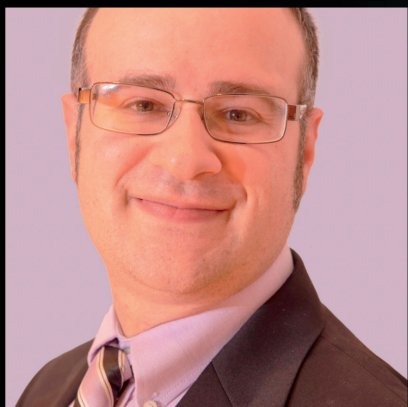


International **PROMINENT PIANISTS FESTIVAL**



**BURCHFIELD PENNEY
ART CENTER**

JUNE 25, 2023 @ 2PM





James Welch
Progressive Musicians
Co-Founder & Director



Lily Li
New York State Music Teacher's Association
Chair of District 10

Welcome to the very first International Prominent Pianists Festival hosted by Progressive Musicians, & District 10 of The New York State Music Teacher's Association. Today's program is one of the first of its kind. We have pianists from all around the world performing live in person and by remote. The remote performers will be projected onto the movie screen in the Penney Burchfield Art Center's Auditorium for the live audience to see. Each pianist on today's program was selected by our judges after our online adjudications that took place on June 4, 2023

Progressive Musicians' 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.

The New York State Music Teachers Association is dedicated to furthering the art of music and promoting the professional development of its members by providing programs that support teaching, performance, composition and research.

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. One performer from today's recital will be selected to perform on our Laureate Gala next season at Carnegie Hall.

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 program!

***Progressive Musicians
&
New York State Music Teacher's
Association District 10***

proudly presents its

**International Prominent
Pianists Honors Recital**

Burchfield Penney Art Center

Peter & Elizabeth C. Tower Auditorium

June 25, 2023

2:00pm

Hybrid (In person & remote) Recital

Program

Opening Remarks James Welch & Lily Li

When I'm Blue

P. Dreyer

John Irish & Lily Li
In person

Atacama Desert

W.A. Rossi

Sadie Correale
In person

Dreamcatcher

A. Crosby Gaudet

QianHui Liang
Remote

The Lonely Doll
T-Rex Hungry
S. Chua

G. Carter-Varney

Mia Harriet Ye
Remote

Sonatina Op. 88, No. 3
III. Allegro burlesco

F. Kuhlau

Siyv Guo
Remote

Ballad No. 2 "Kumru"

F. Say

Yinuo Xian
Remote

Sonatina in G Major
I. Moderato
II. Romanza Allegretto

L.V. Beethoven

Patrick Lea-Kelly
In person

The Artamidae
Roumanian Folk Dance No. 6

G. Carter-Varney
B. Bartok

Emma Grace Ye
Remote

Le Bébé

P. Dreyer

Margret Bache
In person

Amber Moon

K. Olson

Hazel Bache
In person

Remarks
James Welch & Lily Li

Le Bateau Sur l'eau	Chloe Mazza <i>In person</i>	P. Dreyer
Intermezzo No. 1 Turkish March	Jianling Shi <i>Remote</i>	M. Ponce W.A. Mozart
Melody	George Yawakim <i>Remote</i>	A. Babajanian
Polonaise Op. 26, No. 1	SiCheng Liu <i>Remote</i>	F. Chopin
Lady Bird	Zealand Young <i>In person</i>	T. Dameron
Prelude in C-sharp minor, Op. 3, No. 2	Tiger Wu <i>In person</i>	S. Rachmaninoff
Polichinelle	Ximurong Zhai <i>Remote</i>	S. Rachmaninoff
The Cat and the Mouse	Alexis Dyche <i>Remote</i>	A. Copland
Allegro de Concierto	Laura McCormick <i>Remote</i>	E. Granados
Gaspard de la nuit, M. 55 I. Ondine	Madison Yan <i>Remote</i>	M. Ravel
Aufschwung	Kevin Li <i>In person</i>	R. Schumann

Presentation & Closing Remarks
James Welch & Lily Li



Progressive Musicians

***Learn, *Progress, *Compete, *Perform**
Progressive Musicians is dedicated to helping musicians of all ages and levels achieve their goals and advance artistically

Opportunities for Musicians

- *Performance evaluations from Professional Musicians*
- *Opportunities to improve your performance*
- *Opportunities to perform in prestigious concert halls*

We strive to make our events and competitions positive experiences for each contestant, their teachers, and their families

www.progressivemusicians.com

NEW YORK STATE



MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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Season Events

2023-2024

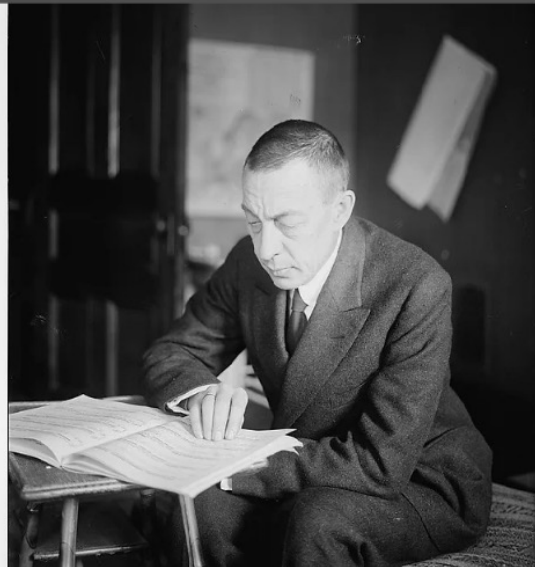
*Empowering tomorrow's
musicians*

Celebrating the Life and Music of Sergei Rachmaninoff AUDITIONS



Selected Artists will
be invited to
perform at
Laureates Gala* at
Weill Recital Hall
at Carnegie Hall

Dates of upcoming
Laureate Galas:
November 21, 2023
April 1, 2024
April 4, 2024



*Laureates

are presented at the Gala
Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall
at no additional cost,
no performance fee required
ONE solo/ensemble piece
or
One Movement of a larger work
or
One Vocal work (Romance/Aria)

*Winners

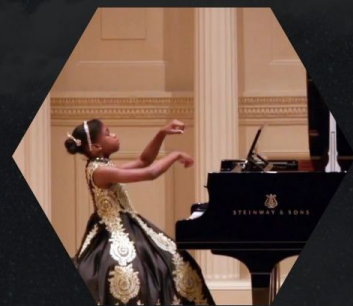
Invited to perform at one of the Galas
See below for Performances fees



International PROMINENT PIANISTS FESTIVAL



AWARDS &
OPPORTUNITIES FOR
PIANISTS OF ALL
LEVELS AND AGES



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LIVE
STREAM 

THANK YOU TEACHERS

The music you will hear today would not be possible without the dedication and investment of education, time, and care of wonderful teachers. Private teachers not only profess their knowledge and experience to their students. They also spend time teaching extra lessons, musical skills, musical lifestyle, presentational skills, great musical values, create new unique opportunities; the list goes on. We thank you for your efforts and applaud you on your student success!

Sonya Visser

Sazli Ruta

Hassn Al Mufti

Lily Li

Dr. Ji-Young Kim

Laura McMahan

James Hills

Olga Chichova

Kevin Kenner

Hui Lin

Yuliang Tu

Biyang He

Manting Xiao

The Performers



John Irish

USA



Hi, I am Johnny, I was born in the U.S.A. I am 6. I was a professional model for Fisher-Price. I like to play piano because I can move my fingers very fast. I like to perform in a big piano in a big concert hall with lots of people. My favorite food is dumplings and noodles. I am also learning Chinese, because sometime in the future, I want to go to China and order my own food.



Sadie Correale

USA



My name is Sadie Correale and I live in Fredonia, NY. I am 10 years old and have been playing the piano for 5 years. I have performed at several recitals, both individually and with a group. I will be performing a piano piece at my Elementary School Spring concert while the select chorus sings along. I have recently completed Level 2 of the Royal Conservatory of Music Program and will begin work on Level 3. I am also a District Member of the National Piano Playing Auditions. I have been studying piano with Ms. Lily Li for almost 2 years. This will be my first time participating in the Prominent Piano Festival.



QianHui Liang

CHINA



My name is Emma (Qianhui Liang) and I live in Zhongshan, a very beautiful city in China. I am 7 years old and have been learning the piano for 2 years. In the past 2 years, I have taken part in several piano competitions and obtained satisfying results. I enjoy performing the piano in public while wearing a pretty dress and exquisite makeup. I got my baby sister in February this year, which is my most fortunate thing. She keeps me company for practicing piano every day, while the music is really helpful to keep her calm when crying, so it's highly recommended for her to learn something about music in the future. I love listening to all kinds of music, from classical to pop. The soft piece is my favorite which makes me feel ataraxia while listening.



Mia Harriet Ye

AUSTRALIA



My name is Mia Ye. I'm six years old. I just started learning piano about a year and half ago. I love music and my big sister Emma teaches me how to play piano. We practise piano at home everyday. Last year I started having piano lessons with my sister's piano teacher Ms Visser as well. She taught me lots of lovely pieces and encouraged me to have more confidence when playing at the recitals. One day I hope I can be a piano teacher to teach young children as well.



SiYv Guo
CHINA



My name is Tony (SiYv) Guo and I live in Zhongshan. I will be 9 years old this August. I am a sunny and lovely boy. I have many hobbies, such as swimming, playing basketball, riding a bike, and playing the piano, etc., but my favorite is playing the piano. On my birthday of 2 years old, my mum bought me a small red piano as a gift. Although the piano only had 25 keys, each key could reveal a unique and beautiful sound. I really wanted to take it apart and see why it can make these sounds. But due to the lack of suitable tools, I did not make it. One day when I was 4 and a half years old, my mum took me to Ms. Lin's music studio. I was surprised to find that the large black piano not only emitted beautiful sounds, but also performed amazing melodies by Ms. Lin's fingers. How did Ms. Lin do it? My mum told me, "The piano is not just your toy, it will also become your friend, accompany you for a whole life, comfort you when you are lost, and give you courage when you are weak..." I didn't fully understand, but from then on, I loved playing the piano and tried my best to learn it. My younger sister also loves music under my influence. I still remember that day, we performed "Little White Boat" together. My sister sang and I played the piano. We cooperated flawlessly and were immersed in applause. In the past 4 and a half years, I have participated in many piano recitals and performances, and achieved good results. I really enjoy the time playing the piano on stage.



YiNuo Xian
CHINA



My name is YiNuo Xian and I'm eight years old. I come from a small town in China. I love music. When I was 3 years old, I heard the sound of the piano, I could not stop moving my feet. I have studied piano for five years and violin for one year. In the school art festival competition, I won the first place in piano and violin performance which made me full of confidence. I like Bach. I feel the peace. I like Mozart, clear and quiet. I like Chopin, delicate and lyrical. I love all types of music and playing them makes me feel fulfilled. I practice the piano every day, and practice makes me improve little by little, allowing me to connect and play more different types of music. I believe that one day, I can stand on a bigger stage and bring my music to everyone.



Emma Grace Ye
AUSTRALIA



My name is Emma Ye. I'm ten years old. I started learning piano when I was three years old. Music has always been a blessing to me. I especially like the pieces written in the Romantic period because the lovely melodies and harmonies make the music sound alive and enjoyable, taking me on a pleasant music adventure. The perfect path to express all sorts of emotions has been laid out in front of me and lead me to follow it to find out where it might take me. My dream is to become a pianist when I grow up.



Patrick Lea-Kelly
USA



Patrick has played piano since age 5 at Buffalo Community Music School under Hassan Al Mufti. With his mentorship, Patrick has shown a continual progression of tackling more challenging pieces. For the year of 2022-2023, Patrick was a recipient of the Alexander Molofeev Scholarship for outstanding potential and hard work. He lives in Buffalo, NY where he is in 5th grade at P.S. 195 Buffalo "City Honors". There he participates in the school orchestra playing the violin. Other interests are Minecraft, baseball, skiing, and chess.



Margret Bache

USA



Margret enjoys music and sports especially softball. She also loves to play her electric bass with her friends and music teacher. She has been playing piano for 2 years.



Hazel Bache

USA



Hazel loves to try new hobbies and sports. Her favorites include swimming and the hurdles in track & field. Hazel also enjoys reading, listening to music, and hanging out with friends. She has been playing piano for 3 years.



Chloe Mazza

USA



Enjoying art in every form, Chloe has experimented in various mediums. Although soccer and tennis bring her joy she truly enjoys reading and of course listening to music. Chloe began playing piano about 7 years ago.



JianLing Shi

CHINA



My name is JianLing Shi. I am 13 years old from GuangZhou China. In the 2020 of summer I began studies piano online with Lily Li in America. I like to play piano and I won prizes such as... 1. 2018 Internationaler Deutscher Rönisch-Klavierwettbewerb/Group of 3rd Piano Class/First Prize; 2.2019 Chopin HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL PIANO OPEN COMPETITION, Second Prize; 3. 2020 Asia International Art Network Competition/Piano Children B Class Gold Award; 4. 2020 The Third US Music Certification Piano Open Competition (Asian Pacific Cloud Finals)/Group of 8th Piano Class/First Prize. I also like to participate in public welfare activities. On 6 October 2018. Guinness World Records. The largest piano ensemble consists of 666 participants and was achieved by Blüthner Piano Group (China) in Hengshui, Hebei, China. I also like to play piano for the community. I often go to the hospital to play the piano for patients, providing them with spiritual comfort and alleviating anxiety as a volunteer. My favorite sport is badminton, and my favorite food is chips and hamburgers. I like to play with my Cat. He likes to listen to me play piano all day.



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.



George Yawakim

USA



George started playing piano at a very young age. He always enjoyed classical music and always dreamed of playing like those “professional players.” Unfortunately, he stopped playing a few years after he started. But, he felt an emptiness in his heart being away from classical music. So, he started playing again. He tried to play songs he heard on tv, and it turned out he had a natural talent for it. When his mom saw this, she decided to help him get back into it and take it more seriously. And he did, by a lot. He started playing again in March of 2022, almost entirely from scratch, and not even a year later, he passed the cm test for level 6.



SiCheng Liu

CHINA



SiCheng Liu is from Guangzhou, China. He is 11 years old and began studying piano at the age of 4. He has been studying with Mr. Yuliang Tu from Xinghai Conservatory of Music for more than 4 years and has participated in different global and local competitions. In the recent two years, he won first prize in the 2023 Pearl River Kayserburg International Youth Piano Competition. He participated in the national competition “Xinhaicup 2022” and won the outstanding prize, he was awarded the second prize in the international competition “Internationaler Deutscher Irmler-Klavierwettbewerb.” He was awarded the second prize (ABRSM 2) in the 2017 Singapore International Youth Piano Competition. In 2018, he was awarded ABRSM Level 2 Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 5). He also joined the Purcell International Competition for Youth Pianists 2019 SAE National Youth Piano Competition and entered the China Final. This is his first time joining Prominent Piano Festival. He will perform Chopin’s Polonaise in C-sharp minor, Op.26 No. 1.

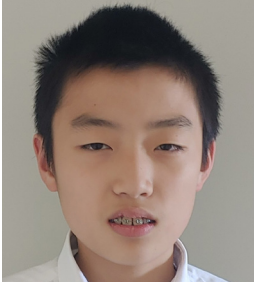


Zealand Young

USA



Zealand is a 15 year old pianist who has been taking lessons with her teacher Hassan Al-Mufti for 6 years. She finds playing the piano brings her tranquility and instrumental satisfaction. Along with playing the piano, she has taken up the skill of learning guitar and the ukulele. Zealand is also an excellent high school student at Nichols. She has performed in numerous recitals at Community Music School and Nichols. Recently, Zealand also performed for Community Music School at Kleinhans Music Hall, opening for the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, playing one of her pieces “Lady Bird”.



I am 13 years old and currently an 8-th grader in Potomac, MD. I have studied piano for over 7 years, although on and off in the beginning and during the pandemic. I only start to participate in auditions and competitions this year. It can be nerve wrecking, but I am hoping these experiences help me improve my piano playing, open my horizons and handle pressures better. Other than piano, I enjoy math, video games, board games, chess, soccer, and hanging out with friends.

Tiger Wu

USA



Since the age of five, piano performance has been a great pleasure for me. I have a profound passion for music, especially piano, and I am willing to invest in this part of my life by devoting my free time to piano practice and relaxing in the music. It is my consistent passion that led me to participate in various competitions and charity performances throughout my piano journey.

Ximurong Zhai

CANADA



I live in Brisbane in Queensland. I am in Year 12 at North Lakes State College. I started dancing at the age of 3 and began piano lessons when I was 7 years old with teachers at Vivace. In 2019, I commenced piano lessons with Sonya Visser. Last year, I completed my AMusA and will be sitting my LMusA at the end of this year. I will be applying for the Conservatorium of Music in September to study a Bachelor of Music. I really enjoy performing and attending concerts at QSO.

**Laura
McCormick**
AUSTRALIA





Madison Yan is currently studying with Kevin Kenner at the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami. She began her piano journey at age seven under the tutelage of Dr. Irena Kofman. Madison is a three-year National Chopin Foundation Scholarship recipient and has received many accolades in both national and international competitions. Outside of music, Madison enjoys writing, dancing, and martial arts.

Madison Yan

USA



Kevin Li is a 16 year old junior attending Canisius High School. He has studied piano under Mr. Al-Mufti at Community Music School for 5 years. He also plays cello and a lot of rhythm games. He recently won the 2023 Atkinson competition at Community Music School in Buffalo.

Kevin Li

USA



Our Judges



**Jannis
Peterson**

Jannis Peterson taught 32 years in the School of Music at the State University College at Fredonia, New York. Her activities there included applied piano, piano pedagogy and theory instruction as well as solo and collaborative performing. She was the first recipient of the Fredonia School of Music Outstanding Female Faculty Award sponsored by the student music fraternity Phi Mu Alpha. From 1996-99, she taught in the select New York Summer School for the Arts on the Fredonia campus, serving as chair of the theory, composition, and piano areas. Since her retirement from SUNY in 2010, she maintains a private piano studio, and continues to coach and perform with talented musicians at all levels of advancement, from Fredonia student entrance auditions to curricular recitals and master classes, and including events such as the Metropolitan Opera auditions for post graduate student young artists. A summa cum laude graduate of Washington State University with a bachelor's degree in piano performance, she received her master's degree in the same field from the University of North Texas. Former teachers include John Simms, Stefan Bardas, Claudette Sorel and Stephen Manes. A member of Phi Beta Kappa and Pi Kappa Lambda, she has served as chairman of the Fredonia chapter of the National Guild of Piano Teachers for over 30 years, and adjudicates and teaches for several organizations throughout the area.



**Steven
Bianchi**

Steven Bianchi is the Director of the Amherst School of Music, Inc., where he also teaches the piano and administers its programs. Regarded as one of Western New York's premiere music educators, Bianchi has produced numerous students who frequently have been prizewinners at regional, national and international competitions as pianists and composers. Also, many have been awarded scholarships for their university studies in music. One of his students, Charles Czarniecki, was awarded first prize at the Bartok/Kabalevsky competition, in Radford, Virginia. Another student, Dan Castellani won the Greater Buffalo Youth Orchestra Piano Competition and earned the opportunity to perform The Grieg concerto with this orchestra in the fall of 1999. In 1997, 1998, 2002 and 2004 Bianchi's students were awarded the top prize given by the Music Forum for Piano Teachers of Western New York, a scholarship for university study. After 43 years of teaching the piano, Bianchi has the rare distinction of having given more than 100,000 half hour piano lessons! As a result, he has begun to write a book devoted to piano pedagogy, which will be aimed at helping the new piano teacher acquire efficient and effective piano teaching skills quickly.



**Anna
Ouspenskaya**

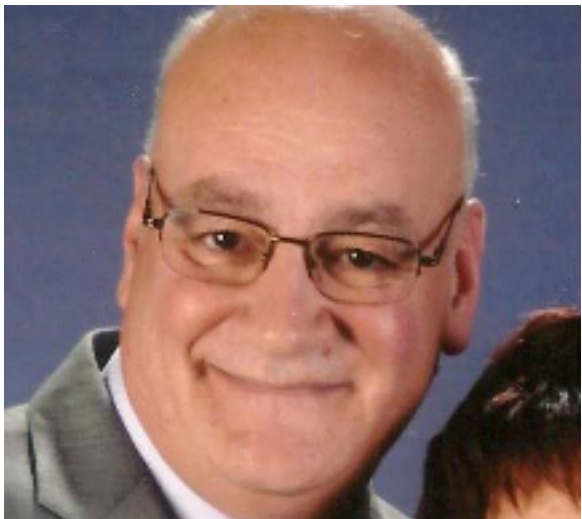
Anna Ouspenskaya is one of the most recognized performing artists of the Washington, D.C. area. In 1991 she made her first trip to the United States, winning Second Prize in the Bach International Piano Competition in Washington, DC. Since that year Anna was coming to US every year to perform and give master classes which took her to 18 states. In 1993, Ms. Ouspenskaya became a finalist at the Bach International Piano Competition in Germany. She made her first CD in with Altarus records, and her second is on its way on Ramsey records. Both CDs represent Russian music: the 1st of Rodion Shchedrin and the 2nd of Rachmaninoff and Tchaikovsky. An established chamber musician, Ms. Ouspenskaya has incept performed with principal members of the Philadelphia Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra and Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra. Native of Yaroslavl, Russia, Anna was born to a family of professional musicians. At the age of seven she made her debut with the Yaroslavl Philharmonic playing Haydn's Piano Concerto in D Major. She graduated from the Moscow Central Music School and earned her Master degree from St. Petersburg Conservatory. Before moving to United States Ms. Ouspenskaya worked at Dudelange Conservatory in Luxembourg, also giving performances in France, Germany, Italy, Belgium and Scotland. Ms. Ouspenskaya made her Carnegie Hall debut in 1999 and Kennedy Center debut in 2002; she performed Saint-Saens Fourth Piano Concerto and Tchaikovsky's Second Piano Concerto in New York City and Washington, DC. A committed teacher, Anna holds a private studio in her home, and she is on the piano faculty of Levine School of Music in Washington, DC. Her students won numerous awards in local and state piano competitions. Anna and her Music Studio were featured in the TV show Rock Your Block.



James Welch
Co-Founder
Progressive Musicians



Lily Li
Chair: District 10
*New York State Music
Teacher's Association*



Patrick Welch
Staff Support
Progressive Musicians



Cathleen
Staff Support
Progressive Musicians



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



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