



23RD FALL BENEFIT CONCERT

Funding Student Assistance Awards

Lipinsky Auditorium of UNC Asheville

300 Library Lane, Asheville, NC 28804

Sunday, October 1, 2023 3:00 P.M.

Program & Ticket Information at www.ashevillepiano.org
a live concert plus delayed You Tube viewing

www.ashevillepiano.org



Professional Pianists and Guests in a Varied Program

Asheville Area Piano Forum



Community in the truest sense.



A welcoming, pet-friendly
Life Plan community

Minutes from downtown
Black Mountain

Amenities include complete
home maintenance, yard work,
housekeeping, enrichment and social
activities and on-campus dining





We also offer skilled nursing,
memory support, speech, physical
and occupational rehab, and
hospice care.



Givens
HIGHLAND
FARMS

givenhighlandfarms.org
828-357-3611

Follow us on  



LeadingAge



Fitch

ASHEVILLE AREA PIANO FORUM 23rd FALL BENEFIT CONCERT

Sunday, October 1, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

Lipinsky Hall, UNC Asheville

with delayed YouTube viewing November 1 - 31

Funding the AAPF Student Assistance Awards

**FEATURING ASHEVILLE AREA PIANO
FORUM MEMBERS AND GUEST ARTISTS**

Hwa-Jin Kim • Leslie Downs

Shirley Gruenhut • Nathan Shirley

Elizabeth Child

Leonidas Lagrimas and Roger Cousins

John Cobb

Stephanie Quinn, Betty Tang and Virginia McKnight

Douglas Weeks • Kimberly Cann

William Bares with William Boyd

Marilynn Seits

concert sponsors

Mike Emerson and Colton Mattress

Music Department of UNC Asheville

master of ceremonies - William Bares

video / audio engineer - Nathan Shirley

23rd Fall Benefit Concert

Lipinsky Hall, UNC Asheville

Sunday, October 1, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

with delayed YouTube Viewing November 1 - 31

Rondo Capriccioso for Piano, Op. 14

Felix Mendelssohn
1809 - 1847

Hwa-Jin Kim

Prelude in B-flat minor, Op. 37, No. 1

Alexander Scriabin
1872-1915

Etude-Tableau in D Major, Op. 39, No. 9

Sergei Rachmaninov
1873 - 1943

Leslie Downs

Intermezzo
Romanza de Amor

Manuel Maria Ponce
1882-1948

Shirley Gruenhut

Selections from the Black Cat Suite

Nathan Shirley

I. Demonic Rage

III. Happiness?

IV. From the Throats of the Damned

Nathan Shirley

Nocturne in E-flat Major, Op. 55 No. 2

Frederic Chopin
1810 - 1849

Elizabeth Child

First Movement, Mozart Sonata 2 pianos, K448

Amadeus Mozart
1756 - 1791

Leonidas Lagrimas and Roger Cousins

Rhapsody in G Minor, Op. 79, No. 2

Johannes Brahms
1833 - 1897

John Cobb

Piano Trio 4, "Dumky" Lento maestoso -
Allegro quasi doppio movimento

Antonin Dvořák
1841 - 1904

Stephanie Quinn, Betty Tang and Virginia McKnight

L'isle joyeuse

Claude Debussy
1862 - 1918

Douglas Weeks

Sposalizio (Marriage), from Années
de Pèlerinage Book II: Italy

Franz Liszt
1811 - 1886

Kimberly Cann

Infant Eyes

Wayne Shorter
1933 - 2023

William Bares with Will Boyd

Westside Story Medley for 2 pianos

Leonard Bernstein
1918 - 1990

Marilynn Seits and Leonidas Lagrimas



Special thanks to

Concert Sponsors

*Mike Emerson and Colton Mattress
Music Department, UNC Asheville*

video / audio engineer - Nathan Shirley

A *Grand* EXPERIENCE
FREEBURG PIANOS



Authorized Dealer of KAWAI, MASON & HAMLIN, and PERZINA Pianos

SHOWROOM

2314-D Asheville Hwy
Hendersonville, NC 2879

828.697.0110
freeburgpianos.com

Program Notes

submitted by each performer

Rondo Capriccioso for Piano, Op. 14 - Felix Mendelssohn

Hwa-Jin Kim

Rondo Capriccioso is among Mendelssohn's most beautiful and important piano works. It consists of two sections: The first is an Andante in E major, starting with a lyrical introduction that transitions into the lively Presto leggiero. Originally composed as an etude in 1828, the slow section was added as a gift for pianist Delphine von Schauroth in 1830. The piece showcases typical characteristics of Mendelssohn's piano compositions, blending a slow, melodic beauty with flashy, quick, and sparkling passages. Rondo Capriccioso, a virtuosic composition, was intended for professional pianists and enjoyed great popularity among performers in the 19th century.

Dr. Hwa-Jin Kim, born in Daegu, South Korea, is a distinguished musician and educator. She attended Seoul National University on a full scholarship and holds Masters and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from the Manhattan School of Music, where she became the youngest faculty member. Dr. Kim has also taught at Brown University. Currently, she is a lecturer in music at the University of North Carolina Asheville. Since 2018, Dr. Kim has founded and directed the UNC Asheville Summer Piano Camp, catering to students from 6th to 12th grades. In June 2023, she successfully introduced the Adult Piano Camp, providing a valuable platform for pianists of all ages to enhance their skills and deepen their love for music. During the summer of 2023, Dr. Kim served as the piano instructor and masterclass clinician for the inaugural Online Piano Workshop at the Brevard Music Center Youth Program in Shanghai.

Prelude in B-flat minor, Op. 37, No. 1 - Alexander Scriabin

Etude-Tableau in D Major, Op. 39, No. 9 - Sergei Rachmaninov

Leslie Downs

The Prelude in B-flat minor, the first of four in Op. 37, is melancholy and pensive in mood. It comes from Scriabin's second compositional period, in which he began experimenting with a new harmonic language that reveals the influence of Chopin.

Rachmaninov composed two sets of Etude-tableaux or "study pictures." Each of these works combine technical virtuosity with an unspecified extra-musical character. This etude-tableau is the only one in Op. 39 written in a major key. Designated as a march, it also contains folk-dance elements and can be characterized as bold and triumphant.



BEACON POINTE



allWEALTH®

Aligning your wealth with what matters most.



Providing clients with access to institutional quality investments, life and legacy planning, and impact initiatives, such as values-based investing and our women's advisory institute.



Contact Us

828.684.2600

info-asheville@beaconpointe.com

4 Vanderbilt Park Drive, Suite 310

Asheville, North Carolina 28803

www.beaconpointe.com

Dr. Leslie Downs is active as both a solo and collaborative pianist. He has performed in solo, lieder, chamber and choral concerts throughout the United States and in Canada. A versatile artist, Dr. Downs enjoys playing many styles of music. For 16 years he worked as a freelance pianist/teacher/vocal coach in New York City. He currently serves as the Music Director for the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Asheville and maintains a private teaching studio. He holds degrees from Centenary College of Louisiana, Yale University, and University of Oklahoma.

Intermezzo - Manuel Maria Ponce
Romanza de Amor - Manuel Maria Ponce

Shirley Gruenhut

Ponce is undoubtedly Mexico's most beloved composer. He was the first to give Mexican music both a national identity and an international stature. He put Mexico on the musical map. Ponce successfully bridged the three worlds of folk, popular and classical music. Although he was a pianist, Ponce became best known for his numerous guitar works written for his close friend, Andrés Segovia. Ponce's piano output of over 90 pieces spans his entire career and includes early salon style character pieces, neo-Baroque Preludes and Fugues, nationalistic rhapsodies, and French impressionist/neo-classic works.

Shirley Gruenhut is an avid chamber music player and New York native who now calls Hendersonville home. A graduate of Brooklyn College, she was the first time recipient of the prestigious Charles Ives Award for excellence in musical performance and studied graduate level piano accompaniment at the Manhattan School of Music. She assisted at the Metropolitan Opera House studios and has performed regularly in New York, as well as Europe and Israel. Shirley is a member of ACMA-Association of Classical Musicians and Artists, Sing For Hope, and ACMP-Association of Chamber Music Players. She was founder of several chamber music ensembles.

Selections from The Black Cat Suite - Nathan Shirley

I. Demonic Rage III. Happiness? VII. From the Throats of the Damned

Nathan Shirley

Composed in 2009, this music was written to accompany live readings of Edgar Allan Poe's famous story, The Black Cat. The story is broken into sections, with music performed in between. Demonic Rage portrays the cruel and violent acts induced by the narrator's alcoholism. Happiness? is played as the story takes a possible, but ultimately fleeting, turn for the better. The story ends with From the Throats of the Damned, as the full horror of the crime committed by the narrator comes back to expose and haunt him.

Prestige  SUBARU.



WELCOME TO
SUBIEVILLE



WWW.PRESTIGESUBARU.COM

585 TUNNEL ROAD | ASHEVILLE NC | 877-663-2144

Classical composer & pianist **Nathan Shirley** has received one national and six international awards for his solo, chamber, and orchestral compositions. As a teenager he studied composition with Olga Harris, the last student of Aram Khachaturian. Shirley's music has been performed in over a dozen countries around the world and is available on CD, DVD, and online. He is the author of *Piano Revealed*, a 7 book piano method featuring his original compositions. A former president of the Asheville Piano Forum, he lives in the North Carolina mountains with his wife and children.

Nocturne in E-flat Major, Op. 55 No. 2 - Frederic Chopin

Elizabeth Child

Written in 1843, this nocturne takes us into the world of the opera duet. Chopin was captivated with the singers of his day and in this highly expressive piece one can almost see and hear a tenor and a soprano singing to each other with love and devotion. The astonishing left-hand accompaniment creates its own magic while sustaining the singers in the right hand. Though known to be reticent and reserved in real life, Chopin through music portrays an effusiveness that is moving and unforgettable.

Born in Georgia, **Elizabeth Child** gave her first solo recital at age ten, followed by concerto with orchestra at age twelve and, later, a New York debut in Weill Recital Hall, where Will Crutchfield of the NY Times stated, "One always sensed that something was happening in her playing, and that made it easy to enjoy." Concerto appearances include the Juilliard Orchestra, the summer festival orchestras of Interlochen and Brevard, and the symphonies of Columbus GA and Spartanburg SC. Child holds a doctorate from The Juilliard School and a master's degree from the University of Michigan. She teaches privately in Tryon NC.

First Movement, Sonata in D-major for 2 pianos, K448 - Amadeus Mozart

Leonidas Lagrimas and Roger Cousins

In the case of his sole sonata for two pianos, we find the first piano part to have been intended for Josepha von Auernhammer who, if the gossip were true, was in pursuit of our Wolfgang, at the time, in 1781, still a bachelor. The first movement opens with forte octaves in both pianos, and these give way to a theme of typical Mozartean lightness. The upward running scales, following and overlapping each other, set the pattern of delicious continuity throughout the movement. The freshness of the work is a testament to Mozart's pianistic and musical ingenuity.

Roger Cousins started classical piano lessons at age 9. He graduated from New England Conservatory (BM in Piano 1974) and University of Connecticut (MS in MusEd 1979). Roger began a 39 year career teaching public school music in Goshen N.Y. and Springhill Fl. Roger funded his education and life playing popular music



Daniel L. Angerstein

Organ Works

*Traditional Pipe Organs & Rebuilding
for the Twenty-First Century*



*Our Lady of the Rosary Church. Organ
voiced by Angerstein Organ Works.*



**NEW INSTRUMENTS - TUNING
REBUILDING - CONSULTATION**

828-551-1580 • pipeguy@bellsouth.net

in numerous “bands” from age 14 until retiring in 2013. Locked in by Covid, Roger decided to explore his classical piano skills again after more than 50 years. The literature for 2 pianos/4 hands had been an interest since his days at the conservatory and seemed like a good motivator to practice again. Many thanks to Dr. Leonidas Lagrimas for his collaboration.

Dr. Leonidas Lagrimas serves as Assistant Professor of Piano and Piano Pedagogy at Western Carolina University. His duties include teaching Applied Piano and coordinating the Class Piano program for the School of Music. Recent performances include the Highlands Porchfest, guest artist recitals at UNC-Greensboro, UNC-Charlotte, Freed-Hardeman University (TN), Elon University, and numerous faculty recitals at WCU. Collaborative piano highlights include performances with Grammy-winning soprano Hila Plitmann, country superstar Lorrie Morgan, and multiple Carnegie Hall appearances. He serves as pianist at Christ Anglican Church in Cashiers and is active with AAPF as a board member, presenter, and performer.

Rhapsody in G Minor, Op. 79, No. 2 - Johannes Brahms

John Cobb

The G Minor Rhapsody has always been especially popular. This may be partially due to the high energy, nonstop triplets from start to finish, and also to the very attractive first theme - of four (!) - presented in the brief, hectic exposition. The following development section, which in contrast is relatively peaceful and expansive in spite of the triplets, only deals with the first and fourth themes. Finally the energy drains away, and everything grinds to a halt - even the triplets. Then the recapitulation explodes forth, and we have one more time around the dance floor with all four themes. But this time, the fourth theme - an ominous march - provides an exciting, if brief, climax. Before the final big dominant-tonic cadence, the energy drains away again, and we get to hear the triplets dying away to duplets, then quarter notes, then the final whole note. All this takes place in hardly more than six minutes.

An international performer and recording artist, **Dr. John Cobb** did post-doctoral study with legendary pianist Claudio Arrau. The New York Times praised his “solid technique, bronze tone and flexibility of interpretive style.” While completing a Doctor of Music degree at Northwestern University, Dr. Cobb held a fellowship at the University of Chicago, where he pursued doctoral studies in musicology. He performs a broad repertoire of solo and chamber music, is a frequent performer on the Piano Forte series at the Asheville Art Museum and appeared as soloist with the Asheville Symphony, performing the Samuel Barber Piano Concerto. Dr. Cobb frequently serves as an adjudicator for competitions and music festivals.

~ INTERMISSION ~



2023-2024 CONCERT SERIES



THREE FRIDAYS OF THE KING OF INSTRUMENTS

PAUL JACOBS
JAN. 5, 2024

MARTIN JEAN
JAN. 19, 2024

FELIX HELL
FEB. 2, 2024

Three organ concerts at 7:30 PM
at Holy Cross Episcopal Church



OCT. 5

JOHANNES MOSER (Cello)
MARC-ANDRÉ HAMELIN (Piano)



NOV. 9

ARSENIY KHARITONOV (Piano)



FEB. 20

ELIAS STRING QUARTET



APR. 8

CALEFAX REED QUINTET

Bringing World-Class Music Home

All concerts at 7:30 PM at Tryon Fine Arts Center / tryonconcerts.org

Piano Trio 4, "Dumky" Lento maestoso - Allegro quasi doppio movimento - Dvořák

Stephanie Quinn, Betty Tang and Virginia McKnight

The Dumky Trio is the last and best known of Dvořák's piano trios. "Dumky" is the plural of "Dumka" which can be translated as "a fleeting thought." The Trio is made up of six movements, each a "dumka." Dumky, therefore, refers to the work as a whole. Dvořák translated the idea of fleeting thoughts into music by contrasting slow, elegiac sections with fast, impassioned ones. This Trio departs from the typical form of piano trios in that it does not contain a movement in sonata form or one consisting of variations. Rather, it is a work suffused with the simple beauty and colorful quality of folk song and dance, yet the melodies are Dvořák's own. The Trio was composed toward the end of the composer's nationalistic period. The work was premiered Prague on April 11, 1891 (with Dvořák as pianist) at a concert at which the composer received an honorary doctorate from Prague's Charles University. The work was so well-received that it was presented on a forty-concert tour, just before Dvořák left for the U.S., to head the National Conservatory of Music in New York City. The Trio was published while Dvořák was in America and was proofread by none other than his friend, Johannes Brahms.

From the age of 10, **Stephanie Quinn** was conservatory-trained in both violin & piano through the Eastman School of Music. Next, she moved to New York City to study with Juilliard Violin professor, Felix Galimir & work in the Philharmonia Virtuosi of New York. Stephanie is a freelance soloist, ensemble leader, and tutti orchestra musician with an active teaching studio. Fluent in both classical & contemporary music, she has a list of professional credits spanning many pages. Her goal is to share her musical passion, create inspiration & activate the creative impulses of the heart through Music.

Betty Tang was born and raised in Hong Kong in a musical family where she began playing at the age of four under the guidance of her father. Betty entered the Hong Kong Academy for the Performing Arts in 1986 studying for her Bachelor of Music under the tutelage of Jay Humeston, former principal cellist of the Hong Kong Philharmonic. Upon graduating college with distinction, she received a scholarship to study for her Master's Degree at the Mannes College of Music in New York City. In 1993, Betty continued her cello studies at the Peabody Conservatory of Music of the John Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland where she earned a Graduate Performance Diploma under the mentorship of Stephen Kates.

Virginia McKnight has degrees from Stetson University and Florida State University as well as a Certificate from the Neuchatel Conservatory in Neuchatel, Switzerland. She has made a career of collaborative piano including work at Yale University, Ithaca College, Cornell University and in New York City. Before moving to Asheville, Virginia taught and accompanied at Stetson University. In Asheville, She has worked as pianist at the Asheville Community Theater, Haywood Arts Repertory Theater, Southern Appalachian Repertory Theater, Mars Hill University, UNC Asheville, and Reynold's High School. Virginia is retired from her position of Organist and Music Director at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, but continues to cover services when needed.



PRACTICE.

Proud supporter of the Asheville
Area Piano Forum, the teachers,
and their students of Western
North Carolina.

mwblawyers.com 828.254.8800



**McGUIRE
WOOD &
BISSETTE**
LAW FIRM

SMART LEGAL

L'isle joyeuse - Claude Debussy

Douglas Weeks

The French composer Claude Debussy, who was born in 1862 and died in 1918, turned Western Art Music on its head with his revolutionary harmonic innovations, and his influence on 20th Century composers was profound. He imbued his 1904 solo piano work *L'isle joyeuse* (The Joyous Island) with both Eastern whole tone and ancient Lydian scales, and the result is an exotic virtuosic masterpiece that evokes a plethora of images and feelings. At times it is like a dance, and at other times a love song, and it ends in such a frenzied state of joy that it creates the feeling of a dancer dropping to the ground from pure exhaustion.

Douglas Weeks, Babcock Professor Emeritus of Piano at Converse University in Spartanburg, serves on the artist/faculty of the Brevard Music Festival in the summer. He has performed in Europe and China, as well as in Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia under the auspices of the US State Department. A past prize winner in the Robert Casadesus International Piano Competition (now the Cleveland International Competition), he also competed in the VI International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow. Following the BM degree he studied in Paris for a year with the esteemed pedagogue Jules Gentil.

Sposalizio (Marriage), from *Années de Pèlerinage* Book II: Italy - Franz Liszt

Kimberly Cann

More than any of his more familiar compositions, Liszt's *Années de Pèlerinage*, or *Years of Pilgrimage*, comes closest to being a memoir of Liszt's formative years and his growth into musical maturity. At the same time, it is an iconic musical reflection of the great explosion of ideas that developed in the Romantic period. The title itself makes reference to Goethe's influential Bildungsroman, Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship (1795-96), a novel of growth and formation which swept through Europe in the early part of the century and was later translated into English by Thomas Carlyle in 1824. The *Années* is a collection of three suites for solo piano which evolved into its present form over the course of almost 30 years, from 1848 to 1877. *Sposalizio*, (Marriage), (1858), is the first piece from Book II. It makes reference to a painting by Raphael, "The Marriage of the Virgin" (also known as *Lo Sposalizio*), completed in 1504 and now located in the Brera Art Gallery in Milan. The subject matter depicts the marriage of Mary and Joseph, (replete in High Renaissance costume). Liszt's music for this scene is very expressive, somewhat sweet and meditative, solemn - without being dour, religious in feeling, and generally respectful of its serious subject matter.

West Indian-American **Kimberly Cann** has been immersed in the world of music performance, outreach, & education since childhood. Following her debut at 13 as an orchestral soloist, she continued her studies (Van Cliburn Institute; MM, Eastman School of Music) and has since served as a guest artist, speaker, clinician,



Helping families flourish from
one generation to the next.



John Allen, *Market President*
15 South Main Street, Suite 901
Greenville, SC 29601
(864) 271-3422

& visiting professor both in the US and abroad. In 2008, she married fellow musician Aaron Brown, and they moved to the Asheville area, where they founded an award-winning set of teaching studios, Piano Lab & Music Lab. Kimberly has served on the boards of the Asheville Symphony, Asheville Area Piano Forum, and others. In 2011, she founded "Keys for Kidz," partnering with local nonprofits to provide group piano classes for underserved children in the community. While overseeing the management of her studios, she also maintains a busy schedule of outreach & performance. Earlier this year, Ms. Cann performed and led panel discussions at the National Conference of Music Teachers in Reno, Nevada, which centered around "Creating the Next Generation of Concert Pianists." That endeavor is where she spends most of her professional time these days-- mentoring and coaching to continue to pay it forward.

Infant Eyes - Wayne Shorter

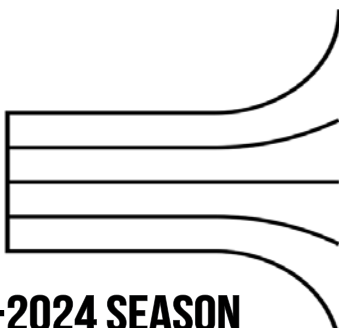
William Bares *with Will Boyd*

"Infant Eyes" appears on *Speak No Evil*, the highly-regarded album Wayne Shorter recorded as a leader in 1964. Shorter noted that the piece was written "when [my daughter] was an infant, she was about six months... it has repetitions at certain levels: a repetition, a sequence so many steps up, another repetition of the melody, another same." One element of "Infant Eyes" that is often singled out is the fact that the formal sections consist of nine, rather than eight measures: "'Infant Eyes' is compounded of disconcerting nine-measure phrases [. . .] suggest[ing] a fractured nursery rhyme." The major-minor ambiguity that permeates the harmony is less characteristic of goal-oriented functional tonality and adds to the bluesy nature of the progressions. Typical of Shorter compositions, tonal harmony has been adjusted to the properties of blues harmony rather than the other way around.

Pianist, composer, scholar and educator **William Bares** received his Ph.D in ethnomusicology from Harvard University in 2009. He taught at Harvard, Brown, Berklee College of Music and the New England Conservatory before taking a job as professor of music and co-director of jazz studies at UNC Asheville. After earning his masters in jazz piano performance from the University of Miami in 1999, he spent most of 2000s playing professionally in New York, Boston and Europe. Since 2011, Bares has been an active member of Asheville's musical community. He was the solo pianist in the Blue Ridge Orchestra's debut of "Rhapsody in Blue," and coordinated the Sunday "Jazz Showcase" at Asheville's famed Isis Music Hall. He has released four albums as a leader or co-leader, and his modern jazz group, *The Core*, was voted "Best Jazz Group" in the Mountain XPress Best of Western North Carolina awards.

Multi-reed instrumentalist, composer, educator **Will Boyd** hails from soul sax tradition-like artists Eddie Harris, Hank Crawford, David "Fat Head" Newman, King Curtis and Yusef Lateef. Originally from Orangeburg SC by way of Queens NY, Will

ASHEVILLE
CHAMBER
MUSIC
SERIES



2023-2024 SEASON



YCA ON TOUR

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2023, 7:30PM
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF
ASHEVILLE

LE CONSORT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2023, 7:30PM
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ASHEVILLE



ACADEMY OF ST. MARTIN IN THE FIELDS

WIND ENSEMBLE + PIANO
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024, 4:00PM
CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ARIS QUARTETT

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2024, 7:30PM
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF
ASHEVILLE



CANELLAKIS-BROWN DUO

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2024, 7:30PM
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF
ASHEVILLE

**Bringing world-class chamber music
to Western North Carolina for over 70 years**

Tickets and more information at ashvillechambermusic.org

currently resides in Knoxville TN. He is a member of the Knoxville Jazz Orchestra and currently has 2 solo albums “Live at the Red Piano Lounge” and “Freedom Soul Jazz”. Will also co-leads a group with his wife Kelle Jolly, jazz radio host and founder of the Knoxville Women in Jazz Jam Festival.

Westside Story Medley for 2 pianos - Leonard Bernstein

Marilynn Seits and Leonidas Lagrimas

Leonard Bernstein’s score for *West Side Story* needs no introduction: symphony orchestras, Broadway, film scores, cabaret performances, and countless television commercials and programs have all featured this iconic music. Our arrangement reimagines some of the most beloved songs from the score for two pianos. Most people know Bernstein the conductor and composer, but not many are aware of his love for jazz and its influence on his compositions, including the jazz and Latin rhythms in *West Side Story*. Bernstein was an excellent jazz pianist and in his Harvard thesis proclaimed: “Jazz is the ultimate common denominator of the American musical style.”

Marilynn Seits is a performer, composer and jazz piano teacher. She has played at the Waldorf Astoria, Plaza & St. Regis Hotels in New York City, at Sun Fest & the Broward Performing Arts Center in South Florida and at the Biltmore Estate, Isis Music Hall, AAPF Benefit Concerts and for special events at the Asheville Art Museum in Asheville. She is also an adjunct in the music department at Mars Hill University.

Dr. Leonidas Lagrimas serves as Assistant Professor of Piano and Piano Pedagogy at Western Carolina University. His duties include teaching Applied Piano and coordinating the Class Piano program for the School of Music. Recent performances include the Highlands Porchfest, guest artist recitals at UNC-Greensboro, UNC-Charlotte, Freed-Hardeman University (TN), Elon University, and numerous faculty recitals at WCU. Collaborative piano highlights include performances with Grammy-winning soprano Hila Plitmann, country superstar Lorrie Morgan, and multiple Carnegie Hall appearances. He serves as pianist at Christ Anglican Church in Cashiers and is active with AAPF as a board member, presenter, and performer.



AAPF Activities and Events in 2023-24

Student Assistance Awards: Monetary awards are made to students showing financial need in order to begin or continue private piano study. Two primary sources of funding for the awards are ticket and advertisement sales from the two annual benefit concerts.

Fall and Spring Benefit Concerts: The annual concerts feature AAPF professional pianists in solos and ensembles. Jazz, classical, original and popular piano styles are all included. Sales of concert tickets fund the Student Assistance Awards.

Presentations at General Meetings: Four or five times a year, highly respected musicians give lectures or demonstrations on topics of interest to pianists. AAPF presents these meetings as in-person events and also on Zoom.

Masterclasses and Student Recitals are featured in the Fall and Spring. Students learn the art of performance as they prepare for these recitals which are attended by supportive family and friends. Instruction at a masterclass is made by a teacher who has extensive experience. The class benefits not only the performing students, but everyone in attendance.



Practice for Pets occurs in February to reward good practicing habits for piano students of all ages, and to raise money for the Asheville Humane Society. You can be a piano student sponsor!

The Asheville Piano Competition is for pre-college students who compete at varying levels of difficulty. The judging is both professional and encouraging. Prize money is awarded, and the 1st Place Advanced Level winner is invited to appear in one of the next season's Benefit Concerts.

Outreach Group Piano Classes sponsored by AAPF provide free piano instruction in small class settings that are part of after-school programs, and in larger classes that are part of public school programs. The Piano Forum also provides digital pianos for use by the schools and students.

Teacher Roundtable Discussion Groups, held several times a year, allow AAPF member teachers to discuss ideas about teaching piano and to share their teaching experiences.

Amateur and General Performance Groups give opportunities for members to play for one another in informal, social settings at members' homes.

ashevillepiano.org





DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

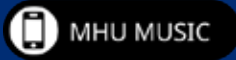


www.mhu.edu/music

MARS HILL UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

*A member of the National Association of
Schools of Music (NASM) since 1950.*

**LEARN
MORE:**



WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING DEGREES:

Bachelor of Arts in Music

Bachelor of Music in Music Education

Bachelor of Music in Performance

*Significant scholarship
opportunities are available!*

Asheville Piano Competition 2024

AAPF is grateful to the following sponsors of the 2024 Asheville Piano Competition



Mars Hill University will again host the 2024 Asheville Piano Competition on May 4th with Winners Recital at 3:30 p.m. in Broyhill Chapel.



Longtime sponsors **Christine Nelson** and **Kyle Boyd** of **Beacon Pointe Advisors** continue their competition support.

Dr. L. Adlai and **Ms. Karen Boyd** continue their competition sponsorship this season.

The Donald Shafer Jettas Memorial Award of \$1,000 given to the First Place Winner at the Advanced Level is being made by **James Hilderbrandt**. The prize is to encourage that winner to continue music and piano studies.

We welcome **Dr. O. Wayne Smith** as a new sponsor of the competition in 2024!



The **Eric Anderson Weigel Memorial Fund** was established through the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina to honor his memory through charitable giving. Eric valued the work of the Asheville Area Piano Forum and enjoyed the challenge of the annual competition. Support of the musical arts and young musicians is one of the focus areas of the memorial fund.



ICHIBAN
JAPANESE STEAKHOUSE AND SUSHI BAR

2 Hendersonville Rd.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-7885

Lunch

11:00 am - 2:30 pm (Mon-Fri)
12 noon - 3 pm (Sat-Sun)

Dinner

4:30 pm - 9:30 pm (Mon-Thurs)
4:30 pm - 10:00 pm (Fri-Sat)
4:30 pm - 9:00 pm (Sun)

FOOD AND PERFORMANCE

Talented hibachi chefs serve up quality fare with a sizzling side of showmanship. Cozy up to one of our hibachi grills and sit back for an amazing performance from one of our knife-twirling chefs, or enjoy fresh specials from our sushi bar.

From outings with friends and family to a romantic and exciting evening with that special someone, Ichiban is perfect for any occasion.

<https://ichibanasheville.com>



WASABI
Japanese Restaurant & Sushi Bar

19 Broadway St.
Asheville, NC 28801
(828) 225-2551

Lunch

11:30 am - 3 pm (Mon-Fri)
12 pm - 3 pm (Sat-Sun)

Dinner

4:30 pm - 9:45 pm (Mon-Thurs)
4:30 pm - 10:20 pm (Fri)
3:00 pm - 10:20 pm (Sat)
3:00 pm - 9:45 pm (Sun)

AWARD-WINING FRESH SUSHI!

<https://wasabiasheville.com>

About The Asheville Area Piano Forum

“To provide educational and charitable opportunities for Western North Carolina piano teachers, their students and their communities. To enhance the appreciation of piano and keyboard music, pedagogy, and performance in Western North Carolina.”

— *AAPF Mission Statement*

The Asheville Area Piano Forum (AAPF) is a tax exempt 501 (C)(3) non-profit charitable and educational organization of almost 100 members, most of whom live within a 75 mile radius of Asheville, NC. Information about how to apply for membership, AAPF activities, and how to support the Piano Forum’s mission can be found on the website:
www.ashevillepiano.org

**Donations to AAPF
can be mailed to:**

Asheville Area Piano Forum
P. O. Box 1101
Asheville, NC 28802

**You may also use this QR code
to make a donation:**



AAPF BOARD MEMBERS (2023-2024)

Karen Boyd, President Sue Russell, Vice President
Daniel Angerstein, Treasurer Mary Holmes, Secretary
Sam Austin, William Bares, Jenna Jaffe, Leonidas Lagrimas,
Sue Russell, Dominic Rajagopal



Have you heard?

It's time to RENEW your membership!

Don't miss out on all
the benefits that
MTNA offers!

- Discounts
- Professional Development & Support Services
- AMT Journal, MTNA e-Journal and the Business Digest
- Networking



MTNA

www.mtna.org

MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

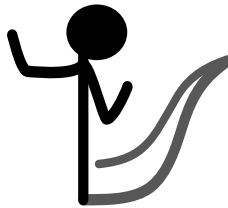
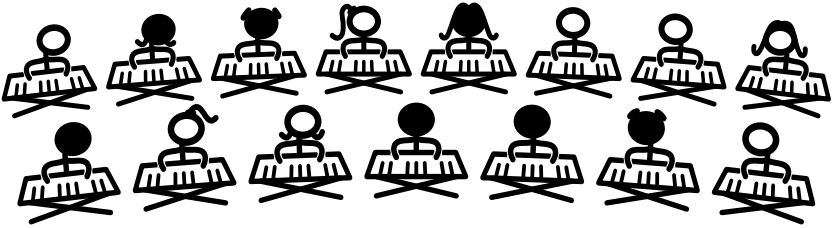
Please Join Us For The Asheville Area Piano Forum's Annual Spring Benefit Concert

April 14, 2024, 3:00 pm
First Presbyterian Church,
40 Church St., Asheville



PIANO IN THE
CLASSROOM

crescendo!



A BRAND NEW PROGRAM BRINGING PIANO EDUCATION TO LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SEE IT IN ACTION AND LEARN HOW TO HELP AT:

NATHANSHIRLEY.COM/CRESCENDO

Memberships as of September 2023

Platinum Membership \$125

Wayne Smith
Laura Chu Stokes
Mark Smith
Dr. Douglas Weeks
Judy Sullivan
John Allen & Argent Trust
Nicole Lopez
Hwa-Jin Kim
Anne B. Rogers

Gold Membership \$100

Carol McCollum
Nancy Schumann
Elizabeth Child
Karen Boyd
Virginia McKnight
Angerstein Organ Works
Eunice Stackhouse
Steven Bennett
Mary Johnson

Silver Membership \$75

Janet Wright
William Foley

Bronze Membership \$50

Sylvia Cassel • Frank Argento
Philip Morrison • Natalie Watkins
Harold Southern • Marilynn K Seits • Robin Altman
Leonidas Lagrimas • Anna Haywood • Jenna Jaffe

Many thanks to all our members!
Please forgive any errors or omissions.



First Presbyterian Church of Asheville



First Presbyterian Church of Asheville: A community where people of every age, ability, socioeconomic status, family background, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, skin color, and racial identity are invited to seek and experience the love of Jesus Christ by practicing radical hospitality, forming deep relationships, and joining in shared ministry.

Sunday Schedule

8:45 Worship Service in Campbell Chapel

9:45 Faith Formation Classes

11:00 Worship Service in the Sanctuary in person & streamed

www.fpcasheville.org

Congratulations to the AAFP for 30 years of music & education!

MARILYNN SEITS

"Seits and Sounds" piano & bass duo

**PARTIES
DINNERS
EVENTS**

**An eclectic
mix of standards,
show tunes, jazz,
seasonal music,
tango dance music**



CONTACT
for rates and
availability

Email: marilynnseits@mac.com

Web: mseitsmusic.com

Phone: 561-719-4106

Facebook: facebook.com/mseitsmu



COLLIE

FINANCIAL PLANNING, INC.

"Guiding clients toward financial freedom"



Collie Financial Planning, Inc. is an independent, Fee-Only Registered Investment Advisor that provides comprehensive financial planning and investment management services to individuals and their families.



Offices are located in Biltmore Park and Black Mountain. To learn more, contact Mike Collie, CFP®, AIF®, CKA® at (828) 654-8830, mcollie@colliefp.com or visit www.CollieFP.com.

Contributors to AAPF since 10/1/2022

ANGELS - Contributions of \$1,000+

The Eric Anderson Weigel Memorial Fund of the
Community Foundation of WNC (CFWNC)*

Beacon Pointe Advisors with Kyle Boyd and Christine Nelson*

L. Adlai and Karen Boyd*

Michael Emerson of Colton Mattress*

James Hilderbrandt of the Donald Shafer Jettas Memorial Fund*

Carol Abbott McCollum*

Margarete W. Moon Endowment of CFWNC

O. Wayne Smith*

Benefactors - Contributions of \$500 - \$999

Daniel Angerstein of Organ Works*

Givens Highland Farms*

Mary Killough

Patrons - Contributions of \$100 - \$499

Vivian Adams, DDS* • John Allen of Argent Trust*

Dr. William Bares • Bradford Bates and Deane Hall* • Jill Bui

Jenny Chen of Ichiban Restaurant*

William and Penelope Clark • Diana Crawford*

Robert Dalsemer • Polly Feitzinger* • Sarah Van Gunten

Keith Freeburg of Freeburg Pianos* • Anna Hayward*

Linda Martinson, in honor of Elizabeth Child*

Robert and Margaret Messing • Charles and Shirley Mitchell*

Drs. Jodi and Jeffrey Nienaber • Prestige Subaru of Asheville*

Kathleen Quinlan • Donna Nagey Robertson

Charles Robinson • William Weider in memory of Lora Scott

Sustainers - \$5 - \$99

Charles Blume • Mary Brueggemann*

Judith Burganger • Barbara Mangels

Paul Manley • Anne Rogers • Nancy Schuman • Linda Sperath

Douglas Weeks • Patricia Williams

* Indicates gift dedication to Fall or Spring Benefit Concerts, to Student Assistance including Outreach Group Piano Classes, to the Asheville Piano Competition or to Presentations and Masterclasses.

Many thanks to all our contributors! Please forgive any errors or omissions.



A S H E V I L L E
**First Congregational
United Church of Christ**
Jesus • Justice • Prayer • Peace

We are a faith community
that values music and musicians.

We invite you to come and
share your talents with us, or
just to listen and enjoy.

20 Oak Street
Asheville, NC 28801
(828) 252-8729

www.uccasheville.org

[https://www.facebook.com/FCUCC
fcucc_asheville](https://www.facebook.com/FCUCC_fcucc_asheville)

Music Director: Chuck Taft
Organist/Pianist: Eric Fricke
Handbells & Music Education: Betty Dillshaw



Sponsors of AAPF Activities and Events 2023-24

Thank you to all of our sponsors!

Fall Benefit Concert:

Mike Emerson and Colton Mattress
Music Department of UNC Asheville

Asheville Piano Competition

Kyle Boyd and Christine Nelson of Beacon Pointe Advisors
L. Adlai and Karen Boyd
Donald Shafer Jettas Memorial Fund with James Hilderbrandt
O. Wayne Smith
Eric Anderson Weigel Memorial Fund of the Community
Foundation of Western North Carolina

Spring Benefit Concert

Daniel Angerstein and Angerstein Organ Works
Givens Highland Farms
L. Adlai and Karen Boyd
Mary Killough

Outreach Piano Classes

Eric Anderson Weigel Memorial Fund of the CFWNC
Dr. William Bares
Dr. Wayne Smith

Practice for Pets

Prestige Subaru of Asheville

Presentations at General Meetings

Jenny Chen and Ichiban Restaurant
Carol Abbott McCollum

Student Recitals

Argent Trust with John Allen
Polly Feitzinger
Freeburg Pianos
Drs. Jodi and Jeffrey Nienbar



VOLUNTEER SERVICE PROVIDERS

First Congregational United Church of Christ of Asheville

First Presbyterian Church of Asheville

Freeburg Pianos

Harris Teeter, Merrimon Ave., Asheville

Doris and Ralph Loomis

Mars Hill University and Teresa Sumpter

Sean McAusland

Music & Arts of Asheville

Piano Emporium

UNC Asheville Music Department

The Many Members of AAPF

We thank everyone for your gifts of service

*Our sincere apologies if there are any omissions/errors
of Donors and Service Providers*



**Please Join Us for
The Asheville Area Piano Forum's
Spring Benefit Concert**

April 14, 2024, 3:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church, 40 Church St., Asheville

AAPF Advertising Supporters

Angerstein Organ Works - Daniel L. Angerstein

Argent Trust - John Allen, Marketing President

Asheville Chamber Music Society

Beacon Pointe Advisors - Kyle Boyd and Christine Nelson

Collie Financial Planning - Mike Collie, CFP

Colton Mattress - Mike Emerson

Crescendo in the Classroom: Nathan Shirley

First Presbyterian Church, Asheville

Freeburg Pianos - Levi, Keith and Dr. Joann Freeburg

Givens Highland Farms

Ichiban Japanese Restaurant & Hibachi Grill

Mars Hill University Department of Music - Dr. Teresa Sumpter

McGuire, Woods & Bissette Law Firm

Noth Carolina Music Teachers Association

Piano Emporium - Shane Owenby

Prestige Subaru of Asheville

Marilynn Seits - Seits and Sounds - Piano & Bass Duo

Tryon Concerts Association

UNC Asheville Department of Music





**PIANO
EMPORIUM**



A SOUND INVESTMENT

828 Hendersonville Rd. • **828-277-5566**
PianoEmporium.com



COLTON MATTRESS

World Class Sleep Systems

Locally Hand Crafted in Asheville

- Two Sided Mattresses
- Pocket Coil Systems
- Adjustable Beds
- Custom Sizing Available
- Natural Latex Mattresses
- Cool Gel Memory Foam
- Made in the USA



Colton Mattress Factory handcrafts highest quality mattresses locally in Asheville North Carolina. With over 30 years experience using locally sourced components of the highest grade. Our skilled artisans craft exceptional sleep systems with time tested techniques. We still handcraft two sided mattresses as we have for over three decades. With a comfort guarantee and excellent warranties you can be assured Optimum comfort and long-lasting durability. And because we sell factory direct to the customer our prices are generally the same or lower than mass produced mattresses. If you're looking for top-grade and locally made mattresses Colton Mattress Factory is your best choice.

*Proud sponsor of the
AAPF Fall Benefit Concert*

Factory Showroom
Hours: 10 AM - 6 PM Mon-Fri 10 AM - 5 PM Sat
848 Hendersonville Rd, Asheville, NC 28803
828-299-4445 fax 828-277-3655
www.coltonmattress.com coltonmattress1@gmail.com



UNC ASHEVILLE

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC



Our Degrees

- ✓ BA Music
- ✓ BS Music Technology
- ✓ BFA Jazz & Contemporary Music
- ✓ Music Minor
- ✓ Arts Management/Entrepreneurship

Our Students

- Interact closely with accomplished teachers
- Engage with a vibrant musical community
- Perform in dozens of exciting ensembles
- Learn music in an intimate liberal arts setting



Scholarship Info:
unca.edu/music

Contact Us: 828-251-6432
Facebook: UNCAmusic
Instagram: UNCA_music