



Progressive Musicians



VIRTUAL
CONCERT
HALLS



Laureate Gala

Well Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall



Thursday April 4, 2024 @ 7:00pm



James Welch
Progressive Musicians



Anna Ouspenskaya
Sound Espresso & Virtual Concert Halls

Welcome to our 5th 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 2023-2024 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

5th

LAUREATE GALA

*Weill Recital Hall at
Carnegie Hall*

April 4, 2024

with special guest performers

Paolo Scibilia, Alan Freiles,

Dominika Zamara, & Anastasiya Squires

Program

Opening Announcements

Brandenburg Concerto No. 3
Allegro (arr. Nick Halsey)

Johann Sebastian Bach

Arrival of the Queen of Sheba,
from the Oratorio "Solomon, HWV 67"

George Frederic Handel

Concerto for 2 cellos in g minor, RV 531,
Allegro, (arranged for cello quartet)

Antonio Vivaldi

Concerto for 2 Violins in d minor, BWV 1043
Vivace, (arranged for cello trio)

Johann Sebastian Bach

The Bow Lightlys

Adler Oaks Audience Award
James Adler

Waltz in F Major, Op. 34 No. 3

Frédéric Chopin

Neil Krishnan, piano

The New York Chamber Players

Jauchzet Gott in Allen Landen
from Canatata, BWV 51

Johann Sebastian Bach

Lillian Guo, soprano

Violin Concerto No. 1 in B-flat Major, K. 207
III. Presto

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Stacey Kim, violin

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Voi che Sapete
Venite Inginocchiatevi
from Le Nozze di Figaro

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Agnus Dei

Wieslaw Rentowski

Dominika Zamara, soprano

Suite Moderne for Strings
I. Bourrée
II. Minuet
III. Gavotte

**James Adler*

Piano Concerto No. 2 in F minor, Op. 21
I. Maestoso
Ximurong Zhai, piano
Frédéric Chopin

Après la guerre
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**Rainer Stegmann*

Violin Concerto No. 3 in G major, K. 216
I. Allegro
Theodore Wang, violin
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Variations on a Rococo Theme, Op. 33
Variations VI & VII
Aurelia Faidley-Solars, cello
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Violin Concerto No. 1 in B-flat Major, K. 207
III. Presto
Saiya Mittal, violin
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

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Asturias
Anna Maria Mendieta, harp
Isaac Albéniz

Concierto de Aranjuez
I. Allegro con spirito
II. Adagio
Roland Schlieder, guitar
Joaquín Rodrigo

Concerto Symphonique No. 4, Op. 102
Laura McCormick, piano
Henry Litolff

Fantasy for Violin, Piano and Orchestra
Steven Song, violin; Ante Božić-Kudrić, piano
**Gong Qian Yang*

Fantaisie Brillante sur Carmen
Anastasiya Squires, flute
François Borne / Arr. by V. Duda

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 Magogo"); 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, Charles Dodge, 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 the 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.

Maestro of The Bow Lightlys



*John
Kaboff*

Director/Cellist

A resident of the Washington since 1995, D.C., John Kaboff has performed as recital and concerto soloist locally at The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, The United States Department of State, The Corcoran Gallery of Art, The Embassies of Germany, France and New Zealand, The Church of the Epiphany, Dumbarton House and has been a repeat concerto soloist with the JCC Symphony Orchestra and the Landon Symphonette. He has performed with the Manhattan Symphonie in Carnegie Hall and his concert appearance at Strathmore Hall, in North Bethesda, MD, was acclaimed by The Montgomery County Sentinel as, "beguilingly lyrical" and in "top form". Internationally, he has performed as recital soloist Germany, Italy, The Netherlands and Australia.

In 2023- 2024, Mr. Kaboff will appear as soloist and chamber artist with Los AnCellos, a Los Angeles based cello ensemble, guest artist at the Tennessee Cello Workshop, Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the South Florida Symphony. He will also perform with various chamber ensembles in Washington, DC, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New York.

Mr. Kaboff is a highly successful private teacher of pre-college age students who frequently garner prizes in local and regional cello competitions. Most recently, his students took top prizes in all levels of the 2016 Washington Performing Arts Society competition. In 2015 two students were prizewinners at the American Protégé Competition, resulting in Carnegie Hall, Weil Recital Hall debut recitals. In 2015 and 2016, his students have been featured in the Classical Spotlight Showcase for Maryland Public Television. His former students matriculate from highly competitive music schools such as the Curtis Institute, Indiana University, the University of Michigan, the Cleveland Institute of Music and the Mannes College of Music with substantial merit scholarship. They have held positions in the Baltimore Symphony, Austin Symphony, Aspen Music Festival, Castleton Music Festival and other European orchestras.

Over the last 29 years, his studio ensemble, known as the Bow Lightlys, were featured guest artists at the World Cello Congress III, where they were featured in an internationally broadcast cello ensemble workshop with world famous cellist, Yo-Yo Ma which then resulted in a cello choir concert at the Sixth American Cello Congress as part of Mr. Kaboff's appearance as a guest lecturer. They are featured annually at the Tennessee Cello Workshop and have been featured in concert on live radio broadcast in Washington, DC. They have also performed cello ensemble concerts at the Embassy of France, Almas Shriner's Temple in Washington, DC, as well as many local religious and cultural centers. They have performed at charity events for the American Diabetes Association and also regularly perform at senior living centers as to bring music to those who might not be able to enjoy otherwise.

Mr. Kaboff has adjudicated preliminary competition rounds at the Third World Cello Congress's Master Class Competition, Johansen International String Competition and the Washington International Competition for Strings. He was the Chairman of the 2022 Washington International Competition held at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. He succeeded in fundraising substantial prize money from various private donors and philanthropic organizations such as the Maryland Lyric Opera. In addition to financial contributions, Mr. Kaboff arranged for the loan of fine instruments from Christophe Landon Rare Violins and the Brobst Violin Shop for the winners of the 2022 Washington International Competition for Strings.

As a frequent guest lecturer, he has conducted master classes and performed at the Flinders Street Conservatorium in Adelaide, Australia, Purcell School of Music in London, England, Indiana University Summer String Program, Michigan State University, Longy School of Music in Boston, The Music Academy of North Carolina and the Universities of Tennessee and Rhode Island. He was an artist in residence in 2011 at Appalachian State University and was a featured artist at the 2010 Tennessee Cello Workshop. Mr. Kaboff has earned Suzuki certification through level 10 and was invited by the Suzuki Association of Australia to conduct workshops, master classes and solo recitals in Melbourne and Adelaide, Australia.

Kaboff studied with Janos Starker at Indiana University and William Pleeth, at the Holland Music Sessions in the Netherlands and at the Britten-Pears Summer School in England. He also studied at the Kronberg Academy in, Germany, with Arto Noras. He has received accolades for his teaching by numerous world-class cellists such as Yo-Yo Ma and has been the feature of numerous articles in such publications as the Washington Post, The Baltimore Sun, The Washington Jewish Weekly, The Vienna (VA) Connection and The Montgomery Journal. Yo-Yo Ma also notes him as being a superb teacher of young children in a biography about him entitled, "Musicians with a Mission".

Maestro of The New York Chamber Players



*Giacomo
Franci*

Conductor/Pianist

Maestro Pianist 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 the year 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.

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. He was awarded his Master's Scholarship from the Scuola di Alto Perfezionamento Musicale in Saluzzo, 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 . For some of you that might not know , these radio programs feature the most legendary pianists of today and of all times . He has also appeared on radio and television shows carried 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.

Guest Conductor



*Paolo
Scibilia*

Artistic Director of some of the most prestigious concert series in Italy such as: A.Gi. Mus - Napoli, Società dei Concerti di Cosenza, International Festival in Sorrento (Sorrento Classica), he is very active in the promotion of prestigious orchestras. He performed in more than 500 concerts as conductor, and pianist in the chamber music repertoire with Moldova Radio – Tv, Tirana Radio – Tv, Moscow Conservatory, Chernivsky Philharmonic (Ukraine). Accompanist of opera singers such as: Vincenzo Costanzo – tenor (1st Price of Lirica 2014), Antonia Emanuela Maria Palazzo – soprano, Federico Parisi – tenor (a component of the famous “Four Tenors”), and others. He is the host of several masterclasses on the “Scuola Pianistica Napoletana”.

Guest Conductor



*Alan
Freiles*

ALAN FREILES MAGNATTA, Conductor, Violinist, President of the Cultural Foundation “Nuove Assonanze”, Vice president of Association “Ami Mozart Firenze”.

Born in Florence in 1976, he has conducted about 300 exhibitions so far, both in Italy and abroad. Experienced in the symphonic repertoire, chamber music and Opera. Freiles has offered collaboration by several theaters and opera companies. The main important: Orchestra del Teatro Nazionale di Belgrado e Teatro di Stato di Krasnoyarsk, Orchestra del Festival Pucciniano, Bohemian Symphony Orchestra di Praga, West Bohemian Symphony Orchestra di Mariánské Lázně (Repubblica Ceca) Orchestra sinfonica di Karaganda, Orchestre Filarmoniche di Lugansk e di Donetsk.

In cooperation with artists such as Dimitra Theodossiou, Alberto Gazale, Olga Guryakova, Rolando Panerai, Susanna Rigacci, Laura Brioli – he has directed several productions of the Complete Operas of Mozart, Rossini, Donizetti, Verdi, Puccini, Bizet, Mascagni and Leoncavallo.

In May 2013 he conducted Tosca in Salone dei 500 in Florence, in the presence of the President of the Senate President of Italian Republic Pietro Grasso, as well as numerous premieres by various composers, including Andrea Portera and Luciano Bettarini.

He was assistant to Raymond Hughes – formerly Cantor at the Metropolitan Theatre in New York – and Alberto Veronesi.

From 2009 to 2013 he was choirmaster of the Cathedral of Prato and he promoted to National IRASE several musical projects for primary and secondary school and University.

In 2009, he was finalist in the Fourteenth Edition of Prize for Opera Conductors Capuana in Spoleto and for ten years he has been Artistic Director of the Association OMEGA in Florence, officiated by Cesare Orselli. He has been Official Director of the New Europe Orchestra. Moreover he conducts Opera performances and he has contributed as Director for the staging of internationally renowned artists such as Vivien Hewitt and Alberto Paloscia.

During the years, OMEGA has also organized seasons of symphonic and chamber concerts at the prestigious Auditorium Santo Stefano al Ponte Vecchio in Florence and a competition for opera singers officiated by Giovanna Lomazzi.

At the International Competition “Illica” and “Merighi” officiated by Ines Salazar, Alan Freiles Magnatta has participated as a jury member.

He graduated in Violin and Music Education at the Conservatory of Florence and in Orchestral Conducting with highest honors at the Conservatory of Venice, then he graduated with highest honors with a degree in Modern Literature of Musical Dramaturgy at the University of Florence (mentor: Fiamma Nicolodi).

Feature Performer



*Dominika
Zamara*

Soprano

Soprano Dominika Zamara gained musical recognition early in her native Poland. In 2007, she graduated (with honors) from the prestigious Wrocław University of Music, and directly went to Italy, in pursuit of higher artistic study. Having won a scholarship from the Verona State Conservatory, she performed in masterclasses with some of Italy's most highly regarded operatic teachers. These include Alida Ferrarini, Bruno Pola, and Enrico De Mori — the latter being highly important for her future professional growth.

Her operatic debut took place in 2010 as Mimi, in Puccini's "La Bohème" under the direction of Maestro De Mori. Her outstanding vocal qualities, dynamic stage presence, and versatility in multiple genres (opera, lieder and Art song, chamber, and Contemporary music), quickly led to international performances across the globe — Europe, USA, Mexico, Argentina, China, South Korea and Australia.

Notable musical highlights and venues include: Accademia del Teatro alla Scala di Milano, Mostra del Cinema and La Biennale di Venezia; the role of Dori in the opera "Un Tramonto" by G. Coronaro, (Teatro Olimpico, Vicenza); Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center (NYC); Manuel Ponce Hall (Mexico City); Verdi Theater, Padua (in the Contemporary opera "La Serva di Padova"); the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music (Rome); World Youth Day in Krakow (in the presence of the Pope); Haydn's oratorio "The Creation" (Chicago); the National Opera Center in New York City; Mythos Opera Festival — Verdi's opera Aida at the Ancient Theater of Taormina; in Sicily, the inauguration of the InCanto Barocco Festival; Mercadante Theater (Altamura) — concert arias of S. Mercadante; Vivaldi's Gloria (New York); and at the Sala della Protomoteca, at the Campidoglio in Rome. In 2023, she joined the New York Composer Circle's roster as an International Performing Artist.

Notable amongst the numerous prizes and honors Ms. Zamara has received, are the Cartagine Prize of Rome; the Fonane Prize of Rome (presented by the Vatican); the Kobiety Charyzmatycznej Prize (Warsaw) She is mentioned in two encyclopedias: "Polscy Muzycy w Świecie", author Zbigniew Andrzej Judycki (Warsaw), and the "Encyclopedia Dziedzictwa Polonii Świata. Ambasadorowie Polonii" (Kraków).

2023 American Prize Award — Chamber Vocal Music like performer soprano, USA

In addition to a broad repertoire — ranging from Baroque to Contemporary (with a propensity for the Mozartian, bel canto and contemporary repertoire), and singing in numerous languages — Zamara has been carrying out a special project: concerts presenting the arias of Vincenzo Bellini and the songs of Fryderyk Chopin — two composers united by a deep friendship and unique collaboration.

In addition to her main role as Concert Artist, she has sought to broaden and combine aesthetically Arts, Culture, and Fashion by assuming the role of Brand Ambassador for the Mather Milani Cosmetic line (Italy), and has presented the highest achievements in fashion — featuring in concert, clothing by world renowned designers, including: Rosy Garbo, Ela Piorun, and Marta Jane Alesani. She was immortalized by Master photographer Stefano Geardi, whose photo won the silver medal in the advertising category, at the prestigious "World's Top 10 Black & White Competition."

Feature Performer



Anastasiya Squires

Flutist

In 2019, Mrs. Squires (Ganzenko) was named winner of the Aeolian Classics Emerging Artists Competition. As a part of her winnings, she performed numerous recitals at various venues in Illinois, and has had her debut CD produced on Aeolian Classics. Since beginning her flute studies at the age of four and winning her first international competition at the age of seven, Anastasiya Squires has blossomed into a young artist with continued successes in international performance venues and competitions. She received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees (cum laude) from the National Music Academy of Ukraine (named after Tchaikovsky) in her native Ukraine. Mrs. Squires received her post-masters Solo Performance Diploma, under the tutelage of Richard Graef (former Associate Principal Flute of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra), Mimi Tachouet (Lyric Opera Orchestra), and Eugenia Moliner (Cavatina Duo) at the Chicago College of Performing Arts (CCPA) of Roosevelt University. She has appeared as concerto soloist and recorded with numerous orchestras, including the Lviv Symphony Orchestra, the Symphony Orchestra of the National Philharmonic of Ukraine, the Symphony Orchestra of the National Music Academy of Ukraine, the Lviv Chamber Orchestra, and Illinois orchestras. Special honors include performances for the President of Austria, the Ukrainian Minister of Culture, the Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait, and at the Palace of Wilanow, Poland. Recent winner of the Luminarts Cultural Foundation Classical Music Fellowship, the CCPA Concerto Competition and the Evanston Music Club Scholarship Competition, Mrs. Squires also counts among her many competition credits Grand Prizes at International Competitions in Europe and numerous national competitions in her home country. In January of 2021, Anastasiya will have the distinct honor of performing for the Dame Myra Hess Concert Series in Chicago.

Feature Composer



*James
Adler*

Composer/Pianist

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 theatre 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 Chorale 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.

James Adler Audience Favorite Award <https://www.soundesspressivocompetition.com/audience-award-james-adler>

Elegy Artist Management • elegyartistmanagement.com

The Bow Lightlys



The Bow Lightlys, were featured guest artists at the World Cello Congress III (2000), where they were featured in an internationally broadcast cello ensemble workshop with world famous cellist, Yo-Yo Ma which then resulted in a cello choir concert at the Sixth American Cello Congress (2001) as part of Mr. Kaboff's appearance as a guest lecturer. They performed at the 2014 Tennessee Cello Workshop. The Bow Lightlys have been featured in concert on live radio broadcast in Washington, DC. They have also performed cello ensemble concerts at the Embassy of France, Almas Shiner's Temple as well as many local religious centers. They often perform at charity events for the American Diabetes Association. As a way to share their musical expression, the Bow Lightlys also perform at senior living centers as to bring music to the homes of those who might not be able to enjoy otherwise.

The Bow Lightlys' Musicians

Pavine McNeill
Jonathan Lee
Jorge Laboy
Shinjini Ray
Alette McNeill
Joseph Xu
Matthew Armbruster
Mary Gallacher
Evie Gallacher
Helen Altenbach
Carson, Mitchell
Katie Reskusic
Owen Koch
Leo Gonazalez

The New York Chamber Players



Founded in 2004 by Giacomo Franci, the NYCP gave their debut on May 8th 2004 at CAMI Concert Hall in New York City performing the Bach Piano Concerto No.1 in D min. Now the New York Chamber Players is a professional orchestra of 43 musicians which has performed in several Concert venues in NYC. On December 6th, 2017 the Orchestra performed for the first time at Carnegie Hall. Many prestigious soloists have joined the orchestra. Among them we remember the bandoneon player Juan Pablo Jofre Romarion. The Orchestra has had several prestigious conductors including Delio Cassetta, Alejandra Urrutia Borlando, Stefano Mazzoleni, Robert Canetti, Paolo Scibilia, Paolo Biancalana, and Alan Aurelia.

NYCP released 3 commercial CDs by C.R.S. Label. The first CD included a composition by the Artistic Director titled 3 Variations on a Theme by Michael Levy for Piano and Orchestra. The composition received rave reviews in the music magazine Society News. The second CD featuring various contemporary pieces got an outstanding review from the Society News Magazine declaring the NYCP as a "top notch level Orchestra". Soon there will be published the 3rd CD with a composition by the Artistic Director titled "The Plot Against You" a Poema Sinfonico for Violin and Orchestra. The aim of the Artistic Director is to consolidate and develop one of the best orchestras in the world.

Violin I

Francisco Salazar (Concertmaster)
Romulo Benavides
Hannah LeGrand

Violin II

Charlotte Loukola (Principal)
Chayoung Son
Susan Mitchell
Svetla Kalcheva

Viola

Hui Wang (Principal)
Bo Park
Nicolas Mirabile

Cello

Sam Chung (Principal)
Christine Mello

Bass

Stefano Battaglia

Flute

Philippe Delage
Kim Lewis

Oboe

Dylan Reynnalt
Michael Witsberger

Clarinet

Fred Rosenberg

Bassoon

Devin DiMauro

French Horn

Meredith Moore
Michael Goss

Trumpet

Ethan Wellington

Piano

Ante Božić-Kudrić

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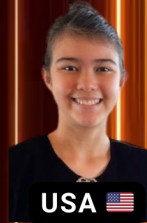
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DINA NESTERENKO
VIOLIN



LATVIA 🇱🇻
ALISE ANNA ALKSNE
FLUTE



SWEDEN 🇸🇪
ARTHUR EDMAN
BASSOON



USA 🇺🇸
MICHAEL MCAVOY
BARITONE

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Soon Ja Hong

Sonya Visser

James Greening-Valenzuela

Olga Chichova

Grace Lin

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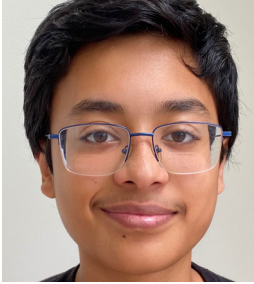


Joaquín Rodrigo
(22/11/1901 - 06/07/1999)

2024

**XXV Aniversario de su fallecimiento
25th Anniversary of his death**

The Performers



Neil Krishnan

Neil is a junior at Harker School and has been playing piano since age 6. He has received four state honors, four state conventions, two branch honors and completed 10 years of the Certificate of Merit by the Music Teachers Association of California. He is a recipient of the Paderewski Medal from the National Guild of Piano Teachers, receiving superior plus rating for ten years.



Lillian Guo

Lillian Guo is an Opera singer and vocal teacher. She studied at China conservatory of music. She made her singing debut at the Summer of Harbin concert in 1998. In 2018, she was the first place winner of the New York American Protégé international vocal competition. She has performed to critical acclaim across the US, Japan and China.



Stacey Kim

Attending MSM (Manhattan School of Music) Precollege Division Private Lessons Prof. Elizabeth Faidley, Manhattan School of Music (2022-present) Prof. Michael Avagliano, Drew University (2021-present) Grace Lee, Scherzo Music Studio (2016-2020) School Orchestra School District of Chatham's Orchestra (2019-present) Pops Orchestra (2021-present) After-School Orchestra New Jersey Youth Orchestra (NJYS level 5/6), New Providence, NJ (2021-2023) Assistant Concertmaster, 4 concerts/ year Philharmonia (NJYS level 4/6), New Providence, NJ 2020-2021 First Violin, 3 concerts/ year Sinfonia (NJYS level 3/6), New Providence, NJ 2019-2020 First Violin, 3 concerts/ year Primo (NJYS level 1/6), New Providence, NJ 2018-2019 Assistant Concertmaster, 3 concerts/ year Chamber Music Prelude Performance, Lyrica Chamber Music Concert, Chatham, NJ Oct 2022 String Trio Prelude Performance, Lyrica Chamber Music Concert, Chatham, NJ Oct 2021 String Quartet Other Performance Opportunities Board of Education Meeting Dec 2022 Chatham Farmer's Market Oct 2022 School District Art Show May 2022, May 2023 Chatham Middle School Talent Show May 2022 Orchestra Recruiting Event for 4th Graders Apr 2019 Breakfast with Musicians AWARDS AND HONORS NJ Regional Intermediate Orchestra (Region 1) 2022, 2023 NJ All-state Intermediate Orchestra 2022, 2023.



Ximurong Zhai

Ximurong (Jasmine) Zhai was born in Shenzhen on September 6th, 2007, currently learning piano with Dr. Olga Chichova at the Canada Academy of Music & Arts. Jasmine has a great passion for music and has enjoyed playing the piano since kindergarten. As a result of her hard work, she won overall prize in the 2023 Steinway Piano Competition, Gold Star and Best Classical & Modern & Sonata Performance in the 2023 Music and Stars Awards, the 2023 Steinway Cup, first place in the 2022 OMFA piano duets category, second prize in the IPPA Conero International Piano Festival & Competition, second place in the 2016 HongKong International Invitation Piano Competition, and more. Throughout these years, Jasmine continues to show improvement and demonstrate her love for piano through regular performances and playing in various charity concerts.



Theodore Wang

Teddy Wang was born in New York City and began studying the violin at the age of four. In addition to violin, Teddy also showed interest in learning piano. Despite his young age, Teddy demonstrated superior musicality in his instrument playing, a reflection of his sensitive nature. He has won second place in the Elite Music Competition for piano in 2020 and for violin in 2022. Also in 2022, Teddy performed at Lincoln center as a member of Greater Westchester Youth Orchestra, He is the concertmaster at his elementary school orchestra since grade four and sometimes performs as piano accompanist. His teacher is Elizabeth Faidley. Outside of music activities, Teddy likes art, cooking and playing soccer.



Aurelia Faidley-Solars

Aurelia Faidley-Solars is a 13-year old American cellist who has garnered international attention as a young concert artist. Aurelia currently studies at the Juilliard School of Music and is the recipient of The Jacobs Scholarship in Music. She is also a 2023-2024 From the Top Fellow and a very proud member of the Beare's International Violin Society. Aurelia made her orchestra debut with the Amati Orchestra in Lausanne, Switzerland, receiving nine curtain calls for her performance of Haydn's Cello Concerto in C Major. She has also performed with the Sempre Musick Symphony in Boston, the Metropolitan Symphony of New York, the Montgomery Symphony in Ohio, the NJ Virtuosi Sinfonietta in New Jersey, and the Manhattan Sinfonietta. As a soloist, Aurelia has appeared in Prague, Vienna, Budapest, and London. Aurelia is a prizewinner in numerous competitions, including the Fox Valley Concerto Competition in Chicago, the Ambler Symphony Concerto Competition in Philadelphia, the Hill Concerto Competition in NYC, the Sound Symphony Concerto Competition in New York, the Vienna International Music Competition, the CelloWorld Concerto Competition in Vienna, the Petrichor Competition, the Birmingham International Competition in London. She is the youngest prizewinner in the history of The Ronald Sachs International Competition, as well as the two-time New Eastern regionals winner for the Music Teachers' National Association. She was also awarded the prestigious Aaron Rosand Memorial Prize and is the 2023 Menges Scholarship recipient. Aurelia is the youngest finalist in the history for the Artist Presentation Society and was the only student featured in a solo performance celebrating the 130th Anniversary of the New World Symphony, a joint project between the United States and The Czech Republic. Aurelia was the 2023 soloist chosen for the "Young Artists Performers" series in South Carolina, and has toured throughout the northeastern and southeastern United States. Aurelia is working on her second album with Petrichor Records, due out in Summer, 2023 with the Elgar Cello Concerto in E Minor. At the age of 12, Aurelia released her first album, "From Bach to Summerland" and was reviewed by writer Huntley Dent for New York Classical Review. "She's a wonderfully gifted 12-year-old with remarkable technique and a musical understanding beyond her years. If you wonder how such a young performer might fare in the Elgar Cello Concerto, Faidley puts on her Jacqueline du Pré cap for a passionately felt introduction...". Aurelia currently studies with Fred Sherry. Her major pedagogical influences include Diego Garcia, her very first teacher, and Hans Jorgen Jensen, her long-time teacher and mentor. She has studied with or appeared in masterclasses with Laurence Lesser, Richard Aaron, Darrett Adkins, Brannon Cho, Phillippe Muller, David Finckel, Ralph Kirschbaum, Amit Peled, Stephen Doane, Rosemary Elliot, Peter Stumpf, Jean-Michel Fonteneau, Clive Greensmith, Matt Haimovitz, Zvi Plessner, Tomasz Strahl, Andres Diaz, Lluís Claret, and Tao Ni, and Pablo Ferrandez. Other major influences include John-Henry Crawford and Zlatomir Fung. In the summer of 2023, Aurelia attended Morningside Music Bridge, a full scholarship program for highly gifted students between the ages of 13-18 where she featured in a number of "Emerging Artists" concerts and masterclasses. Besides cello, Aurelia is a dedicated ballet dancer, studying in the Pre-Professional division at the School of American Ballet. She has performed featured roles in the New York City Ballet's "The Nutcracker" and "A Midsummer's Night Dream". In 2023, she attended the Royal Ballet School's Summer Intensive Program in London. She loves art of all kinds, singing, and animals. She owns a 1.5 year old crested gecko named "Autumn".



Saiya Mittal

Saiya is a student at the Pine Crest School in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Before moving to Florida in 2020, she lived in New York City. She has been playing violin since she was 6 years old and studies with Elizabeth Faidley in NYC. When she isn't practicing her violin or studying for school, she enjoys spending time with her family and being outdoors in the Florida sunshine!



**Anna Maria
Mendieta**

American harpist Anna Maria Mendieta enjoys a busy career as a soloist, orchestral musician, recording artist and teacher. She is the principal harpist with the Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera and has performed with many symphony orchestras and chamber music groups in the United States and abroad including the San Francisco Symphony, San Francisco Opera & Ballet, Russian National Orchestra, and Russian State Ballet. Ms. Mendieta is often featured performing the harp concerti of Joaquin Rodrigo as well as special tango arrangements created for her for harp & orchestra. She has received international recognition as a pioneer and "exceptional soloist" by the League of American Orchestras for her premiere of the tango music of Astor Piazzolla making history with the unique programming and use of harp in this musical style. Her Harp-Tango project "Tango Del Cielo" (Tango of Heaven) has become an award-winning international touring show, an award-winning album and the focus of a documentary film. The show was featured at the 2019 World Tango Festival in Victoria, Canada. As an advocate of contemporary music, Ms. Mendieta previously served a long tenure as the principal harpist with the nationally acclaimed Women's Philharmonic. She was also the featured instrumentalist for several seasons with Theater Flamenco of San Francisco. A frequent winner of the San Francisco Symphony's Adventures in Music program, she continues to perform innovative outreach programs for the San Francisco Symphony. Ms. Mendieta has performed for motion pictures, television, and national radio.



Rainer Stegmann

Rainer Stegmann is a concert guitarist, composer and music educator. He studied in Frankfurt am Main at the Musikhochschule and at the Dr.Hoch's Conservatory. Rainer Stegmann performs as a soloist, in various chamber music casts and with orchestra. His musical focus is clearly in the field of new music. He wants to prove that contemporary music is not just for experts. Rainer Stegmann has performed numerous rarely heard contemporary chamber music and solo works for guitar. His CDs 'Soundscapes I, II and III' published by the classical label GENUIN received excellent reviews and established Rainer Stegmann as a globally respected interpreter of contemporary music. Rainer Stegmann has been active in composition since his youth. His teacher at the Frankfurt University of Music was Prof. Jürgen Blume. After that, he continued his autodidactically training, but also in courses, e.g. with Leo Brouwer. In his compositions, he often mixes different musical styles. He loves the strict classical forms as well as the free, quasi-improvisatory of contemporary music, but also rock and jazz. In his oeuvre there are solo, chamber music and orchestral works. www.rainerstegmann.de



Laura McCormick

My name is Laura McCormick. I am 17 years old and live in Brisbane, Australia. My journey with the Arts began at the age of 3, with dance lessons. I commenced piano lessons at the age of 7 and have studied under the tutelage of Miss Sonya Visser since 2019. This year, I have also been studying AMEB Theory of Music with Dr. Lisa Cheney. Having won the International Prominent Pianists Festival this year, I will be performing at Carnegie Hall in April, 2024. After graduating Year 12 this year, I will be studying a Bachelor of Music, specializing in Piano Performance, at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music from 2024. I hope to become a concert pianist and travel around the world, sharing my passion for music.



Steven Song

Steven Song is a Master of Musical Arts Candidate at the Yale School of Music, studying with Tai Murray. He received his Bachelor's Degree of Music from the Colburn Conservatory and Master's Degree of Music at the Cleveland Institute of Music, and studied at the Music Institute of Chicago. Important teachers include Jaime Laredo, Jan Sloman, Robert Lipsett, Gerardo Ribeiro, and Jin Zhang. Steven was a semifinalist at the Lipinski International violin competition, a quarterfinalist at the Elmar Oliveira and Shanghai Isaac Stern International Violin Competitions, and received awards from the Dupage Concerto Festival and Society of American Musicians competitions. He also won chamber music awards from the M-Prize, Saint Paul, and Rembrandt chamber music competitions. He has soloed with the Colburn Orchestra, Meadowmount Orchestra, SCP Philharmonic, MIC Academy Orchestra, among others. Steven is a member of the New Haven Symphony and Symphony in C.



Roland Schlieder

Roland Schlieder has toured through Latin-America, Germany, and the United States as performer and teacher. He began playing the guitar learning by ear at the age of 14, listening to the recordings of Narciso Yepes and Pepe Romero. After his school studies, Schlieder graduated first in mechanical engineering, with honors and in Munich he studied business administration. In 1995 after a personal encounter with Maestros Leo Brouwer and David Russell he decided to leave Germany and study classical guitar in the United States. After several masterclasses with Costas Cotsiolis, Andrew York, Manuel Barrueco, David Russell, Leo Brouwer, still as a self-taught, he received a scholarship from Butler University in 1996. He studied guitar with Brett Terrell, choral conducting with Dr. Eric Stark, orchestral conducting with Stanley DeRusha. He studied concurrently at Indiana University with Maestro Petar Jankovic. After 3 years he graduated from Butler University and in 2000 he received a scholarship for a master's degree at San Diego State University, where he studied with Celin Romero, member of the re-known guitar family "Los Romeros". Maestro Celin Romero guided him for 3 years in developing his own technique; the relationship to the Romero family, especially to Celin, gave him special input in performance and musical development. His concert repertoire expanded with a strong focus on technical preparation, which culminated in his own technical approach "Control Technique". From 2000-2003 he was artist-in-residence at San Diego State University and also orchestra assistant of Maestro Dr. Donald Barra; his knowledge of business administration helped him earn a position as orchestra manager. After graduating in 2003 he received an offer to form a new and the first symphony orchestra in the city where he was born, Santa Cruz, Bolivia. This project was funded by the Fulbright Scholarship Program. The Youth Symphony Orchestra presented in September 2003 its first concerts. Maestro Schlieder decided to stay in Santa Cruz in order to guide the orchestra into the future as artistic director and principal conductor. In July 2005 Schlieder was invited to conduct the anniversary concert of the CAF (Corporation of Countries of the Andes) in La Paz, where he worked with 300 voices and 150 musicians in the orchestra, performing Vivaldi's Gloria and other masterworks. In 2006 Schlieder was invited to conduct Haendel's Messiah during the VI. International Baroque Festival in Santa Cruz and was commissioned to arrange and perform a rediscovered work by Domenico Zipoli, Te Deum laudamus, for choir and orchestra. In 2007 this Italian baroque masterpiece (discovered in the Jesuit Missions of Chiquitos/Bolivia, South America) was published together with Schlieder's critical notes. In 2006 Schlieder received the national prize "Man of the Arts" and was nominated for the international TOYP prize (The Outstanding Young Professional in the Arts). He conducts orchestras and choirs in South America and was professor of Music Theory at the UEB (Evangelical University of Bolivia). Through the possibility of performing with a symphony orchestra Maestro Schlieder has focused on the presentation of an extensive guitar concerto repertoire. He left the Symphony Orchestra of Santa Cruz in 2011 and dedicated himself to the classical guitar. He dedicates most of his time to his Technical Study Book, Control Technique, which expands the technical repertoire with great focus on finger-independence training. Performances at San Agustin International Chamber Music Festival in Florida, Chamber Music Summer Festival of the University of Osnabrueck/Germany, caught the audiences' attention. He was invited to perform Concierto de Aranjuez with the University of Palm Beach Symphony Orchestra in 2016 In his career Mr. Schlieder collaborated with such musicians as Roberto Sechi, Felix Olschofka, Alexander Schimpf, Eugenio Urrutia, Jorge Pena, William Grub, and many more. Mr. Schlieder has a strong focus on chamber music, especially by Nicolo Paganini. After his return to his hometown in Germany in 2019, Mr. Schlieder was invited to perform solo recitals and also the Concierto de Aranjuez with the Mainz Sinfonietta in September 2023. Mr. Schlieder is part of the faculty for classical guitar at the Montabaur School of Music in Germany and teaches special technique master.



Ante Božić-Kudrić

Ante Božić-Kudrić is a Croatian composer and pianist. He gained elementary and secondary music education in the music school "Josip Hatze" in Split in the class of professor Valentina Štrbac-Čičerić. Ante earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the Academy of Music of the University of Zagreb in the class of Ante Milić in 2012. He has won awards at several competitions for young pianists in Croatia. Ante has performed at numerous recitals and masterclasses with renowned and distinguished pedagogues such as Valdma, Kämmerling, Simone, Bogino, Krpan, Inđić. In addition to composing after his studies, Ante performed on numerous concerts and worked as a piano accompanist in the ballet studio, with singers, and for the National Theatre in Split for operas and musicals, also performing with the orchestra. He is working as a piano professor and piano accompanist in music school "Josip Hatze" and in private. From 2014 Ante is actively engaged in composition. He composed music for the animated short film "From the Depths" in 2014. It won the award for Best Animated Short Film of the children's jury in 2014 at the Olympia International Film Festival. He composed his first major work in 2014 "Suite for two Violins and Piano" which had its premiere in the small Lisniski Hall in Zagreb in 2015. With the commission from the Dutch Grieg Piano Duo in 2018 he composed his "Rhapsody for Piano Duet" which was premiered by the Grieg Piano Duo at the Piano Loop Festival in 2019 in Split. Of his smaller works there is a song "Oblak" for tenor or soprano on the text of Dobriša Cesarić, two colorful vocalizes for soprano, Serenade and Minuet for the double bass. In 2019 he composed Album for the Young which consists of 72 progressive pieces of difficulty intended for the young piano players as well as players that are on intermediate and advanced level of playing. From 2021 Ante works as a broadcast director and producer for the Virtual Concert Halls online platform that helps classical and jazz musicians to perform online and to attend competitions with live judges.



Gong Qian Yang

Yang's music is in the 21st century modern classical music style ranging from Choral, movie soundtrack, TV, radio headlines and gaming music, soundscape, to symphonic works such as "Nature and Me " Symphonic Poem and "Dawn-Awakening", etc... His music is natural, easy listening, uplifting and inspirational.

As a composer, producer and publisher, Gong Qian Yang has released seven of his music albums:

"Sonic Poem"

"Sonic Spring by Gong Qian Yang"

"Sonic Wave by Gong Qian Yang"

"Lean on Me"

"Music for Yoga and More"

"Sonic Fusion"

"Space and Stars", More are coming...

"Space and Stars" is Yang's inspiration for communication with nature: Birds, Forest, Seashore, Wave, Wind, Night sky, Moon and twinkling stars....

As an accomplished violinist, Yang has been twice first-prize winner of the Starling International Scholarship Foundation in U.S. He pursued his violin study with the legendary violin teacher Prof. Dorothy Delay and Prof. Kurt Sassmannshaus at both Aspen music Festival and Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music (CCM). Yang has been conferred a Master's Degree of Music. Yang also studied with Ms. Kathleen Lenski, and Prof. Robert Lipsett earlier when he was in California.

Yang very much enjoyed taking composer Joel Hoffman's class at CCM. He was also very grateful to his music mentor Gerhard Samuel (who studied composition with Paul Hindemith, and studied conducting with Koussevitzky). Yang was coached and influenced by Prof. Samuel on modern music languages and new music for the future. Fortunately, Yang was offered the opportunity to play Prof. Samuel's Gagliano violin during the time while he was studying at CCM.

While enjoying a successful career as soloist and concert artist, Yang always kept keen interest in music composition. Focusing on his music production, Yang has studied a wide range of repertoire and a great diversity of music by western masters. As a sensible composer, Yang has often been inspired by the harmony between all the creatures in the universe. A lot of his music idea came to him when he was on his music tour. He was humming along on the way to Nashville, and his heart was singing when he was driving in the Appalachian Mountains. Yang says he enjoys being close to nature whether it is sunny or rainy; he feels the energy and harmony coming from everywhere.

Yang expressed that music should radiate infinite life energy that glorifies the beauty of the great universe and of course the beauty of humans living within.

Gong Qian Yang's music albums are available at: Apple iTunes, Spotify, Apple Music, Verizon, Amazon MP3, Tencent Music, Netease Music, Nokia, Myspace Music, Tradebit, Napster, Emusic, etc. Yang's music has been well received both in the U.S. and internationally, for his music is reaching and touching human hearts in a very intimate way.



Jonathan Lee

Jonathan Lee, 16, is a sophomore at Chantilly High School, where he is a member of the Chamber Orchestra. He is also a member of the American Youth Symphonic Orchestra (AYSO). In 2023, Jonathan placed 2nd at the Northern Virginia Music Teachers Association (NVMTA) Achievement Awards Competition for Strings and was accepted into the 2023 Northern Virginia Senior Regional Orchestra. He has participated in master classes at the Tennessee Cello Workshop (University of Tennessee, Knoxville) with renowned cellists Susan Moses and Ilya Finkelshteyn. Jonathan has been a student of John Kaboff and a member of the Bow Lightlys cello ensemble since 2022.



**Evangeline
Gallacher**

Evangeline Gallacher, 17, has played the cello for three years. Prior to her love affair with the cello, she played piano, violin and percussion. Her favorite - and most recent solo piece played - is Bach Concerto in G Major. Evie plays in the Chamber Orchestra at Falls Church High School (Fairfax County, Virginia) but her true love is the Bow Lightlys cello choir group. She enjoys performing and participating in the Tennessee Cello Workshop each year and finds it very enriching. Besides music, she enjoys competitive swimming, serves as an Officer in the National Honor Society and is pursuing an LPN in her nursing program.



**Jorge Laboy-
Balancea**

Jorge Laboy-Balancea, 15, has always enjoyed listening and playing music. Starting at the age of 3, he took private lessons for the classical guitar under Roger Taylor and in 4th grade he discovered the cello at school. The next year, in 5th grade, he entered The Capitol Symphonic Youth Orchestra, this is also when he started taking lessons with John Kaboff. In the spring of 2021 he won 1st place in the Northern Virginia Music Teachers Association (NVMTA) Achievement Awards Competition's lower string elementary division and in the spring of 2022 he won 1st place in the NVMTA Strings Achievement Awards Competition's lower string intermediate division. In 2023 he got honorable mentions at the Tennessee Cello Workshop's competition in the Junior division and placed 2nd in the NVMTA Achievement Awards Competition's lower string senior division as an 8th grader. Since the start of this school year, Jorge has performed in the District 12 Senior District Orchestra and attained an honorable mention at the Asian American Music Societies (AAMS) Piano, String, Voice, & Woodwind Competition senior division.



Helen Z. Altenbach

Winner of the 2014 Global Music Awards for her album Grieg & Prokofiev [TROY 1485], Helen Z. Altenbach (aka. Xiaodan Zheng) is a member of the LA Opera Orchestra. She is a graduate of Juilliard Pre-College Division and Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts. Helen attended the Perlman Music Program, Tanglewood Music Festival, Verbier Music Festival, New York String Orchestra Seminar, and the Pacific Music Festival. Helen received a Bachelor of Music degree from USC's Thornton School of Music and held positions with the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, Santa Barbara Symphony, Tucson Symphony (principal cello), Long Beach Symphony, and the New West Symphony. Helen is a co-founder of "Los AnCellos", a cello ensemble based in Los Angeles.



Matt Armbruster

Matt Armbruster has performed with the National Repertory Orchestra, Castleton Festival Orchestra, Icicle Creek Chamber Music Festival, and the Penderecki Academy Orchestra as principal cellist, where he collaborated closely with renowned composer and conductor Krzysztof Penderecki. He was previously a member of the 2013 San Francisco Academy Orchestra, where he was featured as a soloist in the second performance of Mark Volkert's Pandora along with principal members of the San Francisco Symphony. Mr. Armbruster is a member of the cello section in the Austin Symphony. He is the co-founder and co-director of Tetractys New Music, an Austin-based concert series dedicated to commissioning and performing the music of living composers. He has also been a featured artist presented by the French Embassy in Washington, D.C. He has also appeared as a soloist with the University of Tennessee Chamber Orchestra, Old Dominion Symphony, and the Landon Symphonette. His teachers have included Bion Tsang, Amos Yang, Anthony Elliott with whom he earned his Bachelor of Music degree, Janos Starker, and John Kaboff.



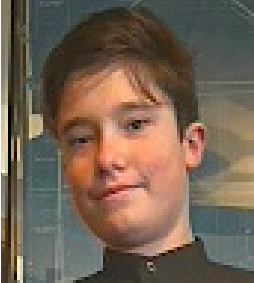
Mary Gallacher

Mary Gallacher, 14, began playing cello in the 4th grade, after hearing her brother play cello for many years. She is now a 9th grader and plays in the Falls Church High School Chamber Orchestra (Fairfax County, Virginia). Mary began studying with John Kaboff, and quickly found a passion for the cello. Mary has been part of the Bow Lightlys ensemble for four years; she has enjoyed performing in recitals and community events. Mary's favorite piece is the Boccherini Concerto No. 3 in G Major. Outside of music, Mary enjoys spending time with family and friends, swimming on Falls Church's varsity swim team, and reading. She will continue with cello throughout high school and will play the cello throughout her life as a hobby.



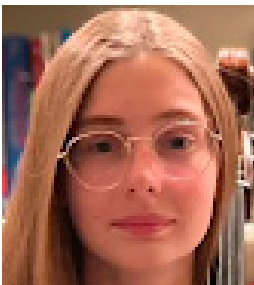
Carson Mitchell

Carson Mitchell, 12, began playing in his classical school's beginning orchestra in fourth grade. He began taking private lessons with Mr. Kaboff in December of the same year (2020) and began performing with the Bow Lightlys in 2022. He also participated in master classes and seminars at the 2024 Tennessee Cello Workshop. When he isn't playing cello, Carson spends time playing basketball and flag football or supporting his favorite team, the Baltimore Ravens.



Leo Gonzalez

Leo Gonzalez, 13, is a student at Williamsburg Middle School in Arlington, VA. He began studying cello with John Kaboff in the Fall of 2020, and has been a member of the Arlington Juniors and Honors Orchestra since 2021 as principal cello. Aside from playing cello, he enjoys the beach and discovering underwater landscapes while scuba diving.



Katherine Reskusic

Katherine Reskusic is a 9th grader at George C. Marshall High School in northern Virginia, where she is pursuing the International Baccalaureate diploma. Katherine has been playing the cello with the Bow Lightlys for 2 and half years, and also finds interest in other arts such as photography, drawing, and architecture. She likes trying new activities and has started running track this year as well as hobby-running with friends outside of the school team. Katherine also enjoys studying Spanish and German.



Shinjini Ray

Shinjini Ray, 17, is a 12th grader at Langley High School and has been playing cello since the 4th grade. She began studying cello with John Kaboff shortly thereafter. She participates in her school orchestra and The Capital Symphony Youth Orchestra (TCSYO). She received second place in the Senior Lower Strings division in the 2022 Northern Virginia Music Teachers Association competition. She hopes to continue playing cello throughout her life and incorporate it into hospitals and a medical career.



Owen Koch

Owen Koch, 15, lives in Fairfax, VA where he is a freshman at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. He started playing cello in third grade and currently performs in his school's symphonic orchestra. He is a member of Tri-M Music Honor Society, participates in Academic Decathlon, enjoys Automotive Engineering Club and swims for York Swim Club. Through his diverse interests and activities, Owen is excited for the remainder of his high school career and continuing to grow his musical and academic talents.



Joseph Xu

Joseph Xu, 14, began playing cello in 4th grade and joined the school orchestra and later Chamber Strings. Subsequently, Joseph began private lessons with John Kaboff in 2019. Since Joseph began playing in orchestra and other ensembles, he has enjoyed playing and listening to classical music. In 2020, Joseph began participating in Potomac Valley Youth Orchestra and competed twice in the National Federation of Music Clubs Festival where he received Superior ratings both times. Currently, he is attending Georgetown Day School in DC and plans to play cello as a hobby throughout his life.

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. A most significant and enjoyable artistic collaboration was - and still is - to share the stage with her brother, world-famous violinist Victor Danchenko. Ms. Danchenko-Stern served as the teacher of "Russian lyrics and diction" class at the Catholic University in Washington, D.C. from 1992 till 2002. Since 1990, she has also been teaching the "Singing in Russian" class at the faculty of Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University. Four times, she has had an opportunity to present students of the Peabody Institute at the International Week of the Conservatories in St Petersburg, Russia, followed by concerts in Moscow.



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.



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.

Avguste Antonov is at home in all repertoire, with a special interest in 20th and 21st century music. He has performed World and USA premieres at venues across North America and over the years he has worked with composers Carter Pann, Gregory Hutter, Michael Colgrass, Raina Murnak, Matthew Lewis, Till Meyn, Matthew Saunders, Robert Rollin, William Vollinger and others.



Julio Reyes

Guitar

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 Concerto 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.



Dikran Atamian

*Piano
Artist Manager*

Atamian's career evolved from a highly-excitabile young artist into the maturity of a statesman of the instrument where a prodigious technical prowess was fused with rare musical acumen to deliver electrifying performances and landmark recordings.

With a major competition win, a landmark recording, and a tour of the Soviet Union, Atamian quickly established himself as a force to reckon with in the piano world performing nearly 200 concerts with orchestras including performances with the Cleveland Orchestra under Lorin Maazel, the Detroit Symphony, the New York Philharmonic, the Boston Pops, the Phoenix Symphony, the Seattle Symphony, major orchestras in Poland, Russia, Mexico, and South Korea, and orchestra tours with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. He worked with some of the leading conductors in the industry including Gerard Schwarz, Erich Leinsdorf, Eduardo Mata, David Zinman, Sergio Comissiona, James DePreist, Gustav Meier, Victor Alessandros, Verner Torkanowsky, Jens Nygaard, Alan Hovhaness, Grzegorz Nowak, Enrique Batiz, Michael Morgan, and Joann Faletta.

Atamian has emerged as manager Atamian and in that role he is known under the trade name Jack Price who is the founder of Price Attractions, a concert management headquartered in Tulsa, Oklahoma with affiliates in several cities. Atamian lives there where he is actively engaged in the careers of the artists he now represents and in the lives of his two children, Sean and Annarose.



Gevorg Sargsyan

Strings

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. He is a visiting professor of the University of Philippines College of Music, and is regularly guest-lecturing in various educational establishments across South East Asia. Gevorg is also a member of adjudication panels of various festivals and music competitions and worked as a music director of Madison Academy of Music and SCGS String Orchestra. He has recently been appointed an Artistic Director of Music Hubs with the Ministry of Culture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



Giacomo Franci
New York
Chamber Players
Concerti

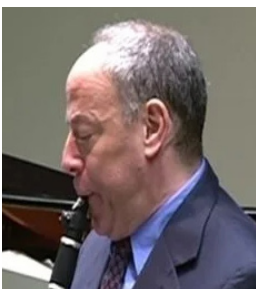
Maestro Giacomo Franci is the Artistic Director and the Conductor of The New York Chamber Players, an organization he founded in 2004. For the 2010-11 season Maestro Franci was elected Guest Maestro of Escuela de Direccion de Orquesta in Cordoba, Spain. Giacomo Franci is world renowned as the leading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



Michelle Lynne

Piano

Canadian pianist Michelle Lynne is known for her dynamic and exciting performances, connecting with audiences in a personal and touching way. Based in the Netherlands, she has performed across Canada and Europe. A frequent chamber musician, she is also in demand as a collaborative pianist and festival adjudicator. She is regularly invited to give masterclasses in International Schools across Europe with violist Deanna Petre as part of the Juilliard Global program. As Artistic Director of the concert series Opus 16 Concerten, she creates concert programs with other young professionals to connect and inspire audiences. She is the Co-Founder of The Fearless Artist Mastermind, a coaching program for professional musicians with co-facilitator Deanna Petre, where they work with musicians to equip them with skills needed to build successful careers as classical musicians. The recipient of numerous awards, she is a laureate of the Prix d'Europe, the Helene Roberge Competition (ARAM), the Canadian Music Competition, the Kiwanis Competition, the Shean Competition. Michelle has attended summer festivals across Europe, studying with renowned professors such as Julian Martin (Juilliard), Claudio Martinez Mehner (Basel), Dominique Weber (Geneva), Klaus Hellwig (Berlin), Ferenc Rados, Marian Hahn (Peabody) and André Laplante (Conservatoire de Montréal). She received a Professional Studies Diploma and a Masters degree in piano performance from the Université de Montréal, studying with Dr. Jean Saulnier. She is inspired by new ideas, good conversation, travel and long walks with her cyprus poodle.



Fred Rosenberg
New York
Chamber Players
Concerti

Fred Rosenberg, Clarinetist is currently 1st Clarinet with the New York Chamber Players Orchestra (Giacomo Franci, Music Director). He has held this position since 2006. Mr. Rosenberg has recorded with The New York Chamber Players Orchestra on the label, CRS (Contemporary Record Society) He was a featured clarinet soloist at Merkin Concert Hall with Giacomo Franci, Pianist. He has freelanced in NYC performing in a broad range of classical ensembles as a clarinetist including Empire State Sinfonia, Bleecker Street Opera, New Jersey Pops Orchestra, and the Goldman Band as well as many others. Mr. Rosenberg's freelance performance background includes multiple credits in Orchestras in Broadway Productions of "Les Miserables," "Cats," and "Titanic." Fred Rosenberg has recorded with Dance Clarinets, a jazz ensemble of clarinets with rhythm section. He was a judge for the annual competition for young soloists with the New York Chamber Players Orchestra for over ten years.

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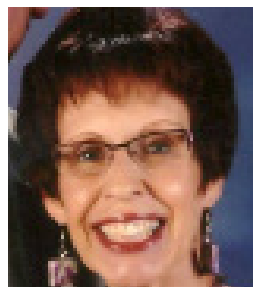
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