

2026 American Liszt Society Festival

TOWARD RE-ENCHANTMENT

Beauty as a Portal to the Sacred

September 28-30, 2026

Glenn Korff School of Music
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Paul Barnes, Artistic Director **Jay Hershberger**, President



TULIPÁN

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Audition Dates

Undergraduate (in person)

- Jan. 22-23, 2027
- Feb. 26-27, 2027

Video Audition Deadline

- Feb. 25, 2027

Graduate (in person)

- Jan. 22-23, 2027
- Feb. 5-6, 2027

Learn more and apply at go.unl.edu/korffadmission.
All students that audition are eligible for scholarships.

From Artistic Director Paul Barnes

Welcome back to Lincoln for the 2026 American Liszt Society Festival. It has been sixteen years since I last served as artistic director of our national festival and I'm looking forward to having all my dear musical friends back! The festival's theme "Toward Re-Enchantment: Music as a Portal to the Sacred" has been my guiding theme throughout my thirty-one years of teaching here at the Glenn Korff School of Music. We are in fact endowed by our Creator with the impulse to create beauty, and that beauty serves as a portal to the transcendent. We will be celebrating this fully human reality for the next three days!

I'm especially excited to show off our new Westbrook Music Building. For those who were here in 2010 when we celebrated Schumann and Chopin, you will clearly see the transformation possible in large part by the taxpayers of the state of Nebraska.

Special thanks to all the many artists programmed on this festival who have donated their artistry to explore this transcendent theme. You are all my most favorite colleagues, and I look forward to being with you all for the next three days.

I wanted to also thank the Tulipán Foundation for their generous financial support of this festival. Special thanks also to the Glenn Korff School of Music for donating all the venues for this year's festival. Thanks also to the Lied Center for Performing Arts for their presentation of our featured artist Angel Stanislav Wang on the prestigious 2026 Piano Series.

Please enjoy all that Lincoln has to offer during your time here and experience the hospitality that only the heartland can give!

With warm regards,



Paul Barnes
Marguerite Scribante Professor of Music
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AMERICAN LISZT SOCIETY

www.americanliztsociety.net

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ALS Newsletter

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Dear Lisztians,

Welcome to the 2026 American Liszt Society Festival *Re-Enchantment: Beauty as a Portal to the Sacred*. This will be the third ALS festival hosted by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Many thanks to our festival director, Dr. Paul Barnes for coordinating his 3rd ALS festival at UN-L. He has put together for us a most fascinating and unusual program of music that will transport us into the transcendent world of sacred beauty, a beauty that Dostoyevsky insisted was what was needed to save this world amidst its vale of tears.

The festival will feature a large number of works by 20th and 21st century composers on diverse subjects that highlight the depth and breadth of this year's theme. Works by Oliver Messiaen, Arvo Pärt, Richard Danielpour, Libby Larsen, Victoria Bond, Judith Shatin, Einojuhani Rautavaara, Nadejda Vlaeva, and others will make this festival particularly unique and remarkable. As well, there will always be a generous helping of music by the master *Liszt Ferenc*.

On behalf of the board of the directors of the American Liszt Society, I would like to thank Dr. Jeffrey Gold, president of the University of Nebraska system, Dean Andrew Belser, Hixson Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts, and Dr. Anthony Bushard, Interim Director, Glenn Korff School of Music for their support in hosting the American Liszt Society on the UN-L campus.

I look forward to greeting everyone participating or attending this year's festival. Meanwhile, sit back, open the eyes, ears, and hearts of your souls to receive beauty we so desperately need. Come taste and see!

Excelsior!


Jay Hershberger, president



September 28, 2026

Dear American Liszt Society Members and Guests,

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and students of the Glenn Korff School of Music I want to welcome you to the 2026 American Liszt Society Festival "Toward Re-Enchantment: Beauty as a Portal to the Sacred." We are delighted to host this conference and look forward to the many wonderful presentations and performances included in this year's festival. This gathering is a great way to celebrate the completion of our new Westbrook Music Building and we hope the multimedia concerts featured in our immersive recital space as well as the performances in our newly renovated Kimball Recital Hall will provide a truly transformational experience. And, if you're able to stay around for an extra day, we will host the official ribbon cutting and dedication of Westbrook Music Building on October 1 at 3:30 PM.

Of course, many of you are familiar with Paul Barnes and his championing and advocacy of Liszt's work and the profound way Liszt affected those who heard his music firsthand as well as those who engage his music in our own time. I hope you will join me in thanking Paul for all the work he put into hosting this event. And, we're super proud that so many of Paul's former students and other GKSOM alums will be participating in this event! I'd also like to thank Dean Andy Belser for his support of this endeavor, to Tal Yarden for his contributions to our multimedia performances, and to our staff—especially Ethan Fields and Charlie Snead—for helping coordinate the event. Finally, thanks to all of you for coming to Lincoln, Nebraska and spending some time with us.

Best,



Tony Bushard, Ph.D.
Interim Director, Glenn Korff School of Music
Professor of Music (Music History)





September 28, 2026

Dear Festival Participants,

Welcome to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the 2026 American Liszt Society Festival.

On behalf of the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to Lincoln for this extraordinary gathering of musicians, scholars, students and music lovers from across the nation and around the world. We are honored to host the American Liszt Society once again and to share with you the remarkable artistic community that thrives on our campus.

This year's festival theme, "Toward Re-Enchantment: Beauty as a Portal to the Sacred," invites us to reflect on the transformative power of music in our lives. Franz Liszt understood that music can inspire wonder, deepen our humanity and connect us to something greater than ourselves. Throughout the festival, you will experience performances, lectures and conversations that explore these ideas while celebrating both Liszt's enduring legacy and his visionary commitment to artistic innovation.

We are especially excited to showcase the Glenn Korff School of Music, which has undergone significant growth and transformation since the American Liszt Society last met in Lincoln, including the completion of our new state-of-the-art Westbrook Music Building. Our students, faculty and alumni are honored to join distinguished guest artists, composers and scholars in presenting a festival that reflects the excellence, creativity and collaborative spirit that define our institution.

While you are here, I encourage you to enjoy all that Lincoln has to offer—from our cultural attractions to the outstanding hospitality for which Nebraska is known.

Thank you for joining us for the American Liszt Society Festival. We hope your time at the festival is both inspiring and uplifting.

Sincerely,

Andrew Belser
Dean
Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts



Welcome to the 2026 American Liszt Society Festival

Dear Festival Participants,

On behalf of the Lied Center for Performing Arts and the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to Lincoln for the 2026 American Liszt Society Festival.

We are honored that so many extraordinary artists, scholars, educators, students, and music lovers have traveled from across the country and around the world to be part of this remarkable celebration of music, learning, and community. The festival's inspiring theme, *Toward Re-Enchantment: Beauty as a Portal to the Sacred*, reminds us of the unique ability of music to elevate the human spirit, inspire meaningful dialogue, and bring people together across generations and cultures.

At the Lied Center, we believe the performing arts have the power to enrich lives, strengthen communities, and create shared experiences that connect us in lasting ways. It is our mission to educate, inspire, and entertain the people of Nebraska through the performing arts while fostering learning, discovery, and inspiration for audiences of all ages. We are proud to partner with the Glenn Korff School of Music and the American Liszt Society in welcoming you to our campus and our community.

We are especially delighted that **Angel Stanislav Wang** is part of this year's festival and a featured concert of the Lied Center's 2026–2027 Performance Season. Angel represents the next generation of exceptional musical talent, and we are thrilled to share his remarkable gifts with both festival attendees and our broader Nebraska community.

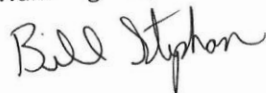
My sincere thanks to Artistic Director Dr. Paul Barnes, the American Liszt Society, the Glenn Korff School of Music, and the many faculty, staff, students, volunteers, donors, and sponsors whose vision and dedication have made this festival possible.

Whether this is your first visit to Nebraska or one of many, I hope you will experience not only exceptional performances and thought-provoking conversations, but also the genuine hospitality that defines our university and our state.

Thank you for joining us. We are truly honored to welcome you to the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and the Lied Center, and we wish you an inspiring, memorable, and enriching festival.

To learn more about the Lied Center, our 2026–2027 Performance Season, and the many performances and educational opportunities we present throughout the year, please visit www.liedcenter.org.

Warm regards,



Bill Stephan
Executive Director & Chief Artistic Officer
Lied Center for Performing Arts
University of Nebraska–Lincoln



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Festival Partners

American Liszt Society

The American Liszt Society is dedicated to promoting scholarship and fostering a deep understanding of the full creative and historical significance of Franz Liszt. Through performance, education, research, publications, and annual festivals, the Society celebrates Liszt's influence and ideals in the development of musical composition and performance. The Society currently has 22 chapters across the United States, one in China, and is part of the international network of Liszt Societies worldwide. Become a member by March 31 to enroll for the coming year. Membership types include Student, Individual, Family, Institutional, Life, and Family Life, as well as a China Chapter membership. Members enjoy opportunities to participate in chapter activities, perform, publish, receive ALS publications, and attend the annual ALS Festival. To join, visit the "Join ALS" page on our website. For membership questions, contact lisztmembership@gmail.com.

www.americanlisztsociety.net

Tulipán Foundation

Rooted in Hungarian heritage, Tulipán is a family foundation that blends tradition with innovation, funding grants and creating cultural experiences that support artists, education, and creative projects. By uplifting the voices of Hungarian creators and celebrating the richness of Hungarian arts, Tulipán fosters connection, creativity, and cultural growth — values we are proud to bring to the "Beauty as a Portal to the Sacred" Festival in partnership with the American Liszt Society. www.tulipanfoundationnyc.org

Lied Center for Performing Arts

The Lied Center is Nebraska's Performing Arts Center celebrating over 35 years. Located at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the Lied Center presents the world's most iconic artists and major regional, national and international performances that entertain and inspire audiences. We offer something for everyone, including the best of Broadway, symphony orchestras, dance, music, theater, and family programs. Artists at the Lied Center have ranged from Itzhak Perlman and Wynton Marsalis to the American Ballet Theatre and Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The Lied Center also is committed to educational outreach: Nearly 100% of visiting artists work with students in the days leading up to their performance. Visit us at liedcenter.org.

Toward Re-Enchantment: Beauty as a Portal to the Sacred
2026 American Liszt Society Festival
Sept 28-30, 2026, Glenn Korff School of Music

Festival Schedule

Sunday, Sept 27

6:00pm ALS board meeting
The Masters Room, Embassy Suites

Monday, Sept 28

Morning events in Kimball Recital Hall

9:30am **Registration and opening ceremony**

Paul Barnes, Artistic Director, Marguerite Scribante Professor of Piano
Mark E. Button, Executive Vice Chancellor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Andrew Belser, Dean, Hixson Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts
Anthony Bushard, Interim Director, Glenn Korff School of Music
Jay Hershberger, President, American Liszt Society

9:45 am ***Variations inspired by the spiritual world of Bach***

Introduction: Daniel Paul Horn
Variations on "Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen, Zagen," S.180, Franz Liszt
Mark Franklin, Oklahoma Baptist University

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

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

10:45am **Toward Re-Enchantment: Beauty as a Portal to the Sacred**

Introduction: Paul Barnes
Junius Johnson, Executive Director, Junius Johnson Academics
Dr. Johnson's visit is co-sponsored by the Classics and Religious Studies
Department of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

11:30 am **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
Eva Polgar, University of North Texas

Lunch on your own (see Paul's recommendation list at the end of the schedule)

Afternoon sessions in Westbrook Performance Hall 130

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

Rebekah Stiles, Cairn University

Introduction: Paul Barnes

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.

2:15pm **Piano works of personal devotion**

Introduction: Jay Hershberger

Prelude, Aria and Finale, César Franck

Jeffrey LaDeur, San Francisco International Piano Festival

A la Chapelle Sixtine, S.462ii, Franz Liszt

Daniel Glover, San Francisco

Prelude, Chorale, and Fugue, César Franck

Thomas Lanners, Oklahoma State University (ret.)

3:05pm Break

3:15pm **Toward the Future: Music of Living Composers**

Introduction: Paul Barnes

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, University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music
Hsiao-Tsu Huang, University of Georgia, percussion
Tal Yarden, video production
I. Gyre - Piano and Plastic Bottle
II. Bleaching - Piano with 5 Prepared Notes
III. Twaites Glacier - Piano with Yarn Mallets
IV. Calving - Piano with Yarn Mallets

Sonata Romantique, Nadejda Vlaeva
Nadejda Vlaeva, piano
I. Allegro appassionato
II. Andante teneramente
III. Allegro vivace

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

Introduction: 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 (see Paul's list at the end of the schedule)

7:30pm **Death and the Pathway to Eternal Life**
Chant-inspired works of Liszt for Orchestra, Choir, and Piano
UNL Orchestra and University Singers

Kimball Recital Hall

Introduction: Jorge Modolell, Washington University

Via Crucis, S.53

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

Von der Wiege bis zum Grabe (From the Cradle to the Grave), S.107 (1881-82)

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, S.126

Richard Fountain, piano, Wayland Baptist University

UNL Orchestra, Tyler White, conductor

Les Préludes, S.97

Tuesday, Sept 29

All events in Kimball Recital Hall

9:30am Jewish Inspirations

Introduction: Gila Goldstein

Chai Variations on Eliahu Hanavi, Judith Shatin

Jose Lopez, Florida International University

From Illuminations on Byzantine Chant, Victoria Bond

Simeron Kremate

Enite ton Kyrion

Madeline Rogers, Berea College

Sonata (1936), Ernest Bloch

David Gross, Furman University

10:30am 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, College of the Ozarks

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, Washington DC

13. *Noël ("Christmas")*

15. *Le baiser de l'enfant-Jésus ("The kiss of the Infant Jesus")*

Read Gainsford, Florida State University

11:30 am Sacred Themes of Franz Liszt

Introduction: Jorge Modolell, Washington University

Sancta Dorothea, S. 187

Der Todesengel, S. 190a (*The Angel of Death*)

Deux Légendes, S. 175 (*Two Legends of St. Francis*)

Tomasz Kamieniak, piano

Lunch on your own

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

Introduction: Asiya Korepanova

Sigismund 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

Sigismund 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

2:30pm **Alexander Scriabin the Visionary: A Path to the Mysterium**

Introduction: 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 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.

3:15pm **Performance of Glenn Korff School of Music pianists**

Introduction: Paul Barnes

Sonata Op. 111, I, Ludwig van Beethoven

Duy Nguyen, Sophomore BM

Etude-Tableaux in E-flat Minor, Op. 39. No.5, Sergei Rachmaninoff

Seth Johnson, Sophomore BM

Wilde Jagd, S.139 No.8, Franz Liszt

Solar Manley, Freshman BM

Chopin Etude in E Major, Op.10 No.3

Khang Nguyen, Alumnus, MM 1st year, University of South Carolina

Concert Paraphrase on Verdi's "Rigoletto" S.434, Franz Liszt

Kingston Cao, Freshman BA

Midnight (2011), Zhang Zhao

Wenhao Zhang, DMA 2nd year

Liebestod, S.447, Liszt/Wagner

Tierra Cassens, DMA 3rd year

Etude Op 40 No. 8, Nikolai Kapustin

Luke Eckles, Alumnus, MM 1st year, University of Oregon

4:15pm **From the Chaos to the Beyond:**

Rautavaara's Piano Sonata No. 2 "The Fire Sermon"

Tiantian Liang, piano

Introduction: Jay Hershberger

4:35pm **Reminiscences from 2010**

Introduction: Gabriel Dobner

Dichterliebe, Robert Schumann

Gabriel Dobner, James Madison University

Kevin McMillan, baritone, James Madison University (ret.)

Dinner on your own

7:30pm **Angel Stanislav Wang, piano recital**

Lied Center for Performing Arts

Tickets included in your registration packet

Wednesday, Sept 30

All events in Kimball Recital Hall

Morning for two piano works

9:30am **Reclaiming the Sacred: The Rediscovery of Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel's
Easter Sonata**

Hyejin Cho, Wheaton College Conservatory of Music

Introduction: Daniel Paul Horn

10:00am **'Es ist vollbracht' at the Piano:
Beethoven's Op. 110 Finale between Bach and Liszt**

Jun-Hee Han, North Central College

10:30am **Chant-inspired works of Rachmaninoff**

Introduction: Paul Barnes

From Symphonic Dances Op.45

III. *Lento assai – Allegro vivace – Lento assai-
Come prima – Allegro vivace*

From Suite No. 1 in G Minor, Op.5

IV. *Easter*

Matthew Gianforte and Meeyoun Park, Murray State University

11:00am **World-premiere of *Divine Aspirations* by Sawyer Gage**

The Unfolding Duo, Aleksandra Velgosha and Alyssa Conde

James Madison University

Introduction: Sawyer Gage

11:30am From ***Visions de l'Amen* for two pianos (1943), Olivier Messaien**

Introduction: Jay Hershberger

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

Lunch on your own

Afternoon sessions in Kimball Recital Hall

1:30pm ***Génie Oblige! – Genius Carries Obligations***

Alan Walker, McMaster University (ret.)

Introduction: Jay Hershberger

2:20pm ***Complete performance of Années Book III***

Introduction: Jay Hershberger

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)

Joseph Kingma, Tulsa Oklahoma

Aux cyprès de la Villa d'Este II: Thrénodie

(To the Cypresses of the Villa d'Este II: Threnody)

Derek Parsons, Furman University

Les jeux d'eaux à la Villa d'Este

(The Fountains of the Villa d'Este)

Gergely Kovács, Budapest, Hungary

Sunt lacrymae rerum/En mode hongrois

(The Sense of Tears in Mortal Things/In Hungarian Style)

Scott Watkins, University of North Florida

*Marche funèbre, En mémoire de Maximilien I, Empereur du Mexique (Funeral March,
In memory of Emperor Maximilian of Mexico)*

Sursum corda (Lift Up Your Hearts)

Ryan Behan, University of Indianapolis

3:20pm Break

3:30pm ***Liszt's Sacred Impulse***

Introduction: Jay Hershberger

Après une lecture du Dante: Fantasia quasi Sonata

Ryan Fogg, Carson-Newman University

Pater Noster

Csanád Barbarics, East Tennessee State University

Bénédiction de Dieu dans la solitude

Neil Rutman, University of Central Arkansas (ret.)

4:15pm **Exploring the Spiritual World of Bach and Final Reflections**

Introduction: Junius Johnson, Executive Director, Junius Johnson Academics

Sinfonia in G minor

Fantasy and Fugue in G Minor, S.463 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 Regent Ballroom A

Paul's restaurant recommendations (within walking of the hotel)

Lunch:

Blaze Pizza, 13th and Q, quick and convenient

Grey Whale Poke, 1317 Q, my favorite poke

Chipotle, 13th and Q, my daughter's dream lunch

Panda Garden, next to Grey Whale

Blue Sushi, 8th and R in the Haymarket

The Oven, 8th and P in the Haymarket, Indian, Philip Glass's favorite, closed Monday

Lazlo's, 7th and P in the Haymarket, ribs to die for! Order the lavosh

Dinner:

Misty's, 11th and P across from Embassy Suites – get the primerib!

The Oven, 8th and P in the Haymarket, Indian, Philip Glass's favorite, closed Monday

Lazlo's 7th and P in the Haymarket, ribs to die for! Order the lavosh

Aragon Tavern, 11th and Q -closed Monday, best burgers ever – go on Tuesday

Dish Downtown, 11th and O – incredible on every level – closed Monday

Blue Orchid, 10th and P in the Grand Manse, Philip Glass's 2nd favorite, Thai

Justin Kolb: In Appreciation of a Career of Service

Justin's illustrious career in the ALS was featured in the Spring 2026 edition of the ALS Newsletter edited by our own Derek Parsons available on the ALS website. Justin was one of the first people I met back in 1996 when I first encountered the ALS. Since that time, Justin has traveled to countless performances of mine and has been a most dear friend. Taking a shower at his place outdoors in the Catskills was a life-changing experience! And of course seeing Justin in his underwear while we were frequent roommates was equally transformative. His service to the ALS has been tremendous and his contributions will be greatly missed. He had planned to join us here in Lincoln but was prevented from traveling on doctor's orders. I look forward to seeing my friend soon! Thank you for your years of dedication to the ALS!



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.



Hungarian pianist **Csanád Barbarics** has performed internationally in cities including Budapest, Vienna, Kraków, Barcelona, and across the United States. He has appeared in venues such as Aula Floriana in Kraków and the Opera Piano Salon in Budapest, and performed his U.S. debut in Fall 2025. An accomplished competitor, he earned an Honorary Mention at the 2025 Ocean Music International Piano Competition and was an alternate finalist at the 2025 Franz Liszt International Piano Competition. In 2026, he won 3rd Prize at the Knoxville International Piano Festival & Competition. He has also received prizes at the Béla Bartók International Piano Competition and the Danubia Talents Competition. Besides performing in the opening recital, he served as Festival Coordinator of the 2025 American Liszt Society Festival, "Liszt and Women." He is currently pursuing a second master's degree at East Tennessee State University under Dr. Éva Polgár.



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' recordings are available on Spotify, Pandora, Apple Music, YouTube, and Amazon.



Ryan Behan, Associate Professor of Piano, Director of Keyboard Studies at the University of Indianapolis, has performed throughout the US, in Europe and China, radio broadcasts on ORF (Austria), BBC, 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. 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.



Composer **Victoria Bond's** works have been praised by the New York Times as "powerful, stylistically varied and technically demanding." Bond's piano music has been championed, performed and recorded by pianist Paul Barnes, including "Illuminations on Byzantine Chant" (Albany Records) and piano concertos "Ancient Keys" and "Black Light" (Koch International). Her two piano works were recorded by Madeline Rogers and Florencia Zulonga (Albany). In addition, Bond has composed eight operas, six ballets, and numerous orchestral, chamber, choral, and keyboard compositions. She has been profiled in the Wall Street Journal, NBC Today Show, People Magazine, and New York Times. Her music is recorded on the Naxos, Koch, Albany, GEGA and Protone labels. Bond is the creator, producer and Artistic Director of Cutting Edge Concerts New Music Festival, which she hosts every year in New York City. She has been honored by the American Academy of Arts and Letters' and the Miriam Gideon Prize.



An award-winning pianist, **Kingston Cao** 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. 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 studying with Dr. Paul Barnes, double-majoring in piano 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, two graduate degrees from the Hochschule für Musik in Karlsruhe, Germany, the Artist Diploma from Columbus State University, and the D.M.A. from 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 Chen’s solo debut at Carnegie Hall. “She displayed...not only technical command, beautiful tone, [and] total artistic involvement...but most importantly, the feeling of spontaneity, even risk, that makes an evening truly memorable.” She recently gave recitals in Italy, Germany, and Taiwan, and is on the roster of artists of the New Asia Chamber Music Society, performing with them at the Smithsonian’s Freer Gallery. In Washington DC, Tzu-yi is a sought-after teacher and adjudicator: her students garnered more than 45 awards in state and regional competitions.



Hyejin Cho is an active soloist and chamber musician whose career spans the United States, Europe, and Asia. A dedicated advocate for Robert Schumann’s music, she founded a multi-state concert series devoted 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 internationally through Parma Recordings and featured on the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series. Beyond the traditional canon, Cho advocates for gender balance and the music of women composers. Her research and performance projects have highlighted Cécile Chaminade and Vivian Fine, whose music she recorded for Albany Records. Her recent project, *The Mendelssohns*, restores the voice of Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel through performances of her *Easter Sonata*, long misattributed to her brother Felix. Cho serves on the piano faculty

at Wheaton College 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; she currently resides in Brentwood, California. She has performed and taught throughout the U.S. and in Europe, giving solo recitals of Prokofiev sonatas in St. Petersburg, Russia and serving as a faculty artist at the Excelsior Piano Academy in Sondershausen, Germany. An avid champion of new music, she has given several world premieres with her clarinet-saxophone-piano trio *Fuse*, and is currently working on a project commissioning a series of new solo piano works. Dr. Christian has appeared at the Chicago Cultural Center, with the Missouri Philharmonic, and as a 2022 finalist for the American Prize in Piano Performance. Her degrees include a D.M.A from Northwestern University with Alan Chow, a M.M. from Peabody with Ellen Mack, and a B.M. from Wheaton College with Daniel Horn.



Pianist **Gabriel Dobner** has played for such singers as Kevin McMillan, Rod Gilfry, Gerhard Siegel and René Kollo. He has recorded for Hänssler Klassik, Ottavo and MDG. Following his recording with Mezzo-Soprano Cornelia Kallisch for MDG, 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 in 2015. The duo has since released three additional recordings, the most recent of which was in September of 2026. 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. Mr. Dobner has been on faculty at James Madison University since 2001. He also joined the faculty of AIMS in Austria in 2017.



Luke Eckles is a recently graduated Piano Performance major from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, currently pursuing graduate studies at the University of Oregon. Luke has performed at many venues both domestically and internationally, including two degree recitals and the Summer Piano Institute Student Showcase in Xanthi, Greece. Additionally, Luke has toured the US with the Blue Devils Drum and Bugle Corps for two summers, collaborated with Dr. William Shomos to perform Schubert's *Winterreise*, and participated with several jazz ensembles including the UNL Jazz Orchestra and the Jazzocracy.



Pianist **Ryan Fogg** has been described as “an excellent pianist, drawing an impressive range of sounds out of his instrument” (*Fanfare Magazine*). Over the past several years, he has performed over 120 solo recitals in 24 states, and he made his Carnegie Hall debut at Weill Recital Hall in 2024. In addition to being an active solo recitalist, he is an avid chamber musician and concerto soloist. He is excited to perform at the ALS Festival for the first time. 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 as Director of Keyboard Studies at Carson-Newman University in Jefferson City, Tennessee.



Richard Fountain serves as Dean of the School of Creative Arts and Professor of Piano at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, TX, and is Principal Keyboard for Lincoln’s Symphony Orchestra and the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra. Fountain is one of very few pianists to perform Franz Liszt’s monumental transcriptions of the nine Beethoven symphonies. He is also devoted to the poetic and religious music of Liszt as well as American repertoire from all eras. Fountain was President of the Texas Music Teachers Association from 2022-24 and was inducted into the Steinway & Sons Teacher Hall of Fame in 2021. Fountain holds degrees from Taylor University, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and 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 performs regularly as a member of the Bergonzi Trio, with John Gilbert, violin and George Work, cello. www.richardfountainpianist.com



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. An active performer, Franklin engages in solo and collaborative engagements both within his local community and throughout the United States. His recent solo projects 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. In 2021, Franklin was awarded Third Place for the American Prize's Ernst Bacon Award for the Performance of American Music. During the summers, he serves as faculty at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Michigan and Excelsior Piano Academy in Sondershausen, Germany. Franklin earned a DM and MM in Piano Performance from Florida State University with Joel Hastings and Heidi Louise Williams, and earned his BM 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 Schwanter, 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. 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 trained with 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, Mr. Glover is a frequent orchestral soloist.. In 2025 he recorded the world premiere recordings of piano concertos by Americans Felix Borowski and Beryl Rubinstein with the Lithuanian National Symphony in Vilnius, Lithuania. Mr. Glover gave the world premiere of the Piano Concerto by Lee Actor and recorded the work with the Slovak National Symphony in Bratislava. 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** has performed in solo and chamber concerts throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, China, Korea, the Philippines, Europe, and Israel. A Board member of the American Liszt Society 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 is a member of the piano faculty at Longy School of Music in Boston. She has recorded two volumes of Paul Ben-Haim's entire piano and chamber works, as well as *Latin American Piano Gems* on the *Centaur* label. Her recording

of *24 Preludes of Dusk and Dawn* by composer Ronn Yedidia was released on the *Albany* label in 2025. She obtained her music degrees in piano performance from the Manhattan School of Music and the Tel-Aviv University's School of Music. Her teachers included Prof. Nina Svetlanova and Prof. Victor Derevianko



Elizabeth Grimp is professor of music at Concordia University, Nebraska, teaching aural skills classes, music appreciation, beauty in the fine arts, and upper-level piano lessons. She also performs regularly as a solo and collaborative pianist, performing music from the classical repertoire as well as newly composed sacred music. She has written multiple volumes of graded settings of hymns and the liturgy, published by David's Harp – A Center for Musical Development. In 2015, she received the student nominated Teacher of the Year award at Concordia's commencement ceremony. In

2023, she was inducted into the Steinway Teacher Hall of Fame.



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, Hendersonville Symphony, and Brevard Philharmonic. He has been featured as soloist on WFMT Chicago, on German NPR, and in the German National Public Television film "Singing Hands." His CD recordings (Signum, Centaur) include the Lalo Piano Concerto with Staatsorchester Frankfurt/Oder and works by Voříšek. Praised 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 at the international piano competitions in Marsala (Italy) and Bremen (Germany). A Berlin native, Gross holds degrees from the universities at München, Yale, Hannover, and Illinois, where his teachers include Ludwig Hoffmann, Arie Vardi, Daniel Pollack, Claude Frank, and John Wustman. Having held positions in Germany, and South Africa, he now teaches at Furman University.



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.



Composer, singer, and conductor **N. Lincoln Hanks** thrives in the outer regions of music. In addition to his role as Divisional Dean of Fine Arts and Professor of Music at Pepperdine University—where he directs The Pickford Ensemble, Pepperdine's premier new music group—Lincoln is an active early music vocalist. He has performed throughout Los Angeles with ensembles such as Tesserae and Musica Angelica, and cofounded The Concord Ensemble, which earned the Grand Prize in the inaugural Early Music America/Dorian Records Competition. As an ASCAP award-winning composer, his works have been featured by acclaimed groups including the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, The Dale Warland Singers, the Cyprus String Quartet, and The California Bach Society. Notably, Lincoln was named a finalist for the Lilly Fellows Program Arlin G. Meyer Prize for his dramatic cantata *Tegel Passion*. His piano work *Monstre sacré* was recorded by pianist Paul Barnes for Orange Mountain Music.



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.



Canadian-American pianist **Benjamin Harding** is a concert pianist, educator, and artistic leader whose work explores the intersection of music, literature, faith, and the humanities. He earned the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Maryland and studied for many years with distinguished Russian pianist Nina Svetlanova at the Manhattan School of Music. He continues his artistic development with Edna Golandsky. Harding has a particular affinity for Liszt and the Romantic tradition while maintaining an active commitment to contemporary music. His recordings of American composer Gustav Hoyer's music include the *Piano Sonata in Three Acts*, composed for Harding, and *Souvenirs for Piano Quintet*. His interdisciplinary projects place music in conversation with literature, theology, and culture. Harding is Music Director at New Life Presbyterian Church, host of *Inside the Taubman Approach* for the Golandsky Institute, co-founder of the Kalos Arts Foundation, President of the Philadelphia Music Teachers Association, and a certified piano technician.



Pianist **Jay Hershberger** is president of the American Liszt Society. He has played throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, and China. Important appearances include the Kennedy Center, the Library of Congress, and Benaroya Hall in Seattle. His most recent European performances include the Milan Conservatory and in Finland and Scotland. In years past he performed in Europe, including the Amalfi Coast Music Festival and the South Bohemia Music Festival.. He is currently Professor of Piano at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, and was previously Visiting Assistant Professor of Piano at Arizona State University. An active adjudicator, Hershberger has judged for the Los Angeles International Liszt Competition, the Ohio International Liszt Competition, the Chicago International Music Competition, the Phoenix Young Artist Competition, the Los Angeles International Young Musicians Association, and the Music Teachers National Association. His teachers included Robert Roux, Robert Hamilton, Boaz Sharon, Natan Brand, and Luiz de Moura Castro.



Caroline Hong is a Korean American pianist, Steinway Artist, and Professor of Piano at The Ohio State University. She holds degrees from the Peabody Institute, The Juilliard School, and Indiana University. An internationally active soloist, chamber musician, and recording artist, she is especially recognized for her interpretations of 20th- and 21st-century piano music. She is the founding president of the American Liszt Society Ohio Chapter and serves as Executive and Artistic Director of the Franz Liszt (U.S.) International Festival and Piano Competition. Her performances have earned praise for expressive power, technical command, and lyricism, and she has appeared widely as a recitalist, lecturer, adjudicator, and master teacher.



Pianist **Daniel Paul Horn** performs widely as a recitalist and soloist. He frequently collaborates with members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, played in Beijing with the MasterWorks Ensemble, has performed with the Ying Quartet, and works with noted singers. He premiered and has recorded solo works of Richard Danielpour, in addition to presenting new works by Jacob Bancks, Delvyn Case, David M. Gordon, and Max Raimi. Recordings include the critically praised CD “Wanderings” on a Graf fortepiano, an all-Schumann recital, and discs with flutist Jennie Oh Brown, cellist Donald Moline, and soprano Carolyn Hart. Horn studied at Peabody and earned a doctorate at Juilliard; his principal teachers include Walter Hautzig, Martin Canin, and Menahem Pressler. Currently Professor and Chair of Keyboard Studies at the Wheaton College Conservatory of Music, he has served as a faculty artist at numerous American summer 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 reimaged 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.



Hsiao-Tsu Huang is a percussionist originally from Taichung, Taiwan. He earned his Bachelor of Music in Percussion Performance from Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University under the mentorship of Professor Robert van Sice. Hsiao-Tsu recently graduated from the Hugh Hodgson School of Music of the University of Georgia with his Master of Music in Percussion Performance, studying with Professor Timothy Adams, and started his DMA in Fall 2026. His other teachers include Eric Shin, Jeff Stern, Matt Keown, Jisu Jung, and Cheming Tsai. Hsiao-Tsu plays timpani and percussion regularly with the Augusta Symphony and the Gwinnett Ballet Company.



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 Nosedà. 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 in the Humanities for adults and children. He performs professionally on the french horn and electric bass. He holds a BA from Oral Roberts University and 4 Master's degrees and a PhD 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. 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 singing 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*. 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. His concert history includes recitals at the Liszt Museums in Weimar and Budapest, as well as performances in London, San Francisco, and Taiwan. 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 Dramma 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.



Though his technique emerged through the program as one which is capable of anything, it was always used in the service of the music itself," writes the *New York Concert Review* of pianist **Joseph Kingma**, praising his playing for "the command of a master and a composer's insight." Other critics have echoed that acclaim: the Grand Rapids Art Museum's concert series called his playing "spell binding," the Manassas Symphony Orchestra described him as "flawless and expressive," and the Illinois Valley Symphony Orchestra praised a sound that is "rich and encompassing, yet delicate and refined." First Prize winner of the American Liszt Society's 2017 Liszt International Competition, Kingma has performed widely as a soloist and chamber musician, has appeared with orchestras across the country, and has given masterclasses nationally. He teaches privately in Tulsa, OK, where he lives with his wife and five children.



Pianist **Asiya Korepanova** is a quintessential completist hailed by *Boston Musical Intelligencer* as "More than I could have ever imagined" and by *South Florida Classical Review* as "One of the finest Rachmaninoff pianists on the concert scene," having performed Rachmaninoff's complete solo piano works in a single year and presenting all 24 Liszt Etudes in recital. Also recognized as a composer, visual artist, and poet, she has authored numerous original works and transcriptions, having studied composition with Albert Leman, chair of the Moscow Conservatory's composition department and a student of Shostakovich. Her multimedia projects combine her poetry and artwork inspired by Liszt, Bach, Tchaikovsky, and Mussorgsky. Born to a musical family in Russia, she debuted at nine with Mozart's Concerto No. 8, performing her own cadenza. More information: 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 a doctoral student of Dr. Andrew Staupé at the University of Houston. He earned his undergraduate degree with Ksenia Nosikova at the University of Iowa and his master's degree with Gila Goldstein at the Longy School of Music. As a soloist, Calvin was recently the first-prize winner of the 11th Rose Petroff College Piano Competition in San Antonio, the 2025 International Young Artist Piano Competition in Washington, D.C., and the 2024 Hulbert International Piano Competition; in 2026 he studied with Anton Nel at the Aspen Music Festival. In Texas, Calvin teaches undergraduate music theory and plays organ at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Conroe; he is also pursuing studies in choral conducting. 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 and spontaneity, "...an irreproachable legato, a beautiful palette of nuances, and an always well-balanced sound." (Clic Musique, France) 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 solo piano, chamber music, and concerto literature. Jeffrey's album credits include *An Artist's Journey* (Music & Arts) featuring the solo piano music of Liszt and *To My Distant Beloved* (MSR Classics), a collaboration with mezzo-soprano Kindra Scharich devoted to Beethoven and Schumann. Jeffrey offers masterclasses frequently and coaches gifted pre-college students for the award-winning 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 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 in Ireland. He was the Oklahoma Music Teachers Association 2014 Distinguished Music Teacher and inducted into the Steinway & Sons Teacher Hall of Fame in 2021. Thomas is a frequent guest artist throughout North America, Europe, and Asia. He's recently served on the faculties of the Shanghai International Piano Festival and Institute, the Conero and AmiCaFest festivals in Italy, the OpusOne International Festival in California, and the International Keyboard Odyssey in Colorado. Thomas received Master's and Doctoral degrees from the Eastman School. His teachers included Barry Snyder, John Perry, and Jerome Lowenthal. 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. Her research interests are broad, though her primary area of research specialization is early modernism in France and Russia. She is lead editor of *Rethinking Scriabin*, forthcoming from Oxford University Press, and is currently writing a biography, *Alexander Scriabin: Toward the Flame*, forthcoming from University of Illinois Press.



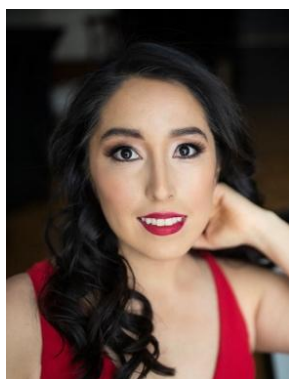
Solar Manley, a freshman at UNL's Glenn Korff School of Music and student of Dr. Paul Barnes, started playing piano at age four under the tutelage of his grandmother, Janelda Barnett. He grew up in Bloomington Indiana, and took advantage of the IU Jacobs Young Pianists program during high school, studying 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.



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 a particular focus 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 research examines Liszt's reception and legacy, with recent work focusing on the composer's relationship with St. Francis of Assisi and his Franciscan-inspired compositions. Drawing on semiotic analysis, Dr. Modolell offers new perspectives on the narrative and spiritual dimensions of Liszt's music. He has presented his research at regional and national conferences, including the American Musicological Society and the American Liszt Society. He is a recipient of the American Musicological Society's Eileen Southern Travel Grant and Washington University's Chancellor's Graduate Fellowship. 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.



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-Garritson 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 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. 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 before committing fully to piano. When competing for the piano, he won first place in the Mid-America Music Association festival in 2019 and 2021, in the Missouri Federation for Music Clubs in 2022, and in the MTNA Young Artist Solo Piano Competition in 2025. He holds a bachelor's degree in piano performance at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he studied with Dr. Paul Barnes and is currently pursuing a master's degree in piano pedagogy at the University of South Carolina with Dr. Scott Price, taking applied lessons under Dr. Nicolas Susi. He is also a church pianist while teaching group and individual lessons as a graduate assistant.



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.



Versatile Canadian pianist **Derek Parsons** made his orchestral debut at age 12 and has performed extensively across three continents. Critics have praised him as “a wonderfully sensitive musical artist” with “extraordinary technique” and his performances “a drama of epic proportions...in total command” and “the range of colors is impressive”. His solo disc, ***Liszt: The Poet Inspired*** was released in June 2015. An active **American Liszt Society** member, Parsons was Artistic Director of the 2018 Festival and served on the jury of the 2021 Los Angeles International Liszt Competition. He now serves as Editor of the ALS Newsletter. A graduate of Western

University and the University of Michigan, he has taught at **Furman University** since 1988, where he is Keyboard Area Coordinator. In South Carolina, he has enjoyed a strong association with the SCMTA, including its President from 2010-2012. He co-authored a piano reduction of Healey Willan’s Piano Concerto, presenting it throughout the US and internationally.



Éva Polgár is a sought-after pianist who has performed internationally at major venues including Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, and the Gewandhaus zu Leipzig. 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: Franz Liszt – Hungarian pianist and painter in sound.” She also engages in interdisciplinary collaborations with visual artist Sándor Vály, broadcast by Finnish Yle Radio. A prizewinner and co-director of the Los Angeles

International Liszt Competition, Polgár is a dedicated educator and serves as Assistant Professor of Piano at the University of North Texas. This concert season, she appears at the Flatiron and San Francisco International Piano Festivals, and the American Liszt Society and Gödöllő Liszt Festivals, as well as performs concerti with the UNT and Danube Symphony Orchestras. She was recently elected 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. As a collaborative pianist, Powell has appeared with distinguished artists ranging from Martina Arroyo to 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 the Director of Keyboard Studies at CSUN. A graduate of The Juilliard School (BM& MM) and Manhattan School (DMA), he is a sought-after performer, clinician and adjudicator, appearing at schools such as Juilliard, New England Conservatory, Eastman School, Royal Northern College (UK), Shanghai and Beijing Central Conservatories. Rachmanov has performed at Carnegie Hall and Kennedy Center, collaborated with the world's fine orchestras, and has recorded for Naxos, Parma, Master Musicians, and Cambria labels. He is a founding member and the President of the Scriabin Society of America and an active member of the American Liszt Society, being a founder and President of its

Southern California chapter. In 2016 he served the Artistic Director of the annual ALS Festival hosted by Cal State Northridge. Dr. Rachmanov is a recipient of numerous awards, including the MTNA CA (CAMPT) 2026 Lifetime Achievement Award.



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 Paul Barnes. 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. 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.



Composer **Judith Shatin** is renowned for her richly imagined music that seamlessly spans acoustic and digital realms. Called "highly inventive on every level" by *The Washington Post*, her music combines an adventurous approach to timbre with dynamic narrative design and a keen awareness of the sonic landscape of modern life. She draws on fascinations with literature, the visual arts, the sounding world, and music's social and communicative power to craft a clear, direct musical language that resonates with performers and audiences worldwide. Shatin's musical honors include four National Endowment for the Arts Composer Fellowships and grants from the American Music Center, Meet the Composer, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, and the Lila Wallace Readers Digest Arts Partners Program. She has conducted residencies at Bellagio, La Cité Internationale des Arts, MacDowell, and Yaddo. Shatin is William R. Kenan Jr. Professor Emerita at the University of Virginia, where she founded the Virginia Center for Computer 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. 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 appeared in hundreds of concerts across North and South America, Europe, and Asia, performing more than five hundred works in the solo, chamber, and concerto repertoire. Born in Kotor, Montenegro to a nuclear physicist and an art historian, she was admitted to the University of Belgrade Music Academy at fifteen. After winning Yugoslavia’s national piano competition at nineteen she moved to the United States, studying with Van Cliburn gold medalist Ralph Votapek at Michigan State University and completing an Artist Diploma and Doctorate at Indiana University with Menahem Pressler, founder of the Beaux Arts Trio. A Steinway Artist, Subotić is Professor-Lecturer of Piano at the University of Utah, where she directs the Liszt Festival and Competition, and President of the Utah Chapter of the American Liszt Society. Her 2024 album *Chiaroscuro* (Blue Griffin) pairs Liszt’s Sonata in B minor with world-premiere arrangements of traditional Balkan songs; she has also recorded for Sony and Centaur. www.vedranasubotic.com



Pianist **Nicholas Susi** has been recognized through top prizes in such competitions as the NFMC Young Artist Award, while his research has been awarded prestigious grants from the *Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst* amongst others. His engagement with Liszt took him to the 2014 International Franz Liszt Piano Competition (Utrecht, The Netherlands), and he has published in the *Journal of the American Liszt Society*. His debut recording, *Scarlatti Now*, received critical acclaim and international radio airplay, and a new album under the Naxos label is due for release December 2026. 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.



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 Velgosha** 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. 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. Lead by Hixson-Lied Professor Peter Eklund, 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. 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.



International Piano Magazine hails **Mark Viner** as “one of the most gifted pianists of his generation”. Recognized as a leading British concert pianist, he is admired for his distinctive artistry and championing of neglected piano repertoire. A former scholar of the Purcell School and Royal College of Music, he has performed widely across Europe and the Americas, appearing at major festivals and on BBC Radio 3 and Deutschlandfunk. His acclaimed Wigmore Hall début in 2018 affirmed his role in the Romantic Revival. Renowned for his Piano Classics recordings, he is currently recording the complete piano music of Alkan and serves as Chairman of the Alkan Society.



Nadejda Vlaeva is a pianist admired for her poetic imagination, radiant sound, and commanding stage presence. Her artistry has taken her to leading venues across North America, Europe, and Asia, including Carnegie Zankel Hall, Lincoln Center, The Concertgebouw, and the Shanghai Oriental Arts Center. A recipient of Bulgarian National Radio’s Musician of the Year award, she is recognized for interpretations of exceptional depth and individuality. Her recording *Piano Music of Liszt* received the Grand Prix “Liszt” du Disque, confirming her reputation as a distinguished Liszt interpreter. As a Hyperion Recording Artist, Vlaeva has released acclaimed albums featuring Saint-Saëns’s Bach Transcriptions, Bortkiewicz’s piano works, and world-premiere recordings of Pancho Vladigerov. She has collaborated with composers such as Lowell Liebermann, appeared with artists including Joshua Bell, and contributed to BBC and film projects. Born in Sofia and trained in Bulgaria, the Netherlands, and New York, she is a Yamaha Artist devoted to performance, composition, and 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. 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 in his acceptance speech was the privilege of a lifetime.



Praised for his expressive depth, commanding technique, and artistic individuality, **Angel Stanislav Wang** has quickly drawn international attention as a rare and compelling new voice. His major accolades include the Silver Medal at the 17th International Tchaikovsky Competition, becoming the youngest finalist at the 2025 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, and winning First Prize at the International Rachmaninoff Piano Competition. At just 23, he has already earned over 35 international awards. A captivating performer with a growing global following, Angel has performed at world-renowned venues including Carnegie Hall,

Vienna's Musikverein, Bass Performance Hall in Fort Worth, the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, and the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory. His 26-27 recital tour includes concerts for major series in the United States, including the Aspen Music Festival, Performing Arts Houston, The Soraya at California State University Northridge, Steinway Society – Bay Area, and the American Liszt Society Festival at the Lied Center in Lincoln, Nebraska.



Scott Watkins is an American pianist, Principal Keyboardist with the Jacksonville Symphony, and Adjunct Professor of Music at the University of North Florida. A graduate of the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, the University of South Carolina, and Florida State University, he is the recipient of the 1985 Artistic Ambassador Award and a prizewinner at the Memphis Beethoven International Piano Competition. Watkins has performed throughout the United States, Europe, South America, and Asia, appearing with leading orchestras and distinguished artists. His Carnegie Hall

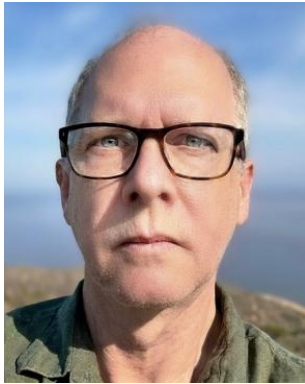
recital featuring Piano Sonatas by Hanson and Bartok, with Debussy's *Préludes*, Book II, was praised by *New York Concert Review* as "a highly praiseworthy concert." His acclaimed recording *American Piano Sonatas* celebrates the richness of the American repertoire, and his discovery and scholarly edition of Howard Hanson's 1919 *Symphonic Rhapsody*, published by Carl Fischer, restored a significant work to the American piano literature.



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. Recent seasons have seen guest conducting 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 (NE) 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. In 2020, his orchestral work *A Brand-New Summer* was awarded The American Prize for Orchestral Composition. White's

Symphony No. 3 won a Silver Medal in the 2020 Global Music Awards and two additional Silver Medals in the 2024 Global Music Awards for *The Four Elements (Chamber Symphony No. 2)*.



Tal Yarden is an international recognized Projection Design whose work includes BROADWAY: Oedipus, Indecent, Network, The Waverly Gallery, Sunday in the Park with George, The Crucible; WEST END: Get Up, Stand Up, Anna X, Hamlet; OFF-BROADWAY & REGIONAL: Becky Nurse of Salem, Ocean Filibuster, Grey Rock, Passing Strange, Between the World and Me, Indecent, King Lear, Distracted, Lazarus, Little Foxes, Liberty City, The Misanthrope; INTERNATIONAL: My Brilliant Friend, Obsession, Antigone, The Damned, Kings of War, The Fountainhead, Antonioni Project, Roman Tragedies, Angels in America; OPERA: Don Giovanni, Exterminating Angel, Mahagonny, Between Worlds, Salome, Brokeback Mountain, Macbeth; AWARDS: Molière, Lucille Lortel; NOMINATIONS: Tony, Drama Desk, Hewes. He is a curriculum consultant at UNL and has taught at Yale, Carnegie Mellon, New School, and Brown.



Chinese pianist, collaborative artist, and educator **Wenhao Zhang** is pursuing a DMA in Piano Performance at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln under Dr. Paul Barnes. His work explores performance, scholarship, new music, and innovative piano pedagogy, including a contemporary ragtime commission project supported by the Pattis Family Foundation Emerging Artists Fund. He holds an MM from Ohio University and BMs in Piano Performance and Piano Tuning from Wuhan Conservatory of Music.c.

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AMERICAN LISZT SOCIETY - OHIO CHAPTER
**FRANZ LISZT INTERNATIONAL
PIANO COMPETITION
AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

**October 14-17, 2027
at The Ohio State University**

1st Prize: \$2,000

2nd Prize: \$1,000

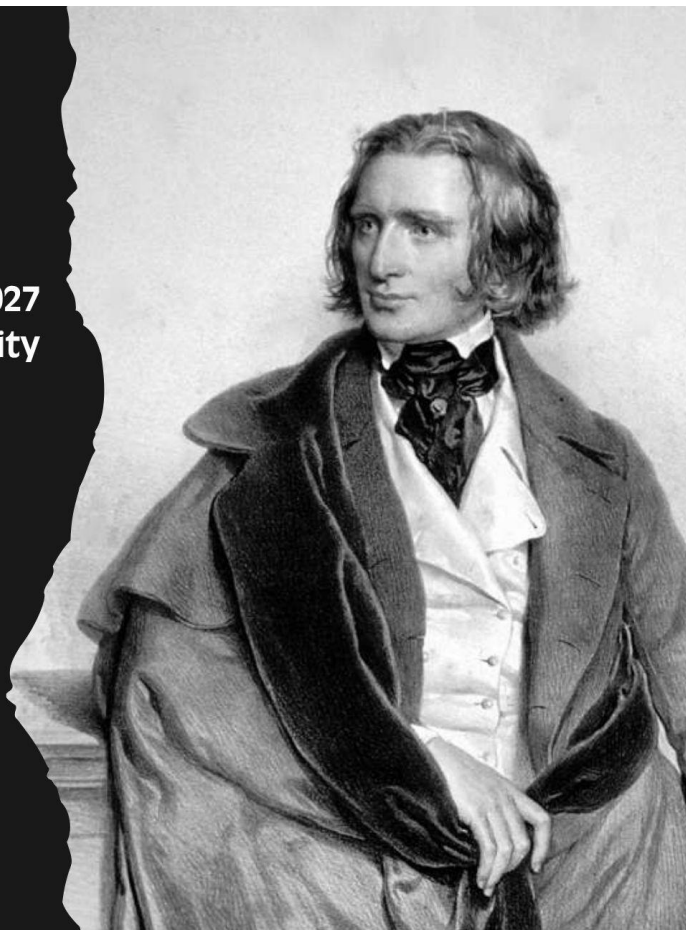
3rd Prize: \$500

- Jury Discretionary Award
A concert at the Liszt Academy in Budapest, Hungary
- Best Interpretation of a Beethoven work
- Best Interpretation of a Liszt work

Dr. Caroline Hong, Executive Director

Dr. Ryan Behan, Co-Director

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Graphic Designer

Music Engraver

Videographer

Webmaster



Pianist and multimedia creator **Christian Johnson** has maintained an ongoing creative collaboration with his former professor, Paul Barnes, to develop concert posters, album artwork, and music transcription engravings. Since 2017, Johnson has been artistically involved with numerous musical endeavors of Barnes and his colleagues. Recent highlights of their collaboration include digitally engraving Barnes's transcription of the "Annunciation" Quartet (2020) by Philip Glass, creating all the marketing materials for Barnes's *Illumination* (2021) album and concert series, and the creation of this year's American Liszt Society program booklet.

Visit **ChrisCreates.Co** for Johnson's complete portfolio and contact information.

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Application deadline: **March 15, 2027**

Festival concert tickets on sale May 1!



Nicholas Susi



Phillip Bush



Scott Price



About the Cover:

The cover artwork for this year's festival combines two images that have deep personal meaning. The top portion is the inside iconography of the dome at the Church of Divine Wisdom in Xanthi Greece where I chant in the summers while teaching at the Piano Plus Summer Institute. Known as the 'pantokrator,' the icon of Christ represents the mysterious beauty of an ordered reality. The bottom of the image is the remarkable photo taken from Artemis II during their recent mission to the moon. Just as the icons in the dome represent a cosmic reality where beauty is paramount, this image from Artemis reveals a macro dimension of this cosmic beauty. Together, the two images reflect the theme of this year's festival "Toward Re-Enchantment: Beauty as a Portal to the Sacred." The beauty of the cosmos reveals God as a creator of beauty on every level. And music, like the iconography in the dome in Xanthi, is our aural icon revealing our own destiny as creators and participants in this beauty. Special thanks for my former student and graphic designer Christian Johnson for the design. - Paul Barnes



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