New York and the DC area as well as Program Coordinator and Administrator Assistant at the Summit Music Festival. She received her Master Manhattan School of Music, New York, currently studying piano performance with Arkady Aronov and Efrem Briskin under the Elva van Gelder Memorial and Constance Keene piano scholarship, previously studying at the MSM Precollege and with Dr. Anna Ouspenskaya at the Levine School of Music. An avid performer, Jennifer has appeared as a soloist with the Virtuosi Brunensis orchestra and at prestigious venues such as the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, Kaufman Center's Merkin Hall, historical Palazzo dei Priori in Perugia Italy, the DiCapo Opera Theater in New York, and the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia. Jennifer has won numerous competitions, both in solo and chamber, performing at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, Merkin Concert Hall in NY, Palazzo dei Priori in Italy, DiCapo Opera Theater in New York, Embassy of Italy, Mexican Cultural Institute, Lyceum in Alexandria, featured on Cable TV: A Holiday Recital, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Netherlands Embassy, Alden Theater Music Friends Concert, and the Kimmel Center in PA as well as giving a lecture-concert in Wuhan, China.



Igor Zubkovsky

cellist

Russia



Igor Zubkovsky started playing cello in his native Russia. He first appeared as a soloist with the Minsk State Philharmonic Orchestra at the age of twelve, performing the Haydn C Major Cello Concerto. Later, he studied at the Moscow Conservatory with Natalia Shakhovskaya, the Gold Medalist of the 1962 Tchaikovsky Competition.

Mr. Zubkovsky won top prizes at international competitions, including the International Cello Competition in Minsk, Belarus (II prize), and the Tansman Competition in Lodz, Poland (Grand Prix). As a member of "The Brahms Trio" in Moscow, he won Second Prize at the Trapani, Italy and First Prize at the Weimar, Germany International Chamber Music Competitions. With a remarkable record of performances, awards and academic distinctions, Mr. Zubkovsky was awarded a full scholarship to the Peabody Conservatory of Music where he earned a Graduate Performance Diploma.

Since 2003, Mr. Zubkovsky has been a member of the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra, and continues to perform extensively as a soloist and chamber musician. He has appeared at Merkin Concert Hall in New York, at the prestigious Newport Music Festival, and has performed recitals in Massachusetts and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. Live recordings of those concerts are frequently broadcast on TV and over the Internet. Recent engagements include performances of the Brahms Double Concerto with the West Chester University Orchestra and Tchaikovsky's Rococo Variations with the Altoona Symphony. He has performed in a series of chamber music concerts in Paris with the Marquis Ensemble as well as performances at the Moscow Conservatory Rachmaninov Hall. Trio concerts with Anna Ouspenskaya and Elisabeth Adkins (as part of the "Levine Presents" performance series) were aired on WETA, Washington's Classical Music Radio station.

Mr. Zubkovsky is the author of numerous arrangements and transcriptions of duets and trios featuring the cello. He premiered the Cello Sonata by Isaac Mikhnovsky and has several CD recordings to his credit.

# The Performers



**Lutao Guo**  
USA



Lutao (goes by Astrid) was born in Boston in 2016. Since childhood, she shows strong interests in music and dance. She started to play piano at the age of four-and-a-half, and has been studying piano under Ms. Jia Shi since the age of five-and-a-half. Besides music, Astrid loves rock climbing and has been training for bouldering and top-roping since the age of five.



**Michael Kim**  
Canada



Michael's love and curiosity for music has taken him on an exciting journey. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, he began taking online violin lessons at the age of 5 and continued for a year and a half until he could switch to in-person learning. Currently, Michael is studying at the Toronto School for Strings, where he diligently builds on his skills under his instructor's guidance. In addition, Michael is a member of the Mooredale Youth Orchestra, where he gets to collaborate with other musicians.

Michael has participated in various competitions, and his performances have earned him second place at the Toronto Kiwanis Music Festival, and first place at the Unionville Music Competition. When asked about his violin playing, Michael expresses enthusiasm, saying, "My mom encourages me, and when I play well, it feels amazing!" Besides music, Michael also has a keen interest in mathematics, visual arts, and loves to stay active through various sports.



**Vincent Yang**  
USA



Vincent is 8 years old, born in Palo Alto, California. He has been learning piano with Pianist Huajun Zhang since age of 4. At the age of 5, he won the 3rd prize in the Bay Area Piano Competition 2020. His achievements in 2021 include Second Prize in 2021 Vivace International Piano Competition-North America, the GOLD MEDAL with a special prize Best Performance of Chopin Music in the WPTA China-North America International Piano Competition and Honorable Mention award in 2021 International New Star Piano Competition. He won First prize + special winner in 2022 US OPEN Music Competition, First prize in 2022 VIVALDI International Music Competition PRODIGY category, First prize in 2022 Beethoven young musician competition and 2nd prize in BTHVN Wien Competition. In the same year, he was invited to perform for the recital portion of our Laureate Gala at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall as a performance winner. In the 2022 International New Star Piano Competition, he received the highest honor, the Top Performer for the entire competition and Group I First Place Winner. Most recently, he won first prize in 2023 US OPEN Music Competition.

He loves various composers and learning different musical styles. Besides piano, he also enjoys Ice Hockey, skiing, swimming, reading, and drawing.



**Louise Ting**

USA



Elite International Music Competition First Prize Carnegie Hall, Manhattan NY – January, 2023

Golden Classical Music Awards First Prize and Exceptional Young Talent Special Prize and Carnegie Hall Manhattan, NY – July, 2022

Windsor International Piano Competition Category A - 3rd Prize – July, 2022

International Music Competition Amsterdam “Grand Prize Virtuoso” First Prize plus Exceptional Young Talent Special Prize “Young Musician Category” July, 2022

International Music Competition Salzburg “Grand Prize Virtuoso” First Prize plus Exceptional Young Talent Special Prize “Young Musician Category” July, 2022

7th Paderewski International Piano Competition Special Online Edition - Honorable Mention – June, 2022

10th Concorso Musicale Internazionale Citta Di Palmanova Premio UNESCO First Prize Cat E - May, 2022

Young Promise International 2021 Piano Competition Second Place – May, 2021

Crescendo International Music Competition First Place - January, 2021



**Catalina Wert**

USA



Catalina is 11 years old and will be in the 5th grade in the fall. She has been playing classical guitar for 6 years with Jeremy Collins and Jim McCutcheon. She has competed in the Indiana International Guitar Competition and the Appalachian State Guitar Competition. She has won six consecutive superior scores with the Ohio Jr. Music Federation program. In 2021, she was a National Gold Medal winner in her Royal Conservatory of Music exam. She has enjoyed playing as a soloist and part of the Queen City Guitar Quartet around different venues in the Cincinnati area.



**Amelia Xu**

USA



Amelia Xu is an 8-year-old third grader at Jackson School in Massachusetts. She started to learn piano in March 2019. By playing piano at her seasonal recitals, senior centers, holiday festivals and charity events, she actively gives her music back to the community. Amelia is kind, outgoing, creative and always curious. She has a wide range of interests in sports and music. She loves ice skating, math, reading, drawing and Lego. Recently, she has shown more interest in Star Wars, solving Rubik’s cube and Prodigy games. Music enriched her so much and will continue to do so.



**Yung-Hsuan Lee**

Taiwan



In 2022, Yung-Hsuan took on the challenge of participating in major online music competitions abroad. As of August 1 2022, seventeen international online music competition results have been revealed, of which she received 15 gold awards or first places, two silver awards and distinction awards in six competitions. In particular, after winning the New York Golden Classical Music Award, she was invited to attend the award winner performance held in Carnegie Hall. However, in consideration of Carnegie Hall’s COVID-19 policy at the time, Yung-Hsuan regretfully declined. Fortunately, in later competitions, after winning the Salzburg and Amsterdam “Grand Prize Virtuoso”, she was invited to attend the award winner performance and award ceremony again. She performed and received the award at the Kleine Zaal, Concertgebouw (Amsterdam) on July 14, 2022.



**Sophia Zhang**

USA



Sophia Zhang is nine years old, originally born at Falls Church, Virginia, Sophia is a third grader at Clegern Elementary School. She currently lives with her mom, dad and brother in Edmond, Oklahoma. Sophia has been learning Piano since was five. She is one of winners of Laureate Gala at Weill Carnegie Hall for Piano Solo performance by Progressive Musician Piano Competition September 2022, will perform in June 2023 in NYC. Recently, Sophia was one of winners of 2023 Oklahoma Music Teacher Association Piano Competition. She was awarded the Second Place in Iscart International Music Competition (Lugano, Switzerland) in April 2021, a Second Place in Orbetello Piano Competition online edition 2021 International on May 2021. Her Piano teacher is Mrs. Ruirui Johnson, an outstanding concert pianist and piano instructor at Oklahoma Conservatory of Music. Besides Piano, Sophia is a competitive swimmer (won the Second Place of Oklahoma Long Course 200 Free Style Relay in 10 and under age group July 2022), and She loves singing and ballet too!

Sophia loves reading, her favorite book is "Diary of a Wimpy Kid". She loves to play with her friends. She has a hamster, and she loves baby animals and specially dogs. Thank you!

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**Aria Zhao**

USA



Aria Zhao has been studying the piano under Ms. Jia Shi since the age of six years old. She is the Laureates of many competitions, including Bay State Piano Competition, Virtuoso Grand Piano Competition (invited to perform at the Mirabell Garden in Salzburg, Austria), Golden Classical International Piano Competition, OPUS Music Competition state level, Concorso International Music Competition in Palmanova, Italy. Aria is honored to be Laureates and the youngest pianist award at the International Frederick Chopin Competition for the Youth in Poland. Recently, Aria won the Third Place at Paderewski International Piano Competition; Chopin Waltz Award and Counsel General Award at Chopin Avenue International Piano Competition. Aria is the recipient of Alice Procter Award for outstanding original composition in the classical style. In August, Aria was invited to perform Concerto with Tarnow Orchestra in Poland. Aside from piano, Aria enjoys drawing, swimming, ice-skating and playing cello.

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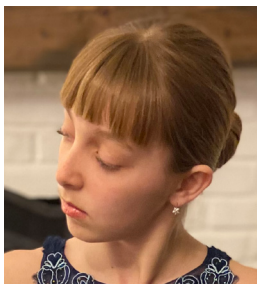
**Nahvy Baek**

USA



Nahvy Baek (12) was born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA. She started playing the violin at age four. At age eight, Nahvy was accepted into the TRYPO Symphonette, Pittsburgh, and served as Associate Concertmaster (2021). In 2022, She was promoted to Principal Second Violin in the Young People's Orchestra division. Besides playing the violin, Nahvy enjoys playing flute and ice skating. She wishes to thank her violin teacher and parents, who have supported and challenged her with great love.

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**Sonya Wert**

USA



Sonya is fourteen years old and will be in the 9th grade this fall. She has been playing the classical guitar for nine years with Jeremy Collins and Jim McCutcheon. In 2019 she placed first at the Boston Guitarfest competition in youth junior division, and she placed second in the Ohio Jr. Music Federation all state (Ohio) and all instruments competition. She placed first at the Indiana International Guitar Competition in 2022, 2nd at the 2022 Southern Guitar Competition, and 1st at the 2023 Appalachian State Guitar Competition in the youth junior divisions. She has opened for the Beijing Guitar Duo at the Cincinnati Guitar Society as a soloist and as a duo with her duet partner. She has enjoyed playing multiple times at the Cincinnati Nature Center. She has performed in masterclasses with Martha Masters, Thomas Vileteau, and Mak Grgic. In 2020, 2022, and 2023 she was a competitor in the Guitar Foundation of America international youth junior division competition.



**Alexis Dyche**

USA



Alexis Dyche is an 11-year-old who began playing the piano when she was 5. Training under the tutelage of Dr. Ji-Young Kim since she was 6, Alexis first performed in public at the 2020 Tucson Music Teachers Association Ensemble event. In February 2021, Alexis was selected as one of the First-Place winners at the Charleston International 2021 Classical Music Competition and she later won First Place in the 2021 Reno-Tahoe Piano Competition. Additionally, in both 2021 and 2022, Alexis garnered First Place honors in the Arizona State Music Teachers Association annual state-wide piano competition. In 2022, she earned Second Place in the Bay Area Piano Competition and this year won First Place honors in that competition. She also won First Place in the Charleston International 2022 Spring Music Competition. In May of 2023, Alexis was selected as a Laureate to perform at Carnegie Hall at the June 2023 gala. Home-schooled for the past three years, Alexis is also a black belt in Tang Soo Do, a Korean martial arts sport and has won numerous gold medals at state competitions as well as two first place trophies at an April 2023 national-level tournament. She also enjoys playing with and training her two 2-year-old standard poodles.

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**Uno Yanagi**

USA



17-year-old pianist, Uno Yanagi, began her piano studies at the age of four under the direction of Alla Arutyunyan. Since then, she has won numerous awards at local, state, and international competitions. Among them include the First Prizes at the Golden Classical Music Awards International Competition 2021, which led to her debut in Carnegie Hall. She won the Grand Prize + the Exceptional Young Talent Award at the Rome Grand Prize Virtuoso International Competition. 2022 was a magical year for Uno, performing solo in Carnegie Hall for winners' recitals for winning several major international competitions, such as the First Prize Elite International Music Competition and the First Prize Crescendo International Music Competition. After winning the competition, Uno was invited to the International Student Exchange Program, the Honor Award at Chopin Avenue International Piano Competition in Poland. She also received an Honorable mention at International Music Competition OPUS 2022 in Poland. Furthermore, Uno has won the second Prize in the American Protégé International Talent Competition and Honorable Mention Winner for the American Protégé International Piano and Strings Competition. She was the first prize winner of the Concert Festival International Competition in 2023.

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**Samuel Rhoades**

USA



Samuel Doescher Rhoades is 16 years of age and a high school sophomore at Casady School in Oklahoma City, OK. He has avidly studied music and piano since the age of ten at the Oklahoma Conservatory of Music in Oklahoma City, and has been instructed by RuiRui Johnson since the age of twelve. Showing rapid growth in performance skills, Samuel placed third at the South Kansa Symphony Concerto Competitions at age fourteen. Samuel recently placed second at the 2022 Oklahoma Music Teachers Association/Music Teacher National Association Collegiate Competition piano division. He was accepted to the Interlochen Arts Camp in 2022, with Merit consideration, and selected for the final showcase. He will attend again in 2023. In addition to his passion for piano studies, Samuel is an honors student who loves competitive cross country and track, and has been elected to the 2023-2024 Casady Student Council. He plans to pursue higher education at a music conservatory. Samuel will perform Sergei Prokofiev's "Suggestion Diabolique", a piece he enjoys playing for its rhythmic drive and sharp dissonance.

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**Adriana Mihaela**

**Zarzu**

USA



Adriana Mihaela Zarzu was born and raised in Brasov, Romania, and now calls California, USA her home. She is a self-taught classical soprano singer, that has been fascinated with and has a strong passion for music. She also holds a degree in Arts and Science but was advancing her music career at the School of Music in Sacramento, California. Ms. Zarzu is fluent in two languages and sings without any difficulty in five languages. She began singing solo and acting at a young age including in school plays and has been performing at local theaters, church communities, and in Vienna Austria in 1990. She has also volunteered to perform for special needs and underprivileged children. Ms. Zarzu is the First Place Winner, (Classical Repertoire) of the American Protege International Vocal Competition 2021.



**Francesca  
Bartolo**

**United Kingdom**



Francesca Bartolo, a Maltese Coloratura Mezzo-Soprano, will graduate from Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance (formerly known as Trinity College of Music) in London with a BMus(Hons) in Performance in July 2023. In 2016, Francesca moved to London to work on her voice development, where she works with various professional tutors including Marcus Van Den Akker, Sarah Pring and Dylan Perez. Apart from her Trinity Laban education, Francesca attends various stand-alone courses and masterclasses, most notably she has studied with Ubaldo Fabri in Italy and with Vladimir Chernov in Austria. After finishing her BMus course in June, Francesca will be participating in the Manhattan Opera Studio Summer Festival in New York where she will be playing the Third Lady in W.A.Mozart's Magic Flute and making her debut at Carnegie Hall. In September Francesca will start her Masters in Music Performance, where she will continue to study under Sarah Pring and Dylan Perez at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance.



**Doron Hazan**

**Israel**



Doron began his saxophone studies at the age of 7 with Gan Lev at Hassadna Conservatory of Music in Jerusalem and continued his studies there with Prof. Gersh Geller and Prof. Boris Gamer. Between 2019 – 2023, Doron studied with composer and saxophonist Jean-Denis Michat at the Lyon Conservatory of Music. Doron was recently accepted to the saxophone class of Arno Bornkamp at the Amsterdam Conservatory of Music for the 2023/2024 school year. Doron performs regularly in central musical venues in Israel and abroad, among them the Jerusalem Theater; Jerusalem Music Center; Tel Aviv Museum; Tel Aviv Chamber Music Center; Haifa Auditorium; Tallone Hall on San Giulio Island, Italy; Solitär Hall of the Mozarteum University in Salzburg; Barocksaal in Graz; Andorra Congress Center; Musée des Beaux-Arts in Lyon; Bourse du Travail in Lyon; Salle Molière in Lyon; Salle Tony Garnier in Lyon; and the Kleine-Zaal of the Concertgebouw Concert Hall in Amsterdam. In addition, Doron performed as soloist with the Ramat-Gan Symphony Orchestra, the National Symphonic Band of the Portuguese Police, and the Oberton String Ensemble.



**Valerija  
Iljinaite**

**United Kingdom**



Valerija Iljin is a Lithuanian spinto lyric soprano currently studying with Joan Rodgers CBE, Robert Bottriel and Janet Haney at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, where she is a Morag Noble scholar. In September 2023 Valerija will be continuing her studies at the Royal Academy of Music with a full scholarship. She is also a young artist at Manhattan Opera Studio, in the summer of 2023 she is due to make her Carnegie Hall recital debut and perform the role of the First Lady (Mozart, Zauberflöte) with MOS in New York City. Valerija is a winner of many international competitions and festivals in Europe and USA. Valerija has performed with various orchestras including Lithuanian State Symphony Orchestra, 'Trimitas' orchestra, Panevezys musical theatre symphony orchestra, 'Kaunas big band', Belarus state symphony orchestra and Polish National symphony orchestra. In 2019 Valerija was awarded a bachelor's degree in theatre studies from Vilnius College and London College of Music; she has also studied at American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City and played in the operetta 'Gondoliers' production directed by David Henson. In May 2021, Valerija has developed the roles of Susanna and Emma in Mussorgsky's opera 'Khovanshchina' (Bolshoi Theatre) working with the creative team: Simon McBurney OBE, Gerard McBurney and Leah Hausman. In 2022 Valerija was announced the winner of Roy Pleasance Competition 21-22 by Alec Crow, also won a 3rd prize in Edith Poulsen recital prize adjudicated by Janis Kelly, also was announced a 'Musical Odyssey 2022' Benslow Prize Winner. Attended masterclasses and studied with Yvonne Howard, David Cowan, Geraldine Cassidy, Beatrice Penzi, Carmen Santoro, Sergei Leiferkus, Manolis Papisafakis, Ubaldo Fabbri, Dr. Pantelis Polychronidis, Lynton Atkinson, Alison Wells, Nomeda Kazlaus, Kristian Benedikt, Asmik Grigorian, Joy Robinson and others. As a recognized artist of Lithuania she was invited to a special inauguration concert of the President of Lithuania Gitanas Nausėda in 2019.



**Andrew  
Chukwuka  
Egbuchiem**

USA



Mr. Andrew Chukwuka Egbuchiem came into limelight as an artist in residence for the Singers of United Land Project between December 2013 and June 2014 touring through the east half of the United States, Kenya, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Poland, and Latvia. Andrew made his opera debut with the Brooklyn Opera Works in 2016 under the tutelage of Lina Tetriani performing as the Sorceress in Purcell's Dido and Aeneas and participated in the Amherst Early Music Festival's Erismena by Cavalli in 2017. Andrew was in the Chicago Summer Opera's production of Handel's opera Silla (as Silla) in 2021. Mr. Andrew Chukwuka Egbuchiem came into limelight as an artist in residence for the Singers of United Land Project between December 2013 and June 2014 touring through the east half of the United States, Kenya, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Poland, and Latvia. Andrew made his opera debut with the Brooklyn Opera Works in 2016 under the tutelage of Lina Tetriani performing as the Sorceress in Purcell's Dido and Aeneas and participated in the Amherst Early Music Festival's Erismena by Cavalli in 2017. Andrew was in the Chicago Summer Opera's production of Handel's opera Silla (as Silla) in 2021 and most recently been performing in several recitals.



**Anastasiya  
Squires**

USA



Flutist Anastasiya Squires was born in Lviv, Ukraine. Her first performance was at age 4 and at 7 she won her first international competition. She finished her Masters at the National Music Academy of Ukraine, and a Solo Performance Diploma at Roosevelt University. Anastasiya has had the honor to perform for the Austrian President, the Ukrainian Minister of Culture, the Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait, WFMT Dame Myra Hess, and at Chicago Symphony Center. Concerto appearances include with the Lviv Symphony Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra of the National Philharmonic of Ukraine, Symphony Orchestra of the NMA of Ukraine, and CCPA Orchestra, FVO Orchestra. Her debut CD was produced by Aeolian Classics.



**Peter Dickson  
Lopez**

USA



Lopez, a recipient of the George Ladd Prix de Paris (1976-78), works in a flexible style. The eclectic nature of Lopez's mature style stems no doubt from having worked directly with composers of diverse approaches and philosophies during his early years at Berkeley and Tanglewood.

World premieres of recent works have been performed by the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra in Sydney, Australia (2017, 2018), the Ensemble MISE-EN in Seoul, South Korea (2018), and the Lviv Philharmonic Society in Lviv, Ukraine (2022). Additional works have been released on the Navona Record Label.



**Julio Reyes**

USA



Julio Reyes was born in Oakland and learned the guitar at age 5 from his father. By age 18, he performed recitals in the US and Paraguay, the Concierto de Aranjuez with the Oakland Symphony and received a scholarship to the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He has conducted youth and adult orchestras in the US, Europe, Paraguay, and Havana, Cuba. He has lectures at conservatories of music, universities and Guitar Societies in the US, Cuba and Canada. He made his Carnegie Hall debut last year winning the Professional category in the Progressive Musicians Competition.



**Elinor Dixon**  
**United Kingdom**



Elinor studied flute at the University of Huddersfield and the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. During this time she was invited to take part in the Sir James Galway International Flute Masterclass and was one of only 20 players worldwide to be selected to be coached by Sir James Galway. Other highlights of her student years included second prize in the Albert and Buono International Flute Competition and third prize in the British Flute Society Needham Piccolo Competition. She also participated in the Stratford-on-Avon International Flute Festival, which involved recitals, competitions, community performances and coaching from top class tutors. She ultimately joined the teaching staff there working with the children's course. Her earliest professional experiences were at the age of 16 with a flute trio, and at the same age with a festival orchestra playing Bach's Christmas Oratorio and St. Matthew Passion. Elinor enjoys a varied career, including recital work, chamber music and orchestral playing. Highlights of her career have included performing with Welsh Sinfonia, including taking solo work and participating in schools workshops. A highlight of her chamber music work was Bach's Brandenburg Concerto no. 3 and Suite in B minor for flute and strings in St. Edwards Church in Cardiff with Opus 8. With the same ensemble she featured as a soloist in Hasse G Major Concerto at the Ewenny Festival. She has given recitals all over the UK, most recently at the New Room, Bristol and in Cardiff.



**Venicia Sandria  
Rasmussen**  
**Germany**



Venicia Sandria Rasmussen, Sicilian-Danish Soprano, was named "La Future Diva".."with her powerful and multi-faceted voice"(Dernières Nouvelles D'Alsace), after embodying the roles of Mimi, Ciò-Ciò San, Rusálka, Violetta and Tosca on her opera tour through North to South China (2018/19) with Italian Philharmonic "Orchestra Abruzzese." In 2019/2020, Venicia had great success again in Asia, singing in 18 opera theaters and cities, within 22 days throughout China, performing Musetta, Violetta, Lucia, Ciò-Ciò San and a program including Chinese Arias. She earned her triple degree Bachelor of Music in Opera, Vocal performance, Pedagogy and Liedgesang/Chamber music with Magna cum laude in 2014 and her Master of Music with Magna cum laude in Opera singing at the University for Music in Karlsruhe, Germany in 2017. In July 2023, Venicia will perform at the open-air festival Volksschauspiele Ötigheim, with the roles of Bess (Porgy and Bess), Cunegonde (Candide) and Maria (West Side Story). Venicia will debut roles such as Elisabeth (Don Carlos) at the Werktheater München and at the Ettlingen Festspiele this Summer 2023. In Winter 2023/24 she will return with the Italian Philharmonic "Orchestra Abruzzese" for an Opera tour in China. In 2022, Venicia started her concert series "Opera meets Jazz", a one woman show with Piano/Chamber Ensemble, in Germany. She also recently released her first composed single, "Freeyer" an Earth Anthem written for World Peace. In July 2022, Venicia had the honor to perform at the world-renowned Volksschauspiele Ötigheim with the roles of: Gilda, Rosina and Violetta. She also debuted at Teatro del Casinò di Sanremo with Violetta and Ciò-Ciò San with the Sinfonica di Sanremo. Ms. Rasmussen was a Finale winner of Concorso Lyric Rinaldo Pelizzioni in 2021 and won third prize at the International Opera Competition Anita Cerquetti with concerts at Teatro delle Logge and at Teatro di Sanremo in September 2021. In Summer 2021, she sang at the Festival Opera Extravaganza at Teatro Giardina Segreto in Vetralla, with the roles of Mimi and Juliette. Venicia made her debut with Civitanova Opera in the magical Piazza di Madonna in Loreto with Violetta. She sang further concerts with the roles of; Violetta, Ciò-Ciò San, Juliette and a Sacred program with the Orchestra del 7 and Puccini Symphony Orchestra in the Civitanova Alta Theater and in Marco Sul Mare, with conductor Alfredo Sorichetti. Venicia was invited to perform Violetta and Juliette at the Teatro Greco in Taormina (August 2021). In the renowned Wolfgang Rihm Forum and "Institute for Music Theater Karlsruhe" she sang the roles of Poppea, Susanna, Amour, Adele, Cleopatra, Taumann, Gretel, Lucia and the Cat. At Los Angeles High School of the Arts she embodied the full-staged roles as Contessa, Mrs. Maurant, Malwina, Juliette, Adele, Pamina and 1 Dame. Venicia Sandria has the unforgettable experience of performing as a soloist at concerts in Basilica di San Pietro in Vaticano (Rome), in Basilica di San Marco in Venezia on Easter, and the Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore (Florence) in 2004. She made her German debut in the world premiere of "Glut" at the world renowned Nibelungen Festspiele in Worms, Germany in 2017 in the singing/acting role of "Walküre/Brünnhilde." Venicia had the honor of performing as a soloist, in the opening season of the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg and at the International Open-Air Concert in Bensheim, Frankfurt, 2017. Ms. Rasmussen is a high scholar and captivating performer of scholarships e.g.: Richard Wagner Verband, Organization Yehudi Menuhin's Stiftung "Live Music Now," Heinrich Hertz Stiftung, DAAD, Milan Panic Organization, etc. Her early musical studies were rigorously enriched through violin and theory lessons with inventor/violinist Gregory Shir and through composition/piano lessons with Prof. Dr. Brennan. Venicia was invited to perform at the University for Music in Karlsruhe, Germany in 2017. She is a high scholar of scholarships such as Richard Wagner Verband and DAAD.





**Ben Batalla**  
USA



Ben Batalla offers a distinguished musicianship with a versatile background in jazz, improvisation, classical and sacred music traditions. He has been acclaimed for his sensitive musicality, unique programmatic choices, and for his advocacy of improvisation and original cadenzas in classical music. He is an active performer, composer, and teacher from Austin, TX. He attended the Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts in West Palm Beach, FL. He earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Piano Performance from Tulane University, as well as further graduate education in sacred music and composition at the Catholic University of America. His teachers include Faina Lushtak, Ivo Kalitchev, and Roberto Durso. He is currently studying with Jason Kwak at Texas State University for his Graduate Performance Certificate in Piano Performance. As a pianist, Ben won 1st place in several national and international competitions including the Orfeo International Music Competition, the Music Teachers National Association, the Tulane Concerto Competition, and the Gulf Coast Steinway Society. Recently, Ben was a winner at the colOrchestra Auditions and performed Chopin's 1st Piano Concerto with the Western New York Chamber Players under Maestro Glen Cortese. He has performed recitals at the Kravis Center of the Performing Arts. He has given recitals at the Orfeo Music Festival, the Brandywine International Piano Festival, the Washington International Piano Festival, and the Qué Pasa Hispanic Heritage Festival. While at Tulane, Ben studied jazz with renowned keyboardist Adam Benjamin from Kneebody and performed jazz throughout New Orleans. In 2013, he was featured in Downbeat International Jazz Magazine as a winning young artist. In 2018, he was also featured on PBS' Celebration of Music with one of his improvisations. Ben will be releasing his first solo free-improvisation album titled As I Am in August of 2023. In addition to classical and jazz, Ben is active in Catholic sacred music as an organist, director, and composer. He studied sacred music composition and choral conducting with Timothy McDonnell and Peter Latona, the director for the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. He serves as the Director of Music at Saint Albert the Great in Austin, TX. Ben is a collaborating artist with The Vigil Project and will soon be featured in their upcoming documentary titled The Meaning of Music, which will also feature other prominent artists and figures including Matt Maher, Steffany Gretzinger, Paul Jernberg, and Bishop Robert Barron. His releases with the Vigil Project include Exodus, which showcases improvised instrumental meditations on several passages from the book of Exodus. Ben will release his new mass setting titled Mass of St. John Paul II, which received an endorsement from Bishop Joe Vasquez, in October of 2023. Ben aims to integrate all aspects of his musicianship to create music that will allow listeners to encounter a beauty that is transformative. He believes in the transformative power of beauty and desires to use art as a means of reminding his listeners of their own inherent dignity and worth.



**Chinnawat  
Themkumkwun**

Austria



Chinnawat Themkumkwun is a classical guitarist from Thailand, recognized internationally for his passionate and inspired performances on stages worldwide. A winner of over seventy international competitions, including top prizes at the Taiwan International Guitar Competition and the Hannabach International Guitar Competition, Germany, his most recent accomplishment is First Prize at the Boston International Guitar Competition 2022, Boston, USA

Noted especially for his unique and imaginative playing style Chinnawat thrives equally as a soloist and collaborative musician. He has appeared as a soloist with the Thailand Philharmonic Orchestra playing concertos by Rodrigo and Ponce. Since then, Chinnawat has performed successfully with concerts in North America, Europe, and Asia. He is also an in-demand instructor with his own studio that combines traditional teaching methods with online courses, preparing many rising guitar talents for auditions and competitions.

Chinnawat Themkumkwun has been the official Hannabach Artist since 2022.



**Aria Cheregosha  
& Lauren  
Spaulding**  
USA



Tallā Rouge, meaning ‘The Red Gold’ in Farsi and French, was established by the fiery Persian-American & Cajun-American violists, Aria Cheregosha & Lauren Spaulding. Tallā Rouge was formed at The Juilliard School in 2020 under the mentorship of Roger Tapping & Karoly Schranz of the Takács Quartet, and the ensemble made their debut virtually with “Music for Food” under the direction of violist Kim Kashkashian. Recognized internationally for their emotional performances, Tallā Rouge has been named NOLA ChamberFest’s “Emerging Artists” of the year (2022-2023) by the Catalyst Quartet, has been invited to work with soloist Nobuko Imai, has been awarded first-prize winner in the Frances Walton Competition, and has been named a top prize winner in the International Anton Rubinstein Chamber Music Competition (2022-2023). Tallā Rouge will be a featured ensemble on the 2023 inaugural American Viola Society album and will make their Carnegie Hall debut in June of 2023. Aria and Lauren bring their Persian & Cajun heritage to the stage, challenging audiences’ perception of the viola by breathing life into under-represented music for their under-represented instrument. Drawn to folk, West-Asian, and LGBTQ+ influenced composers, Tallā Rouge has worked with Scott Slapin, composer and violist of the Slapin-Solomon Duo; Sabah Aminikia, a Persian composer who gained his acclaim by working with the Kronos Quartet; David Rimelis, traditional fiddler, folk-lorist, and composer; and Meredith Monk, a LGBTQ+ avant-garde artist who has generously arranged “Hocket” for Tallā Rouge. As a champion of new compositions, Tallā Rouge runs an international viola duo composition competition — aiming to lead a renaissance in viola duo composition. Aria and Lauren’s intrinsic need to capture the spirit of music is fueled by a mutual love for outreach, accessibility, and authenticity — values that set the tone for the duo’s refreshingly intimate stage presence. Sharing the belief that “good music is good music”, Tallā Rouge presents the works of living composers alongside the reimaged classical works of Beethoven, Brahms, and Mozart. Tallā Rouge invites an open dialogue through their diverse programming that aims to encourage the redefinition of classical music in an evolving and interconnected world.



**Courtney Daniels  
& Narmina  
Sultanova**  
USA



Soprano opera singer, Courtney Daniels, has impressed audience members with her charismatic stage presence and powerful voice. Her love for the art is evident in the passion she brings to each and every character she plays, aided by velvet tones, soaring high notes and an agile upper register. Recently, Courtney was awarded the Gold Medal (Classical Vocal Division) in the the 2022 World Classical Music Competition, as well as First Place at the 2022 American Protégé Vocal Competition (Amateur-Operatic Aria Division), and First Place at the 2022 SFBAC NATS Classical Singing Festival Competition. Narmina Sultanova has attracted attention as one of the most exciting and communicative pianists of today’s generation. Her intense musicality, brilliant virtuosity and electrifying personality consistently thrills audiences at various concert venues. As a 14 year-old competition winner, she made her orchestral debut playing Rachmaninoff’s Second Piano Concerto with the Azerbaijani State Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Sultanova has also performed in a number of concert halls worldwide including; the Rachmaninoff Hall in Moscow, Munich, Stuttgart, the Presidential Symphony Orchestra Hall and Bilkent Concert Hall in Ankara, Cemal Reşit Rey Concert Hall in Istanbul as well as venues in her hometown – Baku, at the Azerbaijan State Conservatory Hall and the State Philharmonic Hall.



**Teresa Laiz  
Monsalve &  
Marta Casas  
Vázquez**

Spain



a 14 year-old competition winner, she made her orchestral debut playing Rachmaninoff’s Second Piano Concerto with the Azerbaijani State Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Sultanova has also performed in a number of concert halls worldwide including; the Rachmaninoff Hall in Moscow, Munich, Stuttgart, the Presidential Symphony Orchestra Hall and Bilkent Concert Hall in Ankara, C Marta Casas (Soprano, Professor at the Superior Conservatory of Music of Castilla La Mancha) and Teresa Laiz (Professor and Castanets Soloist) are the cornerstone of this project “Compañía Española de Canto y Palillos”.

The voice and castanets, which sometimes act as an accompaniment element and others as a solo instrument so unknown in this facet for the vast majority, cover the Spanish geography, as well as the different stages of our History, through fragments of classical music, zarzuela, copla or popular songs.



**Nayoung Kim & Nayoung Lee**  
South Korea



Nayoung Kim (born August 18th, 1992) is South Korean violinist. Professional solo debut at age 13th with Daegu Philharmonic Orchestra. She has given solo performances at venues such as Philadelphia Kimmel Center. She won the competition which is The New York international competition, New York stars international music competition, American Talent international competition, Canada Quebec international music competition, Canada Montreal Royal sound international music competition 1 prize and 2 prized at Italy Cremona violin solo competition and Chicago international music competition. Nayoung Kim received her bachelor's degree at the most reputable conservatories in South Korea which are Korea National University of Arts. She earned her Artist diploma at the University of Cincinnati. Since she won the Barber violin concerto competition and had won a concert with the University of Cincinnati Philharmonic orchestra. Nayoung is currently in the master's Music Program as the recipient of George W. Miles's full Scholarship and Stanley Knight's fellowship at the Yale School of Music studying with Murray Tai. Nayoung was selected as a string fellowship at Aspen Music Festival and School, West of Music festival. Ms. Nayoung has also studied with world-class professors such as Hyo Kang, Sung-Ju Lee, Murray Tai, Won-bin Yim. Nayoung Lee is one of the Soloist K member in the Korea. She did her undergraduate at Kei-Myung University. While she studied at Kei-Myung university she was the principal orchestra player for 4 years. After earned undergraduate degree, she went to Ewha- women's university for her master's degree. She played as soloist with Rumania Philharmonic Orchestra of Bacau and Moscow National symphony orchestra. She also in Korean Broadcasting system(KBS) "On Wings of Song".



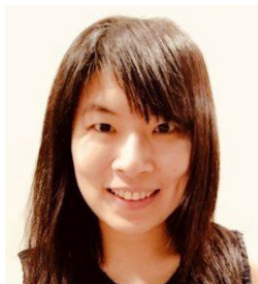
**Wenzheng Mu & Guangzhao Huang**

USA



Wenzheng Mu is a clarinetist whose passion for music has driven him to excel in his field. He completed his Master's degree from the prestigious Central Conservatory of China and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Michigan State University. Wenzheng is also an accomplished teacher of the clarinet, having held positions at several universities in China, including Guangxi Normal University, Changsha Normal University, Hunan Information University, and Guilin University. Through his exceptional skill set, consistent dedication, and commitment to education and performance, Wenzheng has made a significant impact in the field of music. His humility and willingness to learn and improve make him an outstanding role model for aspiring musicians.

Chinese clarinetist Guangzhao Huang had brought his musical talent to 12 different countries around the world. After studying at the State University of New York at Fredonia, Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, and Michigan State University, Mr. Huang has established himself as a respected musician in the industry. He has performed with the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, Chengdu Symphony Orchestra, and Holland Symphony Orchestra. Aside from performing, Mr. Huang has given masterclasses at the Shenzhen Art School, at the State University of New York at Fredonia, and many other professional institutions.



**Ting-Yu Liu**

USA



Ting-Yu Liu was born in Taiwan. She received her Bachelors degree in piano performance from National Tsing Hua University in Taiwan and a master of music degree from Cleveland Institute of Music. Ting-Yu continued to study music theory and received her second masters degree in music theory from the University of Oregon in 2022.

## Our Judges



**Vera Danchenko**

*Voice & Piano*

Pianist Vera Danchenko-Stern graduated with honors from Moscow's prestigious Gnessin Institute of Music in piano, solo performance, chamber music, vocal, and instrumental accompaniment. Immigrating to Canada in 1979, she joined the faculty of the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, still continuing her pianist's career. She then moved to Washington, D.C. in 1990. Her concert appearances include accompanying world-renowned artists, such as violinists Martin Beaver, Ilya Kaler, violist Ryvka Golani, sopranos Carmen Balthrop, Jennifer Casey-Cabot, mezzo-sopranos Susana Poretsky, Audrey Babcock, baritone Sergei Leiferkus and bass Nikita Storoyev, to name only a few. ***Read more on our website...***



**Daniel Ihasz**

*Voice*

Lyric Baritone - Daniel Ihasz, earned a Master of Music degree in Performance and Literature from the Eastman School of Music, along with the prestigious Performer's Certificate. From 1992 to 2022, he was a member of the voice faculty at the State University of New York at Fredonia and achieved the rank of Full Professor. For the past two years he served as the Interim Director for the School of Music and previously served as the former Chair of the Voice Area. In 2013, he was awarded the State University of New York Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. An active performer he has performed with the Carolina Chamber Chorale, which debuted at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival and completed a new recording of Menotti's The Unicorn, Gorgon and Manticore (Albany Records). ***Read more on our website...***



**Emil Chudnovsky**

*Strings*

Emil Israel Chudnovsky hearkens back to the grand romantic tradition of the golden age of violinists. His lush sound and inimitable ability to connect with audiences have garnered him accolades from listeners, presenters and critics alike. Recent seasons have been full of firsts, including his debut this season at the Seoul Arts Center in South Korea with the KammerSymphonie Berlin, and his recent inaugural recording with the St. Petersburg Symphony Orchestra. Equally notable benchmarks include Chudnovsky's debut with the Orquesta Filarmónica de Jalisco in Mexico, when he replaced an indisposed soloist for a previously unknown concerto on ten days' notice. ***Read more on our website...***



**Avguste Antonov**

*Piano*

Born in Bulgaria, Avguste Antonov studied piano in Bulgaria (Dobrich), France (Ecole Normale de Paris, Conservatoire de Bordeaux Jacques Thibaud) and the United States (2000: University of Missouri-Kansas City; 2001-2004: University of Kansas; 2006 -2008: Texas Christian University). He studied under the guidance of Alain Motard, Herve N'Kaoua, Robert Weirich, Stanislav Ioudenitch, Jack Winerock and Tamas Ungar. Avguste Antonov also had the privilege of taking masterclasses with Gerhard Oppitz, Jean-Claude Pennetier, Olivier Gardon, Grigory Sokolov, Olga Kern, Laure Favre Kahn, Anton Nel, Roman Rudnytsky and Yoheved Kaplinsky. ***Read more on our website...***



**Elizabeth Mann**

*Flute*

Elizabeth Mann is a Solo, Chamber, and Orchestra musician, Principal Flute with Grammy Award winning Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, member of Pulitzer Award winning ensembles, adjudicator, guest Principal flutist with NY Phil, Boston Symphony. Elizabeth Mann has been highlighted in many concerts as principal flute of Orchestra of St. Luke's and St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble since 1983. She has toured the United States performing the Mozart Flute Concerto under the baton of André Previn; traveled throughout Spain and Japan performing the Brandenburg Concertos with violinist/conductor Jaime Laredo; and was guest artist at the Lockenhaus Festival in Austria under the direction of Gidon Kremer. ***Read more on our website...***

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**Pierre Beaudry**

*Guitar*

Pierre Beaudry performs throughout the world. His extensive concert career takes him to Europe, North America, China and Southeast Asia, where his solo performances are acclaimed both by the public and the press. The critics have rewarded him for his interpretations of Baroque, Modern and Avant-garde music. In addition to being a laureate of the International Music Competition of Finale Ligure in Italy, he received numerous grants from the Quebec Arts Council, and is a DAAD alumni (German Academic Exchange Service). He studied in Germany at the Cologne Music Academy (Artist Diploma, with Honors), in France at the Paris Conservatory of Music (1st Prize) and at the Nice Conservatory of Music (1st Prize). ***Read more on our website...***

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**Gevorg Sargsyan**

*Composition*

Hailed as "...one of the most inspiring artists of his generation..." Gevorg Sargsyan is a Singapore based conductor and music director from Armenia. Recipient of Sir Georg Solti Award he has been guest-conducting in various venues around the world with different orchestras including Czech Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra, Armenian National Opera and ballet productions, Jayakarta Symphonic Orchestra, Pescara Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra among others. Gevorg studied in his native Armenia at the Yerevan State Conservatory and later continued in Vienna Conservatory in Austria and Goldsmiths College of Music, London (UK). After moving to Asia, he is combining his career between conducting and running masterclasses and lectures. ***Read more on our website...***

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**Giacomo Franci**

*Concerti*

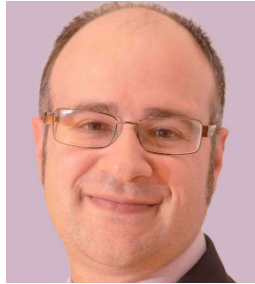
Maestro Giacomo Franci is the Artistic Director and the Conductor of The New York Chamber Players, an organization he founded in 2004. For the 2010-11 season Maestro Franci was elected Guest Maestro of Escuela de Direccion de Orquesta in Cordoba, Spain. Giacomo Franci is world renowned as the leading interpreter of the music of Aaron Copland. He earned this highly coveted position based on the merits of his acclaimed world premiere recording "The Complete Edited Piano Works by A. Copland", a triple CD released by Fone' Classics. Maestro Franci performed at Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center, for the centennial of Copland's birthday in February 2000, receiving rave reviews for his performance. ***Read more on our website...***

# Our Team



**Anna Ouspenskaya**

**Co-Founder, Host,  
Scriptwriter  
Virtual Concert Halls  
&  
Sound Espresso**



**James Welch**

**Co-Founder  
Progressive  
Musicians**



**Igor Zubkovsky**

**Co-Founder,  
Director of  
Productions, Editor  
Virtual Concert  
Halls**



**Frane Rušinović**

**Co-Founder &  
Technical Director  
Virtual Concert  
Halls**



**Fedor Ouspensky**

**Co-Founder &  
Creative Producer  
Virtual Concert  
Halls**



**Chris Au**

**Host, script  
writer & social  
media manager  
Virtual Concert  
Halls**



**Ante Božić-Kudrić**

**Technical  
Producer  
Virtual Concert  
Halls**



**Patrick Welch**

**Support Staff  
Progressive  
Musicians**



**Cathleen Welch**

**Support Staff  
Progressive  
Musicians**

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