



JOHN PERRY ACADEMY OF MUSIC

International Piano Festival 2024

July 14, 2024 - July 27, 2024

The College of New Jersey • Mildred & Ernest E. Mayo Hall

2000 Pennington Road, Ewing Township, NJ

johnperryacademy.org



OUR MISSION



A festival of this type affords the opportunity for the talented music student to immerse himself/herself in an intense music performance program without the distractions of other subjects, other classes, and all other competing demands on their time. There is no question that one walks away from this experience greatly enriched and knowledgeable about the art of music.

I remember with great fondness the summer camps for music which I attended in junior high school and senior high school. The total immersion in music was a gift from heaven compared to the daily routine of the normal school year. I am sure you will all feel the same way during and, even more important, after the festival concludes.

We are all here together in the name of the great art that music is. We will all support each other and not let competitiveness be any part of our world. I welcome you all!

John Perry
Artistic Director

To be inspired - it could sometimes be challenging for musicians when we are determined to perfect a piece, a passage, and yes, a note which requires hours and hours of practice. When quite a furious amount of the time spent at the piano daily working on the same piece, we sometimes get lost in repetition. The muscle starts showing the hard work, but where is the music? The heart and mind are way too exhausted.



We design our program with passion, to nurture your artistry, stimulate your curiosity, and expand your horizon. And importantly, we try to eliminate a sense of competitiveness here at JPA because we want you to feel safe to follow your heart for discovering your unique voice in your art.

We look forward to exploring music together with you!

Mina Hirobe-Perry
Director



Keynote Events Calendar

Concerts & Masterclasses: Mildred & Ernest E. Mayo Concert Hall
Lecture Series: Choral Rehearsal Hall | (unless noted otherwise)

Sunday, July 14 7:30 PM	Opening Concert: Oxana Yablonskaya
Monday, July 15 10:00 AM	Masterclass: Oxana Yablonskaya and Q&A at 12:00 PM
Tuesday, July 16 1:00 PM	Lecture Series: Joachim Reinhuber "What I love about Schoenberg"
Tuesday, July 16 5:00 PM	Academy Program Masterclass: John Perry
Wednesday, July 17 1:00 PM	Lecture Series: Sasha Starceвич
Wednesday, July 17 5:00 PM	Academy Program Masterclass: Sasha Starceвич
Thursday, July 18 1:00 PM	Lecture Series: Alexander Suleiman "Music, Mathematics & Magic"
Thursday, July 18 2:00 PM Choral Rehearsal Hall	Chamber Program Masterclass: Alexander Suleiman
Thursday, July 18 5:00 PM	Academy Program Masterclass: John Perry
Friday, July 19 1:00 PM	Lecture Series: Chiu-Tze Lin
Friday July 19 2:00 PM Choral Rehearsal Hall	Chamber Program Masterclass: Chiu-Tze Lin
Friday, July 19 2:15 PM	Academy Program Masterclass: Daniel Shapiro

Concerts & Masterclasses: Mildred & Ernest E. Mayo Concert Hall
Lecture Series: Choral Rehearsal Hall | (unless noted otherwise)

Saturday, July 20 7:30 PM	Concert by our Directors: John Perry & Mina Hirobe-Perry
Monday, July 22 1:00 PM	Lecture Series: Jonathan Spitz "Building a Career in Music"
Monday, July 22 2:00 PM Choral Rehearsal Hall	Chamber Program Masterclass: Jonathan Spitz
Monday, July 22 4:30 PM	Academy Program Masterclass: Awadagin Pratt
Tuesday, July 23 9:30 AM	Academy Program Masterclass: Mina Hirobe-Perry
Tuesday, July 23 1:00 PM	Lecture Series: Solomon Guhl-Miller
Tuesday, July 23 2:00 PM Choral Rehearsal Hall	Chamber Program Masterclass: Mina Hirobe-Perry
Tuesday, July 23 4:30 PM	Academy Program Masterclass: John Perry
Wednesday, July 24 1:00 PM	Lecture Series: Chiu-Ling Lin "No Strings Detached"
Wednesday, July 24 2:00 PM Choral Rehearsal Hall	Chamber Program Masterclass: Chiu-Ling Lin
Wednesday, July 24 4:30 PM	Academy Program Masterclass: Dmitry Rachmanov

Concerts & Masterclasses: Mildred & Ernest E. Mayo Concert Hall
Lecture Series: Choral Rehearsal Hall | (unless noted otherwise)

Thursday, July 25 1:00 PM	Chamber Program Masterclasses: John Perry
Friday, July 26 1:00 PM	Lecture Series: Jean-David Coen
Friday, July 26 2:15 PM	Academy Program Masterclass: Jean-David Coen
Saturday, July 27 2:00 PM	Student Final Concert - Chamber Program
Saturday, July 27 5:00 PM	Student Final Concert - Academy Program

Opening Concert: Oxana Yablonskaya
Sunday, July 14 | 7:30 PM | Mayo Concert Hall



Program

Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach
(1714-1788)

Rondo Espressivo, H 245

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Sonata No. 2 in F Major, K. 280

I. Allegro assai

II. Adagio

III. Presto

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

Sonata No. 7 in D Major, Op. 10, No. 3

I. Presto

II. Largo e mesto

III. Minuetto. Allegro

IV. Rondo. Allegro

-- intermission --

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

Rhapsodies, Op. 79

No. 1 in B minor

No. 2 in G minor

Frédéric Chopin
(1810-1849)

Selection of Five Mazurkas

Barcarolle in F-sharp Major, Op. 60





About the Artist: Oxana Yablonskaya



Oxana Yablonskaya is an American-Israeli pianist who has an active international performing career since the early 1960s. Born in Moscow, Yablonskaya was a pupil of Anaida Sumbatyan at the Moscow Central School for the Gifted where she studied from the ages of six through sixteen. She then pursued further studies at the Moscow Conservatory with legendary Alexander Goldenweiser and became a first student of Dmitry Bashkurov, whom Goldenweiser just invited to teach as his Assistant. She was a student of Tatiana Nikolayeva in her Doctorate program. After graduating from conservatory in 1965, she joined the piano faculty as Nikolayeva's Assistant at Moscow Conservatory. She went on to win top prizes at the Marguerite Long-Jacques Thibaud Competition in 1963(Second Grand Prix), Rio de Janeiro Piano Competition in 1965(First Prize) and the Vienna Beethoven Competition in 1969(second prize).


Yablonskaya was invited to perform as soloist with orchestras in concert halls in the West during the 1960s and 1970s, but was never allowed to accept invitations by antisemitic Russian government. She performed throughout the USSR and made numerous recordings on the Melodya label. She received prestigious title of a "Soloist of the Moscow Philharmonic" alongside such artists as David Oistrakh, Emil Gilels, Mstislav Rostropovich and was highly active as a soloist with the Bolshoi Theatre Orchestra.

Frustrated by the limitations of her artistic freedom, she emigrated to the United States in 1977, but only after two years of waiting as "refusnik", stripped of her job at the Moscow Conservatory and concert career. 75 prominent musicians, actors, composers, senators, including Eli Wiesel, Leonard Bernstein, Kathryn Hepburn, Shelly Winters, Henry Miller, Isaak Bashevis-Singer (Nobel Prize Winner) and even President Carter appealed to the Soviet government to let her leave.

Described by The New York Times as an "internationally known virtuoso" and "one of the country's most distinguished musical residents", Yablonskaya has toured in concerts and recitals throughout the world and has made numerous recordings. She taught as a member of the piano faculty at the Juilliard School for more than 25 years, until 2009.

Yablonskaya is the Winner of Grand Prix du Discque from the Liszt Society in Budapest for her recording of music by Schubert-Liszt and Liszt. Oxana Yablonskaya is an Honorary Academician of the International Academy of the Arts at the United Nations, International Academy of the Arts in San Francisco and Independent Academy of Liberal Arts at the Russian Academy of Sciences. She is recipient of the Einstein Medal for Outstanding Achievements in the Arts.

Besides active concert and teaching career, Ma. Yablonskaya made editions for International Music Co. in New York. In 2016 Prof. Yablonskaya came to Israel, where she now lives and teaches at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance and continues to dazzle audiences throughout Israel and abroad. Oxana Yablonskaya is Yamaha Artist and former Artistic Director of Yamaha Master Classes in New York.



Concert by our Directors: John Perry & Mina Hirobe-Perry
Sunday, July 20 | 7:30 PM | Mayo Concert Hall



Program

Dmitri Shostakovich
(1906-1975)

Concertino for Two Pianos in A minor, Op. 44

Mina Hirobe-Perry & John Perry, pianos

Johannes Brahms
(1833-187)

Piano Quintet in F minor, Op. 34

I. Allegro non troppo

II. Andante, un poco adagio

III. Scherzo. Allegro - Trio

IV. Finale: Poco sostenuto - Allegro non troppo -
Presto, non troppo

Mina Hirobe-Perry, piano
Cheng-Chih Kevin Tsai, violin
Elena Chernova-Davis, violin
Michael Davis, viola
Alexander Suleiman, cello

-- intermission --

Franz Schubert
(1797-1828)

Impromptus, Op. 90, D 899

No. 1 in C minor

No. 2 in E-flat Major

No. 3 in G-flat Major

No. 3 in A-flat Major

John Perry, piano





About the Artist: John Perry, Artistic Director



John Perry, distinguished artist and teacher, earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at the Eastman School of Music and was a student of Cecile Genhart. During those summers, he worked with the eminent Frank Mannheimer. Recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship, he continued studies in Europe for four years where he worked with Wladyslaw Kedra, Polish concert artist and professor at the Akedmie Für Musik in Vienna, and Carlo Zecchi, renowned conductor, pianist, and head of the piano department at the Santa Cecilia Academy of Music in Rome.

Mr. Perry has won numerous awards including the highest prizes in both the Busoni and Viotti international piano competitions in Italy and special honors at the Marguerite Long International Competition in Paris. Since then he has performed extensively throughout Europe and North America to great critical acclaim. Also a respected chamber musician, Mr. Perry has collaborated with some of the finest instrumentalists in the world.

He also enjoys an international reputation as a teacher, presenting master classes throughout the world. He often is a jury member at some of the most prestigious international piano competitions. His students have been prize winners in most major competitions and include two first-prize winners in the Rubinstein, four first-prize winners in the Music Teacher's National Association national competition, and first-prize winners in the Naumburg National Chopin competition, Beethoven Foundation competition, the Federated Music Clubs, and the YKA, AMSC, the Washington Friday Morning Musical, and YMF competitions, and finalists in the Chopin International in Warsaw, the Van Cliburn, the Queen Elisabeth, Busoni, Viotti, Leipzig Bach Competition, and the Three Rivers Competition.

Mr. Perry is Professor of Piano at The Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, Professor of Piano at the California State University of Music Northridge, Professor Emeritus of Piano at the Thornton School of Music of the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, and summer faculty at the Banff Center in Alberta, Canada. Also during the summer artist-teacher at the Aspen Music Festival and School, the Morningside Bridge Program at Mount Royal College in Calgary, the Montecito California Festival, The Amalfi Festival, the Perugia Music Festival, and the Lake Como Academy in Italy, the Orford Festival in Quebec, the Sarasota Florida Music Festival, the Sommer Musik program in Cochem, Germany, and the Pymble Summer Music Festival in Sydney, Australia.





About the Artist: Mina Hirobe-Perry, Director



Mina Hirobe-Perry has performed in recitals as soloist, chamber musician in Germany, Belgium, Italy, Austria, Ireland, Luxembourg, North America, China, Taiwan, South Korea and Japan. She also enjoys concertizing two piano/four hand repertoire. She earned her Bachelor and Master Degrees with honor at Musashino Academia Musicae in Tokyo, where she studied with Prof. Tetsushige Maruyama and Prof. Konstantin Ganey, who was the assistant professor of the eminent pedagogue Heinrich Neuhaus at Moscow Conservatory. After three years of concertizing throughout Japan and teaching piano privately, she moved to Germany where she earned her Artist Diploma and served as a correpetitor at the Hochschule für Musik Detmold. She continued advanced study at the Glenn Gould School of Music in Toronto, Canada.

Ms. Perry's belief in teaching is to enable her students to discover their unique style in music making, along with developing their technique for beautiful sound production. As a dedicated teacher, her students have won numerous competitions locally and nationally, including three CAPMT (MTNA California division) state winners. Her students also have been accepted to prestigious music conservatories and universities such as Juilliard, Manhattan, San Francisco, Eastman, Cleveland, Peabody, USC, UCLA, Indiana, and Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin.

In 2013, Ms. Perry founded the Southern California Music Institute, a non-profit organization 501(c)(3), where she serves as the president. The institute's mission is to provide an opportunity for all youth to receive a quality musical guidance. In conjunction with the institute, she founded the John Perry Academy of Music International Piano Festival, which is a summer program that is carefully designed for exceptionally gifted young students. She was also a Founder and Director of the Honors Piano Performance Seminar at the Colburn School of Performing Arts in Los Angeles, where she taught private piano lessons, two piano/four hand ensemble, and piano chamber music. Currently, she focuses on guiding exceptionally gifted young pianists at her private studio in Princeton, NJ.

In summer, Ms. Perry enjoys performing and teaching at summer festivals world wide such as Summer Music on the Shannon in Ireland, Academie Internationale de Courchevel in France, Vianden International Music Festival in Luxembourg, Amalfi Coast Music Festival in Italy, Music Fest Perugia, Hotchkiss School Summer Portal Piano Program in Connecticut, and John Perry Academy Summer festival in New Jersey. She is also frequently invited to give master classes as well as to judge piano competitions nationally and internationally.





About the Artist: Cheng-Chih Kevin Tsai, Chamber Program Faculty




Princeton based violinist CHENG-CHIH KEVIN TSAI has been described by The Strad magazine as a violinist “with admirable facility.” In addition to being a member of the Princeton Symphony Orchestra, he currently serves as the concertmaster for the Bravura Philharmonic. He has served as concertmaster for the Vancouver Metropolitan Orchestra (Canada), Sinfonietta Nova, and the New Brunswick Chamber Orchestra.

Mr. Tsai earned his doctor of musical arts degree from the Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University as a student of Arnold Steinhardt, as well as Glenn Dicterow and Dorothy Delay at The Juilliard School. He also studied chamber music with Felix Galamir and members from the Tokyo, Emerson, and Guarneri String Quartets. He was the first violinist and founding member of the Killington String Quartet.

A native of Taiwan, Dr. Tsai is the recipient of numerous awards and prizes, including winner of both the Chi-Mei and the Taiwan National Violin competitions. He was also the first recipient of the Darrow Prize from the Killington Music Festival. He has given solo recitals and masterclasses, and performed as a soloist and in string quartets in many major cities in North America, Taiwan, and the European Union, including: Italy, Germany, Switzerland, and France. He has appeared in concert at Avery Fisher Hall, Carnegie Hall, and Alice Tully Hall, and collaborated with artists such as Arnold Steinhardt, Michael Tree, and Pinchas Zukermann.





About the Artist: Elena Chernova-Davis, Chamber Program Faculty



Dr. Elena Chernova-Davis is Professor of Violin and Chamber Music at Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University and John J. Cali School of Music, Montclair University. Elena has worked with conductors such as Bernard Haitink, Esa Pekka-Salonen, Gerard Schwarz, Miguel Harth-Bedoya, and Jeffrey Tate, and has performed with ensembles including the Orchestra of St. Luke's, New York City Ballet Orchestra, the New Jersey Symphony, and the Latin GRAMMY award-winning Pedro Giraudo

Tango Quartet. She has appeared in venues including Carnegie Hall's Isaac Stern Auditorium, Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, Le Poisson Rouge, Madison Square Garden, and Radio City Music Hall. As a doctoral candidate at Rutgers University, Elena was the recipient of the Concertmaster Fellowship and the Irene Alm Memorial Award for excellence in performance and scholarly research. Her major teachers include Shmuel Ashkenazi, Mihail Kopelman, Elmar Oliveira, and Misha Vitenson.





About the Artist: Michael Davis, Chamber Program Faculty




Violist Michael Davis enjoys a varied career as a chamber musician and orchestral player. Michael is a member of the Princeton Symphony Orchestra and regularly performs with the New York City Ballet Orchestra, the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, and NOVUS NYC. Internationally he has performed throughout Korea as a member of the New York in Chuncheon Festival since 2013, in recognition of which he was named an Honorary Cultural Ambassador. Michael has also taught and performed as a

faculty member of the Alfredo Saint Malo Festival in Panama, and with the National Symphony of the Dominican Republic.

Michael has appeared in diverse settings including Carnegie Hall, Radio City Music Hall with Hans Zimmer, Madison Square Garden with The Who, and at the Jazz Gallery with the Pedro Giraudo Tango Septet. He was a founding member of the conductorless string orchestra Shattered Glass, which has been featured as Guest Artists at Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival and performed at Carnegie Hall in Stern Auditorium and Zankel Hall, Schneider Concerts at The New School for Music, Princeton Sound Kitchen at Princeton University, and the SphinxConnect Artist Showcase.

Michael completed his graduate studies with Karen Dreyfus and Irene Breslaw at the Manhattan School of Music Orchestral Performance Program where he was a recipient of the Charles Grossman Memorial Endowment Scholarship, and was an undergraduate student of Michael Klotz at the Florida International University Wertheim School of Music. He is also a former Tanglewood Music Center Fellow and an alumnus of the Pacific Music Festival.





About the Artist: Alexander Suleiman, Chamber Program Faculty



Alexander Suleiman directs outreach programs, and has been honored with the appointment as artistic director of the Art Conquers Borders Academy. The mandate of the academy is to train promising artists from developing countries. His duties commenced with a concert at the German House of Congress in Berlin. Subsequently the German press referred to him as an Ambassador of Music and as such he has concertized throughout Europe, Jordan, Palestine and Israel, Africa, as well as Asia including North and South Korea.

His passion for interdisciplinary projects made him artist in residence at the Dulwich International College and he has presented many projects such as MMM – Music, Maths and Magic at all its' campuses in Singapore, Myanmar, Shanghai, Beijing, Suzhou, Seoul and Zhuhai. He held the position of a guest professor at the Zhejiang Conservatory of Music in Hangzhou in 2018 and 2019. There he also conducts its chamber orchestra, which has been awarded the first prize for chamber orchestras in Zhejiang/China under his baton.

Following his position as an Assistant Professor of Cello at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles for numerous years, Mr Suleiman has accepted the position as a Distinguished Professor of Cello at the China Conservatory of Music in Beijing. He is a frequent member of jury panels in international competitions in Hong Kong, Jerusalem, Beijing, Finland, as well as in the US.

Besides his passion for music and cello in particular Mr. Suleiman's life displays a variety of facets that include degrees in Mathematics, Physics, Latin, and ancient Greek. He is holding the black belt in Taekwondo and in his spare time he pursues his passion for tournament chess as well as close up magic as a distinguished Active Magician Member of the world renowned Magic Castle in L. A.





About the Artist: Joachim Reinhuber, Chamber Program Faculty



Joachim Reinhuber serves as Professor of Piano at Texas A&M University, Kingsville, and is in high demand as solo and collaborative performer, clinician, and adjudicator in the US and his native Germany. His first piano teacher was his grandfather, Franz Calvelli-Adorno. He subsequently studied with Robert Levin (University of Music, Freiburg), John Perry (Rice University, Houston TX), and Nancy Garrett

As a collaborator, he has worked with the flutist Marianne Gedigian, the baritones Ronald Ulen and David Small, the violinist Julia Kuhn, and the pianists Caroline Oltmanns, Zahari Metchkov, and Johan Botes.

In 2020 and 2023 he was invited to present at the Music Teachers National Association convention. He has served as an adjudicator at the Sorentin International Competition in San Angelo, TX, the Laredo International Piano Competition, the Steinway competition, and the State Concerto Competition of the Texas Music Teachers' Association in Huntsville, TX. His live recording of a recital with all Chopin Nocturnes won an honorable mention at The American Prize in 2021.





About the Artist: Chiu-Tze Lin, Chamber Program Guest Lecturer



Chiu-Tze Lin, conductor of the Bravura Philharmonic Orchestra and the Bravura Youth Orchestra, is a versatile and multifaceted musician - conductor, pianist, and teacher. In October of 2019, Ms. Lin was inducted into the Steinway Teachers Hall of Fame, the 1st time that such honors were given to teachers by the Steinway company. Ms. Lin was also honored by the Music Teachers National Association as a Foundation Fellow, an honor bestowed only to individuals who have made significant contributions to education in the country. Ms. Lin was

a finalist in the orchestral conducting division of the American Prize Award. She has served as the music director and conductor of the Mandalapan Battleground Symphony for seven years. Under her baton, the symphony received the Victor Grossinger Award for Innovative Programming. Ms. Lin has also conducted the AT&T Sinfonia in Holmdel and the Woodland Ensemble. She was the music director of the Princeton Presbyterian Church, and directed choirs and orchestras in major oratorios in the Princeton area.

Ms. Lin was selected as a "Hottest Artist in New Jersey" by the Asbury Park Press. As a concert pianist, Ms. Lin has been acclaimed by the New York Times for her "strong technique, a hearty tone that sounded big and unforced [which] provides the greatest musical pleasure." She is a Steinway Artist who has performed in Asia, Europe, and across the United States. Ms. Lin has appeared as a touring soloist with the Chicago Symphony, and was a soloist with the Cincinnati Symphony. Her CD featuring works of J. S. Bach has been described by New York Concert Review as a "... most satisfying performance ... with eloquence and sensitivity." This recording has also been selected by the Bravo Baroque organization as a recommended keyboard CD. Her recordings have been broadcast from stations across the country.

Ms. Lin was a director of the 2004 Beijing Music Festival, the first international summer music festival sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Culture. She has led the Northeastern American Arts Troupe to perform at the International Shanghai Arts Festival and the Opening Ceremony of the Summer Youth Festival at the Shanghai Grand Theatre and the Oriental Arts Center. Ms. Lin has conducted the Shanghai Musicians Chamber Orchestra at the Sino-American Cultural Exchange Concert in a performance that was broadcast across China and around the world. She has led the Bravura Youth Orchestra in concerts in Russia, China, Taiwan, and this past summer, in Japan.





About the Artist: Daniel Shapiro



Daniel Shapiro has developed widespread recognition as a leading interpreter of Schubert, Beethoven, Mozart, Schumann, and Brahms; and as a teacher and coach at CIM, where he has taught for the past 26 years. He has given critically acclaimed performances across the United States, in Brazil, Europe, Korea, and China. Recently he performed his third complete cycle of the 32 Beethoven piano sonatas; videos of the performances can be found on YouTube. His DVDs of all of Schubert's major piano sonatas and his CD of Beethoven's Diabelli Variations have received enthusiastic reviews.


During his tenure at CIM, he has become known as an inspiring teacher who helps students achieve profound understanding and develop vivid interpretations of the great masterworks. His students have won important competitions and obtained teaching posts at prestigious universities and schools of music.

As a chamber musician, Shapiro has had the great fortune of collaborating with some of the world's leading musicians, including Jaime Laredo, Shmuel Ashkenasi, Joseph Silverstein, ChoLiang Lin, Sergiu Schwartz, and Franklin Cohen. He has performed regularly with members of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, and The Cleveland Orchestra. He has released chamber music CDs on the Harmonia Mundi and ASV labels. His Beethoven sonata collaborations with violinist Jaime Laredo can also be found on YouTube.

His musicianship has been enhanced and deepened by extensive collaboration with singers: listening to and working with them has been a source of tremendous inspiration. He studied art song with Gwendolyn Koldofsky and opera with Natalie Limonick, and was an opera and art song coach at UCLA.

His musical scope also includes conducting: he has worked with Daniel Lewis, Victor Yampolsky, Fritz Zweig, and Gustav Meier. He made his conducting debut at 16 at Tanglewood, and he conducted Mozart's Don Giovanni with the Akron Lyric Opera.

A native of southern California, Shapiro began the study of piano at the age of 6. His teachers have included Leon Fleisher, John Perry, Russell Sherman, Joanna Graudan, and Reginald Stewart. He studied at the University of Southern California and at the Peabody Conservatory, where he received his doctorate.



About the Artist: Jonathan Spitz, Chamber Program Guest Artist



Jonathan Spitz has established himself as a leading cellist in the United States with his performances as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestral principal. He is the recently appointed head of string studies at the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University and serves as professor of cello. He has been principal cello of the New Jersey Symphony since 1991, and he is a member of the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and principal cello of the American Ballet Theater Orchestra.

Spitz has appeared as a soloist with the New Jersey Symphony on numerous occasions, performing many of the standard cello concertos. He has performed recitals at Carnegie Hall and at colleges and universities throughout the US. An active chamber musician, Spitz was a participant at the Marlboro Music Festival and currently serves on the artist faculty of the Brevard Music Center. A graduate of the Curtis Institute, he was a student of David Soyer.

He performs on a 2012 cello by Grubaugh and Seifert.

About the Artist: Awadagin Pratt



Among his generation of concert artists, pianist Awadagin Pratt is acclaimed for his musical insight and intensely involving performances in recital and with symphony orchestras. Born in Pittsburgh, Awadagin Pratt began studying piano and violin at an early age. At the age of 16 he entered the University of Illinois where he studied piano, violin, and conducting. He subsequently enrolled at the Peabody Conservatory of Music where he became the first student in the school's history to receive diplomas in three performance areas – piano, violin and conducting.

In 1992, Mr. Pratt won the Naumburg International Piano Competition and two years later was awarded an Avery Fisher Career Grant. Since then, he has played numerous recitals throughout the US including performances at Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles, Chicago's Orchestra Hall and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. His many orchestral performances include appearances with the New York Philharmonic, Minnesota Orchestra and the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Baltimore, Indianapolis, Atlanta, St. Louis, National and Detroit symphonies among many others. Summer festival engagements include appearances at Ravinia, Blossom, Wolftrap, Caramoor, Aspen and the Hollywood Bowl.

Also an experienced conductor, Pratt has conducted programs with the Toledo, New Mexico, Vancouver WA, Winston-Salem and Santa Fe symphonies, the Northwest Sinfonietta, the Concertante di Chicago and several orchestras in Japan. among others. In summer 2023, he begins his tenure as the Music Director of the Miami Valley Symphony Orchestra in Ohio.

A great believer in working with young people, he has created a program called Black in America during which he tells about his encounters with the police, especially while driving, starting when he was a teenager and continuing through his post graduate studies and into his adulthood. His narrative is interspersed with live music performed by Pratt and students, followed by a panel discussion regarding the state of race in America today. Michelle Bauer Carpenter produced a documentary about Black in America which aired on 90 PBS stations across the country earlier this year.

Mr. Pratt's recordings for Angel/EMI include A Long Way From Normal, an all Beethoven Sonata CD, Live From South Africa, Transformations and an all Bach disc with the St. Lawrence String Quartet. His most recent recordings are the Brahms Sonatas for Cello and Piano with Zuill Bailey for Telarc and a recording of the music of Judith Lang Zaimont with the Harlem String Quartet. Awadagin Pratt is also the founder and Artistic Director of the Art of the Piano and produces a festival every spring featuring performances and conversations with well-known pianists and piano faculty members. This spring, he also organized the first Nina Simone Piano Competition for Black Pianists in collaboration with the Cincinnati Symphony, the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and the Art of the Piano Festival. The competition was made possible by a generous grant from the Sphinx Organization.

In July 2023, Pratt joined the faculty of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music as a Professor of Piano. He was previously a Professor of Piano and Artist in Residence at the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati for nineteen years. In recognition of his achievements in the field of classical music, he has received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Johns Hopkins University as well as honorary doctorates from the Berklee College of Music and Illinois Wesleyan and delivered commencement addresses at those institutions as well as at Peabody Conservatory. Awadagin Pratt is a Yamaha artist. For more information, please visit www.awadagin.com.

About the Artist: Solomon Guhl-Miller, Guest Lecturer



Solomon Guhl-Miller teaches Music History and Theory courses at Rutgers University, Temple University, and the University of Hartford.

He has presented and published on an array of topics from Ancient Greek Music Theory to Contemporary Music Criticism. Recently, he became the recipient of a Level 2 NEH Digital Humanities Advancement Grant for his project "Ars Antiqua Online: A Digital Edition of Thirteenth-Century Polyphony."



About the Artist: Chiu-Ling Lin, Chamber Program Guest Lecturer



An energetic and passionate performer, Dr. Chiu-Ling Lin plays before enthusiastic audiences around the world. Reviewers wrote that she “presented Chopin with authority balanced with heartfelt emotion”, “made compositions soar with her joyous and skilled interpretation”, and “translated all of Mozart’s exuberance and romanticism with an ease and naturalness which was a thrill to witness.”

In 1979, Dr. Lin made her Carnegie Recital Hall debut as the winner of the East and West Young Artist Auditions. She received rave reviews by critics after her tour of Peru, Argentina, and Brazil as the United States Information Agency’s Artistic Ambassador to Latin America in 1991. She has soloed with fourteen orchestras, including the Atlanta Symphony, the Chicago Civic Orchestra, the Singapore Symphony, and the Des Moines Symphony.

Born in Taiwan, and educated in Singapore’s Nanyang Girls’ High, Dr. Lin received her bachelor’s degree from New England Conservatory of Music and her master’s and doctoral degrees from Indiana University. Her 30 years of college teaching experience include positions as Chair of the Music Department and Professor of Piano at Drake University in Des Moines, IA and Artist-in-Residence at Indiana University at South Bend.

Appearances in New York, Boston, Chicago, England, Canada, China, Japan, Singapore and Malaysia have featured Dr. Lin’s unique mix of music by Chinese and Western composers. Her virtuosity in Chinese piano music is showcased in the CD, “Portraits of China.”



About the Artist: Dmitry Rachmanov



Dr. Dmitry Rachmanov is Chair of Keyboard Studies at California State University, Northridge. A sought-after performer, master class clinician, adjudicator and lecturer, Dr. Rachmanov has served on the faculties of Manhattan School of Music and Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University, and has been a guest artist/lecturer/clinician at The Juilliard School, New England Conservatory, Eastman School of Music, Royal Northern College of Music (UK), Shanghai and Beijing Central Conservatories.

Rachmanov has appeared at Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, London's Barbican and South Bank Centres, at venues across Europe and Asia, and has collaborated as a soloist with the Ukraine National Symphony, and National Orchestra of Porto, among others. He has recorded for Naxos, Parma, Master Musicians and Vista Vera labels.

An active member of the American Liszt Society, Dmitry Rachmanov is the president of the society's Southern California chapter. He was the Artistic Director of the ALS 2016 Festival "Liszt and Russia," hosted by CSUN. His summer festivals include Piano Sicily and InterHarmony in Italy, Corfu Piano Institute in Greece, Montecito in California, Adamant in Vermont; In the summer of 2019 he was a resident at the Brahms House in Baden-Baden, Germany. He has served as a Co-Director of the ChamberFest @ CSUN Festival.

A proponent of Russian repertoire, Rachmanov gave the US premiere of Boris Pasternak Piano Sonata, broadcast by the NPR, and he is a founding member and President of the Scriabin Society of America. His April 2014 commemorative all-Scriabin program at Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall was described as "a 'poem of ecstasy' in every sense: giant in conception, quantity, quality, execution, thoughtfulness, and sensitivity" by the New York Concert Review. His 2022 Cambria 2-CD album release "Alexander Scriabin, the 150th Anniversary Celebration," was praised as a "distinguished recital[...], full of riveting performances" by Fanfare magazine, adding that "Rachmanov may be considered alongside the great Scriabin interpreters." He is in the process of recording a video anthology of Alexander Scriabin's piano works.

Dr. Rachmanov is a recipient of numerous awards, among them "Jerome Richfield Memorial Scholar" at CSUN and receiving an "Outstanding CAPMT Member State Recognition Award" by California Association of Professional Music Teachers.

Dmitry Rachmanov is a Steinway Artist.



About the Artist: Jean-David Coen



Pianist Jean-David Coen, Artist in Residence at Willamette University in Oregon has studied and holds degrees from the Paris Conservatory, Juilliard, and Yale; finishing with his Doctorate from the University of Southern California. He worked with significant masters representing each of the 3 great and most essential pianistic traditions, the German, Russian, and French "schools" of interpretation and technique. These great artists included Adele Marcus, Jeanne Marie Darre, Claude Frank, Sacha Gorodnitzki, and John Perry.

Jean-David began concertizing with orchestra when he was 9, and by 17 had performed both Tchaikovsky and Brahms first piano concertos. He has played around the world with orchestras like the Los Angeles Philharmonic in Tanglewood and the Oregon Bach Festival. Completing a circle started with his performance of the Chopin G minor ballade at the age of 12 in the famous tent at the Aspen Music Festival and School, Coen became a member of the Piano and Chamber Music faculty there; his tenure lasting 24 years. His 2008 performance of the Diabelli variations concluded the festival's presentation of the entire cycle of Beethoven's piano works.

He has toured and given master classes in both China and Japan as part of Trio Oregon. His solo and ensemble performances have been heard on NPR's "Performance Today", KUSC, and WQXR in New York. He has been a Visiting Professor of Piano at the Sheppard School Of Music at USC, and is also the director of the Grace Goudy Distinguished Artists Series at Willamette.

In addition to having coached winners of concerto competitions in Aspen, the Leeds competition, and the Gilmore prize his Oregon students have performed in Carnegie Hall, won all of the concerto competitions in the state, performed on NPR's "From the Top", and hold faculty positions in the US, Europe, and Asia. He has also served on the faculty of the Colburn Summer Academy, performs frequently at the Chintimini Festival in Corvallis, and is presently a member of the Peng Academy in Palo Alto, the Beverly Hills International Festival of Music, and the John Perry Academy of Music.



About the Artist: Jean Schneider, Chamber Program Faculty



JEAN SCHNEIDER began her piano studies at the Settlement Music School in Philadelphia at age seven, and by the age of fifteen had performed three times as soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra. Other orchestral appearances include the Sarasota Orchestra, USC Chamber Orchestra, and the Aspen Concert Orchestra at the Aspen Music Festival.

In the United States, she has been heard in recital in such cities as New York, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Los Angeles, and at Caramoor, while recitals in Europe include Paris, Salzburg, and the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. Her performances have also been heard in radio broadcasts on National Public Radio's Performance Today, Sudwestfunk Radio in Germany, WQXR in New York, KUSC in Los Angeles, and WFMT in Chicago among others.

An active chamber musician, Ms. Schneider has collaborated with other artists in concerts throughout the U.S. and in Europe, including performances at Tanglewood, Aspen, Sarasota, and Norfolk Festivals, the Banff Centre for the Arts in Canada, the Dame Myra Hess series in Chicago, and in Carnegie Hall. Performers with whom she has collaborated include members of the Tokyo Quartet, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra, National Symphony, Florida West Coast Symphony, and Apple Hill String Quartet. In the summers, she has been a guest artist and faculty at the Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music in New Hampshire.

Ms. Schneider earned her bachelor and masters degrees at the University of Southern California as a student of John Perry and a diploma from the Hochschule für Musik in Freiburg, Germany under Robert Levin. As a Fulbright scholar, she studied for two years with Karl-Heinz Kämmerling at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, and in 1997, she completed her doctorate in performance at the State University of New York at Stony Brook where she studied with Gilbert Kalish. She currently lives in New York City.

About the Artist: Nagisa Ariza, Chamber Program Faculty



Ms. Nagisa Ariza is an accomplished pianist and dedicated piano teacher, catering to students ranging from 4 years old to adult learners. With a wealth of experience, she has successfully guided over a thousand students in both Japan and the United States, many of whom have attained laurels in national and international solo competitions.

Ms. Ariza received her early musical training at the Music School for Children affiliated with Toho-Gakuen University, culminating in her graduation with honors from the Tokyo College of Music. Recognized as one of the top performers of her graduating class, she further honed her skills under the tutelage of Professor Alexander Jänner at the Hochschule Für Musik in Vienna, Austria. Throughout her academic journey and beyond, Ms. Ariza showcased her talents through numerous solo concerts across Japan, Germany, Switzerland, and Austria, concurrently imparting her knowledge as a faculty member at the Yamaha Music School in Tokyo for over a decade prior to relocating to the United States.

Since her move to the Bay Area, Ms. Ariza has actively participated in recitals and benefit concerts, gracing venues such as the Flint Center as a soloist with the De Anza Chamber Orchestra, and even performing at the esteemed Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall.

In her personal life, Ms. Ariza shares her passion for music with her husband and their two musically gifted children. Her son, a former concertmaster of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra, pursued his studies at The Juilliard School, earning a Master of Music degree in Violin Performance, alongside a Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science from Columbia University, followed by a Master's degree in Entertainment and Technology from Carnegie Mellon University. Similarly, her daughter, a talented cellist, completed her Master of Music degree in Cello Performance at The Juilliard School, concurrently pursuing studies in computer science at Columbia University through an exchange program. Presently, she continues her musical journey at The Juilliard School in pursuit of a Doctoral degree in Music.

Furthermore, Ms. Ariza's husband, an engineer by profession, lends his expertise as a professional recording engineer, supporting Ms. Ariza, her children, her students, and fellow professionals in creating studio recordings for auditions, competitions, and college applications.

About the Artist: Hyojin Lee, Chamber Program Faculty



Since her debut performance of the Haydn Cello Concerto in C Major with the Daegu Philharmonic Orchestra at the age of 14, Dr. Hyojin Lee has appeared as an active soloist and chamber musician in Europe, Asia, and the United States. She has appeared as a soloist with such orchestras as the Slovak Košice National Philharmonic, the Hungary Savaria Symphony, Soli Deo Orchestra, the Kyungbook Symphony, the Keimyung University Orchestra, and Multimedia Art Ensemble ARS, the Bravura Philharmonic Orchestra among many others. She has given solo and

chamber recitals at venues including Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall and Bruno Walter Auditorium at Lincoln Center in New York, Auer Hall in Indiana and Nicholas Music Center, NJ. She has served as principal cellist of the Indiana Concert Orchestra, IN, Daegu Contemporary Music Orchestra (South Korea), and Bravura Philharmonic Orchestra (Princeton, NJ) and as guest principal cellist of Daegu Opera Festival Orchestra and Ital' Opera Orchestra, South Korea.

She won multiple prizes in national and international competitions such as National Music Competition sponsored by TBC Broadcasting Corporation, National Youth Competition sponsored by Keimyung University and Jinhae Goonhang Music Festival National Competition, South Korea and first prize of American Protege International Piano & String Competition and first prize of American Protege International Concerto Competition (both professionals Category), USA.

Ms. Lee was a recipient of the Dean's Music Merit Scholarship at Indiana University, where she received her Master of Music degree and her Performer's Diploma. She is holding the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Rutgers University, where she was awarded a Graduate Fellowship with full scholarship and stipend. Among her teachers and major influences are prominent cellists like Janos Starker, Kazimierz M Michalik, Csaba Onczay, Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi, and Jonathan Spitz, and Kyungsuk Park. She has participated in numerous master classes with such artists as Gary Hoffman, Julius Berger, Werner Thomas-Mifune, and Timothy Eddy, as well as festivals in Europe including the Mozarteum Music Festival (Austria) and the Zagan Music Academy (Poland).

Dr. Lee teaches a vibrant cello studio and directs student string ensembles in Princeton, NJ. She served as cello faculty and chamber music coach in the Rutgers University Extension Division and during the summer at the ASTA/NJ Chamber Music Institute. She currently serves as a chamber music coach at Bravura Youth program, as well as a cello instructor and chamber music coach at the 4string Music Festival in New York and the Northern Light Music Festival in Northern Minnesota where she will perform as the principal cellist of the festival orchestra and chamber musician during the summer. She also serves as a Chamber Program Artist Faculty at John Perry Academy of Music. Her cello students have won first prizes in international competitions in Korea and the United States, performing in such venues as Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. Her students have been also very successful at All State [NJMEA] and Regional [CJMEA] auditions. Dr. Lee serves as the string chair of NJMTA (New Jersey Music Teachers Association).



Participants of the International Piano Festival 2024

Anna Audenis
Xiaoyuan Cao
Allison Chen
Ryan Chun
Ana Constantin
Julius Maximus Cid
Deven Goel
Trinity Goff
Kevin Huang
Kotoko Iwata
Seigo Iwata
Jonathan Jian
Hannah Lam
Sarah Li
George Lin
Olivia Lin
Kenneth Liu

Luke Liu
Rong Pan
Seiji Perry
Anna Qu
Julia Qu
Owen Ren
Kaoru Sato
Eugine Shin
Isaak Sindlinger
Kaede Taguchi
Arisa Uchida
Austin Wu
Averie Wu
David Wu
Elena Wang
Catherine You
Claire Zhang





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