

The American Liszt Society

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN LISZT SOCIETY, INC.

2024 ALS Festival: "The Composer-Pianist"

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. 2024 ALS Festival featured artists
2. President's Letter
3. View from the *Villa d'este*
4. 2024 ALS Festival details
5. ALS Chapter News
- 6-7. ALS China Chapter Feature
- 8-9. Member News
10. 2024 LA International Liszt Competition
10. Medal of the American Liszt Society
11. Of note...
12. Condolences...poetry...and photos



(photos courtesy of the University of Georgia)



2024 ALS Festival headliners:

Marc-André Hamelin

Gabriela Montero with the Calidore Quartet

Presented in partnership with the University of Georgia Performing Arts Center

*Perpetuating the ideas of
Franz Liszt through excellence in music
performance and scholarship*

President's Message



PRESIDENT

Jay Hershberger*
Concordia College
Music Department
Moorhead, MN 56562
hershber@cord.edu

VICE PRESIDENT

Alexandre Dossin*
University of Oregon
School of Music and Dance
Eugene, OR 97403-1225
adossin@uoregon.edu

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Justin Kolb*
1136 Hog Mountain Road
Fleischmanns, NY 12430
mellon@catskill.net

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Renata Yuill*
PO Box 1020
Wheaton, IL 60187-1020
liztmembership@gmail.com

TREASURER

Daniel Paul Horn*
PO Box 1020
Wheaton, IL 60187-1020
daniel.horn@wheaton.edu

ALS JOURNAL

Ben Arnold, Editor
University of Kentucky
309 Fine Arts Building
465 Rose Street
Lexington, KY 40506-0022
Ben.Arnold@uky.edu

ALS NEWSLETTER

Derek Parsons*
Music Department, Furman University
3300 Poinsett Hwy
Greenville, SC 29613
derek.parsons@furman.edu

ALS WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA

Ji-Hyang Gwok
1199 Sessions Dr.
Dayton, OH 45459
jihyanggwak@gmail.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ben Arnold
Paul Barnes
Luiz de Moura Castro
Gabriel Dobner
Alexandre Dossin*
Gila Goldstein
Ji-Hyang Gwok
Jay Hershberger*
Caroline Hong
Daniel Paul Horn*
Justin Kolb*
Mei Li
Elyse J. Mach
Ksenia Nosikova
Derek Parsons
Éva Polgár
Edward Rath*
Dmitry Rachmanov
Steven Spooner
Helen Smith Tarchalski
Alan Walker
Renata Yuill*
Richard Zimdars

*Member, Executive Committee

EMERITUS BOARD MEMBERS

Geraldine Keeling
Barbara Mellon Kolb
Jonathon Kregor
William Wellborn

www.americanlisztsociety.net

Dear Fellow Lisztians,

2024 marks the 100th anniversary of the passing of Ferruccio Busoni, that titan of the “Golden Age” of pianist/composers, whose legacy remains with us in so many ways. His reflective musical depth and prodigious technique as a performer were matched by his creative powers as a composer and transcriber. His astute intuition as an editor of the works of Bach and Beethoven (among others) still provides musical food for thought for performers and teachers in an era when rigid urtexting can stifle individual creative imagination. His writings on music and aesthetics deserve wider consideration. In many ways Busoni stands as a model of a complete musician for today’s artist/teacher/scholar aspirants.

It is therefore with excitement and eager anticipation that the American Liszt Society will hold its 2024 festival at the University of Georgia in Athens, October 13-16. The festival theme will explore the ideals of the composer/pianist, with special regard for the contributions of Ferruccio Busoni and his continued legacy today. The festival headline artist is pianist/composer Marc-André Hamelin, and the ALS is pleased to have commissioned Hamelin to compose a new work for piano solo which he will premiere as a part of his festival recital. I am grateful for the wonderful efforts of festival directors Liza Stepanova and Richard Zimdars to fashion for us a festival of rich musical and scholarly fare. The line-up of performers and presenters for the festival promises to deliver for we Lisztians an inspiring and edifying series of memorable sessions celebrating the world of composer-pianists. I look forward to seeing you all there, where old friends and new can share in the glories of our heritage of artistic beauty—the kind of beauty that can save the world.

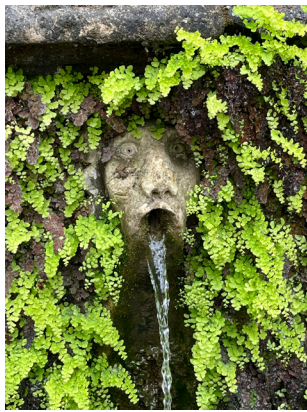
I also note with great sadness the passing of two of the ALS’s longtime stalwart and faithful board members Elyse Mach (1941-2023) and William Wellborn (1956-2023). Elyse was well known throughout the entire piano world for her teaching, her many books, piano textbooks, and articles, and her long-time faculty association with the Northeastern University of Chicago. She was dedicated to inspiring young musicians to pursue excellence. Her commitment to Lisztian ideals led the ALS to confer on her the Medal of the American Liszt Society. Bill was an inspiring point of light on the ALS board. He was known for his insightful performing, his dedication to teaching young pianists at the San Francisco Conservatory Preparatory Division, his encyclopedic knowledge of opera (which knowledge guided his masterful directing of the 2013 ALS Festival dedicated to Verdi and Wagner), and his legendary musical tours to Europe for musical aficionados young and old. Elyse and Bill have both left lasting legacies as devoted Lisztians and while we grieve at their passing the remembrance of both brings to our minds and hearts fondness and heartfelt gratitude for lives well lived for the sake of others. Requiescant in pace.

I’ll see all of you Lisztians in October!

Excelsior!

Jay Hershberger

View from the Villa d'Este



Dear friends:

It has been a real pleasure hearing about the evolution of the upcoming 2024 Festival at the University of Georgia. I was disappointed to miss the 2023 Festival celebrating Liszt and Schubert so I am very much looking forward to seeing friends and hearing wonderful performances, including a couple newly-commissioned works this time. The scheduled register of performers is beyond impressive, with international performing artists and Lisztian colleagues galore sharing the stage of the wonderful facilities at the Hugh Hodgson School of Music. Perusing the impressive list of participants, there was one name, however, that jumped out to me as a “not-to-miss” opportunity at ALS 2024. That name was Gabriela Montero.

In May 2023 I had missed the South Florida festival (which I heard was terrific!) because I was taking a group of students on a study-away experience in Italy. We had put together an aggressive curriculum of travel, visiting churches and performance spaces, and attending several concerts and performances. The first day in Rome we had planned to attend a concert by the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale Di Santa Cecilia, with Yuja Wang as soloist. However, just a couple weeks before we traveled, we were disappointed to hear that Ms. Wang had canceled her appearance and would be replaced by Gabriela Montero. A quick internet search produced the information that this replacement was a very impressive musician – a superb pianist, but also a composer with a gift for improvisation. Ms. Montero lived up to her billing; the Tchaikowsky Concerto was riveting (a tall order for a group of weary travelers on the first night overseas!) and brought the audience to its feet. After several curtain calls she returned with a microphone. I had done my research, so I had an idea of what was coming. Sure enough, she asked the audience to provide her with a theme, which she proceeded to spin into a seven-minute improvisation in the style of Bach. It was a magnificent combination of structural and stylistic understanding, woven into a brilliant impromptu tapestry in front of our faces!

In October we will experience Gabriela Montero’s artistry on display as pianist with the Calidore String Quartet, performing a newly-commissioned quintet composed by Montero. It promises to be a stunning beginning to the festival...and perhaps she will give us an encore.

Get your tunes ready!

See you soon...

Derek

The American Liszt Society

PRESIDENT

Jay Hershberger
americanlisztsocietypresident@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Derek Parsons
Music Department, Furman University
Greenville, SC 29613
derek.parsons@furman.edu

Submit change of address information to:

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Renata Yuill
PO Box 1020
Wheaton, IL 60187 - 1020
lisztmembership@gmail.com

Layout: Derek Parsons and Edward Rath
Printed by East Park Printing, Clemson, SC

This newsletter is published twice annually
with a circulation of approximately 400 per
issue.

An official publication of the The American
Liszt Society, Inc.
©2024 ALS, all rights reserved.

The 2024 ALS Festival

Dick Zimdars describes the brainchild of the upcoming Festival:

Three organizations were always in mind as the 2024 festival program formed: ALS; UGA's Hugh Hodgson School of Music; and the University of Georgia Performing Arts Center. Celebrating the 60th anniversary of ALS also motivated much thought. Dick Zimdars (retired UGA piano faculty) began a leisurely interview with Marc-André Hamelin in late 2021. (It appeared in the most recent JALS.) The idea of inviting Mr. Hamelin as a headliner for the ALS Festival was born from these conversations. Mr. Hamelin's webpage described him as a "pianist and composer," producing the theme of the 2024 Festival: The Composer-Pianist. ALS president, Jay Hershberger, and others on the ALS board supported Zimdars's proposal to commission Hamelin for a new solo piano work.

In further conversations with Zimdars and Peter Jutras (director of the Hugh Hodgson School of Music), Liza Stepanova (UGA piano area chair) shared her admiration for the artistry of Gabriela Montero and her profile as a pianist-composer-improviser. All the dots were connected through the brilliant support of Jeffrey Martin, director of the UGA Performing Arts Center, who was miraculously able to negotiate the appearance of both Hamelin and Montero on the PAC series to coincide with the four-day festival. As fate had it, the UGA PAC was a co-commissioner of a new Piano Quintet by Montero which she will perform in her October 13 recital with the Calidore Quartet. Beyond these two recitals, the festival program, curated by Zimdars and Stepanova, now features nearly 50 other performers and lecturers.

2024 is the centennial of the death of composer, pianist, teacher, and conductor Ferruccio Busoni. The work of a leading Busoni scholar, Erinn Knyt (U. of Massachusetts), came to Zimdars's attention. Knyt agreed to serve on the preliminary screening for the 2023 Alan Walker Book Award, and will be giving lecture titled "Liszt's Heir: Busoni and Weimar" on October 15th.

Choosing from the limitless possibilities offered by the festival theme occupied much time as we assembled festival sessions, each with its own topic. Many illustrious names had to be passed over. We believe we have selected familiar and less familiar names whose music will entertain and whose stories will fascinate festival attendees.

We hope you will join us in Athens and delight in the festival offerings, many to be presented on the Hamburg Steinway that arrived at the UGA PAC in April 2023. Hamelin already took great delight in the new instrument, playing it in the Dvorak and Florence Price piano quintets with the Takacs Quartet at UGA's Performing Arts Center this past season.

FESTIVAL INFORMATION

Festival Coordinator: **Liza Stepanova** - lstepan@uga.edu

Festival website: <https://music.uga.edu/liszt-festival> (More program details found here; Registration opens July 10, 2024)

ALS Members	\$90 (includes ticket to Hamelin and Montero concerts)
ALS Student Members	\$25
MTNA, NATS, AMS Members	\$140
MTNA, NATS, AMS Student Members	\$40 (includes ticket to Hamelin and Montero concerts)
All others	\$180
(with valid student I.D.)	\$50
Banquet (Tuesday October 15 before the Hamelin concert) -	\$50

Ground Transportation: ATL-Athens airport shuttle: <https://groometransportation.com/athens/>
(2 hours, stops at festival hotels)
Rental car or private transport (such as <https://grizzlydelivery.com/>)

Festival Housing: UGA Continuing Education Center and Hotel - \$149*
Indigo Hotel - \$159* (king or 2 queen beds)
*please book by September 13 to secure the Festival rate; availability is limited

Hotel map can be found at <https://cvent.me/OZy30z>

Chapter News

ALS Hartford Chapter:

President: **Bridget de Moura Castro**

We welcome those in the area to come to our annual ALS Hartford Chapter event at the beautiful New Britain Museum of American Art. It will be at 3pm on Sunday August 11th. We enjoy presenting at least four artists on their lovely Steinway!

ALS New York/New Jersey Chapter:

President: **Gila Goldstein**

pianistgila@gmail.com

Vice-President: **David Witten**

wittend@montclair.edu

The Chapter will no longer be hosted by Yamaha Artist Services/Yamaha Piano Salon. The chapter is extremely grateful for 17 years of fruitful collaboration with the Yamaha team, led by Bonnie Barrett.

The new New York City home will be Klavierhaus, 790 11th Avenue. The Chapter's NY concerts will become part of Klavierhaus' Salon Concerts series, which are mostly held on Sunday at 2pm (but sometimes perhaps on days other than Sunday).

The founder and former artistic director of the series, recording engineer Joe (Joseph) Patrych, who was a former ALS member, passed away in December 2023. Together with James Wu, who live-streams all the concerts, they hosted numerous piano recitals and chamber concerts. Jed Distler, renowned pianist/composer/journalist has been named the new Artistic Director. The NY chapter will host its first concert at the new venue in the fall of 2024, date TBA, and the guest pianist will be Maxim Lando, first prize winner of the 2nd (2022) New York Liszt International Piano Competition.

The Chapter's activities in New Jersey will continue as usual as part of the summer Taubman Institute Festival at

Cali School of Music, Montclair State University in Montclair, New Jersey, organized by Prof. David Witten, chair of keyboard studies.

On Saturday June 22 at 4pm pianist Fei-Fei will perform for the American Liszt Society NY/NJ Chapter at Montclair. Fei Fei, a graduate of the Juilliard school, is currently a DMA student of Yefim Bronfman at the Manhattan School of Music. For details, please visit <https://www.taubmanuniversalapproach.org>.

ALS South Florida Chapter:

President: **José Raúl López**

The South Florida Chapter of the ALS presented 4 pianists during the 2023-24 academic year at Florida International University's Wertheim Concert Hall. On October 21, 2023, **Cathal Breslin** offered a program containing Schubert's Sonata D. 960, de Falla, Brahms, and Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 12. Back-to-back dates on January 26/27, 2024 featured **Philip Powell** in a selection of Liszt's original works (Au lac de Wallenstadt, Sonetto 104) and transcriptions of Schubert (Ave Maria), Schumann (Widmung) and Wagner (Liebestod), followed by **Asiya Korepanova's** complete Liszt Etudes (1852 versions of the 6 Paganini, 12 Transcendentals, and 3 Concert Etudes, Ab Irato, Waldesrauschen and Gnomenreigen). On February 11, **Grigorios Zamparas** included in his recital the 2 Legends, Sonetto 104 and Liebestraum.

ALS Southern California Chapter:

President: **Dmitry Rachmanov**

Recent activities:

• During the Summer-Fall 2023 seasons the chapter has held a series of Chapter fundraisers on 6/17, 9/03

& 10/21, 2023 at the homes of the ALS SoCal board members with the participation of the board members and guests.

• **November 18, 2023**—ALS SoCal Chapter biennial Festival @ APU: Recitals, Masterclasses, Workshops & Lectures. Guest Artist **Jeff LaDeur**: <https://americanlisztsocietysocal.org/biennial-chapter-festival-2023/>

• **March 1, 2024**—Guest Artist Recital & Masterclass: **Ching-Yun Hu** @ CSUN: an all-Liszt recital program entitled: "Liszt: Metamorphosis."

• **March 27, 2024** – Guest Artist Recital & Masterclass @ CSUF: **Minsoo Sohn** in an all-Liszt program: Consolations & Transcendental Etudes. Many ALS SoCal members in attendance.

Upcoming events:

• **Los Angeles International Liszt Competition** @ APU, Saturday & Sunday, November 23&24, 2024, Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA



LOS ANGELES
INTERNATIONAL
L I S Z T
COMPETITION

November 23-24, 2024

Donor Categories:
\$1,000.00+ – Commander Liszt
\$500.00–\$999.00 – Abbé Liszt
\$100.00–\$499.00 – Franz
\$25.00–\$99.00 – Le Petit Liszt

**Donors are acknowledged
in the Competition Program
Booklet and on the website.**

www.lisztcompetition.com

INVITATION TO SUPPORT

The mission of the Los Angeles International Liszt Competition is to promote and provide opportunities for young pianists and singers to perform the historic compositions of Franz Liszt.

Donations support prize winners' cash awards, certificates, plaques, and jury expenses to sustain the Competition's dedication to nurturing talent. We are grateful for your support!

Donations may be made online or by check. Donations greater than \$500 are encouraged to be paid by check to avoid processing fees.

Please mail a check to the following address.

Los Angeles International Liszt Competition
c/o Kathy Hickey
38600 Pine Drive
Cherry Valley, CA 92223

Make checks payable to "Los Angeles International Liszt Competition."



ALS China Chapter Feature

From Sarah Mei Li, Chair of the International Festival and Membership:

I am excited to share some news about the American Liszt Society China Chapter with you. As the Chair of the International Festival and Membership, I'm pleased to inform you that we established a partnership with educational organizations in China back in 2023, leading to the formation of the American Liszt Society China Chapter in October of the same year. We are coordinating with two organizations. The first is Liszt Wuxi International Culture Media Co., Ltd., which primarily handles organizing workshops, managing concerts, and recruiting new members. This is our main partner. The second organization is Shanghai Three Little Pigs Educational Technology Co., which provides technology support, such as social media and publicity. Our headquarters is now based in Shanghai, China.

I

In December 2023, we hosted a captivating opening ceremony that drew the attention of numerous leading pianists, piano teachers, and students. The event was a tremendous success.



(From the salon workshop held after the opening ceremony)

"Music Dream, Future Stars"

Moving into 2024, on January 21st, the ALS China Chapter collaborated with two major music academies to host a remarkable concert in Shanghai. Dozens of young Chinese musicians graced the stage, performing Franz Liszt's piano solo works and concertos to a captivated audience. The concert garnered widespread acclaim and was hailed as a resounding success.



The new chapter has seen an influx of new members, with a total of 17 individuals joining the American Liszt Society, noted with (*) in the new member section. Among them, four have become lifelong members, while the remaining 13 have opted for yearly membership. This inaugural group of members marks the beginning of a growing community, with more individuals expected to join our ranks this summer.

Four special members, renowned pianists in China, will serve as artistic directors in the ALS China Chapter. Their names are:

Wang Qiu
Zhong Ting
Wu Xiao
Yang Yifu



From the opening ceremony, December 2023

Member News

Matthew Bengtson enjoyed a busy fall 2023 concert season with performances in Philadelphia, New York, Cornell and Bucknell Universities, and in San Francisco and the Bay Area. Programs ranged from CPE Bach, Mozart, and Chopin on early pianos, to chamber music with the Schubert Violin Fantasy and the Giannini Piano Quintet, to solo music of Scriabin, Schmitt, Szymanowski and Sierra, to a recital of all new piano music at Old First Concerts in San Francisco.

Michael Boyd was nominated and accepted for induction into the Steinway Teacher's Hall of Fame. The ceremony was in Queens, NY with other teachers from around the country. It was a great honor and fitting capstone to his final year at the University of Toledo. (see p. 12)

Dr. Madeleine Forte continues her post-85th birthday performances in Connecticut and New York with her group, The Lillibridge Ensemble. This concert featured Beethoven's Kreutzer Sonata and the Piano Quintet Op. 44 of Robert Schumann. (see p. 12)

Gila Goldstein, piano faculty member at Longy School of Music in Boston, was invited to become a guest professor at Changzhou University in China. She visited and taught at the University in September 2023. As part of her trip she also taught in Shanghai. Gila will return to China in Fall of 2024, to teach and play recitals in Changzhou, Shanghai and Beijing. Other performances in Fall 2023 included solo and duo piano recitals in Providence, Boston, New York, and South Carolina, where she spent a five-day residency at Furman University, teaching and performing a recital.

Her new recording *LATIN AMERICAN PIANO GEMS* was released on the Centaur label on May 3rd. The recording includes works by Argentinian composers Carlos Guastavino and Astor Piazzolla (including the premiere recording of

Gila's own arrangement of Piazzolla's *Oblivion*), Cuban composer Ernesto Lecuona, Mexican composer Manuel Ponce and Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos. The recording is available on all the platforms such as Spotify, Apple music, YouTube, etc. (see p. 12)

Gila performed a solo recital at the New York Piano Academy in Manhattan on May 19, works by Franck, Bach, Villa-Lobos, Schubert, Liszt, and the world premiere of five preludes by Ronn Yedidia, whose "24 Piano Preludes of Dusk and Dawn" she will finish recording in June 2024, this recording will be released in early 2025.

José López, South Florida Chapter President and Professor at FIU, published the 1st volume of chamber music works by 19th century Cuban-born composers. The 460-page volume, published in collaboration with Cuban musicologist Dr. Miriam Escudero, contains a number of premieres, including 6 works by Nicolás Espadero for violin and piano, and the first chamber music composition by Cuba's leading female composer during the nineteenth century, Cecilia Arizti. The second volume is in press and will contain works by violinists José White y Lafitte, Claudio Brindis de Salas, and premieres of works by Cervantes and Dutch-born Hubert de Blanck.

López performed a program of works by 19th century Jewish composers, all contemporaries of Liszt, including works by Felix and Fanny Mendelssohn, Ferdinand Hiller, Benjamin Godard, Julius Schulhoff, and Charles V. Alkan.

Elyse Mach published the Ninth Edition of her textbook, *Contemporary Class Piano*, with Oxford University Press (New York) in February 2023. This 688-page text has been one of the leading textbooks nationally and internationally since it was first published in 1975. Known for its richly diversified styles of repertoire and ensemble pieces and its abundance of creative materials, the book includes the widest ranging repertoire of solo and ensemble pieces available in any beginning piano text according to many critics who have reviewed it.

Judith Nesleny continued the year with her performances, The Pearls of Classics series at several universities and benefit occasions. To her repertoire, she initiated and premiered the complete original piano version of Erno Dohnanyi's "Ruralia Hungarica", with verbal reflections, in between the colorfully diversified movements.

As a former pupil and interpreter of Zoltan Kodaly's piano works, the International Kodaly Society decorated her with a special medal and acknowledgements at the 50th Symposium in 2023 at the Colburn School of Music, Los Angeles. Judith, as a former pupil of Zoltan Kodaly, started the Kodaly Method back in 1969, at the Holy Names College in Oakland with Emma Serenyi, and participated in the First Symposium in 1973. Last summer, Sister Lorna Zemke and Judith were the only ones representing the illustrious beginning 50 years ago at the first Symposium in California.

Dr. Ksenia Nosikova, a distinguished professor of piano at the University of Iowa and a member of the ALS Board of Directors, has had an eventful and successful year filled with performances, masterclasses, and collaborations. Last summer, Dr. Nosikova performed and taught at prestigious venues such as the Verein Wiener MusikSeminar in Vienna, Austria, the Altalena Music Festival in



Member News

(continued)

Budapest, Hungary, and the London Masterclasses in Arad, Romania.

In the fall semester, she played a pivotal role in creating the Connections Piano Festival in Natal, Brazil, which celebrated Latin American and North American music. Her multimedia presentation of Frederic Rzewski's "The People United Will Never be Defeated," featuring a team of 12 pianists, was a highlight of the festival and earned recognition from notable figures like May Baptista, the Consul General at the United States Consulate General in Recife.

In February, Dr. Nosikova was a guest artist, masterclass teacher, and concerto competition judge at Rice University in Houston. Following this, she embarked on a tour across Southeast Asia, captivating audiences with solo recitals and working with students through masterclasses at renowned institutions in Bangkok, Singapore, Manila, and Kuala Lumpur.

April saw her engagements at various universities in the United States, including the University of Wyoming, Western Illinois University, and Lawrence University. Additionally, she continued her collaboration with Professor Almita Vamos, performing chamber music recitals in Chicago, Minneapolis, and Iowa City. Her Avita Duo with violinist Katya Moeller also had notable performances in Brazil, Minnesota, and Iowa.

In addition to her performance and teaching endeavors, Dr. Nosikova's leadership as Artistic Director of the "Key Change: Piano Revolutionaries" concert series and the "Piano Sundays at Old Capitol" concert series has continued her vision and commitment to promoting piano music to wider audiences and nurturing local talent.

Dr. Nosikova's upcoming summer engagements include serving as a faculty member at the PianoTexas International Festival and Academy

in Fort Worth, Texas, and leading an intensive four-day teaching workshop "Keyboard Days" in Minneapolis. Additionally, she eagerly anticipates returning to Vienna for the Verein Wiener MusikSeminar and attending the Verbier Festival in Switzerland to support her daughter Katya Moeller, who has been selected as a Verbier Solo Academy Young Artist.

Derek Parsons continues to perform his two-piano reduction of the Healey Willan Piano Concerto throughout the country and abroad, thanks to a generous grant from Furman University. He is frequently assisted by members of the Liszt Society. Recent presentations have included lecture-performances at Concordia College, North Dakota State University, East Tennessee State University, and the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin Ireland. He continues to seek an American premiere of this fine but underappreciated work.

Next Issue Deadline:

September 30, 2024

Contributions to the newsletters are welcome and encouraged! Please send information to

dparsons@furman.edu.

Photos should be high resolution b/w or color. Thank you!

New Members

2024

Yuan Zhuang
Mo Xu
David Keep
Ilonka Russ
Corey Hamm
Michelangelo Funfrock
William Hueholt
David Brickle
James Helton
You Just Lee
Sally Coenen
Chris Sarzen
Victoria Fischer
Jonathan Klein
Joey Hokayem
Timothy Shafer
Beverly Smoker
Robert Watson
Karen Sigers
Ryan Fogg
Michelle Nam
Vladimir Ryabov
Thomas' Robak
Clara Christian
Jenny Soonjin Kim
Jieun Lee
Eric Tran
Laura Alfonso
Hui Bao*
Xin Jia Cai*
Eve Castonguay
Ning Chen*
Yan Xiang Chen*
Nathan Cheung
Boya Hu*
Dan Jin*
Francesca Khalifa
Carl Khalil
Xin Li*
Xin Ning Li*
Fang Fang Liang*
Heng Lin*
Elizabeth Lopartis
Yue Ning Lou*
Wanwan Luo*
Stephen Martorella
Miguel McKenzie
Pei Xin Miao*
Prof. Dr. Tibor Szasz
Xin Lei Wang
Yu Wang*
Jia Bao Wu*
Ling Ling Yan
Jackie Kai Zhi Yo*ng
Yu Yoy*

2024 LA Liszt Competition

The eighteenth biennial **Los Angeles International Liszt Competition for Piano and Voice** will take place November 23-24, 2024. Location will again be at Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, California.

The competition is co-sponsored by the American Liszt Society, the Pasadena Branch of the Music Teachers' Association of California, California Federation of Music Clubs, Steinway Pianos, and Azusa Pacific University.

Since 1990, the mission of the Los Angeles International Liszt Competition is to promote and provide opportunities for young pianists and singers to perform the historic compositions of Franz Liszt. Each competition year about two hundred young artists compete in ten divisions: five age divisions, longer work, concerto, voice, New York Concert (voice), and Budapest Concert (piano). Contestants range in age from 12 and under through 35 and come from around the world. There are generous prizes in all divisions. The Grand Prize winners in piano and voice present their debut concerts in New York City, Washington, D.C., London and at the Liszt Memorial Museum in Budapest.

The 2024 jury will consist of fourteen internationally acclaimed Liszt performers. Traditionally, many of the jury are members of the American Liszt Society and see their contribution as a way to help promote the music of Franz Liszt. While the list of adjudicators have not been completed by the time of the newsletter submission deadline, it can be found on the Competition website at www.lalisztcompetition.com/information.

The Los Angeles International Liszt Competition was founded by Geraldine Keeling and co-directed by Judith Nesley from

1990 to 2017. Katherine Hickey and Éva Polgár have been leading the Competition for the past three years. Katherine is Professor of Music Education and Director of the Kodály Center at the Conservatory of Music at University of Redlands. She has also served as president and treasurer of the national Organization of American Kodály Educators and is currently treasurer of the Southern California Chapter of the American Liszt Society. In 2012 Éva won both the Budapest Concert and the Concerto Divisions in the Los Angeles International Liszt Competition. She was also the recipient of the American Liszt Society Award. She is on the board of directors for the American Liszt Society and teaches at East Tennessee State University.

The continuation of the Competition is important to the organizers. In addition to the hundreds of hours of volunteer work, each competition requires about \$50,000 to cover all expenses to sustain our dedication to nurturing talent. Please consider any amount of donation which now can be made online at:

www.lalisztcompetition.com/product/support-us/

Please encourage talented young Liszt pianists and vocalists to enter the 2024 Competition. Complete information and online registration is available on the website:

www.lalisztcompetition.com.

Application deadline: October 18, 2024.

Katherine Hickey, Co-Director
(951) 454-8205, kathy_hickey@redlands.edu

Éva Polgár, Co-Director
(940) 465-9069, eva@evapolgar.com

Thomas Mastroianni awarded Medal of the American Liszt Society

In a unanimous vote, the Board selected the late **Dr. Thomas Mastroianni** as a posthumous recipient of the Medal of the American Liszt Society. The award will be presented to his family at the 2024 ALS Festival Banquet in October. An excerpt from the nomination, presented by **Dr. Daniel Horn, Dr. Alan Walker**, and the late **Dr. Elyse Mach**:

Tom was an internationally respected pianist, who performed extensively throughout the United States, Europe, Latin America, and Asia. His recordings included works by Brahms, Debussy, and notably Franz Liszt. He was a champion of Liszt and an authority on his life and work. He served the American Liszt Society as its president, and planned several of its conferences; in 1992, he was awarded the Medal of the Hungarian Liszt Society.

Following the example of Liszt, he lived life in a beautiful way. He was a wonderful teacher and musician, who was notable for his remarkable kindness, generosity, and devotion to his Catholic faith. Like Liszt, he built his life around faith, extended family, and commitment to all he encountered in his professional and personal life.

...In all that he did, he served faithfully and generously wherever he found himself, like Liszt giving freely of his time, talents, and money to assist students, colleagues, causes in which he believed.

Of Note...

On 28th October 2023, the President and Fellows of Carnegie Mellon University conferred on **William (Bill) Wright**, author of *Liszt and England*, the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters for his contribution to scholarship. He is also anticipating the forthcoming publication of 'O du mein holder Abendstern' LWD7 - his edited cello and piano arrangement from Wagner's Tannhäuser which provides a modern home for a Liszt fragment. At the moment this chamber piece is accessible only in manuscript facsimile in the Journal of the American Liszt Society, volume 35 / 1994.

Other recent publications include the piano piece, *Hérolde-Herz-Liszt Cavatine de Zampa* S409b by Mellen Press. For further information on those new publications please see online:

Edwin Mellen Press Academic Subject: Music-Keyboards.

Look for a new book in June 2024 by **Nicolás J.F. Puyané**, entitled *Liszt Recomposed: Exploring Intertextual Fluidity in Song*.

Franz Liszt is mostly known for his virtuosic piano works, but his compositional achievements in the genre of song have so far been neglected. Many of Liszt's Lieder exist in multiple versions, sometimes radically altered, and many with equal claims to 'authenticity'. This has sometimes been viewed as a barrier to performance and a hindrance to scholarly scrutiny. Dr. Puyané now redresses this imbalance and draws attention to this rich and varied corpus of works.

Nicolás J.F. Puyané graduated with a PhD in musicology from the National University of Ireland, Maynooth.

From **Francesca Khalifa**:

On May 4th 2024, the Greenwich House Music School of New York City celebrated the 100th birthday of Cuban pianist **German Diez Nieto** (Havana, June 18 1924 - New York, July 9 2014) with a concert featuring many of his long-time pupils - and among others pianist Erika Nickrenz, Joan Tower and Bennet Lerner.

Diez is a familiar name to many members of the American Liszt Society, which recently supported the realization of the documentary dedicated to his life (Piano Lessons: the life and art of German Diez, 2021): he was a mentor to many (including Executive Secretary of ALS Justin Kolb and myself) and the man behind generations of classical musicians now active on the international scene.

Heir to the piano tradition of Franz Liszt, Diez was a long time pupil of Claudio Arrau and one of his assistants in New York City. Arrived from Havana in 1945 on a personal scholarship of Claudio Arrau and a grant from the Cuban government, the young pianist spent ten years as a regular student of the Chilean master (who at the time, because of the War, was concertizing much less than in later years and often giving three or four lessons per week). And while remaining anchored in the Lisztian tradition which Arrau represented, in a real Lisztian-fashion Diez remained open and always interested in enriching his studies with other meaningful contributions: he took lessons with Carl Friedberg (student and close friend of Clara Schumann and Johannes Brahms) and Eduard Steurmann (student of Busoni), and became a student of Ernst Oster, a pupil of Schenker and the major proponent of schenkerian analysis in the United States (and the translator of Schenker's Free Composition into English in 1977).

Retired soon from concertizing due to a mix of anxiety and financial needs, Diez soon made a reputation for himself as "the teacher's teacher": hundreds of young pianists who wanted to resolve technical issues, become more rounded performers and artists, and altogether better pianists would seek his counsel and come back to him for years. He was severe, determined and disciplined in delivering his lessons, eager to pass on to each and every student the core values and practical ways of playing at the basis of the Liszt/Arrau's tradition. But he was also kind, warm, generous and patient and capable of honoring and supporting the artistic struggle in each student in a different way. Faculty member of many schools in New York (Brooklyn College, SUNY Purchase, Bard College), Diez was and remains a special figure at the Greenwich House Music School. Hired in 1948 by the legendary director Maxwell Powers, Diez worked at the school until his death in 2014, not only as faculty but also as Chair of the Piano Department. He sustained the school in all its major chapters, maintaining a busy studio and several assistants and making sure to be always present for recitals, student exams and school events. In 2003, he was the one who organized Arrau's 100th birthday celebrations, a one-of-a-kind festival of events including many performances and masterclasses reuniting Arrau's students from all over the world.

Among Diez's students Grammy-nominated pianist Erika Nickrenz of the Eroica Trio; Grammy winner composer, pianist and conductor Joan Tower; film and musical composer Grammy, Tony, Emmy and Oscar winner Robert Lopez; Copland's favorite pianist Bennett Lerner and so many others for which there is no space here, but who continue to greatly contribute to the health and richness of today's musical world.

Condolences



William (Bill) Wellborn

The entire ALS community was saddened by the loss of two beloved Lisztians in the past few months. Words cannot describe the impact they had on our lives with their inspiration, their expertise, their tenacity for all things related to Liszt and his circle, and their joyful love of life. They were beautiful people; a positive presence around everyone they encountered. They will be greatly missed...



Elyse Mach

Poetry...

From "Faith and Courage" collection

ODE TO FRANZ LISZT

He was only fifty one
when he took the heavy
burden of the world on,
in the name of the Cross,
to ease the pain and crime,
the harsh and futile
wars of men, and changed
into the Holy robe...

But the fortissimo of Life
sounded relentlessly on,
singing the song of those
divine thoughts,
through the endless power
of Music...

And yet, behind the closed doors
of holy simplicity,
the Ecstasy of Creation liberated
the overworked, celebrated
frail genius -
to continue to compose
and create endlessly
by heavenly inspirations,
his musical empire -

By **Judith Neszlenyi**, published in
Budapest, 2021 in Hungarian.

Copyright resides with the author.

... and Photos



**The late Thomas Mastroianni,
recipient of the 2024 Medal of
the American Liszt Society (p.10)**



Gila Goldstein's new release (p.8)



**Madeleine Forte with the Lillibridge
Ensemble (p.8)**



**Michael Boyd at the Steinway Hall of
Fame Induction Ceremony (p.8)**