



VIRTUAL
CONCERT
HALLS



Laureate Gala

Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall



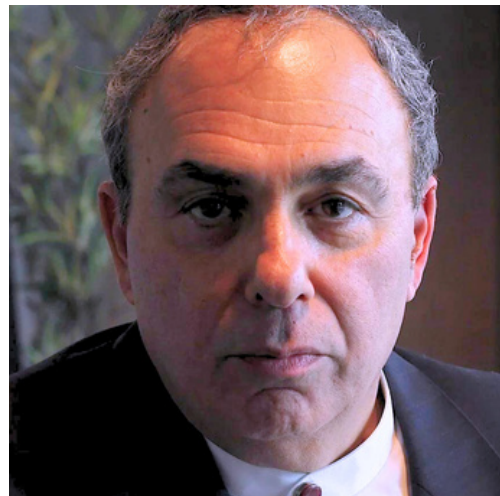
June 30, 2025 @ 7pm



James Welch
Sound Espressivo



Anna Ouspenskaya
*Sound Espressivo &
Virtual Concert Halls*



Jack Price
Price Attractions

Welcome to our 11th Laureate Gala hosted by Sound Espressivo, Virtual Concert Halls, & Price Attractions. Today's program will feature musicians from numerous countries who have won our 2023-2024 Laureate's Auditions.

Our mission is to help musicians of all ages achieve their goals by advancing artistically through innovative formats of online competitions. Since 2020, we have been hosting online and Internet TV events that provide musicians with a live virtual platform to reach out to world-wide audiences, receive expert feedback from professional musicians, share their artistic views, new albums, and to compete for prizes ranging from our Internet TV showcases, to the most prestigious performance venues around the world. We believe that it is important to recognize all the instruction and support that goes into the development of a musician. We also recognize the value of experience and progress. Progress does not always happen at a consistent rate, it may be quicker at one stage, and slower at another. Aspirations also vary at different stages of life, and from person to person. As one steps out of their comfort zone, it takes courage to share one's art for humanity.

Music is an artistic vehicle that brings together storytelling, math, history, art, imagery. Most significantly, it provides an environment and a language for deeply emotional connections. Although music is appreciated by many, art can never be perfected, providing an opportunity for eternal evolution and enjoyment. Music illuminates the gifts of many cultures, our world's biggest historical events, and continues to inspire stories, movies, dance, and enhance social gatherings. Some key ingredients to strong musical training include engaging highly qualified instructors, supportive family and community of friends and fans. It also demands a disciplined practice routine, collaborations with other artists, and many opportunities to perform on various stages and venues. There are endless musical possibilities and unique artistic voices being discovered.

We are thrilled to be working with an amazing team of professionals that continue educating, encouraging, and rewarding musicians of all ages and stages of their careers. Today we are honored to have pianist James Adler from AdlerOaks Music offer the James Adler Audience Favorite Award for a selected pianist or composer.

It would be impossible for us to continue these types of events without the dedication and support of all our families and everyone who contributed!

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING! Enjoy the Gala!

**Sound Espressivo
Virtual Concert Halls &
Price Attractions**

proudly presents its

**11th
Laureate Gala**

***Weill Recital Hall at
Carnegie Hall***

June 30, 2025, 7pm

Featuring

Our Selected Laureates

The Chicago Kwonsa Choir

The Castanets of Madrid

The Lehner Quartet

The New Jersey Guitar Orchestra

Program
June 30, 2025, 7:00pm
Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall

Opening Remarks

The Chicago Kwonsa Choir

JinUk Lee, Maestro

Sarah Yun Mayer, Pianist

A Mighty Fortress is Our God
All of These

Martin Luther-Camp, Kirkland-Jinsil Lee
Craig Curry

PAUSE

The James Adler Audience Favorite Award

James Adler

AdlerOaks Music

The Castanets of Madrid

Teresa Laiz Monsalve, Maestro

Frane Rušinović, Pianist

Dance Hungara No. 6	Brahms-Laiz
Suite Española, Op. 47, No. 5 Asturias (Leyenda)	Albéniz-Laiz
La Cumparsita	Matos-Muñoz
Libertango	Piazzolla-Fourcade
Tomo Y Obligo: Tango	Gardel-Laiz
Viva Navarra: Jota	Larregla-Laiz
Mantilla de Feria	Sanlúcar-Alarcón

Waltz in A-flat Major, Op. 42	Chopin
<i>Matthew Wang, piano</i>	

Summertime	Gershwin
<i>Lisa Leak, soprano</i>	
<i>Frane Rušinović, piano</i>	

Etude in F minor, Op. 10 No. 9	Chopin
<i>Abigail Nossaman, piano</i>	
Le Gris	*Causapruna
Miramar Café	
<i>Andrea Causapruna, guitar</i>	
Sonata No. 17, Op. 31 No. 2	Beethoven
I. Largo-Allegro	
<i>Ethan Zhao, piano</i>	
Winner of Hulbert (Knabe) Competition	
Pour le piano	Debussy
I. Prélude	
II. Sarabande	
III. Toccata	
<i>Christina Harnisch, piano</i>	
Ritual Fire Dance	Manuel de Falla-*Ono
<i>Momoro Ono, piano</i>	
The Lehner Quartet	
<i>Vladimir Dyo, violin; Yevgeniy Dyo, violin;</i>	
<i>Joseph Kauffman, viola; Igor Zubkovsky, cello</i>	
Crystalline Raindrops	*Vinayak Vikram
Alleluia for Peace (<i>A World Premiere</i>)	*James Adler
<i>Dominika Zamara, soprano</i>	
September Tango	*Katharina Nohl
Streams of Thought	*Stella Claire ter Hart
<i>Frane Rušinović, piano</i>	
String Quartet No. 1	Gaziza Zhubanova

The New Jersey Guitar Orchestra
Jayson Martinez, Maestro

Fools Rushing In	*John Asmuth
Everything Leads to Something Else	Olga Amelkina-Vera
Nebulae	Olga Amelkina-Vera
Finn's River	Olga Amelkina-Vera

Program Notes

Alleluia For Peace (A World Premiere)

For Soprano and String Quartet

Music by James Adler

(c) 2025 AdlerOaks Music

I first met the elegant and fabulous soprano Dominika Zamara when she was performing at the Progressive Musicians' 5th Laureate Gala at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, April 2024. My Suite Moderne for Strings was also being performed at this concert. Dominika looked radiant -- and sang so gorgeously. We knew we wanted to collaborate on a project. So in November 2024, we discussed a commission for her: something Dominika could perform here in New York and also in Rome during the 2025 Papal Jubilee! I wanted to compose an "Alleluia" for her with a string quartet.

On Christmas Eve 2024, Pope Francis declared Il Giubileo del 2025 for Catholics as "Pilgrims of Hope." His dedication to Peace was something to inspire all of us, and as I began composing, the work's title came to me: Alleluia For Peace for Soprano and String Quartet. My dedication atop the score reads: Commissioned for and Dedicated to Dominika Zamara, with Admiration and Great Joy!

Marked "Serene and Sweetly" the string quartet enters in A minor with phrased down-bows; the soprano enters in measure three. The mood is calm, the music is tonal, there are some sweeping gestures in the strings. We begin to establish a yearning, adding some bi-tonality in the string parts to offset a smooth vocal line. The piece is in B-flat minor at this point. The mood becomes more somber in the strings, with dynamics "mf - mp" serving as sighs. The soprano line echoes this feeling. More building, yearning -- still in B-flat minor, but the key begins to move higher. Then we establish B-flat major, with some playful soprano triplets ringing out while the strings punctuate. This Alleluia moment leads to sweeping cello/violin 2 scales, the viola and soprano moving into a louder, joyous, upbeat mood. Repeated figures in the lower strings, with some pizzicato punctuation in violins 1 & 2, offset long and lyrical vocal lines. The music moves with cello and viola scales ascending and descending; the upper strings using up-bow and down-bow colors to help the piece end decidedly on the "upbeat." Peace. And Hope. That is what I hope my Alleluia For Peace will bring to you all.

With great joy, Alleluia For Peace will receive its World Premiere by internationally-acclaimed artists Dominika Zamara, soprano, and the Lehner Quartet at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall on June 30, 2025. In October 2025, Ms. Zamara will be performing this piece in Rome during the celebration of Il Giubileo del 2025. May we all celebrate Peace.

James Adler
New York City
May 2025

Crystalline Raindrops

String Quartet

Music by Vinayak Vikram

Crystalline Raindrops is one of my first pieces to explore the delicate interplay of texture, motion, and dynamic contrast. The piece is built around a recurring flickering motif that suggests various types of rainfall. These gestures are heard across textural soundscapes, often in pianissimo, creating a sense of intimacy and fragility.

Occasional surges of sound punctuate the otherwise quiet soundscape, like sudden gusts or downpours that break through stillness. A key feature is the use of cascading lines, which use registral contrasts and interwoven rhythms to evoke flowing and falling motion.

The closing theme group brings all these elements together, with both melody and accompaniment reflecting the same fine-grained, rain-like motion, gradually building to broader swells and sforzandos at the end of the final section.

Throughout, the piece avoids constant dynamic extremes, favoring nuance over force, and building expressive weight from subtle contrasts and evolving textures.

Streams of Thought

Piano Quintet

Music by Stella Claire ter Hart

This impressionistic, evocative work in four short movements was inspired by the poetry of Atlantic Canadian poet and feminist, Kay Smith (1911-2004). The spirit of each poem is vividly portrayed via imagery and tone painting. These quick and contemporary movements elicit a multitude of moods: dreamy and hallucinatory, eerie and foreboding, dystopian, flirty and fun!

- I. “At the bottom of the dark ... I awoke to hear the curtains of the rain ... and a bird in song.”
- II. “It is strange how much a stranger I feel ... in my body ... and my house.”
- III. “But who can see ... to the bottom of any well ... or any soul?”
- IV. “When a woman shops for clothes ... she surveys herself in mirrors ... with a man’s eye!”

Collaborative Pianist

Frane Rušinović



Frane Rušinović is a Croatian-American pianist. He began playing the piano at the age of 9 and has been pursuing a career as a concert pianist ever since. At the age of 10, he moved to the U.S. with his family, where he studied piano with Anna Ouspenskaya at the Levine School of Music in Washington, D.C., earning a Certificate of Distinction. He continued his studies with Boris Slutsky at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore. At 18, he moved to Germany to study at the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln, where he earned both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in piano performance under the guidance of Florence Millet, later graduating under Jacob Leuschner.

Frane has performed in numerous recitals and masterclasses with renowned pianists and has won multiple piano competitions, earning first prizes in the Alexandria Performing Arts Association Competition, the Asian-American International Piano Competition, and the MTNA State of Virginia Competition. He has appeared in prestigious venues such as Merkin Hall, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York, and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

As a versatile musician, Frane has collaborated with ensembles such as Enigmi Quintett and SCB Jazz Big Band, and he has performed with violinist Christopher Huber. As a collaborative pianist, he has accompanied woodwind and mandolin classes at Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln and performed at major competitions such as the Hans Eisler Trumpet Competition in Berlin, the Robert Schumann Voice Competition in Zwickau, as well as a voice competition at the Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst in Vienna.

Frane has toured across Europe, performing in Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Croatia, Luxembourg, and Russia. He has also been featured in international festivals and live TV performances, including Podium Witteman in Amsterdam. In addition to his performing career, he is an experienced educator, having taught at Bergische Musikschule in Germany, Music Hub in Saudi Arabia, and privately in the United States.

Currently, he remains active as a concert pianist, chamber musician, and educator, continuing to inspire audiences with his artistry and dedication to music.

The Chicago Kwonsa Choir



The Chicago Kwonsa Choir was founded on March 6, 2015, by five friends who attended a prayer meeting together. Inspired by Isaiah 43:21, "The people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise," they established the choir to offer praises to God. The purpose of the choir is to offer heartfelt and devoted praise to God, promote cultural and community service through their performances, and foster fellowship and camaraderie among the choir members. The choir exclusively performs hymns that exalt God.

Currently, the choir consists of approximately 40 members. Dr. JinUk Lee, a professor at Chicago Northern Seminary, serves as the conductor, Sarah Yun Mayer serves as pianist and Inok Lee is the team leader. The choir is open to anyone who believes in and serves God, aiming to be a place where members can experience God's presence through abundant grace in their praises, often resulting in tears of confession and testimony.

Founded on the scripture Isaiah 43:21, the Chicago Deaconess Choir has grown since its inception in March 2015. Their mission is to offer heartfelt and sincere praise to God and to engage in cultural community service through their performances. They held their first concert in April 2016 and have performed five annual concerts to date. Rehearsals are held every Saturday from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM at Yesurun Church. The choir continues to evolve, providing an open platform for believers to join and experience the overwhelming presence of God through powerful and emotional worship. The Chicago Deaconess Choir is diligently preparing for their 6th annual concert, set to take place in September 2023, with a unified and passionate spirit.

Sung Hee Lee
Helen Haeun Han
Myung Joo Kwon
Rosie Myungsook Chang
Donghwa Lee
Young Hui Park
Sandra Sook Kim
Kyung H Kil
Esther Myung Kim
Chung Ja Han
Myung Hee Choi
Hea Young Yoo
Keun Soo Cho

Yong Soon Park
Jennifer Young Lee
Pil Sun Kim
Jeong J Kim
Duk Nam Yoo
In Ja Song
Hyun Sook Yu
Youngsuk Yeon
Bok Soon Jun
Esther Ae S Yoon
Gee Young Kim
Seungeui Kang
Jung Ae Lee

Young Ok Koh
Young Hee Lee
Sun Kum Kim
Myung Hee Yi
Lady Sooknyu Joo
Jane In Ok Lee
Agatha Park
Christine Lee
Hannah Jun

Sarah Yun Mayer, pianist
JinUk Lee, maestro

The Castanets of Madrid



**Nora Luz Muñoz Pérez
María Florencia Fourcade
Isabel Alarcón Sánchez
Bárbara Martín Muñoz
María del Pilar Vita La Iglesia
Megan Lee**

***Frane Rušinović , pianist
Teresa Laiz Monsalve, maestra***

The Lehner Quartet



Formed in 2020, the Lehner Quartet brought together four acclaimed musicians from the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra (Washington National Opera) and the National Symphony Orchestra: violinists Natasha and Zino Bogachek, violist Philippe Chao, and cellist Igor Zubkovsky—each an accomplished performer in their own right. United by a deep passion for chamber music and a long history of performing together on international stages, they quickly established themselves as one of the most dynamic and compelling ensembles on the contemporary classical scene.

During 2021-23 seasons, the ensemble partnered with Virtual Concert Halls and Vox Novus to present a groundbreaking series of concerts featuring new works by living composers. These performances reflect the quartet's dual mission: to honor the traditions of chamber music while amplifying fresh, diverse voices shaping the future of classical music.

Audiences have come to expect performances that bridge virtuosity, emotional depth, and innovation—offering experiences that celebrate the power and relevance of contemporary classical music.

Building on their momentum, the Lehner Quartet has been featured in multiple performances at Carnegie Hall and other prestigious venues during the 2022–2025 concert seasons. Their collaborations with composers from around the globe continue to highlight their role as champions of new music.

In 2024, the Quartet released their debut double album, *Modern Classics*, on the Cicerone Music and Arts (CiMA) label. The album showcases original works by living composers from various countries and affirms the ensemble's commitment to creating a vibrant, modern repertoire for string quartet.

The current members of the Lehner Quartet are violinists Vladimir and Yevgeniy Dyo, violist Joseph Kauffman, and founding cellist Igor Zubkovsky. The ensemble is preparing for a dynamic new season of performances and upcoming recording projects with the Cicerone Music and Arts (CiMA) label.

Vladimir Dyo, violin

Yevgeniy Dyo, violin

Joseph Kauffman, viola

Igor Zubkovsky, cello

Dominika Zamara, guest soprano

Frane Rušinović, guest pianist

The New Jersey Guitar Orchestra



The NJGO is an elite ensemble of classical guitarists of various backgrounds, from amateurs to professional guitarists and teachers. The NJGO is active during the Fall and Spring semester sessions each year. Our mission is to provide a space for personal expression, expand the artistic experience, and foster community by empowering people to create, perform, respond, and connect to all things GUITAR!

Andrew Jaworski
Cem Yigit
Chris Joseph
Christopher Perez
Crystal Gaynor
Diego Gallardo
Dr. Loren Fortna
Dr. John Asmuth
Dr. Martin Brounstein
Dr. Steve Sabet
Janette Beham
Jeff Wilt
Jo Lucev
Jonathan Cruz
Jordyn Gallagher
Patrick Callahan
Rick Florio
Ryan Bagg
Sandy Meltzer
Sara Overholt
Thomas Crown

Jayson Martinez, maestro



James Adler **Pianist & Composer** **AdlerOaks Music**

James Adler is a pianist who “can create whatever type of music he wants at the keyboard” (Chicago Sun-Times) and a composer who writes “with uncommon imagination” (Atlanta Journal-Constitution). His latest album, *Reflections*, features “A Curtis Reflection,” commissioned by the Curtis Institute of Music as part of their 100x100 Centenary Commissioning Initiative. Henry Fogel, in his five-star review, says the work “exhibits wit, a melodic gift, a very natural feel for the keyboard, and coloristic imagination” (Fanfare). This season Mr. Adler has been commissioned by Saint Peter’s University to compose “New Beginnings” for a December premiere at Lessons & Carols. He appears in recital in October on the Interchurch Center Concert Series in New York City, and a return performance in April 2025 on the Arts on Bergen Concert Series. He joins QUO Orchestra for two performances of “Rhapsody in Blue” in March 2025.

Mr. Adler's album *Reflections* was awarded the Silver Medal – Outstanding Achievement in the 2024 Global Music Awards in both the instrumentalist and album categories. His album, *That Star in the Picture*, is a double-award winner in the 2024 Intercontinental Music Awards Pangea Classical Category. The album was also recognized in 2023 by the Global Music Awards as a Silver Medal Winner – Outstanding Achievement in the Composer category, and it landed on the 2023 Top 20 Classical (Vocal) recording list of *textura*. Luciano Feliciani (Kathodik) calls this “a disc of great value, to be savored slowly.” This “exquisite” (David DeBoor Canfield, Fanfare), “lovely collection of lighter songs” (Henry Fogel, Fanfare) features Metropolitan Opera mezzo-soprano Victoria Livengood in a chamber version of Pie Jesu from *Memento mori: An AIDS Requiem*.

Mr. Adler is honored to serve on the Sound Espressivo Advisory Board. Sound Espressivo - Virtual Classical/Jazz music is known for the competitions and events it hosts. In 2024-2025, performers will compete for in-person concerto appearances at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, as well as with other orchestras throughout the world. The “James Adler Audience Favorite Award” is presented during the Laureates Gala.

Mr. Adler made his orchestral performing debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and has appeared in recital on the Orchestra’s Allied Arts Piano Series, and the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts Series. His appearances have brought him from Chicago’s Grant Park, to London’s Royal Albert Hall (broadcast by the BBC), to Thessaloniki, Greece, to New York’s Alice Tully Hall, Symphony Space, and the Paramount Theatre at Madison Square Garden.

His extensive list of compositions is headed by *Memento mori: An AIDS Requiem*. Performed worldwide, recorded by AmorArtis Chorale and Orchestra, and published by Alfred Music, *Memento mori* features a “range of expression [that] is expansive” and is “a unique, well-crafted, emotionally rich piece” (American Record Guide). Other compositions include *Reflections upon a September morn* (poetry by Walt Whitman); *Songs of Innocence and of Experience* (poetry by William Blake); *A Winter Triptych* (Albany Records); *Monday’s Child*, performed at The Cathedral of Saint John the Divine and at The Metropolitan Museum of Art; *Carols of Splendour*, premiered at Carnegie Hall (“A cheerful, splashy tour de force, skillfully constructed and full of clever ideas,” The Choral Journal); *It’s Gotta Be America*, commissioned for the Centennial Celebration of the Statue of Liberty; and *Canticle For Peace*, written for the opening of the 43rd session of the United Nations General Assembly (published by Colla Voce Music). Mr. Adler is also the composer of *Concerto in G* for Piano and Orchestra (published by Alfred Music), the children’s “pOpera” *Herbie and Carnie: A Dinosaga*, the Classic Rag-time Suite for orchestra, numerous solo, chamber, and choral works, and the award-winning film score for *The Hat Act*.

As a performer and composer, Mr. Adler can be heard on recordings from Albany Records, Capstone, Navona, and Ravello Records. He is a member of the Arts Department at Saint Peter’s University, a National Arts Associate in the Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity, a recipient of the 2017 Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award, and in 2018 was selected for membership in the SAI Composer’s Bureau. In 2023, he was invited to join the Music Publishers Association of the United States. Mr. Adler is a Yamaha Artist.

The Host



Steve Robinson

Steve Robinson is an American radio manager, producer, and executive producer. He has held senior management positions with numerous American radio stations, including WFMT and the WFMT Radio Network in Chicago, WBUR in Boston, WGBH in Boston, WCRB in Boston, KPFA in Berkeley, WBGO in Newark, Vermont Public Radio, and the Nebraska Public Radio Network. Robinson served as general manager of the statewide Nebraska Public Radio Network from 1990 to 2000 and of WFMT and the WFMT Radio Network from 2000 until October 2016. A 50-year radio veteran, he has produced programs ranging from classical music documentaries to public affairs programs and has directed over 100 on-air pledge drives.

In 1984, he co-founded AIR (the Association of Independents in Radio), a service organization designed to assist independent radio producers in the United States. Robinson wrote AIR's first two successful grants from the New York State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Throughout his career, Robinson has produced dozens of radio programs that have been broadcast worldwide, including live broadcasts from Salzburg, Austria (on the occasion of Mozart's 250th birthday); Durban, South Africa (for the world premiere of the opera *Princess Magogo*); Quebec City, Canada (for a live broadcast of Mahler's *Symphony of a Thousand*, with 1,000 performers); Jerusalem, Israel (for a broadcast from the Jerusalem International Chamber Music Festival); and numerous live broadcasts from Chicago and throughout the U.S. He has worked with composers such as William Schuman, Elliott Carter, Charles Dodge, Roger Reynolds, and Alan Hovhaness on programs about their music. In 2003, he created the daily classical music appreciation radio program *Exploring Music* with Bill McGlaughlin. The series is carried by state networks throughout the world, including in Australia and China. At the WFMT Radio Network, he created the first classical music radio exchange between the United States and China.

In 2000, Robinson became the general manager of WFMT and the WFMT Radio Network. Founded in 1951, WFMT is one of the most admired classical music stations in the U.S. Under his leadership, many new programs were added to the local schedule, including *Introductions*, *Impromptu*, and others. Robinson worked on diversifying WFMT's programming by expanding the amount of live broadcasting from the station.

One of his most important initiatives at the WFMT Radio Network was the creation of *Exploring Music* with Bill McGlaughlin in 2003. This daily, one-hour music appreciation program is heard on over 60 U.S. stations and has a weekly audience of more than 400,000 unique listeners. The program is also heard in Australia, Guam, the Philippines, and Beijing. Initial funding for *Exploring Music* was provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional funding from individuals and foundations.

Under his leadership, the station focused on live music by broadcasting a wide array of local Chicago groups and ensembles. In 2007, the Chicago Tribune named him "Chicagoan of the Year" in the arts.

In 2015, Robinson executed a cross-cultural broadcast relationship between America and China by exporting, for the first time, broadcasts of concerts by the NY Philharmonic, LA Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Dallas Symphony, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and Carnegie Hall to China. He also arranged for concerts from the Shanghai Spring International Music Festival and the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra to be broadcast to the West, including in the U.S., Canada, and Europe.

In 2004 and again in 2010, Robinson created and produced two live, 17-hour fundraising campaigns involving all Chicago radio and TV stations to aid victims of the tsunami in Southeast Asia and the earthquake in Haiti. Each campaign raised over \$3 million. Robinson received two Wesbury Awards from the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago for his work on the fundraising campaigns. In 2008, Robinson and Bill McGlaughlin received the Dushkin Award for *Exploring Music* with Bill McGlaughlin from the Music Institute of Chicago. He has received both local and national awards for his work in Chicago, including the Champion Award from the Merit School of Music, the ASCAP/Deems Taylor Award for creative programming, and others.

2024-2025 Concert Season

- 11/8/2024: Modern Classics 1 Album Release
- 11/10/2024: Orchestra Camera di Fiorentina
- 11/11/2024: Orchestra Camera di Fiorentina
- 11/15/2024: Modern Classics 2 Album Release
- 11/24/2024: Laureate Gala - Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall
- 11/26/2024: Price Gala - Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall
- 11/27/2024: New Artist Series Recording Session
- 11/30/2024: Kabalevsky Piano Concerto No. 3 Album Release
- 11/30/2024: The Road to Zlín Album Release
- 12/5/2024: Orquesta Filarmónica Municipal de Guayaquil (Ecuador)
- 12/20/2024: Lviv National Philharmonic (Ukraine)
- 2/17/2025: Laureate Gala - Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall
- 2/20/2025: Laureate Gala - Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall
- 3/8/2025: Paducah Symphony Orchestra
- 3/9/2025: Paducah Symphony Orchestra
- 3/29/2025: Boulder Symphony Orchestra
- 3/30/2025: Boulder Symphony Orchestra
- 4/30/2025: Price Gala - Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall
- 5/1/2025: New Artist Series Recording Session
- 6/06/2025: Tahoe Symphony and Chorus
- 6/08/2025: Tahoe Symphony and Chorus
- 6/18/2025: Orchestra Manhattan Album Release
- 6/28/2025: Laureate Gala - Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall
- 6/30/2025: Laureate Gala - Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall
- 7/11/2025: *Infloribus* with Bayberry String Quartet Album Release
- 7/25/2025: Tahoe Symphony and Chorus
- 7/27/2025: Tahoe Symphony and Chorus
- 9/13/2025: Paducah Symphony Orchestra
- 10/11/2025: Paducah Symphony Orchestra
- 10/23/2025: Orquesta Filarmónica Municipal de Guayaquil (Ecuador)
- 11/15/2025: Paducah Symphony Orchestra



VIRTUAL
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Ongoing Audition Calls

New Artist Series Albums

Artist Management with Price Attractions

ALBUM RELEASES



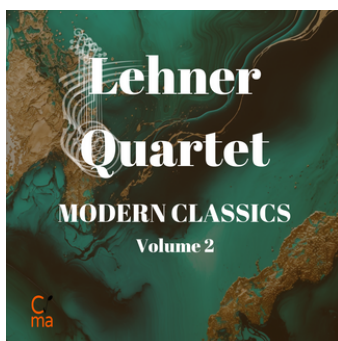
Modern Classics Vol. 1

The Lehner Quartet

String Quartets by Living Composers

Featured Composers: William Toutant, Peter Dickson Lopez, Noam Faingold, & Leopold Brauneiss

Release: November 8, 2024



Modern Classics Vol. 2

The Lehner Quartet

String Quartets by Living Composers

Featured Composers: Joel Feigin & Jana Skarecky

Release: November 15, 2024



Kabalevsky Piano Concerto No. 3

The Cairo Opera Orchestra

Pianist: Kate Lee

Maestro: Gevorg Sargsyan

Release: November 30, 2024



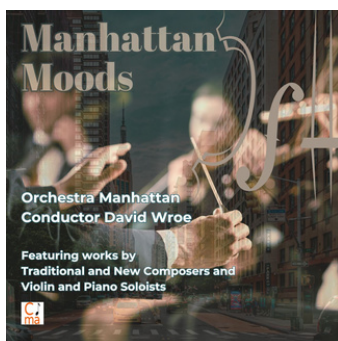
The Road to Zlin

The Bohuslav Martinů Philharmonic

Featured Artists: Jennifer Savage, piano; Gong Qian Yang, composer; Jelena Stefanic, soprano; Kevin Matheson, violin; Louise Ting, piano; Rainer Stegmann, composer; & Zhibin Chiam, piano

Maestro: Gevorg Sargsyan

Release: February 1, 2025



Manhattan Moods

Orchestra Manhattan

Featured Artists: Stas Venglevski, accordion; Kate Lee, piano; Gvantsa Butskhrikidize, violin; Gong Qian Yang, composer; & Ayla Moreno, piano

Maestro: David Wroe

Release: June 18, 2025

Cicerone Music & Art

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Since 1998

**AT WEILL RECITAL HALL AT
CARNEGIE HALL**

**iClassical Academy
Recognition Awards**



iClassical
ACADEMY

Congratulations

Hulbert (Knabe) Competition



Ethan Zhao

Pianist

Winner of Hulbert
(Knabe) Competition

The William Knabe Piano Institute, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was founded in 2016 with a mission to raise awareness about the cultural significance of the piano in America. At the Knabe Institute, founder and president, Dr. Jarl Hulbert, continues the mission that he helped create as coordinator of the discontinued William Kapell International Piano Competition. While drawing attention to the role of the piano in American history, the Knabe Institute's events also highlight today's young pianists, and invest in the pianists of tomorrow.

The inaugural Knabe Young Artist Piano Competition, held in June 2016, featured young pianists from Maryland, Delaware, Washington DC, and Virginia. Dr. Jarl Hulbert founded and directed the William Kapell Young Artist Competition in 2012 and based the Knabe Young Artist Competition on that work. The 2017 Knabe Young Artist Competition, slightly expanded over the 2016 event, allowed video applications and included special events in honor of William Knabe's 180th anniversary. The First Lady of Maryland, Yumi Hogan was an honored guest, and she presented the Knabe Competition with a Governor's Citation. 2018 saw a significant expansion, with applications requiring video, a concerto round, and nearly \$10,000 in prize money. The 2019 competition includes categories for pianists aged 18-25, in addition to the categories for the younger performers. After postponing the 2020 competition due to COVID, the Knabe Competition continued in 2021 with the addition of a virtual-only option and with the expansion of applicant ages to 6-26.

Announced first at the final round of the 2022 competition, the competition name was changed (beginning in 2023) to the Thomas F. Hulbert International Piano Competition to honor American composer, pianist, author, and pedagogue Thomas F. Hulbert (1922-1990).



The Musicians



Christina Harnisch
Pianist

Swiss pianist Christina Harnisch earned her concert diploma under Franz Joseph Hirt at the Berne Conservatory and University, followed by advanced studies with Eduardo Vercellei, Yvonne Lefébure, Louis Kentner, Vitalij Margulis, and Bruno Mezzena. She has received numerous national and international awards, including the "Prix de Virtuosit  " from Neuch  tel, and has built an extensive international career as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral performer. Harnisch has performed with ensembles such as the S  dwestdeutsche Philharmonie, Berner Symphonieorchester, San Francisco Sinfonietta, and the Orquesta Nacional del Per  . Her repertoire spans from Bach to contemporary works, with a special focus on music by women composers including C  cile Chaminade, Clara Schumann, Fanny Mendelssohn, and Grazyna Bacewicz.

Harnisch has performed in major venues like the Tonhalle Z  rich, Wiener Konzerthaus, Purcell Room London, Forbidden City Concert Hall in Beijing, Shanghai Oriental Art Center, and Teatro Municipal Vi  a del Mar. She has toured extensively throughout the USA, South America, Europe, China, Thailand, India, and Chile. Notable appearances include solo recitals in Belleville and St. Louis, USA as part of the "Great Pianists of the World" series, and concerto performances of Clara Schumann and Chaminade works in Poland and the USA. In November 2023, she performed Clara Schumann's concerto with the University City Symphony Orchestra in St. Louis. She is scheduled to appear as a soloist at Carnegie Hall, New York, in June 2025.

Harnisch frequently collaborates with flutist Romano Pucci, performing internationally at festivals including Freiburg's Klavierfestival, Orbetello Pianofestival, Ruggero Leoncavallo Festival, and the Festival della Lingua Italiana in Bangkok. Her work has been featured in numerous radio, CD, and television broadcasts.



Andrea Causaprana
Guitarist

Andrea Causaprana developed a passion for music at a young age, starting with classical guitar and later exploring electric guitar throughout his high school years. He played in various bands, spanning genres from early blues to experimental rock. Andrea studied at the Conservatory of Santa Cecilia in Rome under Giuliano Balestra, graduating with top honors in guitar. He furthered his studies at the Accademia Chigiana in Siena with Oscar Ghiglia and continued with Stefano Grondona in Brescia. His classical repertoire spans from the Renaissance to contemporary works. Andrea is also known for performing Spanish Golden Age music on the vihuela and 19th-century music on period instruments. He has performed in numerous festivals and events both in Italy and internationally, earning recognition at several national and international competitions. In 2006, he received the Silver Plaque of the Italian Presidency of the Republic as the overall winner of the Anemos Music Competition in Rome.

As a teacher, Andrea has given masterclasses in Mexico City at the Escuela Nacional de M  sica and the Instituto Superior de Bellas Artes, and holds a degree in Music Didactics. He currently teaches in public schools. Andrea is also a composer, and his album "The Lover's Suitcase", released by World Fonogram Records in 2023, received international acclaim. He has written soundtracks for films and music for theater productions. His passion for theater led him to found the collective "Il Teatro Invisibile" in 2017. In 2021, his project "Siamo Tutti Lupi Cattivi" was a finalist at the Rome Fringe Festival (Tube section), and in 2024, he debuted with the play Tungsteno by Antonio Mocchiola.



Ethan Zhao
Pianist

Ethan Zhao is a fourteen-year-old pianist from Urbana Middle School in Maryland. He began studying piano at the age of seven under Mrs. San-Qing Lu Bennaman and has developed a deep passion for classical music.

Ethan has won top prizes in prestigious competitions, including the MSMTA Spring Festival Piano Solo Competition, the Miriam Shields Gottlieb Competition, and the Washington Universal Piano Competition. He has also been recognized in international competitions such as the International Young Artists Piano Competition, the American Prot  g   International Piano and Strings Competition, and the Thomas F. Hulbert International Piano Competition.

Beyond competitions, Ethan has been invited to perform at distinguished venues, including Carnegie Hall, the Bulgarian Embassy, and the Washington International Piano Festival. Passionate about sharing his music, he has spent the past three years performing at local senior centers, bringing joy and connection to his community.

Outside of piano, Ethan enjoys swimming, reading, and running.



Katharina Nohl
Composer

In June 2023, Katharina's composition Rave for Hackbrett and orchestra was awarded the Amadeus Composition Award (Austria) with silver. Prior to that, her commissioned orchestral composition for Hackbrett and orchestra was premiered in April 2023 in Switzerland with the Sinfonieorchester Kanton Schwyz, conducted by Urs Bamert, with Olga Mischula on Hackbrett and Cymbal. In December 2022, her Piano Rhapsody "Spices" received the Global Music Award in Silver for creativity and composition – a perfect ending to a fruitful year!

Reflecting on her journey, Katharina sees music through the lens of a pianist, audience member, mother, mentor, publisher, and festival organizer. She has built a career that emphasizes inclusivity, performing across Europe, Russia, and the Arabian Peninsula. These experiences, shaped by both Western and non-Western cultural influences, along with classical and modern elements, have contributed to her distinct musical voice. Katharina credits her first piano teacher with introducing her to Eastern music and the works of female composers. This experience inspired her to champion other composers, leading to the creation of the inaugural Swiss Female Composers Festival – a platform for networking, collaboration, and the performance of new works.

In 2002, Katharina moved to Switzerland, where she built a family and started a new chapter in her life. While her years of traveling slowed down, a new and exciting journey began. With her two daughters, family, and cats in tow, Katharina continued to perform across Europe, while also initiating interdisciplinary art projects for children, combining music and visual arts in live concerts. She finds joy in creating lasting memories, giving children the chance to experience classical music firsthand.

Katharina's interest in arrangement and composition blossomed organically. Encouraged by fellow composers and pianists, she has since composed various orchestral works, chamber pieces, arrangements, and numerous piano works. Her music has been performed in countries including Russia, Turkey, the UK, Germany, Switzerland, Albania, and more.

In January 2019, Katharina realized her long-held idea of connecting and promoting female composers through the establishment of the Swiss Female Composers Festival. In April 2023, she published the first piano book featuring works by living female composers of Switzerland through Universal Edition, with plans for a 2024 edition of violin and piano music.

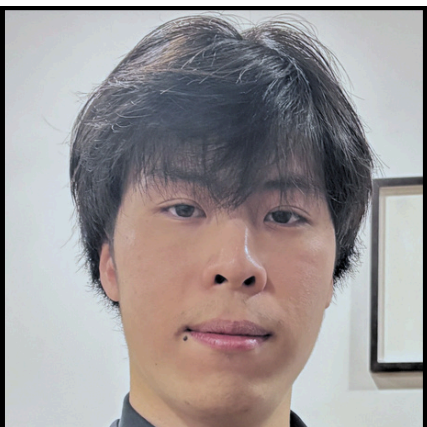
"Music has been a constant companion in my life, taking many forms. As much as I love music, I know that without enjoying life, I cannot truly enjoy music. Life is the source of the music I create."



Lisa Leak
Soprano

Lisa Leak was raised in Columbia, Md by parents who embraced the arts. Her mother was a classically trained vocalist and music educator in the DC public school system, and her father, a jazz enthusiast. They passed down this passion for music by encouraging her to take advantage of opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities that were offered in school including singing in choirs, joining bands, participating in talent shows and performing in school plays. While in grade school she participated in many musicals including "The Wizard of Oz", "The Music Man" and "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat".

After completing high school, she knew she wanted to continue studying music and went on to pursue a Bachelor of Arts degree with a concentration in voice from Hampton University. Upon graduation she continued studying voice privately and also started taking theatre classes as her ultimate goal was to become a Broadway performer. She continues to study both voice and theater in pursuit of her dream.



Matthew Wang
Pianist

Matthew Wang is an undergraduate pianist currently studying at the University of Toronto for a Bachelor's Degree of Music. Prior to post-secondary studies, he completed his ARCT in Piano Performance With honors under the guidance of concert pianist Alan Hobbins.

He has participated in various music festivals and competitions in the GTA, such as Kiwanis Music Festival and the North York Music Festival, to which he has placed highly.

Matthew has received honors from the Ontario Registered Music Teachers Association in the Markham-Stouffville Branch. He is currently under the mentorship of Dr. Michael Esch.



Jayson Martinez
NJ Guitar Orchestra

Jayson Martinez is recognized as the first guitar major student in the history of the prestigious Arts High School in Newark NJ, the nation's first high school for the visual and performing arts. Now, as Director of Guitar Studies at his alma mater, Mr. Martinez has garnered countless educational awards, including winner of the Teacher of the Year Award in 2018-19 and nominee for the GRAMMY Music Educator's Award. His students are continuously invited to perform in several prestigious venues across the country. This includes performing for Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona in Washington DC, NAFME All-National Festivals, and opening for Grammy Award duo Rodrigo y Gabriela.

As a student, Jayson attended New Jersey City University, studying under Dr. Ana María Rosado, and earned degrees in Music Education (B.A.), Music Performance (M.Mus.), and Educational Supervision and Administration (M.EdLd.). He was a featured soloist who performed for many renowned classical guitarists, including Roland Dyens and William Kanengiser.

Currently, Mr. Martinez serves as the New Jersey Music Educators Association (NJMEA) Chairman for Guitar Education, Director of the NJMEA Honors Guitar Ensemble, and National Association for Music Education (NAfME) Eastern Division Representative for the Council of Guitar Education. Mr. Martinez is also the Guitar Studies Adjunct Professor at Kean University. An established classical guitarist, Mr. Martinez served as the concertmaster for the renowned New York City Classical Guitar Orchestra for over a decade. He is featured in podcasts for Bill Swick's "Guitarists in the Classroom" series and for TopMusic.co.

In 2021, Maestro Jayson Martinez founded the New Jersey Guitar Orchestra (NJGO), where he also serves as conductor. In 2022, the NJGO was featured in NYC Merkin Hall, performing with the United States Guitar Orchestra.

Staying true to his roots, he is the owner of Tremolo Music Studio in Clifton NJ, where he teaches music education to aspiring musicians of all ages.



Momoro Ono
Pianist

Momoro Ono is an accomplished pianist who has given numerous concerts and masterclasses across the world, including performances at the University of British Columbia, Emory Chamber Music Society of Atlanta, Xavier University Music Series in Cincinnati, Cincinnati Conservatory of Music Bearcat Piano Festival, Seoul National University Tuesday Concerts, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. He has appeared as a soloist with prestigious orchestras such as the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, with the latter performance being broadcast on NPR.

In 1980, Momoro won First Prize at the Juilliard Gina Bachauer Memorial Competition and the Silver Medal at the Three Rivers International Piano Competition within just two weeks. Shortly thereafter, he performed on WQXR in New York during the Young Artists Showcase.

Momoro holds a Doctorate and Artist Diploma from the Peabody Institute, where he studied with the legendary Leon Fleisher. He also earned both his Master's and Bachelor's degrees from the Juilliard School as a student of Adele Marcus. His chamber music studies include coaching with members of the Guarneri Quartet, particularly alongside his violinist wife, Heejoung Kim.

In addition to his performing career, Momoro is an esteemed teacher of piano at Creighton University and the Omaha Conservatory.



Abigail Nossaman
Pianist

Abigail Nossaman (14), from Northern Virginia, has been studying piano with Anna Ouspenskaya at the Hunter Mill Music Studio since the age of six. Currently a rising ninth grader at The Madeira School in McLean, Virginia, Abby has been a finalist in the Northern Virginia Music Teachers Association Concerto Competition for four consecutive years. She was also a prizewinner in the International Great Composers Competition, earning recognition in the Best Bach Performance category.

Abby is passionate about sharing music with others, regularly performing for assisted living communities across Northern Virginia as part of a student-led volunteer ensemble. Outside of music, she enjoys playing tennis, horseback riding, photography, and sketching. An avid reader, Abby also has a deep love for birds and the natural world.



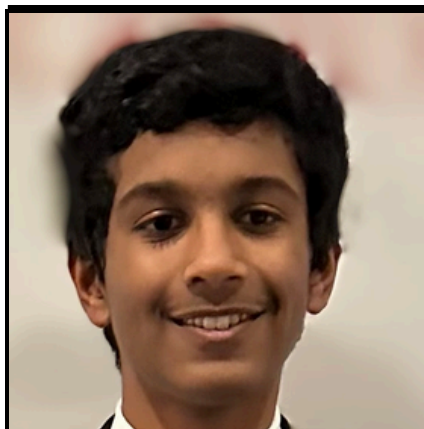
Stella ter Hart
Composer

Stella ter Hart is a Canadian composer, educator, and choral director born in Estevan, Saskatchewan. A first-generation Canadian, she is poignantly inspired by her rich European background, including French Huguenot ancestors fleeing to the Netherlands in the 15th century to avoid persecution and the loss of her grandmother's entire Jewish family (over 600 relatives) in WW2 concentration camps, among them her 79-year-old great-grandfather, and a little seven-year-old cousin, also named Stella.

Ms. ter Hart was the Head of Music at Rothesay Netherwood School in New Brunswick for six years, after which she moved to Ontario and joined the Toronto Conservatory College of Examiners in the Theory/History Department.

Stella has adjudicated countless Music Festivals across Central, Northern, and Eastern Canada. She now focuses on composition, particularly choral and instrumental works. Her style has been described as contemporary yet refreshing, and highly accessible with flashes of the avant-garde. Stella has been commissioned by CBC Radio 2, Symphony New Brunswick, the Indian River Festival, and various professional soloists and ensembles. Her award-winning compositions have been performed throughout North America and as far from home as Australia, Hong Kong, China, Spain, Brazil, Peru, Greece, Austria, and the United Kingdom.

Stella is directly descended from the Italian composer Tomaso Vitali (a fun fact) and, to date, is the only individual in Canada to be awarded all four available ARCT diplomas from the Toronto Conservatory of Music: pedagogy, performance, composition, and theory.



Vinayak Vikram
Composer

Vinayak Vikram is a passionate young musician with a deep love for classical music. He has been learning the recorder and violin for several years and has recently taken up composition, focusing on creating original works.

Vinayak plays the full range of the recorder family, including Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. He uses Mollenhauer Modern Alto and Soprano recorders, having extended their upper range beyond accepted fingerings. He recently acquired a Helder Tenor recorder, capable of covering the full range of the flute, and has mastered rapid scales up to E7, showcasing his ability to handle flute repertoire. Vinayak has competed in numerous recorder festivals, often performing with the Alto and Soprano recorders. Notably, he won 1st prize in the Baroque Woodwinds section of the American Virtuoso International Music Competition, which led to a performance at Carnegie Hall in September. For this event, he arranged and performed Bach's Chaconne from the Partita in D minor. He also placed 3rd at the American Talent Competition and 2nd at the JS Fest International Competition, both with his arrangement of the third movement of the Sibelius Violin Concerto. Additionally, he is the only youth member of the Mid Peninsula Recorder Orchestra.

Vinayak began studying composition at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music in the fall of 2023. His original compositions have already garnered attention: he won the Beeffie Award for Best Creative Video at the Beethoven Online Music Competition and the Gold Award for Best Original Composition at the Reinecke International Online Competition. He also received the Beethoven award for his original composition for recorder quartet in G minor. Vinayak was a regional finalist in the National Federation of Music Clubs Junior Composer Competition with his String Quartet in D minor.

In his short time as a composer, Vinayak has written several solo works for recorder, including Concertinos for violin in A minor, as well as two movements of a symphony—one in E major focusing on strings, and the second in E minor focusing on winds. He draws inspiration from Classical and Romantic composers, particularly Mozart and Mendelssohn, and from the beauty of nature. Recently, he has started exploring the music of other cultures and world music, especially the sounds of his cultural roots.

As a violinist, Vinayak plays in the California Youth Symphony (CYS), where he had the honor of being concertmaster of the Intermezzi Ensemble in 2023. This experience has significantly influenced his composition for chamber strings and symphony orchestra.



Vladimir Dyo
Violinist

Since his debut with the Kazakh State Symphony Orchestra at age 12, Vladimir Dyo has toured and performed at prestigious venues of the former USSR, Europe, Asia, and the United States, including Carnegie Hall, Walt Disney Hall, Seoul Arts Center, Rachmaninoff Hall, Tchaikovsky Hall, Column Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, KBS Hall, UNESCO, United Nations General Headquarters etc. His individual tone and personal approach to phrasing set him apart from his peers.

Critics write: "His mystic contour merged with the instrument and hypnotized the audience....Subtlety and flawlessness of Rachmaninoff's endlessly versatile music created such an emotional reaction with the audience that many had tears in their eyes..." (N. Zemlyakova, musicologist). "Dyo's Sarasate was dazzling..." (Michael Church, BBC World Service). "Vladimir Dyo is a violinist who plays with incredible energy and electricity. His rendition of my LEX was spectacular. He is a major talent who has a very bright future ahead!" (Michael Daugherty, Grammy winner composer).



Yevgeniy Dyo
Violinist

"Elegant violinist" – Luis Biava, Principal and Conductor-in-Residence Emeritus Philadelphia Orchestra "Control, solidity and beauty – who could ask for more?" – Jeffrey Solow American String Teachers Association President "His is fine, sylvan sound, a combination of secure intonation and lithe bow arm. Throughout, Mr. Dyo's playing was elegant, subtle at times, imperious at others, dramatic, and remarkable." – Dr. David Cannata

Since his debut with the Kazakh State Orchestra at the age of nine, Yevgeniy Dyo has performed at prestigious venues in the former Soviet Union, Europe, Asia, Canada, and the United States, including Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Kimmel Center, Tchaikovsky Hall, Mozarteum Wiener Saal, Meyerson Hall, Astana Philharmonic Society Presidential Hall, Embassies of the Vatican and South Korea, and the United Nations General Headquarters. He has won numerous awards from foundations and national and international competitions, including the grand prize at the Shabyt International Chamber Music Competition, Astana, Kazakhstan, and the International Organization "New Names" Award, Moscow, Russia.



Joseph Kauffman
Violist

Joseph Kauffman, a versatile violinist and violist, has studied under the guidance of prominent musicians such as Yayoi Numazawa of the Philadelphia Orchestra, James Lyon, and Max Zorin of The Pennsylvania State University, and Dr. Eduard Schmieder of Temple University. He holds degrees in violin performance from Penn State University (BM) and Temple University (MM) and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) degree at Temple University.

His performances have taken him to some of the world's most prestigious concert halls, including Tchaikovsky Hall, Disney Hall, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Kimmel Center, the Mariinsky Theatre, and the Kennedy Center, among many others.

A highly accomplished performer, Joseph received 1st Prize in the MTNA Chamber Music Competition and has won the Beene, Kroulik, and Brewster solo competitions. He has been honored with the Albert Tashjian and Max Aronoff Prizes from Temple University for excellence in performance and teaching, as well as the Creative Achievement Award from Penn State University for his memorable performances.

In addition to his competition success, he has appeared as a soloist with the PSU Philharmonic, Williamsport Chamber Orchestra, Temple Symphony Orchestra, and many other ensembles.



Igor Zubkovsky
Cellist

Igor Zubkovsky began his cello studies in his native Russia and made his solo debut at the age of twelve, performing Haydn's C Major Cello Concerto with the Minsk State Philharmonic Orchestra. He later studied at the Moscow Conservatory with Natalia Shakhovskaya, Gold Medalist of the 1962 Tchaikovsky Competition.

Mr. Zubkovsky has earned top prizes at several international competitions, including Second Prize at the International Cello Competition in Minsk, Belarus, and the Grand Prix at the Tansman Competition in Lodz, Poland. As a member of "The Brahms Trio" in Moscow, he won Second Prize at the Trapani International Chamber Music Competition in Italy and First Prize at the Weimar International Chamber Music Competition in Germany.

With an impressive record of performances and awards, he was awarded a full scholarship to the Peabody Conservatory of Music, where he earned a Graduate Performance Diploma.

A tenured member of the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra for over 20 years, Mr. Zubkovsky continues to perform extensively as a soloist and chamber musician. He has appeared at Merkin Concert Hall in New York, the prestigious Newport Music Festival, and has performed recitals in Massachusetts and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. Live recordings of his concerts are frequently broadcast on television and over the Internet.

A founding member of The Lehner String Quartet, he also performed as a cellist with the critically-acclaimed Veronika String Quartet in 2021-2022.



Dominika Zamara
Soprano

SPolish soprano Dominika Zamara gained early recognition for her remarkable voice. In 2007, she graduated with honors from the Wrocław University of Music and moved to Italy to pursue advanced studies. Awarded a scholarship from the Verona State Conservatory, she trained under some of Italy's finest operatic teachers, including Alida Ferrarini, Bruno Pola, and Enrico De Mori, whose mentorship played a crucial role in her professional development.

Her operatic debut was in 2010 as Mimi in Puccini's "La Bohème", conducted by Maestro De Mori. Known for her vocal versatility, Dominika has performed internationally in opera, lieder, chamber music, and contemporary genres. She has sung in Europe, the USA, Mexico, Argentina, China, South Korea, and Australia.

Notable performances and venues include:

- *Sinfonia Toronto (Canada), conducted by Maestro Nurhan Arman*
- *Mozart's Exsultate Jubilate with the National Orchestra of Mexico City, conducted by Maestro Victor Contreras*
- *Recital at Centro Naval, Buenos Aires; Carnegie Hall (NYC); Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center (NYC)*
- *Teatro Olimpico, Vicenza, in the opera "Un Tramonto" by G. Coronaro*
- *Verdi Theater, Padua, in "La Serva di Padova" (Contemporary Opera)*
- *World Youth Day, Krakow, in the presence of the Pope*
- *Mythos Opera Festival, performing Aida at the Ancient Theater of Taormina, Sicily*
- *Mercadante Theater, Altamura, for a concert of S. Mercadante's arias*
- *Sala della Protomoteca, Campidoglio, Rome*

In 2023, Dominika joined the New York Composer Circle's roster as an International Performing Artist.

Her honors include:

- *The Cartagine Prize (Rome)*
- *The Fonane Prize (Rome, presented by the Vatican)*
- *The Kobiety Charyzmatycznej Prize (Warsaw)*
- *Recognition in Polscy Muzycy w Świecie and the Encyclopedia Dziedzictwa Polonii Świata.*
- *2023 American Prize Award – Chamber Vocal Music (Soprano), USA*

Dominika's repertoire spans from Baroque to Contemporary, with special projects featuring the works of Vincenzo Bellini and Fryderyk Chopin, exploring their unique musical collaboration.

Photo Credit: Migafka Photography Studio, Poland.



Nora Muñoz
Castanets of Madrid

Since childhood, Nora Muñoz has studied Classical Ballet, Spanish Dance, and Mexican Folklore. She later specialized in Stylized Spanish Dance, Classical Spanish Dance, and Flamenco, receiving her training under Ana María Sánchez at the school of renowned Mexican maestro Oscar Tarriba.

She has participated in classes, workshops, and seminars with internationally recognized teachers from Mexico and Spain. Her performance experience includes guest appearances with various Flamenco ensembles and productions, recitals and concerts of Classical Spanish Dance, and a role in the opera Carmen at Apollo Art Performance in California, USA.

As an educator, Nora has taught Spanish Dance, introductory Flamenco, and Castanet technique for both government and private institutions, as well as directing her own Spanish Dance studio.

In 2023, she was a finalist (Second Prize) in the inaugural "Teresa Laiz" International Castanet Competition. That same year, she earned a degree in Concert Castanets from the Teresa Laiz International Castanet School, a member of the International Dance Council (CID-UNESCO) in Spain.

She is currently a member of the Castanet Choir of Madrid, under the direction of Teresa Laiz, where she performs as a soloist.



Florencia Fourcade
Castanets of Madrid

Florencia Fourcade has been teaching at the ELINA MOLINA ESTRELLA Dance School since 2000, where she leads classes in castanets, classical, contemporary, flamenco, and Spanish dance. Since 2020, she has served as the school's Director.

In 2024, she graduated from the Teresa Laiz International Castanet School, where she is now also a faculty member. She is a soloist with the Castanet Choir of Madrid, under the direction of Teresa Laiz.

Florencia is the co-founder of the International Castanet Foundation Castamusic. She has been recognized by the Senate of Mendoza for her cultural contributions and has performed at prestigious events and venues in Argentina, Spain, and New York.

In February 2025, she won First Prize in the Concert Castanet category at the III "Teresa Laiz" International Castanet Competition.



Isabel Alarcón
Castanets of Madrid

Isabel Alarcón is a dancer from Madrid currently based in Seville, Andalucía. She graduated in Spanish Dance and Flamenco from the Carmen Amaya Professional Conservatory and was awarded a scholarship to study at the Cristina Heeren Foundation of Flamenco Art, where she trained with renowned artists such as Milagros Menjíbar and Javier Barón.

She was a finalist in the 2024 Ubrique Flamenco Competition, as well as in competitions organized by the Federation of Peñas of Málaga (2024) and Seville (2023). In 2024, she won the II Tablao Competition of Casa de la Memoria.

In February 2025, Isabel won First Prize in the Category of Castanets for Dance Accompaniment at the III "Teresa Laiz" International Castanet Competition.

She has performed at prestigious venues including the Royal Theatre of Spain, the Gran Teatro del Liceu in Barcelona, and the National Auditorium of Music in Madrid. Isabel regularly appears in tablao and peñas throughout Andalusia, and also performs as a castanet soloist with orchestras.

Her choreography is rooted in traditional forms, which—infused with her own expressive personality—evolve into an elegant and distinctive artistic language.



Bárbara Martín
Castanets of Madrid

Bárbara Martín holds degrees in Law (Granada University, 1997) and Politics and Administration (Spanish Open University, 2018). She has also earned several master's degrees, including in Legal Practices and Procedures (2000), Management of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (1998), and Fundraising Management for Non-Profit Organizations (2022). Additionally, she completed the XI Strategic Management and Social Leadership Program at IESE (University of Navarra, 2021).

Her academic background includes advanced study in European and disability rights, including the 15th Intensive Seminar on the European Union (College of Europe, 2008), training at the Spanish Diplomatic School, and participation in the 4th International Disability Summer School on the CRPD at the National University of Ireland (2012).

Since 2015, she has served as Vice-President of the European Blind Union (EBU), and since 2019, she has led the Coordination Unit for Institutional Agreements and External Collaborations at ONCE.

Fluent in Spanish, English, and Italian, Bárbara is also passionate about castanets. She began her studies at the Teresa Laiz Castanet School in 2021, joined the Madrid Castanet Choir in 2022, and, as of September 24, 2023, is President of the Teresa Laiz Fan Club.



Pilar Vita
Castanets of Madrid

Pilar Vita holds a degree in Pharmacy, an MBA, and has completed postgraduate studies at the University of Cambridge. Born in Granada, she developed a strong interest in traditional flamenco music, singing, and dance from an early age—taking classes and participating in amateur groups.

She began playing the castanets over 30 years ago, and in 2022 resumed formal study under renowned castanet soloist and teacher Teresa Laiz. That same year, she joined the Madrid Castanet Choir, founded and directed by Teresa Laiz, performing classical, Spanish, and popular repertoires in venues such as the Teatro Flamenco Madrid, the Royal Monastery of Santa María de El Pualar, the Church of San Ildefonso, St. Michael's Church in Brihuega (Guadalajara), and Teatro Lara and Teatro Reina Victoria in Madrid—these last two as part of the IX and X International Castanets Festival.

Pilar continues to deepen her flamenco knowledge and is currently enrolled in Flamenco Vivo, a comprehensive course in theory and practice offered by the Flamencology Department of the University of Córdoba, Spain.

She is a student member of the International Dance Council (CID-UNESCO) and a current member of the Madrid Castanet Choir, under the direction of Teresa Laiz.



Megan Lee
Castanets of Madrid

A native of New York, Megan Lee studied piano and ballet, performing in ballets, operas, and musicals from a young age. At 17, she joined the Atlanta Ballet Company, and later appeared in New York summer stock and off-Broadway productions.

She spent several years in France, touring with a French musical group.

Decades later, Megan rediscovered the joy of music and movement through her involvement in Teresa Laiz's Castanet Choir—an unexpected and deeply rewarding chapter in her artistic journey.



Teresa Laiz
Castanets of Madrid

Born in Madrid in 1966, Teresa Laiz began playing castanets over 30 years ago as part of her Spanish Dance training, studying with masters such as Víctor Ullate, Ana Mercedes, Rafael de Córdoba, and El Farruquito. Though initially focused on Spanish Dance and Flamenco, she transitioned to Concert Castanets in 2005 under the mentorship of Maestro José de Udaeta. Since 2006, she has pursued a solo career, composing her own scores and performing a diverse repertoire that includes classical, Spanish, folk, jazz, flamenco, and world music.

An experienced educator, Laiz has been teaching Classical Ballet, Spanish Dance, Flamenco, and Castanets since 1987. She has taught Concert Castanets at Madrid's prestigious Amor de Dios center and currently teaches at Ma non troppo School of Performing Arts in Madrid. She also manages her Online Castanet School, offering international workshops and masterclasses.

As a performer, Laiz has appeared on stages across Spain, Europe, the United States, and beyond. Notable venues include the Musikverein in Vienna, Carnegie Hall in New York, and the National Auditorium in Madrid. She has collaborated with distinguished artists such as Montserrat Martí Caballé, Luis Santana, Nancy Fabiola Herrera, and Sergio Bernal. In both 2022 and 2023, she performed at Carnegie Hall after winning the Progressive Musicians International Music Competition. In 2024, she won First Prize in the Fanny Mendelssohn International Competition alongside soprano Marta Casas.

Laiz is the founder of both the International Castanets Festival and the Teresa Laiz International Castanet Competition. She continues to compose, perform, and promote castanets as a solo instrument while expanding her Castanet Method publications and directing the Orchestra of Rare Instruments and the Castanets Choir of Madrid.



JinUk Lee

Chicago Kwonsa Choir

Dr. JinUk Lee has an extensive and distinguished career as a baritone soloist, performing oratorio solos both in Korea and the USA. His notable performances include the baritone solos in Handel's Messiah and Haydn's The Creation. Dr. Lee received his early training under Professor InSoo Park in South Korea and continued his studies with renowned professors Andreas Poulimenos and Carol Vaness at Indiana University.

During his time at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, Dr. Lee portrayed Germont in La Traviata under the baton of David Effron and the direction of Tito Capobianco. He also brought to life the characters of Zurga in The Pearl Fishers, Silvio in Pagliacci, and the Count in Le nozze di Figaro while studying with Professor Carol Vaness. His versatility extended to roles such as Papageno in Die Zauberflöte and Tiger Brown in The Threepenny Opera, earning him honors at showcase recitals and the Outstanding Performance Award in the Honors Assembly in Ohio.

Dr. Lee has earned numerous accolades, including first prize for vocal music at the National Artistic Vocal Competition and second prize at the Indianapolis Matinee Musicale competition. He is a recipient of the Sweet Adelines International Award from the Young Singers Foundation and the Albert Rees Davis Scholarship from the S. Livingston Mather Scholarship Competition in Cleveland. Furthermore, he won first place in the National Association of Teachers of Singing Competition and was a finalist in the Mario Lanza International Singing Competition in Italy. His academic and performance excellence was recognized with the Merit Award Scholarship, and he served as an opera assistant at the Lyric Theatre at the University of Illinois for three years, performing roles such as Ford in Falstaff, Street Singer in The Threepenny Opera, and Riolo in Florencia en el Amazonas.

Currently, Dr. JinUk Lee is a professor and the director of the Master of Arts in Worship Korean Track at Northern Seminary in Chicago, IL. He also serves as the music director of four different choirs in the Chicagoland area. Dr. Lee holds degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (DMA), Ohio University (MA), Indiana University at Bloomington (PD), and Kyungpook National University (BA). He began his teaching career as a music professor at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana, and continues to be represented professionally by Vocal Artists Management as a baritone singer.

In addition to his academic and musical endeavors, Dr. Lee actively promotes his work through various media outlets. He has been featured in broadcasts and interviews on Far East Broadcasting Company (FEBC) in Seoul and Daejeon, MCTV-Chicago Win Media, and GOODTV in Korea. His future performance plans include collaborations with distinguished artists in both the United States and Korea, with engagements at the Chicago Korean Cultural Center and FEBC in Seoul and Daejeon. Dr. Lee's contributions to music and his dynamic presence in both academic and performance spheres highlight his exceptional talent and dedication to the performing arts.



Andrew Jaworski

NJ Guitar Orchestra

Andrew Jaworski is a professional educator, musician, recording engineer, and producer. He graduated from The Hartt School in 2008 with a degree in Music Production and Technology and has since worked with various studios and production companies across the industry.

In 2008, he founded Sites and Sounds Productions LLC, a music company specializing in mobile recording and CD duplication services for middle- and high-school music concerts. As a performing guitarist in both classical and rock genres, Andrew also teaches private lessons and serves part-time as a faculty member for a high school marching band.

He later earned a Master of Arts in Teaching from Montclair State University, driven by a passion for fostering appreciation and love for sound and music among students.

Andrew currently serves as Section Leader Two in the New Jersey Guitar Orchestra (NJGO).

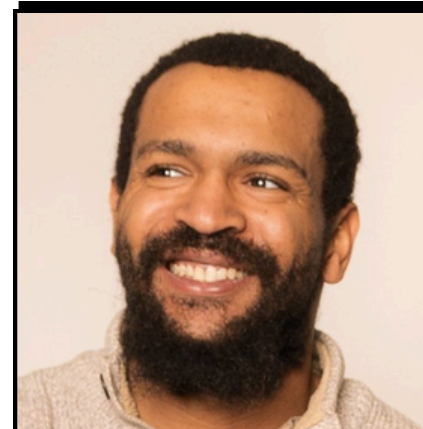


Cem Yigit

NJ Guitar Orchestra

Cem has been passionately playing guitar since the mid-1980s, cultivating a deep appreciation for both classical and flamenco styles through years of dedicated solo practice. His musical interests extend beyond performance into the mathematics of music, including computer-aided harmonization, and Eastern musical tonal systems.

Cem particularly enjoys adapting Eastern folk music for classical guitar, blending tradition with innovation. He is excited to join the New Jersey Guitar Orchestra (NJGO) this season as a section one member.



Chris Joseph

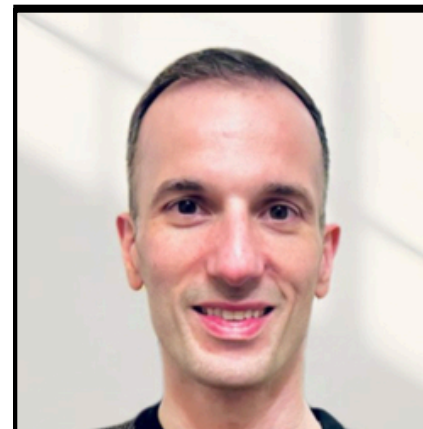
NJ Guitar Orchestra

Based in Brooklyn, New York, Christopher Joseph is a classical guitarist who has studied under Francisco Roldán at New Jersey City University (NJCU), as well as with Dr. Ana María Rosado and Dr. João Luiz Rezende Lopes. He regularly performs for special events including luncheons, weddings, and church services.

Christopher has been a member of the Orpheus Guitar Trio and Quintero Paisano. With Orpheus Guitar Trio, he made his Carnegie Hall debut collaborating with multiple NJCU departments. With Quintero Paisano, he has recorded works for guitar quintet.

In addition to performing, Christopher is the founder and owner of ECGNentertainment, a media project dedicated to helping emerging classical guitarists launch professional careers. He is also an avid TikTok creator, sharing music and insights into his learning process. Outside of music, Christopher enjoys spending time with friends, playing chess and pool—both locally and online.

Known for his down-to-earth and upbeat personality, Christopher is passionate about increasing the recognition and appreciation of classical guitar every day.



Christopher Perez

NJ Guitar Orchestra

Chris is a New Jersey native and classical guitarist who began playing at the age of 16, inspired by the music of Francisco Tárrega. He is passionate about the works of Heitor Villa-Lobos, Agustín Barrios, and Frederic Chopin. Chris is honored to perform in section one of the New Jersey Guitar Orchestra.

In addition to his musical pursuits, Chris is a certified civil trial attorney and a partner and co-founder of a thriving law practice. He holds a Bachelor's degree in English and a Doctorate in Law from Rutgers University. Chris is happily married and the proud father of three beautiful children.



Crystal Gaynor

NJ Guitar Orchestra

Crystal Gaynor is a singer/songwriter, acoustic and classical guitarist, and a self-proclaimed "Late in Life Student of the 6 Strings." As a vocalist, she has recorded and performed background vocals with notable artists including George Clinton/Parliament Funkadelic and Paul Shaffer of the David Letterman Show, among many others.

During her time in the United States Air Force, Crystal performed with the USAF touring performance ensemble, Tops in Blue. While living in Detroit, she worked by day at BMG Distribution, one of the music industry's largest distributors, and by night performed and recorded on the techno, house, and rock music circuits with various Detroit artists.

Driven to become a self-accompanied vocalist, Crystal began her guitar journey in 2018 with a local street busker. In 2020, she enrolled in the online guitar program at Berklee College of Music, earning her Advanced Guitar Certificate in 2022. She is also an active student at the Classical Guitar Corner Academy (CGCA) and Tony's Acoustic Challenge (TAC).



Diego Gallardo

NJ Guitar Orchestra

Diego is a graduate of the Kean Conservatory of Music, holding a B.A. in Music Education. He has been a high school music teacher since 2010, with many of his students going on to study at prestigious institutions such as the University of the Arts, Mason Gross School of Music, William Paterson University, Kean University, Montclair State University, and the New England Conservatory. Several have also become well-regarded musicians in the local area.

As a performer, Diego has played at renowned venues including NJPAC, Merkin Hall, and Carnegie Hall, among others. He currently serves as a section two guitarist for the New Jersey Guitar Orchestra (NJGO).



Dr. Loren Fortna

NJ Guitar Orchestra

Dr. Loren C. Fortna is an accomplished educator, performer, and composer whose career spans from New Jersey to Vancouver, British Columbia. He has performed as a soloist, accompanist, ensemble member, and conductor. Loren holds a B.A. in Music Theoretical Studies, an M.M., an A.D., and a D.M.A. in Classical Guitar Performance, having studied under esteemed guitarists including Dennis Cinelli, Stephen Aron, and Julian Gray.

A dedicated music educator since 2001, Loren was honored as the District Teacher of the Year for the 2008–2009 school year in the Springfield Public School District. He served as an adjunct professor and faculty advisor at Montclair State University from 2009 to 2014 and currently teaches vocal music at the Dionne Warwick Institute in East Orange, NJ.

Loren has led numerous presentations on topics such as music performance anxiety, music-rich writing activities, and guitar composition techniques. He also serves as an adjudicator for several state music education organizations.



Dr. John Asmuth

NJ Guitar Orchestra

A New Jersey native, Dr. John Asmuth began playing classical guitar at the age of twelve, studying privately with Alice Artzt and more recently with Phil Circle. He enjoys performing both as a soloist and with Section 3 of the New Jersey Guitar Orchestra (NJGO). In addition to performing, John is passionate about composing and transcribing music.

John holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science from Rutgers University and currently works as a software engineer in Big Tech™. He resides in Verona, NJ, with his wife Stephanie and their two sons, Trent and Gavin.

For more information, visit: skelterjohn.github.io/guitar



Dr. Martin Brounstein

NJ Guitar Orchestra

Dr. Martin Brounstein is the Board President of Montclair Early Music and a retired attorney specializing in international regulatory compliance for pharmaceutical manufacturing and clinical research. A lifelong guitarist since the mid-1950s, Martin has been teaching jazz, pop, and classical guitar for several decades. He is an active member of the New Jersey, New York, and Mid-Hudson Classical Guitar Societies, contributing to free community recitals throughout the tri-state area.

Martin holds a Ph.D. in British Renaissance literature alongside a Juris Doctor degree. He is also a high-ranking black belt in three martial arts disciplines and offers free women's self-defense classes. Martin serves on the board of directors of the Bloomfield Mandolin Orchestra and performs in section three of the New Jersey Guitar Orchestra.

Learn more at: www.martybrounstein.com

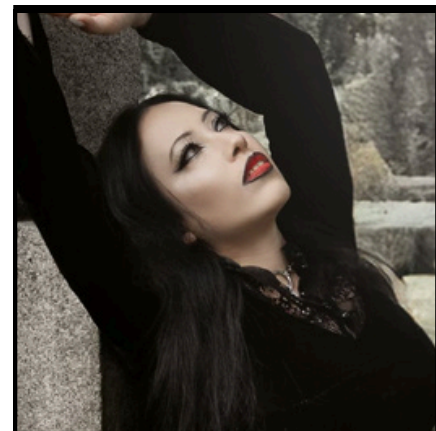


Dr. Steve Sabet

NJ Guitar Orchestra

Dr. Steven Sabet is a music teacher at the Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy, where he instructs guitar and music technology. He also serves as an adjunct professor at Kean University and has taught at Rutgers University, where he earned his Doctorate in Music Education. His doctoral research was published in the Journal of Popular Music Education.

Steven's guitar performances are featured on several studio albums available on platforms such as Apple Music and Spotify. He studied guitar at The Hartt School and Florida State University before pursuing a career as an educator and performer. Dr. Sabet currently serves as concertmaster for the New Jersey Guitar Orchestra (NJGO).



Janette Beham

NJ Guitar Orchestra

Janette Beham has been a classical guitarist with the New York City Guitar Orchestra since 2016. She performed at Zankel Hall, Carnegie Hall, during the 2019 Centennial Celebration of the Aaron Shearer Foundation conducted by Jayson Sagebiel. In 2024, she also performed with the New Jersey Guitar Orchestra under the direction of Jayson Martinez.

Janette contributed to the 2024 New Focus Recording Spectra: New Music for Guitar Orchestra, featuring works such as How Slowly, All of a Sudden by composer and former Nine Inch Nails guitarist Joshua Eustis, in which she plays Guitar 2.

Janette models for Terrifier franchise composer and former Marilyn Manson guitarist Paul Wiley on sensoryrecordings.com; she is currently studying with João Luiz.



Jeff Wilt

NJ Guitar Orchestra

Jeff Wilt has played guitar since the early 1960's when his uncle (an organist) took note of his interest in Channel 13's presentations of classical guitar legend Andres Segovia's "Masterclass" television series and purchased Jeff's first guitar. His parents finally relented and engaged a teacher in the mid-60's after listening to Jeff banging on a guitar he couldn't even tune for two years! His early studies tended toward jazz. He lost interest as the jazz became progressively more...well, progressive! After not playing during college, Jeff returned to guitar around 1980 and taught himself classical guitar. As an adult, Jeff has relied on direction provided by a small army of accomplished classical guitarist friends, as well as classes with international concert guitarists at the annual convention of the Guitar Foundation of America.

Now retired from a 35-year career in regional sales management in the life insurance industry, Jeff performs with the New York City Guitar Orchestra, the New Jersey Guitar Orchestra (where he serves as Section Leader three), and several small ensembles. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the New York City Classical Guitar Society.

Jeff lives with his wife, Lori, and enjoys time with his three adult children — Michala, Carmine, and Kathleen. A lifelong motorcyclist, he also loves daily walks with Holly, the Golden Retriever.



Jo Lucev

NJ Guitar Orchestra

During high school, Jo had the incredible opportunity to be part of the guitar ensemble program at Franklin High School. Under the direction of Patrick Callahan, Jo quickly developed a passion for guitar. This experience not only deepened Jo's love for music but also inspired Jo to pursue a degree in music education.

Jo is thrilled to continue this musical journey in college and aims to combine a passion for guitar with a dedication to teaching and inspiring future musicians.

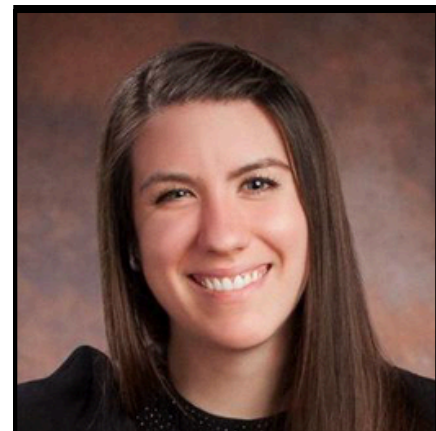


Jonathan Cruz

NJ Guitar Orchestra

Jonathan has been teaching since 2003. A multi-instrumentalist, he plays and performs on guitar, bass, drums, piano, and ukulele. He has attended Berklee College of Music for sessions, studied Music Theory and Composition at Rutgers University, and pursued Music Education and Jazz Performance at William Paterson University.

Jonathan has worked with The Jazz Institute, where he received an award for excellence, and studied jazz at NJPAC, which also honored him with an award.



Jordyn Gallagher

NJ Guitar Orchestra

Jordyn Gallagher began playing guitar at the age of 8. She went on to study classical guitar at The College of New Jersey, graduating with a Bachelor of Music in Instrumental Music Education, specializing in classical guitar with a secondary focus on clarinet. Since then, Jordyn has been teaching in the Metuchen school district in New Jersey.

She currently serves as the director of the 4th, 5th, and 6th-grade orchestras, as well as the kindergarten general music teacher and guitar instructor.

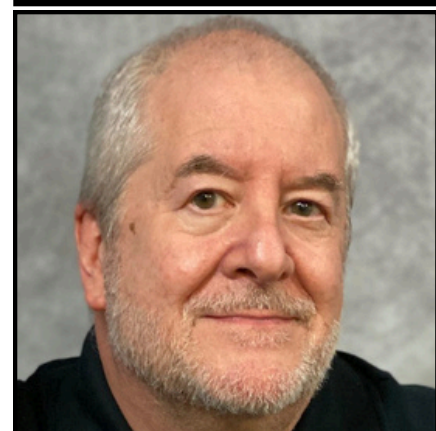


Patrick Callahan

NJ Guitar Orchestra

Patrick Callahan has been a coach and adjudicator for the NJMEA Honors Guitar Ensemble since its inception and is excited to perform with the NJGO this season as a section four member. A passionate educator, Patrick has led the classical guitar program at Franklin High School in Somerset, NJ for nearly a decade.

In addition to his work with NJGO, he actively performs in pit orchestras for musical theatre productions.



Rick Florio

NJ Guitar Orchestra

Rick is an amateur classical guitarist and a member of the NJ Classical Guitar Society. He performs in various small ensembles as well as the NJGO, where he serves as a section one player.

Rick works as a project manager in the pharmaceutical industry. He lives in Hillsborough with his wife Joann and recently became a grandparent for the second time.



Ryan Bagg

NJ Guitar Orchestra

Ryan is a music teacher at a public school in Queens, where he incorporates guitar, ukulele, and modern band into the 5th through 8th grade curriculum. He is currently on sabbatical from teaching to study classical guitar performance at Hunter College.

Ryan began playing guitar at the age of 13 and has since played in various bands and orchestras. In 2014, he met his life and songwriting partner, Teresa, at a ukulele meetup. Together, they have two children and run a family YouTube channel, Paper Bagg Band, where they share their music for kids.



Sandy Meltzer

NJ Guitar Orchestra

Sandy Meltzer began her career as a French horn player, performing with ensembles such as the Westchester Philharmonic. She earned both Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the Manhattan School of Music and freelanced extensively in New York, performing with groups like the Julius Grossman Orchestra, the National Orchestral Association, and various Broadway productions.

In her late 30s, Sandy transitioned to teaching, leading numerous ensembles at the Academies @ Englewood, where she also introduced a guitar program. A self-taught classical guitarist, she now performs with the NJGO and Montclair Early Music Society, where she also serves as Assistant Music Director, continuing her lifelong dedication to music.



Sara Overholt

NJ Guitar Orchestra

Sara Overholt, Ph.D., is a classical guitarist and music theorist with degrees from Yale University (studying under Ben Verdery), the University of California, Santa Barbara, and California State University, Chico (studying with Richard Savino). She pursued additional doctoral studies at the Sorbonne in Paris on a Mellon grant, and at the University of Cologne, Germany as a Fulbright Scholar.

Through her extensive performance career, Dr. Overholt has traveled to over 80 countries. She is the founder of the classical guitar program at Hunter College, CUNY, in Manhattan, where she serves as a professor of classical guitar performance, coaches chamber music, and is the undergraduate advisor for the music minor program.

Dr. Overholt is the author of Stockhausen's Musical Shapes: How a Master Composer Moves Sound, which is internationally available. She is also a returning teacher for the renowned annual New York Guitar Seminar.



Thomas Crown

NJ Guitar Orchestra

Thomas Crown began playing classical guitar in 2017 and quickly developed a passion for the instrument. He joined the Classical Guitar Corner Academy in June of 2023, where he continues to expand his skills.

In addition to performing, Thomas has composed several pieces for classical guitar. He is an active member of both the Classical Guitar Society of New York and the New Jersey Guitar Orchestra.

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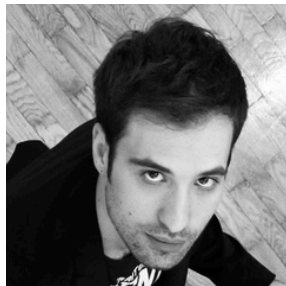
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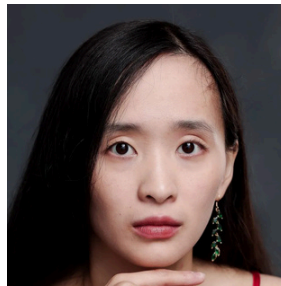
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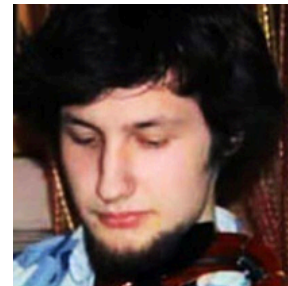
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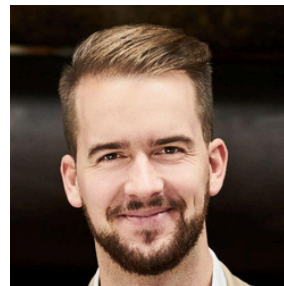
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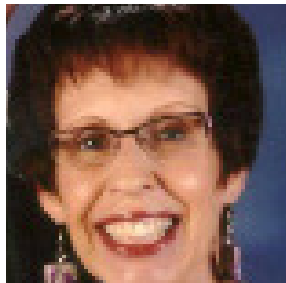
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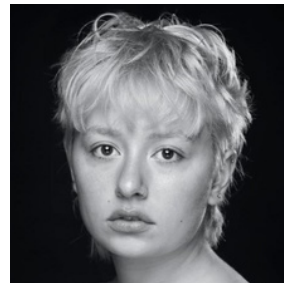
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