



VIRTUAL
CONCERT
HALLS



Price Gala

Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall



April 30, 2025 @ 7pm



James Welch
Sound Espressivo



Anna Ouspenskaya
*Sound Espressivo &
Virtual Concert Halls*



Jack Price
Price Attractions

Welcome to our 2nd Price 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, 2024-2025 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 to offer the James Adler Audience Favorite Award, as well as to present additional awards from iClassical Academy.

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 Espresso
Virtual Concert Halls &
Price Attractions**

proudly presents its

**2nd
Price GALA**

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

April 30, 2025, 7pm

Featuring

Orchestra Manhattan



VIRTUAL
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HALLS



Program

April 30, 2025; 7:00pm - Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall

Opening Remarks

Nocturne in E-flat major, Op. 9, No. 2

Frédéric Chopin

Alan Ma, piano

Orchestra Manhattan

David Wroe, Maestro

Concerto No. 2 in F Minor, Op. 21

Frédéric Chopin

I. Maestoso

II. Larghetto

III. Allegro Vivace

Edmund Dawe, piano

Fusion Fantasy

Matthew Brand*

Matthew Brand, piano

INTERMISSION

Sinfonietta

Aviram Freiberg*

Cracks

Cristina Maria Noli*

Holberg Suite, Op. 40

Edvard Grieg

Danse Macabre, Op. 40

Camille Saint-Säens

Carolina Rodriguez Russum, conductor



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Per me giunto ... O Carlo ascolta
from *Don Carlo*

Giuseppe Verdi

JinUk Lee, baritone

Nocturne, Op. 19, No. 4

Pyotr Tchaikovsky

Adrian Zhang, cello

The Quantum Effect

Dwight Stone*

Da Tempeste
from *Giulio Caesar*

George F. Handel

Mi Chiamano Mimi
from *La Boheme*

Giacomo Puccini

Laura Ansaldi, soprano

Special Thanks

***to all the teachers and families for their endless nurturing
and support of music education and aspiring artists!***

Donna Weng Friedman

Steven Bianchi



Donna Weng Friedman

Award-winning pianist Donna Weng Friedman enjoys a distinguished career as a soloist, chamber musician, educator, curator, producer, and filmmaker. Donna was selected as one of Musical America's Top 30 Professionals of 2024 for her outstanding contribution to the performing arts. In the special January issue featuring these top professionals, Musical America will announce her latest initiative: Heritage and Harmony: BRAVA Maestra! This project, in partnership with the International Alliance for Women in Music aims to spotlight women conductors from our AAPI and BIPOC communities, further demonstrating Donna's commitment to promoting diversity and inclusivity in the classical music world.

<https://www.donnawengfriedman.com/>



Mannes School of Music has transformed the traditional music conservatory by integrating rigorous classical training with real-world experience and cross-disciplinary learning. Work hands-on with award-winning faculty to develop as an artist at one of the best music schools in New York City.



Steven Bianchi

Steven Bianchi is the Director of the Amherst School of Music, where he also teaches piano and oversees its programs. A respected figure in Western New York's music education scene, his students have won regional, national, and international prizes and earned university scholarships. A dedicated teacher since 1975, Bianchi studied with Harold Bradley—himself a student of piano legends Isidor Philipp and Mark Hambourg—absorbing European traditions of piano pedagogy. He earned both his B.A. and M.A. in music from the University at Buffalo and has served as a judge for competitions such as the Claudette Sorel Piano Competition and the International Prominent Pianists Festival. As a composer, his works have been performed at Buffalo State College and Chautauqua Institution. With over 100,000 piano lessons taught, he now lectures on community-level piano teaching and is writing a book on piano pedagogy to guide new teachers in the field.



The Amherst School of Music, Inc. is a community based not-for-profit corporation founded in 1987. It provides musical instruction to primarily school age children in the metropolitan Buffalo area. Adult instruction is also provided by a few of the instructors. The teachers teach in a “traditional” style. This means the curriculum is developed around the strengths, interest and talent of the student. The faculty at the ASM is mostly comprised of professional teachers whose primary vocation is music education. Many are graduates of music conservatories from various countries.

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/Chicago, WBUR/Boston, WGBH/Boston, WCRB/Boston, KPFA/Berkeley, WBGO/Newark, Vermont Public Radio and Nebraska Public Radio Network. Robinson served as general manager of the statewide Nebraska Public Radio Network (1990-2000) and 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 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 heard throughout the world, including live broadcasts from Salzburg, Austria (on the occasion of Mozart's 250th birthday); Durbin, South Africa (for the world premiere for the opera, "Princess Magogo"); Quebec City, Canada (for a live broadcast of Mahler's Symphony of a Thousand with 1000 performers); Jerusalem, Israel (for a broadcast from the Jerusalem International Chamber Music Festival); and has produced numerous live broadcasts from Chicago and throughout the U.S. He has worked with William Schuman, Elliott Carter, Charles Dodge, Roger Reynolds, Alan Hovhaness and other composers 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 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 considered as one of the most admired classical music stations in the U.S. and under his leadership many new programs were added to the local schedule, including Introductions, Impromptu and others. Robinson worked on diversifying the programs of WFMT 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 over 400,000 unique listeners. The program is also heard in Australia, Guam, the Philippines and in Beijing. Initial funding for Exploring Music was provided by the National Endowment for the Arts with additional funding from individuals and foundations. The station under his leadership focused on live music by broadcasting a wide array of local Chicago groups and ensembles. In 2007, the Chicago Tribune named him "Chicagooan of the Year" in the arts.

In 2015, he executed a cross-cultural broadcast relationship between America and China by exporting to China for the first time broadcasting concerts by the NY Philharmonic, LA Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Dallas Symphony, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall. He also arranged for concerts from the Shanghai Spring International Music Festival and the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra to be exported to the West with broadcasts 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 the southeast and the earthquake in Haiti. Each campaign raised over \$3 million. Robinson received two Wesbury Award from the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago for 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 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.

Orchestra Manhattan



David Wroe ***Maestro***

Maestro Wroe is Music Director of the New Jersey Festival Orchestra, Principal Conductor at Phoenicia International Festival of the Voice in New York, and a frequent conductor of L'Orchestre Régional de Normandie in France. From 2000-2014 he was a regular conductor with New York City Opera, leading and assisting in numerous productions. Orchestras conducted include the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Saint Louis Symphony, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, L'Orchestre National de Lille, Opera de Toulon, New Jersey Symphony L'Ensemble de Paris, Symphony Nova Scotia, Kansas City Symphony, Santa Fe Symphony, New York City Ballet, Neue Brandenburg Symphony, L'Orchestra Lamoureux with cellist Mstislav Rostropovich, Opera de Toulon, Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, Das Loh-Orchester Sondershausen, Philharmonische Orchester der Stadt Heidelberg, Delaware, Harrisburg, Huntsville, De Moines Symphony, and numerous tours of Western Austria with Vorarlberg Symphony and at the Bregenz Frühlings Festival. Maestro Wroe is a preferred conductor in Asia, having directed the Taiwan National Symphony, Pusan Philharmonic, Shenzhen, Macau, Hangzhou, Nanjing, Wuhan, Zhejiang, Guiyang, and The Taipei and Taichung Symphony Orchestras. He was Music Director of Music on the Mountain: Garrett Lakes Arts Summer Festival in Maryland from 2000 – 2006, and Music Director and Founder of the Kansas City Camerata from 1990-1996.

Maestro Wroe was Seiji Ozawa's Assistant Conductor at the Boston Symphony Orchestra, leading the Orchestra in Tanglewood (with Joshua Bell) in Boston's Symphony Hall (with Horacio Gutierrez), collaborating with Jessye Norman's recording of "Phaedra", and Itzhak Perlman's recording of Bernstein's Serenade, and touring Europe with the Boston Symphony Orchestra Chamber Players. 2007 marked Maestro Wroe's recording debut with L'Orchestre National de Lille on the TransArt label with pianist Bruno Fontaine, and numerous broadcast recordings, through Austrian Broadcasting Authority (ORF), with the Vorarlberg Symphony.

In addition to his residency at New York City Opera, Maestro Wroe was Resident Conductor at Oper der Stadt Heidelberg (1998-2002), Principal Conductor at Opera Delaware (2000 – 2005), and directed the summer 'Opera Under the Stars' series at the 7000 seater Garden State Arts Center in NJ. From 2005-10 he was Music Director of Opera Teatro Grattacielo in NY, opened for the newly formed Fresno International Grand Opera, and served as Judge with Anna Moffo for the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.

Maestro Wroe, through the NJ Festival Orchestra, has diverse experience in cross-over genres, having collaborated with Kristin Chenoweth, Mannheim Steamrollers, Celtic Women, The 3 Irish Tenors, Natalie Merchant, Joan Rivers, Don Rickles, Bob Newhart, Jackie Evancho and Celtic Thunder, and a return guest at Ocean City Pops Orchestra, to name but a few.

Maestro Wroe devotes considerable time to aspiring musicians. In 2014 he held a residency at Brown University Symphony Orchestra (Rhode Island) as its Interim Music Director, was Principal Conductor at N.Y. University Symphony Orchestra (2008-2011), and Director of Orchestras at Montclair State University, NJ (2000-2005). He led the Boston Symphony Orchestra Youth Concerts, the Taipei Symphony Orchestra Summer Youth Festival, given master-classes at New England Conservatory, Harvard University, Rutgers University and University of Alabama. He has served as Judge for the Music Assistance Fund administered by the League of American Orchestras, and was the Chairman of the Jury of the New Jersey MTA State Concerto Competition.

Awards are numerous, including the Seiji Ozawa Fellowship at Tanglewood, a citation in United States Congress for community commitment, and finalist in the 1st Bernstein International Conducting Competition. He attended Lancing College, has a BMus from Manchester University (England), a MM from Northwestern (Chicago), and studied with Gustav Meier and Victor Yampolsky.

2024-2025 Concerts Season

11.8 *Modern Classics 1 Album Release*
11.10 *Orchestra Camera di Fiorentina (Italy)*
11.11 *Orchestra Camera di Fiorentina (Italy)*
11.15 *Modern Classics 2 Album Release*
11.24 *Laureate Gala - Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall*
11.26 *Price Gala - Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall*
11.27 *New Artist Series Recording Session Orchestra Manhattan*
11.30 *Kabalevsky Piano Concerto No. 3 Album Release*
11.30 *The Road to Zlín Album Release*
12.5 *Orquesta Filarmónica Municipal de Guayaquil (Ecuador)*
12.20 *Lviv National Philharmonic (Ukraine)*
2.17 *Laureate Gala - Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall*
2.20 *Laureate Gala - Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall*
3.8 *Paducah Symphony Orchestra*
3.9 *Paducah Symphony Orchestra*
3.29 *Boulder Symphony Orchestra*
3.30 *Boulder Symphony Orchestra*
4.30 *Price Gala - Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall*
5.1 *New Artist Series Recording Session Orchestra Manhattan*
6.28 *Laureate Gala - Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall*
6.30 *Laureate Gala - Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall*

2025-2026 Season Auditions

10.17 - 10.28 *Laureate Gala & New Artist Series Albums*
12.13 - 12.16 *colORCHESTRA & The Royal Philharmonic Albums*
1.31 - 2.3 *Laureate Gala & New Artist Series Albums*
3.14 - 3.17 *colORCHESTRA & The Royal Philharmonic Albums*
5.9 - 5.12 *Laureate Gala & New Artist Series Albums*
6.13 - 6.16 *colORCHESTRA & The Royal Philharmonic Albums*



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Ongoing Audition Calls

New Artist Series Albums

Artist Management with Price Attractions

ALBUM RELEASES



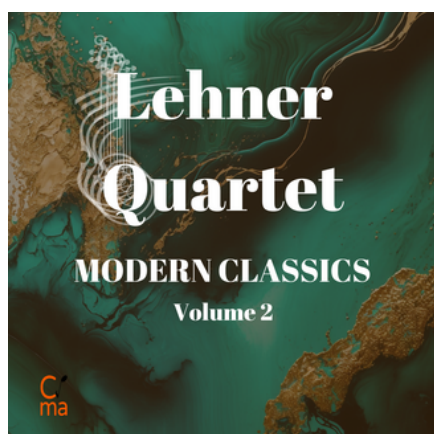
Modern Classics Vol. 1

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 Štefanić, soprano; Kevin Matheson, violin; Louise Ting, piano; Rainer Stegmann, composer; & Zhibin Chiam, piano

Maestro: Gevorg Sargsyan

Release: November 30, 2024

Cicerone Music & Art

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**AT WEILL RECITAL HALL AT
CARNEGIE HALL**

**iClassical Academy
Recognition Awards**



**iClassical
ACADEMY**

The Musicians



Edmund Dawe
Pianist

Canada's classical music magazine, *La Scena Musicale*, has described Edmund Dawe's playing as "sensitive, engaging, and virtuoso". He has garnered international praise for his technical command of the piano and compelling interpretations. Edmund has performed as a soloist and collaborative pianist in North America, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. He has been twice nominated for an East Coast Music Award (Best Classical) for his solo recording, *Sonatas*, and piano duo recording, *Dialogue*, with colleague Lynn Johnson. Edmund's recordings and other performances have been featured in numerous broadcasts in Canada as well as Chicago's WFMT and New York's WQXR. In addition, his artistry has been recognized by numerous grants and awards from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Provincial Arts Councils, and the Foundation to Assist Canadian Talent on Records (F.A.C.T.O.R.).

A respected teacher and administrator, Edmund has held appointments at several leading Canadian universities, and received prestigious awards for his performing, teaching and university service. Most recently, he served as Dean of the Desautels Faculty of Music at the University of Manitoba. Edmund led the Desautels Faculty of Music through a period of innovative program development, enrolment and endowment growth, and construction of the most modern university music facilities in Canada. Upon his retirement from the University of Manitoba, Edmund was appointed Dean Emeritus. In 2021, he launched a podcast, *For Piano Teachers*, that now has listeners and subscribers in 107 countries.

Recognized for his distinguished career, Edmund is listed in the Canadian Who's Who Directory. Documenting the accomplishments of Canadians from a wide variety of professions, the publication highlights the national diversity of culture and provides detailed information on the accomplishments of notable Canadians from coast to coast. Edmund is represented by Jack Price at Price Attractions Artist Management.



Cristina Maria Noli
Composer

Cristina Maria Noli (Cuggiono (MI), 1986) began her musical studies on the flute during her classical high school education. In 2009, still not yet graduated, she was chosen for the first national performance of the piece by the German composer Barbara Heller "La Palmera" as part of the "In-audita musica" event at the "F.lli Olivieri" auditorium of the Novara Conservatory. She studied composition with Maestro Maurizio Ferrari at the "Peri-Merulo" Higher Institute of Musical Studies in Reggio Emilia, where she participated, as a performer, in important national events such as "L'ora della musica" and "Compositori a confronto" (2011). She was also called upon to take part in the production of the shows "Il futuro spezzato" (2012, Masini auditorium in Reggio Emilia) and, in the same year, in the show "Lucifero", staged at the Teatro dei Rinnovati in Siena. She later studied with Maestro Giorgio Planesio at the "G. F. Ghedini" Conservatory in Cuneo. There she was selected among the students of the composition classes to take part in the writing of the musical part of the show "Orfeo" (2015), staged at the "Toselli" Theater and the "San Giovanni" Hall in Cuneo; at the same time, her solo harp piece "Pàs à pàs" was mentioned and included in the artistic season of the Cuneo Conservatory for the event "Compongo l'arpa", in collaboration with the Salvi company.

Cristina has won several prizes in national and international competitions (including the First Prize in the 3rd Instrumental Competition "Don Giovanni Conta" in Spineto di Castellamonte (To) and the First Prize in the 6th International Young Musicians Competition "Antonio Salieri" in Legnago (VR)). After moving to Milan, she was admitted to the class of Maestro Giuseppe Colardo and later to that of Maestro Sonia Bo, under whose guidance she graduated brilliantly in October 2022. Last year, several of her works were performed for the first time, including: "Trinus" for flute and clarinet at the "Puccini" Hall of the Milan Conservatory; "Suggestioni" for wind quartet at the Pinacoteca Civica in Ascoli Piceno and at the Pesaro Conservatory (finalist of the "Mauro Crocetta" Competition of the same year); "Omaggio" for voice and guitar at the Pinacoteca Civica in Como; "Sogni che tramutano i pensieri" for flute, clarinet, and piano at the Museo del Novecento in Milan.



JinUk Lee
Baritone

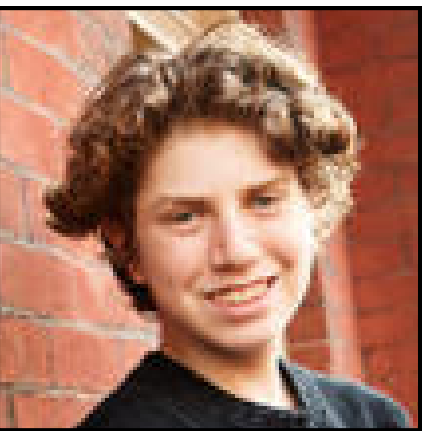
Dr. JinUk Lee has an extensive and distinguished career as a baritone soloist, performing oratorio solos both in Korea and the USA. His notable performances include the baritone solos in Handel's Messiah and Haydn's The Creation. Dr. Lee received his early training under Professor InSoo Park in South 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.



Matthew Brand
Pianist/Composer

Matthew Brand is an 11th grader at Horace Mann School. Matthew began his piano studies with Donna Weng Friedman in 2013. He studies classical piano, composition, music theory, ear training, and jazz at Mannes Prep in the Scholar's Program. Matthew studies composition with Dr. Steven Sacco and plays in the jazz ensemble at Mannes under the direction of Martin Shapiro. Matthew also studies jazz and composition with Adam Dyer in London, England. He studies songwriting and vocal performance with Jason Pomerantz, and from April to July 2024, he wrote, produced, and recorded a self-titled 5 song EP of original Pop-Rock music at Smash Studios Midtown, receiving over 20,000 streams across all platforms. He has also participated in programs such as Interlochen Center For the Arts, the Litchfield Jazz Camp, the Manhattan School of Music's Jazz Composition and Performance program, and studies jazz guitar with Joe Ravo.

Throughout his high school career starting in 2022, Matthew won the Progressive Musicians Concerto Competition (2022) and performed the First Movement of the Haydn Concerto in D Major with his original jazz cadenza at Weill Carnegie Hall with the New York Chamber Players' Orchestra under Maestro Giacomo Franci. More recently in 2024, Matthew wrote a jazz-inspired concerto for piano and orchestra called "Fusion Fantasy" and was chosen as a Finalist at the Mannes Prep Concerto Competition. He also hosts an annual Charity Rock concert at Horace Mann called "UrbanAid" and plays rock and jazz gigs throughout New York, including the Mercury Lounge, Stephen Talkhouse, and the Delancey.



Dwight Stong
Composer

Dwight Stone is a composer, pianist, and conductor in the Bay Area of California. His compositions reflect his involvement in many facets of music: vocal, choral, brass, orchestra, guitar, and piano. Stone's harmonic language lies in the tonal realm evoking harmonies beyond the mainstream with a penchant for aesthetic dissonance and polychords.

He has won numerous prizes in the Music Teachers' Association of California (MTAC) Composition Competition as well as the United States Open Music Competition (USOMC) for original piano composition, for piano improvisation, and other awards for choral works.

An advocate of public performance, Dwight Stone founded St. Paul's Concert Series in Walnut Creek, and Trinity Concert Series in Pleasanton, both thriving venues.

The StoneMusique Catalog comprises over 60 pieces for piano, three dozen compositions for chorus, selections for brass, solo voice, orchestra, and chamber ensemble. Commissions include Whither Thou Goest (piano solo), An Irish Blessing (SSAA a cappella); Awake! Awake! (TTBB, 2 French horns, pianoforte) winning first prize in the Jewish Music Competition of Los Angeles; Psalm 100—Make a Joyful Noise! (SATB Choir, oboe, organ, timpani).

His setting of the transformative poem And On That Day (Rev. Will McGarvey, Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County) was composed for the World Peace Interfaith Celebration (2015). Love Is!, a gospel-pop composition for chorus and baritone solo (composed for Millennium Dream, Los Angeles) was performed at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Interfaith Celebration in Walnut Creek (2017).

Dwight Stone's original Amsterdam CD (flute and piano) with flutist Nika Rejto was featured at the Greater San Francisco International Flute Festival, and at the Festival of New American Music (FENAM) in Sacramento. He has performed concerts internationally (New Zealand; Croatia; Austria; France), and locally as solo artist, accompanist, popular music with "The Touchstones", and jazz with The CoolTones Big Band.

Dwight Stone resides in Walnut Creek, serving as Minister of Music and Worship at Trinity Lutheran Church, Pleasanton, where his compositions, arrangements and accompaniments continue to charm singers, congregations, and audiences alike.

<https://www.stonemusique.com>



Carolina Rodriguez
Russum
Conductor

Passionate about fostering creativity and collaboration, Carolina brings a unique blend of musical proficiency and artistic management to create impactful and harmonious performances. After earning a B.A. in Educational Sciences, Carolina completed piano performance degrees from Concordia and McGill University in Montreal and studied Dalcroze Eurhythmics at The Juilliard School in New York City. For over fifteen years, she performed as a piano soloist, in chambers and with orchestras. During this period, she also founded and managed the Tresonans Piano Trio.

Carolina ventured as a cultural activist in 2016 when she launched ArteSana, a multimedia project focused on showcasing women whose lives healed through creative and artistic activities. A couple of years later, she was appointed as President of Concertando México, a philanthropic association providing music instruction to disadvantaged youth based on El Sistema in her hometown of Guadalajara, Mexico. In 2021, Carolina moved to Texas, where she completed a dual master's program in Orchestra Conducting and Arts Leadership at the University of Houston. Carolina would like to serve and connect with others through music and the arts.



Alan Ma
Pianist

Alan is a dedicated 13-year-old pianist with a deep appreciation for music and artistic expression. He began studying piano at the age of seven and has since developed a strong foundation in both classical and contemporary repertoire. Alan is committed to refining his technique and expanding his musical knowledge through consistent practice and performance.

Outside of music, he maintains a strong academic record and enjoys literature, technology, and spending time with family and friends. Alan aspires to continue his musical journey with the goal of composing original works and performing professionally in the future.



Aviram Freiberg
Composer

An Israeli multifaceted musician: horn player, singer, composer, pedagogue, researcher and entrepreneur. Dr. Aviram Freiberg holds a B.Mus. in horn performance from New England Conservatory, Boston, M.A in Musicology from Bar-Ilan University, Israel, and PhD in Musicology from the University of Haifa, Israel.

Aviram has served for 23 years as a horn player in Israeli orchestras. He sang in recitals and with choirs, orchestras and ensembles, in opera and concerts. As a composer Aviram focuses on operas. Four of his operas were performed, including in the prestigious 'Kfar-Blum' music festival, 2008. His latest opera - "The House of Bernarda Alba" after Lorca's play was produced in 2023. In 2018 the Netanya- Kibbutz Orchestra recorded some of his music. In 2024 the Israeli Sinfonietta Be'er-Sheva premiered his piece 'Three Short Pieces for Chamber Orchestra'. In 2025 his work 'Sinfonietta' is going to be premiered in a Carnegie Hall gala concert. Aside from operas, Aviram composes chamber, symphonic and choral music, as well as musical theatre works.

Aviram is a co-founder of "Opera – Tsafon" – a center for contemporary Israeli opera in the north of the country.



Laura Ansaldi
Soprano

Laura Ansaldi is an internationally acclaimed soprano known for her vocal versatility, dramatic presence, and dedication to both performance and education. Trained at some of Europe's most prestigious music institutions—including the Conservatories of Genoa and Milan, the Accademia Chigiana in Siena, the Fiesole Music School, and the TEMA Academy in Milan—she holds degrees in both opera singing and piano, as well as in performing arts.

Her professional debut came in 2001 with Tosca, launching a successful international career that has taken her to major opera houses and concert halls across Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, Germany, the Czech Republic, Austria, Russia, the Netherlands, and the United States. Officially classified as a dramatic coloratura soprano, Laura masterfully performs a wide range of repertoire, from the lyric lightness of L'Elisir d'Amore to the intensity of roles such as Norma, Lucia di Lammermoor, Madama Butterfly, Don Carlos, Andrea Chénier, and Nabucco. Her talent for acting has also earned her recognition as a musical theatre performer and stage actress.

Laura has collaborated with many prestigious orchestras and conductors, including Claudio Abbado, Carlo Maria Giulini, Gianandrea Gavazzeni, the Sofia Philharmonic, the Boston Philharmonic, the Madrid Symphony Orchestra, and many more. Her versatility and artistry have led her to be featured as a principal soloist in important international events, such as the Roncole Verdi Festival, tributes to Maria Callas, and the rediscovery of A. Scarlatti's Stabat Mater in Zurich. She has premiered innovative projects such as the opera rock Babel, the silent film soundtrack for Phantom of the Opera, and the progressive symphony Exeption. In 2022 and 2023, she launched her "Soprano Solo" recital series for soprano and a solo string instrument.

A passionate educator, Laura began teaching at a young age and quickly gained recognition for her ability to connect with and inspire students. She served as head of vocal studies and later president of the Terre dei Fieschi Academy in Italy. Since relocating to Zurich in 2014, she has taught at several institutions, including the Zürich International School, 14youstudio, and the Close Encounters Theater Academy. She also serves as jury president for the International Terre dei Fieschi Competition.

Deeply involved in social causes, Laura supports children's charities in Switzerland and the UK, and is a patron of the Enrico Charles Foundation. In 2024, she received the Platinum Medal from the Académie Française des Arts, Sciences et Lettres. She lives in Zurich with her husband and two children.



Alexander Zhang
Cellist

Born in the vibrant city of Vancouver, Canada, Adrian Zhang is poised to captivate audiences with his extraordinary musical talent. At the tender age of eight, he has already established himself as a rising star in the world of classical music.

Since the age of four, Adrian has been honing his skills on the cello, displaying a level of dedication and proficiency far beyond his years. Adrian possesses the rare gift of perfect pitch, allowing him to effortlessly recognize and reproduce musical notes with unparalleled accuracy. His passion for music has propelled him to numerous accolades and achievements and being invited to play at Carnegie Hall at the age of five. His performances radiate with emotion and technical precision, leaving audiences spellbound and eager for more.

Adrian has won multiple 1st prizes, including the prestigious Platinum Award.

He loves being a soloist, also enjoys playing chamber music and in orchestra with other professionals.

Adrian is not content to limit himself to a single instrument. In addition to the cello, he is virtuoso on the piano and drums, showcasing his versatility and musical prowess. His ability to seamlessly transition between instruments adds a unique dimension to his performances, setting him apart from his peers.

Beyond his musical talents, Adrian is a shining example of academic excellence. A third-grader with a passion for learning, he excels in subjects like Math and Technology, demonstrating a keen intellect and a thirst for knowledge that knows no bounds.

Adrian is also a skilled athlete, with a particular love for baseball. When he's not immersed in the world of music, you can often find him on the baseball field, where he showcases his agility, teamwork, and competitive spirit. His passion for the sport adds depth to his character and showcases his ability to excel in diverse domains.

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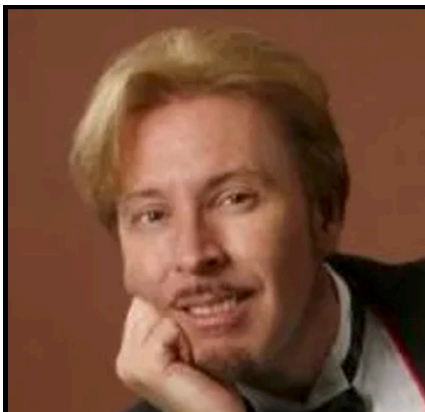
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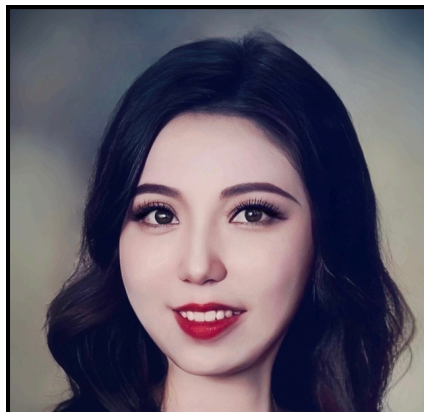
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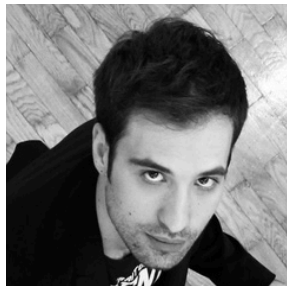
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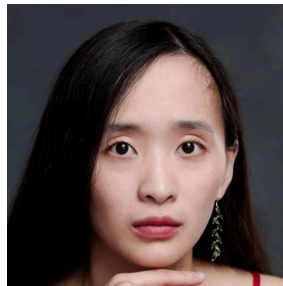
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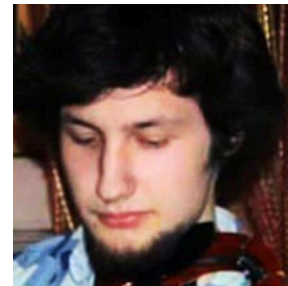
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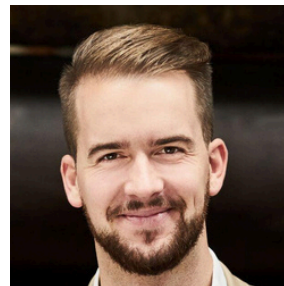
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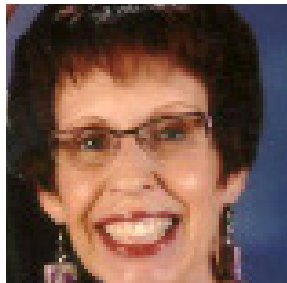
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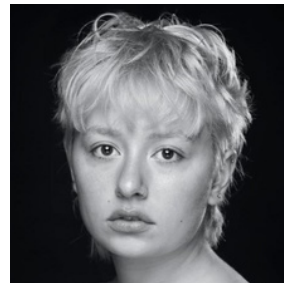
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