

Festival Schedule

Sunday, Sept 27

6:00pm ALS board meeting
Embassy Suites

Monday, Sept 28

Morning events in Kimball Recital Hall

9:30 Registration and opening ceremony

Paul Barnes, Artistic Director, Marguerite Scribante Professor of Piano
Mark Button, Executive Vice Chancellor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Jay Hershberger, President, American Liszt Society

9:45 *Variations inspired by the spiritual world of Bach*
Variations on "Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen, Zagen," Franz Liszt
Mark Franklin, Oklahoma Baptist University

Piano Fantasy ("Wenn ich einmal soll scheiden" When I Shall Depart), Richard
Danielpour
Daniel Horn, Wheaton College

Variations sérieuses, Op.54, Felix Mendelssohn
Gila Goldstein, Longy School of Music

10:45 *Toward Re-Enchantment: Beauty as a Portal to the Sacred*
Junius Johnson, Executive Director, Junius Johnson Academics

11:30 Commemorating Réka Darida, founder of the Tulipán Foundation
Introduction: Monika Krausz, Director, Tulipán Foundation
Drei Stücke aus der Legende der heiligen Elisabeth, S.498a
1. Orchester Einleitung
2. Marsch der Kreuzritter
3. Interludium
Eva Polgar, East Tennessee State University

Noon lunch on your own

Afternoon sessions in Westbrook Performance Hall 130

1:30 *Creed and Variations: Tracing Divergent Christian Traditions in the Music of Arvo*
Pärt, Olivier Messiaen, and J.S. Bach
Rebekah Stiles, Cairn University

Without words, can a piece of music be sacred? In the realm of classical music, Arvo Pärt, Olivier Messiaen, and J. S. Bach stand apart as composers who consciously imbued their compositions with symbols of the Christian faith, each through a unique musical iconology. This session presents a musical-theological conversation between these three men via select piano works, tracing how their aesthetic differences ‘sympathetically resonate’ with their theological differences as Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant Christians. As a result, we hear these works afresh, appreciating the truth that makes them beautiful.

2:15 Piano works of personal devotion

Prelude, Aria and Finale, Cesar Franck

Jeffrey LaDeur, San Francisco International Piano Festival

A la Chapelle Sixtine, S.462ii, Liszt

Daniel Glover, San Francisco

Prelude, Chorale, and Fugue, Cesar Franck

Thomas Lanners, Oklahoma State University (ret.)

3:05 Break

3:15 Music of Living Composers

Spiegel im Spiegel (2013) Arvo Pärt

Teimuraz Janikashvili, violin

Elizabeth Grimpo, Concordia University Nebraska

Hristos Anesti (2025) N. Lincoln Hanks, Pepperdine University

Paul Barnes, piano

Fratres (1977, 1980) Arvo Pärt

Avita Duo

Katya Moeller, violin, The Julliard School

Ksenia Nosikova, University of Iowa

Toccata, Gustav Hoyer

Benjamin Harding, Kalos Arts Foundation

Ocean Suite, Libby Larson

Liza Stepanova, College Conservatory of Music

Sonata Romantique, Nadejda Vlaeva

Nadejda Vlaeva, piano

I. Allegro appassionato

II. Andante teneramente

III. Allegro vivace

4:45 Walt Whitman meets Franz Liszt: World-premiere of *The Ship* by Andrew Fowler

1. *Lo, the Unbounded Sea*

2. *Pioneers! O Pioneers!*

3. *Quicksand Years*

4. *Beat! Beat! Drums!*

5. *O Captain! My Captain!*

6. *World, Take Good Notice*

Jeff Jones, baritone, Coastal Carolina University

Philip Powell, Coastal Carolina University

The Ship is a song cycle using Whitman's timeless voice set to music inspired by Liszt. The cycle is composed as an interpretation of the Romantic ideals championed by Liszt. The music moves from poem to poem without clear separation between movements, creating the metaphor of a ship drifting in the ocean. The overarching literary connection surmised in the sequence of poems intentionally juxtaposes Whitman's poetic narratives with current worldwide discord. There is a unifying motive analogous to ship bells that recurs and functions as a bridge between all songs. The chromatically infused tonality, as well as the formal designs of the songs, embrace aspects of the 19th century song cycle. Given that Whitman and Liszt never met, I thought it time to bring them together. in *The Ship*. A.F.

Dinner on your own

7:30pm UNL Orchestra and University Singers

Kimball Recital Hall

Introduction: Alan Walker

Via Crucis, Franz Liszt

Introduction: *Vexilla Regis* (The Royal Banners)

Station I: Jesus is condemned to death

Station II: Jesus accepts his cross

Station III: Jesus falls for the first time

Station IV: Jesus meets his holy mother

Station V: Simon helps carry the cross

Station VI: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

Station VII: Jesus falls for the second time

Station VIII: Jesus meets the three women of Jerusalem

Station IX: Jesus falls for the third time

Station X: Jesus is stripped of his clothing

Station XI: Jesus is nailed to the cross
Station XII: Jesus dies on the cross
Station XIII: Jesus is taken down from the cross
Station XIV: Jesus is laid in the tomb (Vexilla Regis)
Nicholas Susi, University of South Carolina
University Singers, Jaime O'Neill, conductor

Intermission

Introduction: Jorge Modolell, Washington University
Von der Wiege bis zum Grabe (From the Cradle to the Grave), S.107 (1881-82)
Franz Liszt 15'
I. Die Wiege (The Cradle)
II. Der Kampf um's Dasein (The Struggle for Existence)
III. Zum Grabe, die Wiege des zukünftigen Lebens (To the Grave, the Cradle of Future Life)

Totentanz, Franz Liszt 16'
Richard Fountain, piano, Wayland Baptist University
UNL Orchestra, Tyler White, conductor

Tuesday, Sept 29

All events in Kimball Recital Hall

9:30 Jewish Inspirations
Chai Variations on Eliahu Hanavi, Judith Shatin
Jose Lopez, Florida International University

Simeron Kremate, Victoria Bond
Madeline Rogers, Berea College

Sonata (1936), Ernest Bloch
David Gross, Furman University

10:30 Selections from *Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus*, Olivier Messiaen
Introduction: Rebekah Stiles
1. *Regard du Père ("Contemplation of the Father")*
5. *Regard du fils sur le fils ("Contemplation of the Son upon the Son")*
Clara Christian, Colorado Christian College

7. *Regard de la croix ("Contemplation of the Cross")*
8. *Regard des hauteurs ("Contemplation of the heights")*
9. *Regard du temps ("Contemplation of time")*

Calvin Kotrba, University of Houston

10. *Regard de l'esprit de joie ("Contemplation of the joyful Spirit")*
11. *Première communion de la vierge ("The Virgin's first communion")*
Tzu Yi Chen, Washinton DC

13. *Noël ("Christmas")*
15. *Le baiser de l'enfant-Jésus ("The kiss of the Infant Jesus")*
Read Gainsford, Florida State University

- 11:30 Sacred Themes of Franz Liszt
Jorge Modolell, Washington University
Sancta Dorotheas, S.187
Der Todesengel, S.190a (The Angel of Death)
Deux Légendes, S.175 (Two Legends of St. Francis)
Tomasz Kamieniak, piano

Noon lunch on your own

- 1:30 The Cosmic Battle: Recreating the Liszt/Thalberg Duel

Sigismond Thalberg - Fantaisie sur des thèmes de l'opéra *Moïse* de Rossini, Op. 33
Franz Liszt - Grande fantaisie sur des motifs de l'opéra *Niobe* de Pacini, S. 419
Sigismond Thalberg - Grand Caprice sur des motifs de
La Sonnambula de Bellini, Op. 46
Franz Liszt - Réminiscences de l'opéra *Don Juan* de Mozart, S. 418
Asiya Korepanova and Mark Viner, pianos

- 2:30 *Alexander Scriabin the Visionary: A Path to the Mysterium*
Lindsey Macchiarella, University of Texas at El Paso
Dmitry Rachmanov, California State University at Northridge

Alexander Scriabin, a famously experimental modernist, began as a progressive late romantic, one strongly influenced by Liszt. Traces of this influence can be found, both in memoirs on Scriabin's formative years, and also in critical reception of his late works. Romantic themes of beauty and the spiritual sublime permeate both Scriabin's early and late oeuvre, feeding into his vision for his unfinished work, *Mysterium*. Presented by members of the Scriabin Society of America.

- 3:15 Performance of Glenn Korff School of Music pianists
Jeux d'eau, Maurice Ravel
Duy Nguyen, Sophomore BM
Etude-Tableaux in E-flat Minor, Op. 39. No.5, Sergei Rachmaninoff

Seth Johnson, Sophomore BM
Wilde Jagd, Franz Liszt
Solar Manley, Freshman BM
Midnight (2011), Zhang Zhou
Wenhou Zhang, DMA 2nd year
Chopin Etude Op.10 No.3
Khang Nguyen, Alum, MM 1st year, University of South Carolina
Liebestod, Liszt/Wagner
Tierra Cassens, DMA 3rd year
Concert Paraphrase on Rigoletto, Franz Liszt
Kingston Cao, Freshman BA
Prelude and Fugue in D Minor, Op.87, Dimitry Shostakovich
Stefan Markovic, DMA Year 2

4:15 *From the Chaos to the Beyond: Rautavaara's Piano Sonata No. 2 "The Fire Sermon"*
Tiantian Liang, piano

4:35 Reminiscences from 2010
Dichterliebe, Robert Schumann 30'
Gabriel Dobner, James Madison University
Kevin McMillan, baritone, James Madison University (ret.)

7:30pm Angel Stanislav Wang, piano recital
Lied Center for Performing Arts

Wednesday, Sept 30
All events in Kimball Recital Hall
Morning for 2 piano works

9:15 Reclaiming the Sacred: The Rediscovery of Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel's Easter Sonata
Hyejin Cho, Wheaton College Conservatory of Music

9:45 'Es ist vollbracht' at the Piano: Beethoven's Op. 110 Finale between Bach and Liszt
Jun-Hee Han, North Central College

10:15 Chant-inspired works of Rachmaninoff
From Symphonic Dances Op.45
III. *Lento assai – Allegro vivace – Lento assai*.
Come prima – Allegro vivace 10'
From Suite No. 1 in G Minor, Op.5
IV. *Easter* 4'

Matthew Gianforte and Meeyoun Park, Murray State University

10:45 World-premiere of *Divine Aspirations* by Sawyer Gage
The Unfolding Duo, Aleksandra Velgosha and Alyssa Conde, James Madison University

11:00 *Visions de l'Amen* for two pianos (1943), Olivier Messaien 50'
Amen de la Création ("Amen of creation")
Amen des étoiles, de la planète à l'anneau
("Amen of stars, of the ringed planet")
Amen de l'agonie de Jésus ("Amen of Jesus' agony")
Kate Boyd, Butler University
Robert Satterlee, Bowling Green State University

Amen du Désir ("Amen of desire")
Amen des Anges, des Saints, du chant des oiseaux
("Amen of angels, of saints, and of bird chant")
Happy Dog Duo, Eric Tran and Nathan Cheung

Amen du Jugement ("Amen of judgement")
Amen de la Consommation ("Amen of consummation")
Kate Boyd and Robert Satterlee

Lunch on your own

Afternoon sessions in Kimball Recital Hall

1:30 Complete performance of *Annees Book III*
Angélus! Prière aux anges gardiens (*Angelus! Prayer to the Guardian Angels*)
Caroline Hong, The Ohio State University

Aux cyprès de la Villa d'Este I: Thrénodie
(*To the Cypresses of the Villa d'Este I: Threnody*) in G minor
Joseph Kingma, Tulsa Oklahoma

Aux cyprès de la Villa d'Este II: Thrénodie
(*To the Cypresses of the Villa d'Este II: Threnody*) in E
Derek Parsons, Furman University

Les jeux d'eaux à la Villa d'Este
(*The Fountains of the Villa d'Este*) in F#
Gergely Kovács, Budapest, Hungary

Sunt lacrymae rerum/En mode hongrois
(*There are Tears for Things/In Hungarian Style*) in A minor

Peter Toth, Fairleigh Dickinson University

*Marche funèbre, En mémoire de Maximilien I, Empereur du Mexique (Funeral March,
In memory of Emperor Maximilian of Mexico)* in F minor
Sursum corda (Lift Up Your Hearts) in E major
Ryan Behan, University of Indianapolis

2:30 *Génie Oblige! – Genius Carries Obligations*
Alan Walker, McMaster University (ret.)

3:20 Break

3:30 Liszt's Sacred Impulse
Après une lecture du Dante: Fantasia quasi Sonata
Ryan Fogg, Carson-Newman University

Pater Noster
Csanad Barbarics, East Tennessee State University

Bénédiction de Dieu dans la solitude
Neil Rutman, University of Central Arkansas (ret.)

4:15 Exploring the Spiritual World of Bach and Final Reflections
Junius Johnson, lecturer

Sinfonia in G minor
Fantasy and Fugue in G Minor, transcribed by Franz Liszt
Prisila Navarro, University of Kansas

Prelude and Fugue in B-flat Minor, WTC Book I
Prelude in B Minor, arranged by Alexander Siloti
Vedrana Subotic, University of Utah

Air from Orchestral Suite in D Major, arranged by Alexander Siloti
Elizabeth Grimpo, Concordia University Nebraska

6:00pm Banquet
Embassy Suites Ballroom

Festival Participants



Avita Duo, featuring **Katya Moeller** on violin and **Ksenia Nosikova** on piano, has been praised for “technical excellence, emotional intensity, and unity of purpose” and “fresh, committed playing, always powerful and concentrated”. The collaboration between these two award-winning soloists has flourished over 15 years, leading to versatile and captivating performances across the globe. Their programming strives to highlight both standard repertoire and the works of lesser-known composers. This vibrant partnership culminated in their first CD recording of Lera

Auerbach’s Twenty-Four Preludes for Violin and Piano, alongside the world premiere of Oskolki in 2022. This groundbreaking CD, released on the Hänssler Classic label, has garnered enthusiastic reviews from prominent critics, who lauded it as “absorbing, dramatic, compelling, audacious, and riveting”. This rare mother-daughter duo is committed to broadening exposure to classical music, as it aims to impact audiences both internationally and locally. The Duo prioritizes community engagement and outreach, frequently performing at public schools, community centers, and retirement homes, presenting educational workshops and teaching masterclasses.



Praised by the New York Times for his “Lisztian thunder and deft fluidity,” pianist **Paul Barnes** has electrified audiences with his intensely expressive playing and cutting-edge programming. He has been featured seven times on APM’s *Performance Today* and on the cover of *Clavier Magazine*. Celebrating his thirty-two-year collaboration with Philip Glass, Barnes commissioned and gave the world premiere of Glass’s *Piano Quintet “Annunciation.”* Barnes’ recording of the quintet with string quartet superstars Brooklyn Rider received critical acclaim. Barnes is Marguerite Scribante Professor of

Music at the [University of Nebraska-Lincoln Glenn Korff School of Music](#). He serves as Artistic Director of the [Lied Center Piano Academy](#) which welcomes several high-school pianists to Lincoln each summer for an intensive week of piano, composition, improvisation and collaboration. Barnes also teaches each summer at the Piano Plus Summer Institute held in early July in Xanthi, Greece where Barnes also chants at the cathedral. Barnes recently released his fourteenth recording on Albany Records entitled *Illumination: The Piano Works of Victoria Bond* including the world-premiere recording of *Illuminations on Byzantine Chant*. Barnes is also collaborating with composer N. Lincoln Hanks on a new work based on the Greek and Arabic Orthodox resurrection hymn *Hristos Anesti*. The new work was premiered at Pepperdine University on February 6th, 2025. Barnes’ recordings are available on Spotify, Pandora, Apple Music, YouTube, and Amazon.



Ryan Behan, Associate Professor of Piano and Director of Keyboard Studies at the University of Indianapolis, has performed throughout the US, in Europe and China, with radio broadcasts on ORF (Austria), BBC, and NPR. Recent performance highlights include: concerto soloist with the Toledo Symphony Orchestra, Franz Liszt's *Années de Pèlerinage: Italie* at the Kodály Institute of the Franz Liszt Academy in Hungary, recital appearances with the Indianapolis Quartet, and with sopranos Sumi Jo at the Mozarteum, and Jolana Slavíková at the Salzburg Festival. Recorded Liszt's *Années de Pèlerinage: Suisse* (2024) to critical acclaim. Dr. Behan is Co-Director of the Franz Liszt International Piano Festival and Competition (OH), President, Indianapolis Chapter of the American Liszt Society, is active competition adjudicator, and continues to present master classes, concerts, and lecture recitals here and abroad. He holds degrees from Bowling Green State University, Universität Mozarteum Salzburg, The Ohio State University; student of Jerome Rose, Imre Rohmann, Caroline Hong; studied with Leslie Howard at the International Keyboard Institute in NYC and James Tocco in Cincinnati.



An active soloist and chamber musician, American pianist **Kate Boyd** has performed solo recitals at Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall, Schubert's birth house in Vienna, the National Concert Hall in Dublin, the Musikhalle Hamburg, in addition to many places throughout the US, Europe and Canada. She has recorded two solo recordings of music by American composers: *Music for the End of Winter* (Ravello) and *Sonatas and Interludes* by John Cage (Navona). Her third recording of Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel's *Das Jahr*, will be released in the fall of 2026. She has presented at conferences worldwide, including the International John Cage Conference in Malaysia and the EPTA Conference in Germany. She regularly gives invited masterclasses and workshops to students through teacher organizations and universities. Kate Boyd is Professor of Piano and Piano Area Coordinator at Butler University. For eleven summers she taught at Interlochen Arts Camp in northern Michigan. She currently serves as state president of the Indiana Music Teachers Association.



Kingston Cao studies under Nona Zakharyan at Royal Academy The Sound of Music and serves as the Senior Representative for the Piano Department at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts. An award-winning pianist, Kingston has received first prize in numerous competitions including the International Cambridge Music Competition, Global Genius Music Competition, Liana Cohen Music Festival, MTAC Junior/Senior Competition, MTAC Contemporary Music Competition, and the Satori Music Festival Piano Open Category, where he was advanced and also named a recipient of the Special Achievement Award in the Grand Prize round. He also earned second prize at the Rotary District 5300 Dan Stover Music Contest, after advancing through club and regional rounds, competing

nationally in Las Vegas, Nevada. Outside of school, Kingston serves as President of Notes of Compassion, a student-run charity recital raising over \$2,000 for Los Angeles wildfire relief, and also a Co-President of the Royal Academy Sound of Music Suzuki Program, where he designs piano curriculum to provide free music education to students from underserved communities. Kingston will continue his studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, double-majoring in music performance and golf management.



Tierra Cassens is currently pursuing a D.M.A in Piano Performance at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, studying with Dr. Paul Barnes. As a graduate assistant, she collaborates in solo, chamber, and large ensemble settings and teaches keyboard skills. Tierra regularly organizes recitals throughout South Dakota with her husband, singer John Cassens, and in 2022 she co-founded Dakota Piano Camp, a summer piano experience for school-aged children. Internationally, Tierra performed at the Bedřich Smetana museum in Prague, Czechia as part of the International Summer Piano Courses at the Prague

Conservatory. Her research interests include writing style and decision-making in piano transcriptions, teaching and community outreach in rural areas, and reaching new audiences through genres such as film and video game music. Tierra received her M.M. in Piano Pedagogy and Performance from UNL and a Bachelor of Music Education from Northern State University in Aberdeen, South Dakota.



Tzu-yi Zoe Chen holds the Premier Prix from the Paris Conservatory and two graduate degrees from the Hochschule für Musik in Karlsruhe, Germany. She earned the Artist Diploma from Columbus State University, where she co-founded the International Friendship Ministries' Arts Academy. In 2023, she completed her DMA at the University of Maryland, College Park, with a dissertation on "Departure, Conflict, and Rebirth in the Musical Language of Franz Liszt." "Magnificent," wrote Frank Daykin in the *New York Concert Review* about Tzu-yi's solo debut at Carnegie Hall. "She displayed...not only technical command, beautiful tone, total artistic involvement, deep feeling, stylistic understanding, but most

importantly, the feeling of spontaneity, even risk, that makes an evening truly memorable." The Review also described her 2019 piano-duo recital as "delightful" and a 2022 collaborative performance as "outstanding." Tzu-yi is on the artist roster of the New Asia Chamber Music Society, appearing on its album *Unforgettable Memories*, available on Apple Music. Her collaboration with the group at the Smithsonian's Freer Gallery included chamber music works by Beethoven as well as compositions by Taiwanese composers Shi-hui Chen and Ke-chia Chen. Recent appearances include recitals in Italy, Germany, and Taiwan. At home in Washington, DC, Tzu-yi's students have garnered more than 45 awards. In 2026, she will adjudicate Music Teachers Association events in Georgia, Washington D.C. and Northern Virginia.



Hyejin Cho is an active soloist and chamber musician with a career spanning the United States, Europe, and Asia. Known for her deep engagement with the works of Robert Schumann, she founded a multi-state concert series dedicated to his repertoire, supported by the Missouri Arts Council, the University of Michigan, and the Kate Neal Kinley Memorial Fellowship. Her performances have been broadcast globally via Parma Recordings and featured on the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series (WFMT 98.7FM) and the Wheaton College Artist Series. Beyond the traditional canon, Cho is a prominent advocate for gender balance and the visibility of women composers. Her research and performance projects focus on elevating figures such as Cécile Chaminade and Vivian Fine, the latter of whom she recorded for Albany Records. A centerpiece of her recent work is "The Mendelssohns," an initiative that restores the voice of Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel by highlighting the Easter Sonata—a masterpiece misattributed to her brother for over 150 years. Cho serves on the piano faculty at the Wheaton College Conservatory of Music and holds degrees from the University of Michigan and Indiana University.



Pianist **Clara Christian** is Professor of Music and Keyboard Area Coordinator at College of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, Missouri and currently resides in Brentwood, CA. She has performed and given masterclasses throughout the U.S. and abroad, including several solo recitals of Prokofiev sonatas in St. Petersburg, Russia. Dr. Christian received her D.M.A at Northwestern University with Alan Chow, her M.M. from the Peabody Institute with Ellen Mack, and her B.M. in piano performance at Wheaton College with Daniel Horn. A frequent collaborative artist, she has given several premieres with her trio *Fuse*, which formed in 2014. As a lifelong champion of living composers, she is currently working on a project premiering a series of newly commissioned solo piano works. Performances and awards include the Chicago Cultural Center, a solo appearance with the Missouri Philharmonic, a 2022 finalist for the American Prize in Piano Performance, professional division, and a semi-finalist in the 2017 Franz Liszt Festival and International Competition. In the summer of 2025 Dr. Christian collaborated with several other members of the American Liszt Society and served as a faculty artist at the Excelsior Piano Academy in Sondershausen, Germany, near Liszt's home in Weimar.



Pianist **Gabriel Dobner** has played for such notable singers as Kevin McMillan, Rod Gilfry, Gerhard Siegel and René Kollo. He has recorded for Hänssler Klassik, Ottavo and for MDG in Germany and the Netherlands. Following his second recording with Mezzo-Soprano Cornelia Kallisch for MDG featuring Lieder of Johannes Brahms, Mr. Dobner was referred to as 'A Master among Lieder Pianists' by the West German Radio. His first recording with Metropolitan opera Tenor, Gerhard Siegel was released by Haenssler Klassik Profil in 2015, featuring songs of Strauss, Schoenberg and Hesseberg. The duo has since released three additional recordings, the most recent of which was in September of 2026, including Mahler, Schumann, Schreker and Siegel. Broadcast recordings include those for the Bavarian State Radio, West German Radio, North German Radio, Nippon Broadcasting Corporation in Japan, and *Saint Paul Sunday*. Gabriel Dobner has appeared in concert in many of Europe's leading venues including the opera houses of Dresden, Hamburg and Zürich, as well as Herkuleesaal in Munich, Kölner Philharmonie, Musikverein in Vienna, among others. Additional performances have taken place throughout the United States, Japan and South Korea. Gabriel Dobner has been a member of the piano faculty at James Madison University since 2001. He also joined the faculty of AIMS in Graz, Austria in 2017 where he teaches German Lieder.



The playing of pianist **Ryan Fogg** has been described as “brilliant, with a high level of polish, impressive technical command, musical understanding and sensitivity.” Over the past several years, he has performed over 100 solo recitals in 24 states, and he made his Carnegie Hall debut at Weill Recital Hall in 2024. He is excited to perform at the ALS Festival for the first time. In addition to being an active solo recitalist, he is an avid chamber musician and concerto soloist. In 2011, he released a CD recording through Albany Records entitled “The Fogg Project,” featuring new works by American composers. A subsequent review of the recording by Fanfare Magazine described Fogg as “an excellent pianist, drawing an impressive range of sounds out of his instrument.” Originally from Houston, Texas, Dr. Fogg holds degrees in piano performance from The University of Texas at Austin, The University of Houston, and East Texas Baptist University, with additional studies at the Aspen Music Festival and the Adamant Music School. Since 2006 he has served on the music faculty at Carson-Newman University in Jefferson City, Tennessee, where he currently holds the position of Professor of Music and Director of Keyboard Studies.



Richard Fountain, Dean and Professor of Piano in the School of Creative Arts at Wayland Baptist University, enjoys a varied career as soloist, orchestral pianist, collaborator, and chamber musician. Fountain is one of very few pianists to perform the complete cycle of Franz Liszt's monumental transcriptions of Beethoven's nine symphonies. His solo and concerto repertoire highlights American music from all eras, and he is also devoted to the poetic and religious music of Liszt. Fountain holds the positions of Principal Keyboard with Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra and the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra.

His major teachers and mentors include David Gerard, Leon Harshenin, Paul Barnes, Malcolm Bilson, and Luiz de Moura Castro. Born and raised in Springfield, Nebraska, Fountain holds degrees from Taylor University (BM) and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (MM, DMA), and earned an MBA from Wayland Baptist University. Fountain is co-founder and faculty member of the Excelsior Piano Academy, a biannual summer festival in Sondershausen, Germany. He serves regularly on the jury of the Los Angeles International Liszt Competition, and performs regularly as part of the Bergonzi Trio with John Gilbert, violin, and George Work, cello. Fountain was named the 2024 "Teacher of the Year" by the Texas Music Teachers Association.



Andrew Fowler is a composer and pianist. His works have received acclaim in venues such as Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Nobel Conference on Peace, and Piccolo Spoleto. His articles on Liszt include "Franz Liszt's *Années de Pèlerinage* as Megacycle" (Journal of the American Liszt Society), "Motive and Program in Liszt's *Vallée d'Obermann*" (Journal of the American Liszt Society), and "Franz Liszt's Petrarch Sonnets: The Persistent Poetic Problem." (Indiana Theory Review.) Fowler is Senior Lecturer at Coastal Carolina University, Conway, South Carolina,

teaching music theory, aural skills, and piano. He received his B.A. (piano) and M.A. (music theory) from the University of South Carolina and the Ph.D. (music theory) from the University of Texas at Austin. A native South Carolinian, his interest in local history has led to works such as his 2010 opera *The Prince of Tides* (libretto by Fowler based upon the celebrated novel by Pat Conroy). He is best known for choral works and voice/piano song cycles. *The Ship* was composed in 2025 and receives its world premiere during this festival.



Pianist **Mark Franklin** is the Burton H. Patterson Assistant Professor of Music and Coordinator of Keyboard Studies at Oklahoma Baptist University, where he teaches applied piano, piano pedagogy, music theory, and group piano. An active performer, Franklin frequently appears in solo and collaborative engagements both within his local community and throughout the United States. His recent solo projects in the past year have included *Tenebrae*, a somber reflection upon the themes of Good Friday, a performance of Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 24 with the OBU/SCO, and the complete Etudes of Frédéric Chopin. Franklin was also the winner of Florida State University's Annual Competitive Festival as a graduate student in

2020. More recently, he was awarded Third Place for the American Prize's Ernst Bacon Award for the Performance of American Music in 2021. During the summers, he serves as faculty at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Michigan and Excelsior Piano Academy in Sondershausen, Germany. Franklin holds a DM and MM in Piano Performance from Florida State University, where he studied with Joel Hastings and Heidi Louise Williams, and earned his BM in Piano Performance from Wheaton College, studying with Dr. Daniel Paul Horn.



Sawyer Gage is a composer and educator based in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. He is currently teaching theory at James Madison University as an adjunct faculty member and has also served as an adjunct faculty member at the Baptist University of Florida. His output covers a variety of genres from various solo instruments, chamber ensembles, and wind ensembles, and has been featured in performances across the southeastern United States. Influenced by a variety of composers such as Debussy and Joseph Schwantner, and through a multifaceted use of harmony and timbre, Sawyer creates

blends of color to evoke both story and imagery inspired by the fantasy novels and paintings he loves. Beginning his compositional studies at the age of 22, he studied under Dr. Eric Guinivan and Dr. Jason Haney at James Madison University, earning his MM in Composition.



Pianist **Read Gainsford** has been described as possessing “[finger-numbing virtuosity and delicately chiseled precision](#)”. Born in New Zealand, he has performed widely in the USA, Europe, Asia, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, as solo recitalist, concerto soloist and chamber musician, making successful solo debuts in Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall and London's Wigmore Hall, as well as playing in the Kennedy Center, St Martin-in-the-Fields, Queen Elizabeth Hall, and others. Recent highlights include performing concertos with the Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra in Olomouc, Czechia, the Frenz

ensemble in Paris, and Orchestra da Camera in Champaign-Urbana, and tours across the USA including a fourth concert in Carnegie Hall. Gainsford was a founding member of Trio

Solis, was a member of the Garth Newel Chamber Players, and is a member of the Serafin Chamber Players. He has collaborated with the Audubon and Serafin Quartets, Pressenda Chamber Players, Aaron Berofsky, Kathryn Votapek, Richard Stoltzman, Jacques Zoon, Ricardo Morales, and many others. A keen supporter of living composers, he has premiered and recorded Ladislav Kubik's *3rd Piano Concerto* and Marc Satterwhite's *Five Rivers of Hades*, and recorded Ellen Taaffe Zwilich's *Images* for two pianos and orchestra. Highly in demand as a master-class clinician and teacher, he is Professor of Piano at [Florida State University](#).



Recognized for both his sensitivity and panache, pianist **Matthew Gianforte** enjoys an active career as a soloist, collaborator, and teacher, having performed across the United States and abroad. Highlights of past seasons include successful solo debut appearances in Zhejiang Province, China, Weill Hall, Sarada and Philia Halls (Japan), and at many American universities. He and his wife, Meeyoun Park, are highly sought-after performers of the duo-piano and four-hand literature, appearing regularly at festivals, conferences, and concert series across the country. Dr. Gianforte currently serves as Professor and Coordinator of Keyboard Studies at Murray State University in Kentucky. In addition to his collegiate teaching, he has taught at the Indiana University Piano Academy since 2004, and he regularly presents master classes and serves as an adjudicator in competitions. Matthew Gianforte is a graduate of Catholic University and Indiana University, where his primary teachers were Marilyn Neeley and Karen Shaw.



Daniel Glover has performed in 42 states and 28 countries throughout Europe, Asia, South America and the Caribbean. Mr. Glover has trained with such luminaries as Eugene List, Abbey Simon, Jerome Lowenthal, Nancy Bachus and Thomas LaRatta. He holds a Master's Degree from New York's Juilliard School, where he was a scholarship student. With a repertoire of 80 concerti for piano and orchestra, Mr. Glover has appeared regularly with over twenty Bay Area orchestras, as well as numerous orchestras nationally and internationally. He recently recorded the world premiere recordings of Felix Borowski's Piano Concerto in D minor and Beryl Rubinstein's Concerto in C with the Lithuanian National Symphony in Vilnius, Lithuania. In December 2025, Mr. Glover recorded four sonatas for violin/viola and piano by Hugo Kauder. These world premiere recordings will be released on the Toccata Classics label. In 2013, Mr. Glover gave the world premiere of the Piano Concerto by Lee Actor and recorded the work with the Slovak National Symphony in Bratislava, May 2014. He has previously recorded ten solo CDs. Mr. Glover has served on the faculties of New York University, the University of the Virgin Islands, University of San Francisco, and Notre Dame de Namur University.



Pianist **Gila Goldstein** is known as a versatile musician and has captivated audiences around the world with her unique artistry and soulful interpretations. Ms. Goldstein has performed as a solo artist and collaborative pianist throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, China, Korea, the Philippines, Europe, and Israel. A Board member of the American Liszt Society (ALS) and the Founder-President of its New York Chapter, she has been a frequent guest performer at the ALS annual festivals around the United States and Canada. Gila Goldstein has been a sought-after pedagogue and has given numerous master classes in the USA, China, Korea, and Israel. She is a member of the piano faculty at Longy School of Music in Boston. Ms. Goldstein has recorded two volumes of Paul Ben-Haim's entire piano and chamber works on the *Centaur* label. In July 2024, *Centaur* released her recording *Latin American Piano Gems*. On February 2025 her recording of *24 Preludes of Dusk and Dawn* by composer Ronn Yedidia was released on the *Albany* label/Parma Recordings. She obtained her music degrees in piano performance from the Manhattan School of Music where she studied with Prof. Nina Svetlanova and the Tel-Aviv University's School of Music, where her teacher was Prof. Victor Derevianko.



Elizabeth Grimpo is professor of music at Concordia University, Nebraska. She teaches four levels of Aural Skills courses, Music Appreciation, Beauty in Music and the Fine Arts, and private piano lessons. She collaborates with the top choirs on campus, regularly performing and touring with them. She performs with student musicians on a variety of recitals each semester. She also leads an annual Piano Day for high school pianists. In 2015, she received the student nominated Teacher of the Year award at the commencement ceremony. In 2023, she was inducted into the Steinway Teacher Hall of Fame in New York City. In addition to teaching, Grimpo regularly appears as a soloist, performing major works from the classical repertoire as well as newly composed piano pieces based on sacred tunes. She also regularly collaborates and performs with professional musicians in the area. She has written six volumes of Hymns of the Season, which contain graded settings of Lutheran hymns and easy hymn preludes for beginning through intermediate pianists. These are available through David's Harp - A Center for Musical Development. Grimpo received a B.M.E. from Concordia University, Chicago, and an M.M. and D.M.A. in piano performance from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



David Gross has performed solo concertos with the Berliner Symphoniker, Staatsorchester Frankfurt/Oder, Ensemble Oriol (Berlin), Rockford Symphony, Champaign-Urbana Symphony, Macon Symphony, Idaho Civic Symphony, Greenville Symphony, Anderson Symphony, Hendersonville Symphony, and Brevard Philharmonic. He has been featured as soloist on the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series in Chicago, on German NPR, and in the German National Public Television film “Singing Hands” (ARTE). His recording of the Lalo Piano Concerto with the Staatsorchester Frankfurt/Oder was an “engaging and honed performance” (*Fono Forum*), and his 2010 release of Voříšek piano works is available on Centaur Records. Praised by critics for his “perfect control of sound” (Nordsee-Zeitung) and playing that is “tender, rich and filled with color” (Greenville News), David Gross was a prizewinner in the international piano competitions in Marsala (Italy) and Bremen (Germany). David Gross grew up in Berlin/ Germany and holds degrees from the universities at München, Yale, Hannover, and Illinois, where his principal teachers include Ludwig Hoffmann, Arie Vardi, Daniel Pollack, Claude Frank, and John Wustman. Having held university positions in Germany, South Africa, and the US, he joined the faculty of Furman University in 2001.



Jun-Hee Han is a pianist and educator with experience on both fortepiano and modern piano. He has performed recitals, lecture-recitals, and concertos across the United States, including programs on both period and modern instruments, and has led Mozart and Beethoven concertos from the keyboard at several universities. Han is currently performing and recording the complete Beethoven piano sonatas on both fortepiano and modern piano, offering broader perspectives on these works. As co-founder of OMF Music Resources, he has presented masterclasses, lectures, and performances at institutions such as Boston University, Utah, Texas A&M–Corpus Christi, Truman State, Presbyterian, and East Central. He has also presented at MTNA and Historical Keyboard Society of North America conferences and has collaborated with several regional music teacher associations. Han holds a DMA from the University of Wisconsin–Madison and is on the piano faculty at North Central College.



N. Lincoln Hanks is a composer, singer, and conductor who thrives in the outer regions of music. As a singer, he specializes in medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque repertoire, performing with many Los Angeles early music groups, including Tesserae and Musica Angelica. He was a cofounder of The Concord Ensemble, an a cappella group that won the Grand Prize in the first Early Music America/Dorian Records Competition. As a specialist in new music, Lincoln conducts Pepperdine University's premiere new music group, The Pickford Ensemble. He is a composer whose works have been performed by many distinguished artists and ensembles, including the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra,

the Cyprus String Quartet, The Dale Warland Singers, and The California Bach Society. He has won the Contemporary Choral Composition Competition from the Roger Wagner Center for Choral Studies and received an ASCAP award. Lincoln was also honored as a finalist for the Lilly Fellows Program Arlin G. Meyer Prize for his dramatic cantata, *Tegel Passion*. His epic solo piano work, *Monstre sacré*, was featured on *New Generations*, a solo CD recording by pianist Paul Barnes under Philip Glass's Orange Mountain Music label. Lincoln currently serves as Dean of the Fine Arts Division and Professor of Music at Pepperdine University.



Happy Dog Duo—pianists **Eric Tran** and **Nathan Cheung**—has performed four-hands classics, originals, and transcriptions for two decades, with a focus on bringing humor and joy to the classical music world. They have performed across Europe, Asia, and 20 US states, and have appeared on Aspen Public Radio, WQXR, and NPR. Recent invitations include guest performances at Stanford University, the Chautauqua Institution, Juilliard, and Carnegie Hall. Their debut album will be released in 2026 on the German label *solo musica*. They are the only duo to have won three back-to-back major North American duo competitions: the 1st prize and Abild American

Music Award at the Ellis Duo-Piano Competition, hosted by the National Federation of Music Clubs; 1st prize at the MTNA-Stecher and Horowitz Two Piano Competition; and 1st prize at the Ohio International Duet and Duo Piano Competition. Outside of the United States, they were the first Americans to win the 1st prize in the Antón García Abril International Chamber Music Competition in Spain. They are among the few duos who have performed on the only Pleyel Double Grand in the Western Hemisphere. Orchestral performances include the Stanford Symphony Orchestra, Diablo Symphony Orchestra, Vallejo Symphony, and the Pittsburg Piano Festival Orchestra.



Benjamin Harding is a Canadian-American concert pianist, educator, and certified piano technician dedicated to cultivating artistry, technical mastery, and meaningful musical expression. He studied at the Manhattan School of Music and earned his Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Maryland. He is the founder of the St. Andrews International Piano Festival, an initiative that brings together emerging and established artists in an intensive artistic environment. A committed practitioner of the Taubman Approach, he currently studies with Edna Golandsky, developing a refined approach to efficient, injury-preventive technique and expressive freedom at the instrument.

As a performer, Harding is currently developing *When Stones Begin to Speak*, a mythopoetic recital program that, at the time of this conference, will be in active production and performance. The program weaves virtuosic piano repertoire with poetry and narrative into a deeply immersive concert experience. His repertoire spans a wide range of composers—from Johann Sebastian Bach and Frédéric Chopin to Franz Liszt and Béla Bartók—alongside contemporary voices such as Lowell Liebermann, Gustav Hoyer, J.

A. C. Redford, and David Bennett Thomas. His playing is marked by a distinctive artistic voice that seeks to engage modern audiences with depth, imagination, and narrative coherence. Harding is the co-founder of the Kalos Arts Foundation and hosts the Inside the Taubman Approach Podcast, where he explores piano technique and artistry with leading performers and pedagogues. Through his “Integrated Pianist” program, he mentors advanced pianists in achieving technical freedom, expressive depth, and sustainable artistry. He also serves as Director of Worship Ministries at New Life Presbyterian Church in Dresher, Pennsylvania.



Pianist **Daniel Paul Horn** performs in recital, on WFMT-FM, and with Midwestern orchestras; in 2015, he appeared with the Sarajevo Philharmonic. He collaborates with members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, played in Beijing and on Bermuda with the MasterWorks Ensemble, and has performed with the Ying Quartet. He works with noted singers, and with composers Jacob Bancks, Jacob Beranek, Delvyn Case, Richard Danielpour, David M. Gordon, Daniel Kellogg, and Max Raimi. He recorded the critically praised disc “Wanderings” on a Graf fortepiano, an all-Schumann solo recital, an album of music by Richard Danielpour, and discs with flutist Jennie Oh

Brown, cellist Donald Moline, soprano Carolyn Hart, and baritone Gerard Sundberg. Horn studied at Peabody with Walter Hautzig, and at Juilliard, where he worked with Martin Canin and Felix Galimir, and earned his doctorate. He has also coached with Jerome Lowenthal, Ann Schein, Joseph Bloch, and Roy Howat, Menahem Pressler. Currently Professor and Keyboard Chair at the Wheaton College Conservatory of Music, where he has taught since 1984, and was honored with an Senior Academic Achievement Award, he has served as a faculty artist at the Sewanee, Adamant, MasterWorks, and Dakota Sky festivals, and is treasurer of the American Liszt Society.



Gustav Hoyer studied composition at the University of Arizona, Colorado State University–Pueblo, the Aspen Summer Music Festival, and the Hartt School of Music, where he earned his M.A. in Musical Composition. He founded and directed the Los Angeles–based Orchestra Unleashed, producing a series of multimedia orchestral performances that reimagined the classical concert. He served as Artistic Director for NoCo Artists and produced the original soundtrack for the critically acclaimed stage epic “Acts, the Three Man Show.” His recorded music has been heard in film, on radio, and in performances worldwide. Recent recordings include Symphony No. 1 with the Royal

Scottish National Orchestra (Navona Records, 2024) and Rime of the Ancient Mariner with the Budapest Film Orchestra (Navona Records, 2024). He currently serves as President of the Kalos Arts Foundation.



Teimuraz Janikashvili is an internationally acclaimed violinist and concertmaster whose career spans more than three decades at the highest professional level. Trained within the Russian violin tradition and educated at the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory, he has appeared as soloist and principal orchestral leader with major symphony and opera institutions across Europe. In Spain, he has held prominent concertmaster positions with the National Orchestra of Spain, Teatro Real Madrid, Barcelona Symphony Orchestra (OBC), Castilla y León Symphony Orchestra, and the Galician Symphony Orchestra. His collaborations include performances under conductors such as Daniel Barenboim, Mariss Jansons, Yuri Bashmet, and Gianandrea Noseda. Alongside his orchestral work, he is an active chamber musician, educator, and artistic director, widely respected for his leadership, versatility, and musical depth. Over the past two years, based in the United States, he has expanded his artistic activity through an active involvement in solo and chamber music projects. He collaborates closely with pianist Paul Barnes and has developed concert and educational projects in partnership with institutions such as Concordia University (Nebraska) and the Kalos Foundation, while continuing his international career as soloist, concertmaster, and artistic director.



Junius Johnson is a writer, teacher, speaker, independent scholar, and musician. His work focuses on beauty, imagination, and wonder, and how these are at play in the Christian and Classical intellectual traditions. He is the executive director of Junius Johnson Academics, through which he offers innovative courses that aim to ignite hearts with wonder and intellectual rigor. An avid devotee of story, he is especially drawn to fantasy, science fiction, and young adult fiction. He performs professionally on the French horn and electric bass. He holds a BA from Oral Roberts University (English Lit), an MAR from Yale Divinity School (Historical Theology), and an MA, two MPhils, and a PhD (Philosophical Theology) from Yale University. He is the author of

5 books, including *The Father of Lights: A Theology of Beauty* and *On Teaching Fairy Stories*, and has authored volumes and been a contributing writer for the *Humanitas* series of history textbooks with Classical Academic Press. An engaging speaker and teacher, he is a frequent guest contributor to blogs and podcasts on faith and culture. He is co-host of *The Classical Mind* (<https://www.theclassicalmind.com/>), a podcast discussing the great books of the Western tradition, and the Director of Education for *The Maker's Project*.



Seth Johnson is a sophomore piano performance major at the University of Nebraska Lincoln studying under Dr. Paul Barnes. He has attended multiple piano camps including the 2025 Piano Plus Summer Institute in Xanthi, Greece. He has experienced playing in different ensembles ranging from duets, solo concertos, choir accompaniment, trios, and quintets. Outside of music, he enjoys hiking, fishing, reading, and playing sports. Besides piano, he learned to play violin, viola, and I have experience signing in a choir. He is very passionate about music and wants to pursue it professionally. His dream would be to get a doctoral degree, become a piano professor at a college, and perform on the side. He is thoroughly looking forward to the performances and lectures that are going to be at this festival.



Jeffrey L. Jones is well versed in both stage and concert repertoire. Stage credits include Melchior in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, Escamillo in *Carmen*, Belcore in *L'elisir d'amore*, Frank in *Die Fledermaus*, Father in *Hänsel und Gretel*, Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly* (Puccini), Papageno in *Magic Flute*, and Baron Douphol in *La Traviata*. Highlights of concert and oratorio solo credits: *Passion According to St. John* and *B Minor Mass* (Bach), *Requiem* (Brahms), *Requiem* (Duruflé), *Requiem* (Fauré), *Messiah* (Handel), *Elijah* (Mendelssohn), *Coronation Mass* and *Requiem* (Mozart), *Carmina Burana* (Orff), *Mass in G* (Schubert), *Belshazzar's Feast* (Walton) and *the Ninth Symphony* (Beethoven). He has performed with Arizona Opera, Atlanta Opera, Carolina Master Chorale, Chattanooga Symphony, Long Bay Symphony, Music in the Mountains Festival, the Phoenix Chorale, Piccolo Spoleto Festival, and the Robert Shaw Chamber Singers. Jones is a member of the music department faculty at Coastal Carolina University in South Carolina. He has taught at Grand Canyon University, the Arizona State University Herberger College-at-Large, and served as a voice coach at Arizona State University during the fall of 2006. Jeffrey was awarded a Doctor of Musical Arts in vocal performance at Arizona State University where he also received a Master of Music in opera performance. Jones has worked with the following teachers and coaches: Andrew Campbell, Jerry Doan, Harold Heiberg, Walter Huff, Jeffrey Norris, Juanita Peters, William Reber and Eckart Sellheim.



Tomasz Kamieniak is a Polish pianist and composer. His repertoire focuses on the works of Franz Liszt and Charles-Valentin Alkan, as well as less familiar composers. A graduate of the Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice, he also attended masterclasses with Konstantin Scherbakov and held consultations with Leslie Howard. He received the Special Prize at the 4th International Franz Liszt Piano Competition in Weimar. He has performed at festivals such as "Piano Extravaganza" in Sofia, "Indian Summer in Levoča," and "Les Nuits Romantiques" in Verbania. His concert history includes recitals at the Liszt Museums in Weimar

and Budapest, as well as performances in London, San Francisco, and Taiwan. In 2024, he opened the Polish Radio Chopin Festival in Antonin and performed at the Lobkowitz Palace in Prague Castle for the Harvard Law School Association of Europe. As a composer, Kamieniak writes chamber, vocal, and orchestral music. His works are performed by artists such as Anna Górecka, among others, and have been presented at the Warsaw Royal Łazienki Park, the Świętokrzyska Philharmonic, and the University of Warsaw, as well as at festivals including Dharma per Musica and Baroque Gardens of Art. In 2025, the Archetti Chamber Orchestra premiered his "Landschaften nach Caspar David Friedrich." His scores are published by MusePress (Japan) and Ars Musica (Poland). He lives in Berlin.



Critically acclaimed pianist **Joseph Kingma** has been praised by the New York Concert Review as “a rare gift... showing the command of a master and a composer’s insight.” First Prize winner of the 2017 American Liszt Society Franz Liszt International Piano Festival and Competition, he has performed extensively as a soloist and chamber musician, appearing with the Bartlesville, Monroe, Rapides, Manassas, and Gulfcoast symphonies, among others. His recital appearances include the Dame Myra Hess Concert Series (Chicago), Yamaha Artist Services (New York), the Music Institute of Chicago, and the Louisiana Piano Series International. His performances have been broadcast on Chicago’s 98.7 WFMT.

Passionate about teaching, Dr. Kingma served as Assistant Professor of Piano at Louisiana College (2016–2018) and Keyboard Division Coordinator and Assistant Professor at Palm Beach Atlantic University (2018–2023). In 2023, he founded an independent private studio in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he lives with his wife and five children. Dr. Kingma holds the D.M.A. from the University of Texas at Austin (Anton Nel), and M.M. and B.M. degrees from Rice University (Robert Roux). His website is www.josephkingma.com.



America’s only pianist to perform Rachmaninoff’s complete solo piano works, **Asiya Korepanova** is a pianistic powerhouse, also widely recognized as a composer, visual artist, and poet. A herald of a repertoire of over 60 piano concertos and solo works spanning five centuries, Asiya is a completist who enjoys performing cycles such as the 24 Liszt Etudes or Bach’s entire Well-Tempered Clavier. A prolific creator, Asiya studied composition with Albert Leman, the Composition Department Chair at the Moscow Conservatory and a student of Dmitry Shostakovich. She is the author of numerous original works and a remarkable body of piano transcriptions, including Richard Strauss’s *Ein Heldenleben*, Rachmaninoff’s *Cello Sonata*, Mussorgsky’s *Songs and Dances of Death*, Tchaikovsky’s *Manfred Symphony*, and many others. She also crafts original multimedia projects, merging her poetry and artwork with music by Liszt, Bach, Tchaikovsky, and Mussorgsky. Recent highlights include debut at the Tippet Rise art center, premiering *Amy Beach Piano Concerto* in South America with the Buenos

Aires Philharmonic, and debuts with the National Symphony Orchestra of Chile, the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, and the Abilene Symphony Orchestra. Upcoming publications include scores of her compositions—Poème for alto saxophone and piano and Con Brio for two pianos—as well as her piano solo transcription of Tchaikovsky’s Manfred Symphony and transcriptions of works by Bruckner, Berg, Tchaikovsky, Fauré, and Bach. In June, she continues directing Flatiron Festival, a two-week chamber music series in Manhattan. More info: www.asiya.us



Calvin Kotrba is a classical pianist dedicated to pursuing the true, the good, and the beautiful through music. Originally from Minnesota, he is currently pursuing his D.M.A. degree with Dr. Andrew Staupe at the University of Houston. Previously, he earned undergraduate degrees in piano performance and mathematics as a student of Dr. Ksenia Nosikova at the University of Iowa, and his master’s degree in piano performance with Prof. Gila Goldstein at the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, MA. As a soloist, Calvin was recently the first-prize winner of the 11th Rose Petroff College Piano Competition in San Antonio, TX, the 2025 International Young Artist Piano Competition in Washington, D.C., and the 2024 Thomas F. Hulbert International Piano Competition; in 2025 he was recognized as a semi-finalist for the Fulbright - Harriet Hale Woolley Scholarship in Paris, France. His recent festival appearances include studies with Anton Nel at the 2026 Aspen Music Festival in Colorado. In Houston, Calvin teaches undergraduate music theory and serves as organist at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Conroe, TX; he is also pursuing studies in choral conducting with Dr. Anthony Maglione. Calvin’s love of music is sustained and enriched by his Christian faith.



Gergely Kovács’ musical career is distinguished by numerous international competition successes and acclaimed performances on major stages worldwide. He earned second place at the Chopin Piano Competition in Budapest and top prizes at the International Liszt Piano Competitions in Budapest, Los Angeles, and New York. Kovács began his musical studies at an early age and continued at the Special Talents Department of the Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest, Hungary, where he is now a doctoral candidate. He has performed across Europe, Asia, and the United States, appearing at venues such as the Liszt Academy Grand Hall, Shanghai Concert Hall, SOTA Concert Hall, and Carnegie Hall in New York, where he performed Liszt’s E-flat major Piano Concerto with the St. Luke’s Orchestra in Stern Auditorium. A dedicated educator, he leads masterclasses worldwide. His awards include the Gundel Art Prize, Junior Prima Prize, and Cziffra Talent Prize. Kovács seeks to create a profound connection between music and audience, a philosophy reflected in his debut album with Hungaroton.



Jeffrey LaDeur is known for his rare blend of insight, spontaneity, and approachable, communicative stage presence. Having inherited a rich tradition of pianism and interpretation from Annie Sherter, student of Vlado Perlemuter and Alfred Cortot, LaDeur has established himself as a compelling exponent of classic and new repertoire. In March of 2018, LaDeur made his solo recital debut at Carnegie Hall on the centennial of Claude Debussy's death. LaDeur is the founder and artistic director of the San Francisco International Piano Festival and president of the American Liszt Society, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter. A chamber musician of distinction, Jeffrey's collaboration with mezzo soprano Kindra Scharich has produced *To My Distant Beloved*, an album exploring the connections between Beethoven and Schumann through cycles in song and solo piano works. An active educator, Jeffrey offers masterclasses frequently as guest artist in universities throughout the United States and coaches gifted pre-college piano and string ensembles at Young Chamber Musicians in Burlingame, California. LaDeur holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music and San Francisco Conservatory of Music in piano performance and chamber music, respectively. Jeffrey counts among his teachers Mark Edwards, Douglas Humpherys, Yoshikazu Nagai, and Robert McDonald.



Thomas Lanners has appeared as a solo and collaborative pianist and clinician throughout the U.S. and abroad, presenting his New York solo debut in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in 2004. His performances have been broadcast worldwide on programs such as American Public Media's *Performance Today*, BBC3 in London and RTÉ Radio 1's *Sunday Miscellany* in Ireland, among many others. He was named the 2014 Distinguished Music Teacher by the Oklahoma Music Teachers Association and was inducted into the Steinway & Sons Teacher Hall of Fame in 2021. Thomas has given performances, master classes, and lectures as a guest artist throughout North America, Europe and Asia. In recent summers he has served on the faculties of the Shanghai International Piano Festival and Institute (2018 and 2023), the Conero and AmiCaFest Piano Festivals in Italy, the 2025 and 2026 OpusOne International Music Festivals in California, and the 2024 International Keyboard Odysiad and Festival in Colorado. Thomas received his Master's and Doctoral degrees from the Eastman School as a student of Barry Snyder. He studied under John Perry at the Aspen Music Festival and Jerome Lowenthal at the Music Academy of the West. He is Professor Emeritus at Oklahoma State University.



Tiantian Liang is a pianist, organist, harpsichordist, and educator whose work bridges performance, scholarship, and advocacy. An active proponent of contemporary music and diverse composers, her performances and presentations both established and underrepresented voices. As a scholar and educator, Liang engages varied audiences through lecture-recitals and presentations that explore repertoire, pedagogy, and artistic practice. Her work has been featured at numerous national and regional conferences. Liang is Assistant Teaching Professor of Piano at Northern Arizona University.

She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, along with additional degrees from Indiana University, Rice University, and Concordia College.



José López is Professor and Coordinator of the Piano Studies program at Miami's Florida International University, president of the South Florida Chapter of the American Liszt Society, and Honorary Officer (Secretary) of the United Kingdom's Alkan Society. A versatile pianist and enthusiastic performer of chamber music, he has recorded for the SNE, Albany, Innova and Toccata Classics record labels. His discography for Toccata Classics includes the complete piano works of dodecaphonic Italian composer Riccardo Malipiero; Alkan's complete Mozart transcriptions and an ongoing series dedicated to forgotten Cuban/Spanish composers, with the 2015 release of works

by José Comellas (1842-1888) and Nicolás Ruiz Espadero (1832-1890) in 2019. A major part of his current research centers on publishing XIX-century works by Cuban-born-or domiciled-composers. López received his music degrees from the University of Miami School of Music, where he studied with Rosalina Sackstein, a former pupil of Rafael de Silva and Claudio Arrau.



Lindsey Macchiarella is a musicologist and Associate Professor of Music at the University of Texas at El Paso. She received her Ph.D in historical musicology and certificate in early music studies from Florida State University. Her research interests are broad, though her primary area of research specialization is early modernism in fin-de-siècle France and Russia. She is lead editor of *Rethinking Scriabin*, forthcoming from Oxford University Press, and is currently working on a biography, *Toward the Flame: The Life of Aleksandr Skryabin*. She has published articles on Scriabin, Erik Satie, and other topics in *Music in Art*, *Keyboard Perspectives*, and the *Journal of the Scriabin*

Society of America. She currently serves on the board of directors of the Scriabin Society of America. Dr. Macchiarella is also an avid early music performer on the recorder and viola da gamba, playing with groups in the southwest, including *Sprezzatura* and the *Society of*

Forgotten Instruments. She is the founder and director of the UTEP Early Music ensemble and Collegium Musicum and serves on the Board of Directors for the Viola da Gamba Society of America. She is the 2023 recipient of the Thomas Binkley Award from Early Music America and was Project director of the NEA-funded Early Music Latin America Festival.



Solar Manley, a freshman at UNL's Glenn Korff School of Music and student of Dr. Paul Barnes, started playing piano at age four under the tutelage of his grandmother, Janelda Barnett. He grew up in Bloomington Indiana, and took advantage of the IU Jacobs Young Pianists program during high school, studying with Fred Hammond. He began participating in competitions in 2023, and has been named a finalist on several occasions, including a 2025 first place prize in the Bloomington Symphony Orchestra Youth Concerto Competition. Following the competition, he performed the first movement of Mendelssohn's 1st Piano Concerto with the orchestra. Solar has also enjoyed exploring other genres, including jazz and folk. In high school, he performed regularly with various ensembles on many different instruments, such as the guitar, clarinet, saxophone, banjo, and accordion. He also loves to compose, improvise, and sing whenever he gets the chance.



Serbian pianist **Stefan Markovic** began studying piano at the age of eight at the "Davorin Jenko" Music School in the class of Barbara Milošević and later continued his studies at the "Vojislav Vučković" Music School in the class of Sandra Predojević. In 2009, he enrolled in piano studies at the Faculty of Music, University of Belgrade, where he completed his undergraduate degree and subsequently earned his master's degree. In 2015, he continued his piano studies in Germany at the University of Music in Karlsruhe, studying with Professors Markus Stange and Anna Zassimova. He then continued his education at the University of Music Carl Maria von Weber in Dresden, where he graduated with highest honors from postgraduate studies under the guidance of renowned pianists Professors Markus Groh of Germany and Arkadi Zenziper of Russia. His international career then continued in the United States, at the University of Nebraska, where he is completing his doctoral studies under the guidance of Dr. Paul Barnes. At present, he serves as a Graduate Teaching Assistant at the University of Nebraska. During his education, he performed in numerous concerts in several European countries and participated in masterclasses with distinguished pianists, including Bruno Canino (Italy), Tibor Szász (Freiburg), Stefan Arnold (Berlin), and Bernd Goetzke (Hanover). He has received several scholarships, among the most significant being the Dositej Scholarship for the best Serbian students, a scholarship from the renowned Carl Bechstein Foundation in Berlin, and the Othmer Fellowship from the University of Nebraska.



Canadian baritone **Kevin McMillan** is a renowned performer and vocal pedagogue. His performing career has spanned over 40 years with more than 900 concerts, 16 professional recordings, a Grammy award, a Gramophone award, and numerous Juno award nominations. He has been described as *an outstanding Schubertian whose voice of glowing freshness and beauty is at the service of an intelligent, lively, and distinctive personality*. A number of his students have proceeded to establish performing careers, both in North America and Europe, and those who have chosen to follow other paths, have done so possessing scientifically-sound and historically informed perspectives on singing.

He recently retired at the rank of Full Professor after decades at James Madison University in Virginia, USA. His studio based in Stratford, Ontario, Canada is well-established as an international center for professional voice users with clients from all over the world both online and in-person.



Jorge Modolell is a musicologist specializing in nineteenth-century music, with emphasis on Franz Liszt. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Miami's Frost School of Music and a Ph.D. from Washington University in St. Louis. His first research project, published in the *Journal of the American Liszt Society*, examined the American reception of Liszt's symphonic and choral works and how this literature shaped music criticism. Recently, his research has focused on Liszt's relationship with St. Francis of Assisi and the composer's Franciscan-inspired compositions. Drawing on semiotic analysis, he offers new readings that illuminate their

narrative and spiritual dimensions. Dr. Modolell has presented his work at regional and national conferences, including the American Musicological Society, the American Liszt Society, the University of Miami Graduate Musicology Forum, and the Brandeis University Musicology Conference. He is a recipient of the American Musicological Society's Eileen Southern Travel Grant and Washington University's Chancellor's Graduate Fellowship, a competitive six-year award granted to select graduate students. Dr. Modolell serves on the piano faculty at Webster University's Community Music School and as an adjunct lecturer in music history at Washington University in St. Louis. He is also Vice President of Membership for the Saint Louis Area Music Teachers Association.



Described as a "phenomenal talent" by the Atlanta Audio Club, Peruvian pianist **Priscila Navarro** is the first prize winner of several international competitions, including the Liszt-Garrison International Competition in Baltimore, Maryland, Beethoven Sonata Competition in Tennessee, Chopin International Competition of Texas, Artist Series of Sarasota, Florida, Imola City Awards, Italy, and the Heida Hermanns International Music Competition in Connecticut. Priscila made her Carnegie Hall solo recital debut in 2013 as an international competition winner and her Kennedy Center debut in 2022. She

received a Special Bach prize at the International City of Vigo Competition in Spain, where she was one of five finalists from over 400 participating pianists, with a jury presided by Martha Argerich. Her performances in England in 2021 were streamed on BBC public radio as well as the Medici TV channel. She received the Christa-Marshall Bach foundation prize from the Leipzig Bach foundation. This past season, she performed as soloist with orchestras in the US, Europe, and Latin America, playing Rachmaninoff's third piano concerto, Ravel's concerto, Schumann's concerto, and several of Bach's concerti. Priscila is Assistant Professor of piano at the University of Kansas.



Duy Nguyen is currently studying under Dr. Paul Barnes at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, where he is pursuing a double degree in Piano Performance and Actuarial Science.

His musical achievements include winning first prize three consecutive times at the Mid-America Music Association Piano Festival, winning second and third place prizes at the Missouri Music Teachers Association, winning second prize at the Missouri Federation of Music Clubs, and winning second prize at the Mid-America Performing Arts Alliance Youth Piano Competition. Recently, during his freshman year of college, Duy won at the state level for the

MTNA Young Artist Solo Piano Competition, where he later competed at the regional level. Duy's high school experience of playing the violin has given him a passion for orchestral music, where he performed Felix Mendelssohn's *The Hebrides*, Op. 26 "Fingal's Cave," with the UNL Orchestra for a masterclass with the Boston Pop's Keith Lockhart. Outside of music, Duy enjoys mathematics and reading a variety of fantasy-themed stories. He is also an avid lover of all types of video games, appreciating the creativity and imagination they offer.



Raised in Lee's Summit, Missouri, **Khang Nguyen** started playing piano since he was five years old. At the age of ten he picked up the violin, excelling at both instruments in local competitions. It was not until high school when he ultimately chose the piano as his main instrument, and during those years he won 1st place twice in the Mid-America Music Association in the AA and Junior Virtuoso divisions. He holds a bachelor's degree in piano performance in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he studied with Dr. Paul Barnes and is currently pursuing a master's in piano pedagogy at the University of South Carolina with

Dr. Scott Price, taking applied lessons under Dr. Nicolas Susi. He is both a church pianist experienced in Roman Catholic liturgy and a local piano instructor.



Jaime O'Neill is a graduate teaching assistant at the Glenn Korff School of Music, where he serves as a conductor with the University Singers and directs the Big Red Singers, the University of Nebraska–Lincoln’s premier show choir. Beyond the university, he is the Director of Music at Christ United Methodist Church in Lincoln, where he leads a vibrant church music program and coordinates choral and worship activities. His research interests center on choral pedagogy, curriculum design, and the relationship between musical analysis and performance interpretation. He is particularly interested in how backward design can inform rehearsal strategies and deepen student engagement in ensemble settings. O’Neill’s recent work explores

connections between historical context, performance practice, and audience reception, including studies of nineteenth-century music culture and modern parallels in listener culture and celebrity reception. His work as both a conductor and scholar reflects a commitment to bridging academic inquiry with practical application in the choral rehearsal and performance space.



Meeyoun Park has performed to critical acclaim throughout the United States and abroad as both a soloist and collaborator, having played in significant venues such as Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, and Lincoln Center. A highly sought-after collaborative pianist, her artistic versatility has led to collaboration with many renowned singers, instrumentalists, and opera companies throughout the world. Equally at home as an artist-teacher, Dr. Park is currently Professor of Music at Murray State University, having previously served as a staff accompanist at the Oberlin Conservatory and DePauw University. Since 2017, Dr. Park has been on the faculty of the Indiana University Summer Piano Academy, and she regularly serves as a masterclass

clinician and guest adjudicator in competitions. A native of Seoul, Korea, Dr. Park graduated from Yonsei University and Indiana University. Her primary teachers include Karen Shaw, Bong-Ae Shin, Sung Yup Hwang, and Yunghae Chun.



Canadian pianist **Derek Parsons** made his orchestral debut at age 12 and has enjoyed a four-decade career performing across three continents. Critics have praised him as “a wonderfully sensitive musical artist” with “extraordinary technique” (*The Brantford Expositor*), his performances described as “a drama of epic proportions”, “in total command (*The Evening Telegram*) and “the range of colors is impressive” (*American Record Guide*). His repertoire spans a wide spectrum of styles, genres, and periods. His solo disc, **Liszt: The Poet Inspired** was released in June 2015. An active member of the **American Liszt Society**, Parsons was Host and Artistic Director of the 2018 Festival, served on the jury of the

2021 Los Angeles International Liszt Competition, and in 2024 joined the ALS Board of

Directors as Editor of the ALS Newsletter. A graduate of the University of Western Ontario and the University of Michigan, he has taught at **Furman University** since 1988, where he is Keyboard Area Coordinator. While in South Carolina, he has enjoyed a long and productive association with the SCMTA, including President of the organization from 2010-2012. Fulfilling a career-long goal, he co-authored a piano reduction of Healey Willan's Piano Concerto, published in 2017 by the Healey Willan Society, and has presented it throughout the US and internationally.



Pianist **Éva Polgár** is praised for her “intelligent interpretations” (Funzine Magazine) and “emotional power” (New York Concert Review). She has performed at major venues including Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, the Gewandhaus zu Leipzig, and the Franz Liszt Museum in Budapest, collaborating with distinguished conductors such as Tamás Vásáry, Horst Förster, and Okko Kamu. Deeply connected to her Hungarian heritage, Polgár specializes in the works of Franz Liszt and Béla Bartók. Her album *Liszt: Harmonies patriotiques et religieuses* was released by Hunnia Records, and she has appeared as an expert panelist on BBC World

Service's podcast *The Forum*. She is also engaged in interdisciplinary collaborations with visual artist Sándor Vály, producing experimental projects broadcast by Finnish Radio. A prizewinner and co-director of the Los Angeles International Liszt Competition, Polgár is a dedicated educator and currently serves as Assistant Professor of Piano at East Tennessee State University. Her 2026–2027 season includes appearances at the Flatiron Festival, the San Francisco International Piano Festival, the American Liszt Society Festival and the Gödöllő Liszt Festival. She will also perform Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto in G minor in Budapest. She was recently elected to serve as Executive Secretary of the American Liszt Society.



Philip M. Powell, Professor of Music at Coastal Carolina University, is an acclaimed pianist and pedagogue whose career spans decades of performance and teaching. His concerts are frequently heard on South Carolina Public Radio, and he has performed with the South Carolina Symphony Orchestra, the Jupiter Symphony, and many times as a soloist with the Long Bay Symphony, playing repertoire ranging from Mozart to Gershwin. As a collaborative pianist, Powell has appeared with distinguished artists including Martina Arroyo, Ignat Solzhenitsyn, Sungwon Yang, Jasmine Choi, David Jolley, Tine Thing Helseth, and Valerie Coleman. He also funded the Coastal Chamber Players in

2019. In 2021, Powell was inducted into the Steinway Teacher Hall of Fame and helped CCU achieve the “All-Steinway School” designation. He earned both his Master's and Doctorate of Music from Indiana University, where he studied with legendary teachers Karen Shaw, Shegio Neriki and Michel Block. Powell also serves as President of the ALS South Carolina Chapter and holds leadership roles with numerous arts organizations statewide.



Dmitry Rachmanov is a founding member and the President of the American Liszt Society's Southern California Chapter; in 2016 he served as the Artistic Director of the ALS Festival "Liszt and Russia," hosted by CSUN. Rachmanov is the President of the Scriabin Society of America, and he has given world tours featuring the music of Alexander Scriabin. His April 2014 recital at Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall was called "a 'poem of ecstasy' in every sense: giant in conception, quantity, quality, execution, thoughtfulness, and sensitivity" by the New York Concert Review. Rachmanov has appeared at New York's Carnegie Hall, Washington DC's Kennedy Center, London's Barbican and South Bank Centres, in major halls of China, and was soloist with London Soloists Chamber Orchestra, Ukraine National Symphony, National Orchestra of Porto and Vidin Sinfonietta. He has recorded for Naxos, Parma and Cambria labels. Dr. Dmitry Rachmanov is the Chair of Keyboard at CSU Northridge. In 2018-19 he was named the Research Fellow at CSUN's Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication. In the summer of 2019, he was a resident at the Brahms House in Baden-Baden, Germany. Rachmanov is the Artistic Director of OpusOne International Music Festival based in Los Angeles.



Originally from Eldorado, IL, **Madeline Rogers** earned a Master of Music from Indiana University Jacobs School of Music as a student of André Watts, and a Doctorate in Musical Arts from the University of Nebraska with Dr. Paul Barnes. Rogers is an accomplished solo and collaborative performer in the US and abroad. Rogers is a recurring scholar at Brahms Haus Baden-Baden, Germany, where she performs biennially. Other significant international performances include solo and collaborative recitals in England, Spain, Italy, Vietnam, and Argentina. A proponent of American composers, Rogers worked closely with Victoria Bond to revive a piano concerto that was last performed in 1997 and was the first to premiere the two-piano version of the concerto in 2021. Her latest research is on H. Leslie Adams, whom she interviewed extensively to revive, edit, and republish his sonatas for horn and cello through the American Composers Alliance. Rogers is Co-Artistic Director of Amadeus Lex, a Kentucky-based chamber music ensemble dedicated to providing accessible and engaging classical concerts to the public. A Nationally Certified Teacher of Music, Rogers was previously an Artist-Faculty member at the Omaha Conservatory of Music and is currently Assistant Professor of Keyboard Studies at Berea College.



Neil Rutman has distinguished himself as a top prize winner in several international competitions including the Busoni, Kapell, Casadesus, Joanna Hodges, Concert Artist Guild, and International Johann Sebastian Bach Competition. His recordings include two Mozart Piano Concerti with the Academy of London Orchestra, an all Poulenc CD, with Emmy Award winning actor Tony Randall providing the narration in 'The Story of Babar the Little Elephant', and all Chopin release on the Pro Musica label. His well received book, 'Stories, Images, and Magic from the Piano Literature' was, upon release, 3 Hot New Release on Amazon. A native of San Francisco and graduate of the Eastman School and Peabody Institute, Neil Rutman has just retired as Klipsch Artist-in-Residence at the University of Central Arkansas. His students have won top prizes in the Kappell International Competition, the East West Artist Auditions in New York City, and the Clara Wells Competition. A former amateur boxer, Mr. Rutman still coaches the University of Central Arkansas Boxing Team and is a volunteer Probation Officer for at risk youth in the Faulkner County Juvenile Court.



Pianist **Robert Satterlee** has developed a reputation as an accomplished and versatile solo recitalist and chamber musician, playing regularly throughout the United States. He has completed many tours of China, as well performing concerts in Sweden, Holland, Germany, Italy, Greece, Serbia, Romania, Thailand and Kenya. Music of our time plays an important role in Satterlee's performing activity. In June of 2004 he was invited to perform at the Music04 festival in Cincinnati, where he shared a program with the composer and pianist Frederic Rzewski. He has released two CD's of his music, and the first was selected by the New York Times as one of the outstanding classical recordings of 2014. Satterlee was appointed in the fall of 1998 to the piano faculty of Bowling Green State University in Ohio, where he teaches a studio of students from all over the United States and abroad. His students have been prize-winners in many competitions and hold teaching positions throughout the United States and China. Satterlee teaches at the Interlochen Arts Camp in the summer, and holds degrees in piano from Yale University, Peabody Conservatory, and the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music.



Praised by The New York Times for her “thoughtful musicality” and “fleet-fingered panache,” **Liza Stepanova** has performed at the Berlin Philharmonic Hall, in New York City at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully, Merkin, David Geffen, and Steinway halls, and at the Kennedy Center; as a soloist with conductors James DePreist and Nicholas McGegan; and live on WQXR New York, WFMT Chicago, and WETA Washington. In 2025 and 2026, she performs and teaches at Brevard, Adamant and Bowdoin festivals, at CU Boulder, Ohio State, James Madison, and Vanderbilt, and tours with the Lysander Piano Trio at Rockefeller Concerts in NYC, Music at Kohl Mansion in San Francisco, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, and the Cleveland Chamber Music Society. Stepanova’s solo recordings have been featured in *Gramophone*, *BBC Music Magazine*, *International Piano*, on *Performance Today*, and in *Musical America Worldwide* as a “New Artist of the Month.” This fall, Stepanova joins the faculty at Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. She previously taught at The Juilliard School, Smith College, and the University of Georgia. Her students are regularly admitted to elite summer festivals and graduate programs and have received top awards at MTNA National, YoungArts, Wideman, and other competitions. Stepanova holds degrees from the “Hanns Eisler” Academy in Berlin, Germany, and a DMA from The Juilliard School.



Rebekah Stiles is a pianist and educator working at the intersection of theology and the arts. She holds bachelor’s degrees in Piano Performance and Bible from Cairn University and a M.Mus. and D.M.A. in Piano Performance from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her doctoral research explored the aesthetic implications of Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Protestant theology via select piano works of Arvo Pärt, Olivier Messiaen, and J. S. Bach. As a performer, Rebekah is a versatile interpreter of both solo and chamber repertoire, with experience in the US and abroad. She has been a repeated

participant in the Piano Plus Festival’s Summer Institute in Xánthi, Greece, and she has also performed as soloist at Carnegie Hall, receiving first-place honors in the Crescendo International Music Competition. Rebekah currently works at Cairn University as an Affiliate Artist and member of the adjunct music faculty, and she is active as a studio teacher and performer in the Philadelphia area.



Pianist **Vedrana Subotić** has delighted audiences in hundreds of concerts across North and South Americas, Europe, and Asia. She has performed over five hundred works in the solo, chamber, and concerto genres and has been praised by critics for delivering performances of "shimmering beauty and thundering power." Subotić has also been noted for audience outreach and interactive concert formats. Recent performances include concertos by Brahms, Rachmaninoff, Prokofiev, and Beethoven, complete chamber works with piano by Beethoven and Brahms, and recitals of Beethoven and Liszt sonatas. Her recording of the Liszt B minor Sonata from the 2024 album "Chiaroscuro" debuted to critical acclaim from *Textura*, *Earrelevant*, and the *American Record Guide*, among others. *Music Web International* described it as a "powerhouse performance that really grips the listener from the first moment and doesn't let go until the gradually descending notes, which create yet more drama, ending the sonata and leaving the listener with a feeling of awe." An admirer of contemporary music, Subotić frequently commissions and performs new works, and has recorded for the Sony and Centaur labels. Born in Kotor, Montenegro to a nuclear physicist and an art historian, Subotić grew up and studied in Belgrade, Serbia. She attended the University of Belgrade at age 15. After winning the former Yugoslavia's national piano competition at age 19, Subotić moved to the US. She continued her piano studies at Michigan State University under the tutelage of the Van Cliburn laureate Ralph Votapek and later at Indiana University where she completed an Artist Diploma and a Doctorate with the legendary pianist and founder of the Beaux Arts Trio, Menahem Pressler.



Described in *The WholeNote* as "an innovative musician and aggressive thinker with a gift for keyboard brilliance," pianist **Nicholas Susi** enjoys a multifaceted career as performer, clinician, adjudicator, and lecturer. His artistry has been recognized through top prizes in such competitions as the NFMCA Young Artist Award, while his research has been awarded prestigious grants from the *Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst* amongst others. Noteworthy appearances include two concerts for the Princess von Hohenzollern, his semifinalist recital during the 2014 International Franz Liszt Piano Competition (Utrecht, The Netherlands), and concerto solos with several orchestras across the United States and Europe. His debut recording, *Scarlatti Now*, received critical acclaim and international radio airplay. A new recording featuring works by the Ecuadorian composer Luis Humberto Salgado will be released late 2026 under the Naxos label. Dr. Susi is Associate Professor of Piano at the University of South Carolina, Artistic Director of the Southeastern Piano Festival, and Immediate Past President of the American Matthey Association. He received his doctorate from the University of Michigan, with previous studies at the University of Kansas and Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln. Primary teachers include Zena Ilyashov, Jack Winerock, Nina Tichman, and Arthur Greene.



Hungarian pianist **Peter Toth** has concertized in twenty different countries all over the world. He has won top prizes at numerous piano competitions, such as the American Paderewski Piano Competition (2013), the Franz Liszt International Piano and Voice Competition in Los Angeles (2010), and the Franz Liszt International Piano Competitions in Budapest (2001) and Weimar (2000). His first released CD recording won the Grand Prize of the Hungarian Liszt Society (2006). In 2015, Toth earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in piano performance at the University of Texas at Austin. His scholarly activities have included the investigation of the progressive harmonic language of Franz Liszt's piano music. His article, "Symmetrical Pitch Constructions in Liszt's Piano Music", was published in the Spring of 2016. In 2017, Toth joined the music faculty of Fairleigh Dickinson University (Madison, New Jersey). He was also a music faculty member at Rutgers University (New Brunswick, New Jersey) between 2016 and 2019. His students have garnered top prizes at various piano competitions. Toth has been a member of the American Franz Liszt Society since 2011.



Formed at James Madison University, **The Unfolding Duo** emerged from an intimate house concert in the summer of 2024 that sparked their artistic collaboration. Rooted in a shared passion for intimate recital experiences, the duo reflects an artistic connection between pianists **Aleksandra Velgosh** and **Alyssa Conde**, both DMA Candidates under the mentorship of Gabriel Dobner. This collaboration inspired Alyssa to create the Shenandoah Valley House Concert Series, fostering community engagement through innovative and accessible performances in homes throughout the Valley. Throughout 2025, the duo appeared in the Staunton Music Festival, the American Liszt Society Conference, and JMU's New Music Symposium as part of the American Liszt Society Collegiate Chapter, of which Aleksandra serves as President. Dedicated advocates for contemporary music; they regularly collaborate with composers and present premieres of newly written works. The name *The Unfolding Duo* reflects their evolving artistic journey and the intersection of their cultural backgrounds—Russia and the Dominican Republic—united through a shared musical voice. Their performances emphasize storytelling, and a thoughtful exploration of repertoire that bridges traditions and expressive possibilities.



University Singers is the premier and historic flagship choral ensemble of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, comprising the University's finest and most versatile singers from across all majors and rehearsing 240 minutes weekly. The ensemble performs repertoire spanning the thirteenth century to the present, including works written especially for them, and has appeared at major state, regional, and national conventions, with featured solo performances at Carnegie Hall in 2001, 2008, and 2016, as

well as international tours supported by major endowments and the Glenn Korff School of Music. University Singers has collaborated with leading orchestras and an extraordinary roster of renowned conductors, composers, and ensembles, and under the direction of Peter A. Eklund has presented major choral masterworks by composers such as Bach, Brahms, Britten, Verdi, Bernstein, Orff, Mozart, and Fauré, along with large-scale choral-orchestral and operatic projects. Over its 130+ year history, the choir has also produced a distinguished lineage of alumni who have gone on to lead major university music programs nationwide, and regional/national leaders/luminaries including multiple ACDA National Presidents.



Described by *International Piano Magazine* as “one of the most gifted pianists of his generation,” **Mark Viner** has established himself as one of Britain’s leading concert pianists, acclaimed for his individuality and adventurous approach to lesser-known piano repertoire. He began playing at 11 and, two years later, won a scholarship to the Purcell School, where he studied with Tessa Nicholson. He continued his training at the Royal College of Music under Niel Immelman, graduating with first-class honours in 2011 and a Master of Performance with distinction in 2013—the same year he performed before HM the King. After winning first prize at the Alkan-Zimmerman International Piano Competition in Athens in 2012, Viner’s career has taken him across Europe and the Americas. He has appeared at festivals including Raritäten der Klaviermusik (Husum), Cheltenham, Harrogate, and Festival Chopiniana in Argentina, and has been broadcast on Deutschlandfunk and BBC Radio 3. His 2018 Wigmore Hall debut confirmed his standing as a leading figure in the Romantic Revival. Viner is widely praised for his Piano Classics recordings, featuring composers such as Alkan, Liszt, and Thalberg. His major ongoing project is the first complete recording of Alkan’s piano works, projected to span 18 CDs. He is also a composer, writer, and Chairman of the Alkan Society.



Nadejda Vlaeva is a pianist of rare poetic depth and electrifying brilliance, acclaimed internationally for her expressive power and commanding artistry. A winner of the Bulgarian National Radio’s Musician of the Year award, she has performed at major venues across North America, Europe, and Asia, including Carnegie Zankel Hall, Lincoln Center, the Shanghai Oriental Arts Center, and The Concertgebouw. Her recording *Piano Music of Liszt* received the Grand Prix “Liszt” du Disque, affirming her stature as a leading Liszt interpreter. A Hyperion Recording Artist, Vlaeva’s discography includes the *Bach Transcriptions of Saint-Saëns* (BBC Music Magazine’s Instrumental CD of the Month), *Piano Music of Bortkiewicz* (MusicWeb Recording of the Year), and world-premiere works by Pancho Vladigerov (Gramophone Editor’s Choice). She has collaborated with composers such as Lowell Liebermann, performed with artists including Joshua Bell, and contributed to BBC and film projects. Vlaeva appears regularly at international festivals, offers masterclasses, and serves on competition juries

throughout North America. Also an active composer, her works are published by Contemporary Composers Circle. Born in Sofia and trained in Bulgaria, the Netherlands, and New York, she is a Yamaha Artist devoted to performance, composition, and musical outreach.



Alan Walker is Professor Emeritus of Music at McMaster University, Canada. Before settling in North America he was on the staff of the Music Division of the British Broadcasting Corporation in London. His three-volume, prize winning biography of Franz Liszt, was a project which took him twenty-five years to complete, and for which the President of Hungary bestowed on him the medal *Pro Cultura Hungarica*. The biography also received the Royal Philharmonic Society Prize, presented by HRH The Duke of Kent in London. After finishing the Liszt biography, Alan Walker worked for more than a

decade on a large-scale biography of Fryderyk Chopin, which was published in October 2018. It was described by *The Sunday Times* of London as ‘monumental’ and ‘the most comprehensive biography of the great Polish composer to appear in English’. *The Washington Post* selected it as a Book of the Year. It has meanwhile been translated into several languages, including Polish. For his services to music, McMaster University bestowed on Alan Walker the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters. More recently the Government of Hungary inducted him into one of its highest civilian honours: the Knight’s Cross of Merit of the Republic of Hungary. In May 2025 the Liszt Academy of Music conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Music, which he acknowledged his acceptance speech as the privilege of a lifetime.



Tyler Goodrich White has been Director of Orchestras at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln since 1994 and a member of the composition faculty at UNL since 1996; before coming to Nebraska, White led orchestras at Cornell University and Trinity University (Texas). In 2004, he was a guest lecturer in conducting at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, China, and in September 2007 he was named Best Musical Director at the Waterford International Festival of Light Opera in Waterford, Ireland. Recent seasons have seen additional guest conducting engagements in Mexico, Brazil, and China. He has also been Resident Conductor of Lincoln’s Symphony Orchestra (2000-2019) and from 2019 to 2023 served as the

orchestra’s first Composer-in-Residence. In April 2023 White was named Artistic Director/Conductor of the Hastings Symphony Orchestra. Born in Atlanta, Georgia, White graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. He earned his master’s and doctoral degrees in composition from Cornell University. National and international recognition for his compositions has come through awards from ASCAP, BMI, The American Conservatory at Fontainebleau (*Prix Maurice Ravel*), Vienna Modern Masters, the Omaha Symphony Guild, Tulane University, Indiana State University, and the Southeastern Composers League, and through commissions from the Atlanta Symphony

Orchestra, the Cleveland Chamber Symphony, Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra, the National Symphony Orchestra, and other ensembles. White's Symphony No. 3 was awarded a Silver Medal in the 2020 Global Music Awards. Also in 2020, his orchestral work *A Brand-New Summer* was awarded The American Prize for Orchestral Composition.



Chinese pianist, collaborative artist, and educator **Wenhao Zhang** is currently pursuing the Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln under the guidance of Dr. Paul Barnes. His work centers on the intersection of performance, scholarship, and new music, with particular emphasis on a ragtime commission project supported by the Pattis Family Foundation Emerging Artists Fund. Focused on the creation of new piano ragtime works by contemporary composers. His broader research interests include Chinese zodiac music, gender in music, and creative approaches to piano pedagogy. Zhang holds a Master of Music in Piano Performance from Ohio University and Bachelor of Music degrees in Piano Performance and Piano Tuning from Wuhan Conservatory of Music.