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INSTITUTE OF MUSIC IN CIESZYN
FACULTY OF ARTS AND EDUCATIONAL SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF SILESIA IN KATOWICE

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WEBSITES

<http://www.wpta.info/poland/>
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LECTURES

ONLINE

- Sławomir Dobrzański – Poland/USA – Artistic and Pedagogical Aspects of Maria Szymanowska's Vingt Exercises et Preludes pour le pianoforte
- Mirta Gómez and Sahily Cánovas – Cuba/USA – Cuban Contradance and its Variants
- Aleksandra Hałat – Poland – Rediscovered chamber music works by Karol Rathaus
- Julian Hellaby – UK – The Piano Music of John Ireland: A Teacher's Perspective
- Timothy Hoft – USA – The Art of Transcription: A new piano transcription of Schonberg's Verklarte Nacht
- Agata Hołdyk – Poland – The life of teenage star Clara Wieck – inspiring or demotivating?
- János Kéry – Hungary – The Hungarian Rhapsodies of Emerich Szekely
- Anna Kijanowska – Poland/USA – The Synthesis of the Mazurka
- Katarzyna Wieczorek – Poland/Germany – The Art of Accompanying

MASTER CLASSES

LIVE AND ZOOM (SELECTED)

- Kyoko Hashimoto – Japan/Canada
- Anna Kijanowska – Poland/USA
- Grzegorz Niemczuk – Poland
- Adam Skoumal – Czech Republic
- Katarzyna Wieczorek – Poland/Germany
- Maria Yefimova – Russia/USA

WORKSHOPS

LIVE AND ZOOM

- Agnieszka Lasko – Poland – Lecture and workshop: Improvisational ideas at the early stage of piano education
- Ricardo Sá Leão – Portugal – Improvisational Games for Musicians



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Anna Kijanowska

FOUNDER/ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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LECTURE:
THE SYNTHESIS OF THE MAZURKA
MASTERCLASSES

Anna Kijanowska, WPTA-Polska President, Anna Kijanowska has established herself as a multi faceted musician, smoothly transitioning among her roles as a performing and recording artist, pedagogue, coach, and advocate of contemporary classical music around the world. She has performed and taught in North and South America, Asia, Europe, New Zealand, Africa and Australia. As an internationally recognized music educator, Kijanowska has been invited to present master classes, recitals and lectures at leading universities and conservatories around the world, including the Central Conservatory and the the Chinese Conservatory in Beijing, Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music at the National University of Singapore, LaSalle College of Arts in Singapore, Frankfurt University of Music and Performing Arts in Germany, Liszt Academy in Budapest, the Sydney Konservatorium, New Zealand School of Music in New Zealand, Yale and Harvard University in Cambridge, among others. As an adjudicator, she was invited to join a number of national and international competitions, including the Washington International Competition and the Catholic University Concerto Competition in Washington, DC; the MTNA Competitions; and the Yamaha Piano Competition in Guangzhou, China. Ms. Kijanowska holds a Doctorate and a Master of Music in Piano Performance from the Manhattan School of Music in New York, and Habilitation Degree from the Music Academy in Gdańsk, Poland. She is Associate Professor at the University of Silesia in Poland and is a former faculty member of The College of William and Mary.



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Agnieszka Lasko

CO-FOUNDER

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LECTURE AND WORKSHOP:
IMPROVISATIONAL IDEAS AT THE
EARLY STAGE OF PIANO EDUCATION

Agnieszka Lasko is a pianist, composer, author and educator. Her trilingual piano method book with elements of improvisation - written in Polish, English, and German - *First Class Piano* published by Euterpe has received acclaim from piano pedagogues and is gaining worldwide recognition. Described as 'Excellent' in the Polish academic journal under the supervision of the Polish Chamber Musicians Association, it was also 'Warmly recommended' by the EPTA UK Magazine *Piano Professionals* a 'Very good alternative to what's offered by America and the UK'. Agnieszka Lasko completed her studies at the Grażyna and Kiejstut Bacewicz Music Academy in Łódź, Poland. She is a lecturer and a practitioner of an original method for teaching children at the early stages of their piano education. Among her many presentations, she was featured at the National Conference *Partnership in Music* - The Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in Warsaw, the 10th and 11th World Piano Conference in Serbia, the Hands-On Research Symposium - University of Aveiro, Portugal, at the Kansas Music Teachers Association Virtual State Conference, at the EAFIT University in Colombia, and at the EPTA UK Webinars Series. She has also served as an adjudicator on the Art in Experience International Online Music Competition (North Macedonia) and *MusicAlive* International Piano Competition. Her publication *Little Stories* (published by Euterpe) has received favorable reviews from *Piano Journal* - the EPTA official magazine: 'A sheer delight'; *Ruch Muzyczny*: 'Agnieszka Lasko in her colorful, brilliant compositions includes ready-made ideas for improvisational games', blog *Pianodao* UK: 'Truly essential addition to the childrens' pedagogic literature'. Agnieszka Lasko has been awarded a scholarship from the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland and a scholarship from ZAiKS Polish Society of Authors and Composers.



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Sławomir Dobrzański



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LECTURE: ARTISTIC AND PEDAGOGICAL ASPECTS
OF MARIA SZYMANOWSKA'S VINGT EXERCISES ET
PRELUDES POUR LE PIANOFORTE

Praised by the Buenos Aires Herald as “one of the best Polish pianists”, Sławomir Dobrzański delights audiences with his expressive touch, intelligent phrasing, and elegant technique. As a soloist and chamber musician, he performed in over twenty countries in Asia, Europe, North and South America.

Dobrzański released several critically acclaimed world-premiere recordings of piano music by Maria Szymanowska (1789-1831), Antoni Kątski (known also as Anton de Kontski) (1816-1899), Wiktor Łabuński (1895-1974), and Károly Aggházy (1855-1918), published by the London-based label Acte Prealable. He is also an author of the first biography of Maria Szymanowska in the English language, published by the Polish Music Center at the University of Southern California.

Originally from Wrocław, Poland, he is a graduate of the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in Warsaw, Poland, and the University of Connecticut. He currently resides in Manhattan, Kansas, where he serves as Professor of Piano at the School of Music, Theatre and Dance at Kansas State University.

In 2017, the pianist was honored with the title of “Meritorious for National Culture” by the Government of the Republic of Poland. Recently, he received the Outstanding Teacher Award from Kansas Music Teachers Association.



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En Blanco Y Negro Piano Duo



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LECTURE: THE CUBAN CONTRADANCE
AND ITS VARIANTS

The piano duo En Blanco y Negro was established in 2017 and shortly after started performing in front of the public audience in the city of Miami, Florida. Their European debut in Novi Sad, Serbia was followed by concerts in places such as Coral Gables, Florida and San Francisco, California. Most recently, the duo performed as part of the festival Encuentro de Pianistas 2021 in Costa Rica, Central America.

Pianists Mirta Gómez and Sahily Cánovas, both of Cuban descent, studied in the USA and Europe, respectively. Mirta Gómez is a graduate of the Juilliard School in New York City, Sahily Cánovas is a graduate of the National Academy of Music of Ukraine, in Kiev and Odessa. Both artists have played concerts as soloists in the United States, Canada, South America, and Europe.

Their performances were awarded in the following events: First Prize in the International Piano Duo Competition Art in Experience in Macedonia, Europe - May 2021, Grand Prize Diploma at the Opus Artis Paris Piano Duo International Competition in France, Europe - September 2021, Gold Medal at the Grand Prix Virtuoso in Rome, Italy - October 2021.

En Blanco Y Negro will be making their debut at the Parco della Musica in December 2021 in Rome, Italy. Both artists are affiliated with Steinway Pianos, Mirta as Steinway Artist and Sahily as Steinway Educational Partner.



Aleksandra Hałat



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LECTURE: REDISCOVERED CHAMBER
MUSIC WORKS BY KAROL RATHAUS

Aleksandra Hałat is a pianist, chamber musician, lecturer, researcher. She is a lecturer at the Institute of Musical Arts at the University of Silesia. A graduate of postgraduate piano chamber music studies at the K. Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice. A member of ECMTA (European Chamber Music Teacher Association) based in Estonia. She has performed in many Polish cities, as well as in Turkey, England, Scotland, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Croatia. A special place in her repertoire is dedicated to the works of emigrant composers. Aleksandra Hałat has made three CDs: "The Ways", which is an integral part of her doctoral dissertation on a creative and open attitude of a pianist in a chamber ensemble, "Our world of 4 hands", recorded as a piano duet with Agata Hołdyk and "Karol Rathaus - Piano Trios". Her latest album, published by DUX under the patronage of Polish Radio II, TVP Kultura, presto. pl, Exil Arte Zentrum, received very good reviews in the Polish and foreign press. Aleksandra Hałat is the author of the publication: "Transcription in chamber music as a space for pianistic interpretation", issued by the University of Silesia. For many years the pianist has been co-creating and creating chamber ensembles: Hałat Duo with her husband Marcin Hałat and Ahha Piano Duo with Agata Hołdyk, and from 2019 Karol Rathaus Ensemble with Piotr Lato, Marcin Mączyński and Marcin Hałat. Aleksandra Hałat received a special permission from the Rathaus family to use the composer's name in the name of the ensemble. A year ago, Aleksandra Hałat initiated the KAROL RATHAUS PROJECT, the idea of which is to popularize the work of Karol Rathaus through concerts, lectures, the organization of a festival and record releases. Recently, Aleksandra Hałat has received a grant "Freedom of Research", implemented by the University of Silesia, which enabled her to prepare the second album with the works of Karol Rathaus - "Chamber music with piano", to the production of which, among others, she invited artists from the National Polish Radio Orchestra in Katowice.



Kyoko Hashimoto



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MASTERCLASSES

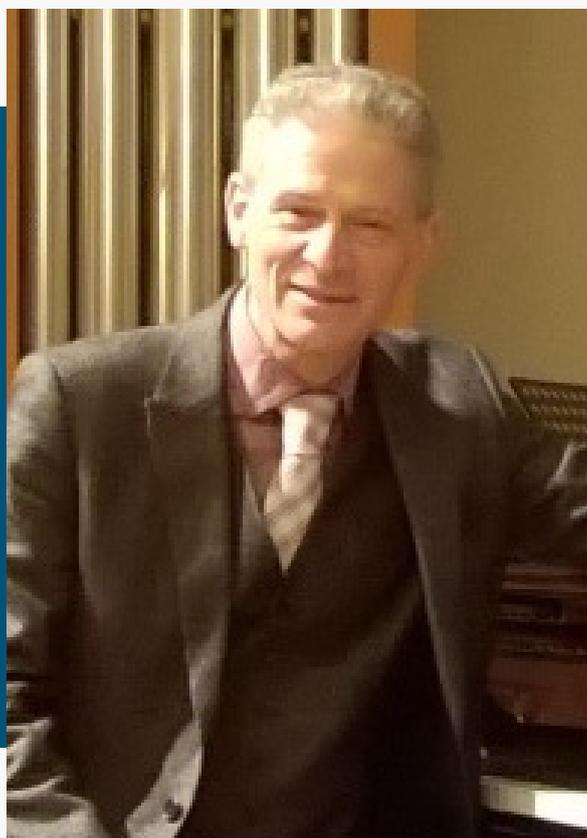
A legendary pianist and a teacher, Gyögy Sebök described Kyoko Hashimoto's "extraordinary musical talent" as "one of the finest of her generation".

Kyoko Hashimoto was born in Tokyo and began to study the piano at the age of three. She received full scholarships from the Menuhin Academy and the Juilliard School in New York. Among her teachers were György Sebök, Menahem Pressler, György Janzer, William Masselos, György Sandor, Felix Galimir, György Kurtág and Ferenc Rados.

Ms. Hashimoto was awarded numerous prizes such as the 1st grand prize and the public prize at the Concours International de Musique Française, the top prize at the Concours Musical de France, and the special prizes at the Budapest International Music Competition and at the Spohr International Competition.

She has been regularly performing throughout the world, so far in more than 30 countries, including many major cities and halls such as the Wigmore Hall in London, the LincolnCenter and the Carnegie Hall in New York, the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C.

She is Professor of Piano and Coordinator of Piano Area at McGill University in Montreal , Canada , and was on the piano faculty and the chamber music faculty of the Utrecht Conservatory in Holland for 12 years. She has been invited many times as a visiting professor at the European Mozart Academy in Poland and in the Czech Republic and at the International Chamber Music Academy in the Czech Republic .



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Julian Hellaby



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LECTURE: THE PIANO MUSIC OF JOHN
IRELAND: A TEACHER'S PERSPECTIVE.

Julian Hellaby (PhD, MMus, BMus, LRAM, ARAM) studied piano with the distinguished British pianist Denis Matthews and later at London's Royal Academy of Music. He has performed as solo pianist, concerto soloist, accompanist and chamber musician in continental Europe, the Middle East, South Africa and throughout the UK. More recent two-piano work with pianist Peter Noke has featured performances across the UK and in the Far East.

Julian is an ABRSM (Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music) examiner, moderator and public presenter, as well as a former mentor for the ABRSM's Certificate of Teaching course. He has taught academic music at Coventry University and London College of Music, and also has extensive experience of piano teaching at all levels. He has released several CDs as solo and collaborative pianist and has also published books and journal articles on various aspects of piano performance.



Timothy Hoft



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LECTURE: THE ART OF TRANSCRIPTION:
A NEW PIANO TRANSCRIPTION OF
SCHONBERG'S VERKLARTE NACHT

A pianist of unique versatility, Timothy Hoft has given performances as soloist and chamber musician in the concert halls of Ukraine, Russia, Poland, France, Italy, the Czech Republic, England, Scotland, and the U.S., including Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, the John F. Kennedy Center, the Phillips Collection, the Yamaha Piano Salon, the Ukrainian Institute of America, the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, and the Smith Center. He has performed with ensembles such as the Lviv Philharmonic, Phillips Camerata, Peabody Camerata, Peabody Wind Ensemble, UNLV Symphony Orchestra, UNLV Wind Ensemble, Henderson Symphony Orchestra and the Detroit Civic Symphony Orchestra.

A graduate of the University of Michigan and the Peabody Conservatory, Hoft holds Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral Degrees in piano performance. His primary teachers were Logan Skelton and Benjamin Pasternack. During his graduate studies, Hoft was awarded a fellowship through the La Gesse Foundation, giving him numerous performances in Europe and in the U.S. He was also granted the Earl Wild Scholarship of the Ivory Classics Foundation, allowing him to study with the legendary pianist, Earl Wild.

Hoft is currently exploring and performing solo piano repertoire of 20th and 21st century Ukrainian composers.

Timothy Hoft is an Associate Professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where he teaches solo and collaborative piano.



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Agata Hołdyk



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LECTURE: THE LIFE OF TEENAGE STAR CLARA
WIECK - INSPIRING OR DEMOTIVATING?

Agata Hołdyk - PhD holder, adjunct of the Music Institute, Silesian University in Katowice. Prizewinner in many national and international competitions, among others: 5th place in the 21st International Piano Competition in Marsala (Sicily), 1st place in the 3rd Silesian Piano Competition in Zabrze and 2nd place in the 6th M. Magin International Piano Competition in Paris (France). A grant holder of the Minister's of Culture and Art Artistic Grant.

In 2009 she formed the AHHA PIANO DUO together with Alexandra Hałat. The pianists' artistic achievements include prizes won in international competitions: the second prize in the Bradshaw & Buono International Piano Competition in New York (records contest), an award in International Piano Competition "Concours Grieg" in Oslo (Norway). She began her piano lessons at the age of 9 at the Stanisław Moniuszko Primary School of Music and at the Karol Szymanowski Secondary School of Music she graduated with honours in the piano class of mgr. Maria Wróbel-Zegalska. She is a graduate of the Karol Szymanowski Music Academy in Katowice in the piano class of Professor Andrzej Jasiński. She made a practical course at the University for Music and Art (Graz, Austria). She finished postgraduate studies in piano class of professor Andrzej Jasinski.

Agata Hołdyk was also a member of Jury at International Piano Competition in Goerlitz and National Piano Duo Competition in Jelenia Gora. Continually she is playing concerts as a solo and chamber artist in Poland and abroad (Germany, Austria, France, Italy, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Ukraine).



János Kéry



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LECTURE: THE HUNGARIAN
RHAPSODIES OF EMERICH SZEKELY

János Kéry was born in 1974 into a musical family. He started his piano and composition studies in Debrecen (Hungary) and continued in the USA at Boise State University, and later in the Piano Department of the Liszt Academy in Budapest where he graduated with honours. In 2000 he was awarded the Artisjus Prize, and became a member of the Hungarian Society for Music. He won Eötvös and DAAD scholarships for his postgraduate studies at the University of Music in Saarbrücken, Germany, where he gained two further Masters degrees in 2001 (Konzertreife) and 2015 (Solistenprüfung). He was awarded the degree of DLA (Doctor of Liberal Arts) in May 2015 by the Liszt Academy in Budapest. His teachers, whom to this day he remembers with fondness and gratitude, were in chronological order: Mrs Dr Tamás Irinyi, Erzsébet Helyes, Jenő Keuler, Attila Pless, Zsolt Molnár, Madeleine Forte, Wallis Bratt, James Cook, Alexander Peskanov, István Lantos, Edit Hambalkó, András Kemenes, Márta Gulyás, Dimitrij Baskirov, Klára Körmendi, Ferenc Rados, György Kurtág, Sándor Devich, Béla Bánfalvi, Kálmán Kostyál, Thomas Douis, Eduard Brunner, Florent Boffard, Vadim Suchanov, Péter Nagy, Ilona Prunyi. From 2004 to the present he has been teaching piano at the Liszt Academy in Budapest. He has given master classes in Quindao (China), Sankt Wendel (Germany) and the State Music Academy of Mexico. He has been juror at the Ignác Semmelweis Music Competition and the Zoltán Kodály Piano Competition in Budapest and the Angelica Morales National Piano Competition in Mexico City. He has given concerts with Boise State University Symphony, the BM Duna Symphony Orchestra, the Debrecen and the Szombathely Symphony Orchestras, and the Sándor Frigyes Chamber Orchestra. He is a frequent performer in the contemporary music Mini-Festival in Budapest. He has performed in the concert halls of the Liszt Academy, the Vigadó, the Palace of Arts in Budapest, in Yale and Boise Universities in the USA, the Bellas Artes concert center in Mexico City among others as well as in many different countries: Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, Romania, Austria, Germany, France, Netherlands, UK, Spain, Finland, Italy, USA, Canada, and Mexico. He has made recordings for radio, and given live broadcasts on BSU Radio (USA), Bartók Radio (Budapest), and Saarbrücken Klassik Radio (SR2).



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Ricardo Sá-Leão



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WORKSHOP: IMPROVISATIONAL
GAMES FOR MUSICIANS

Ricardo Sá-Leão graduated in Music (Piano) at the Superior School of Music of Lisbon (Portugal) and at the Faculty of Music of the Superior School of Arts of Utrecht (Netherlands) where he studied with Professors Kyoko Hashimoto (Piano and Chamber Music) and Charles-André Linale (Chamber Music). During this period he also studied Piano Jazz and Alexander Technique. He was a student of Igor Blagodatov (Piano) in Besançon, France. He holds a Master's Degree in Instrumental Pedagogy from ISEIT - Piaget Institut (Almada), having studied the interactions between different models of piano teaching and the social history and development of the instrument (under the guidance of Professor Ana Telles). Ricardo Sá-Leão is in the last year of his Doctorate in Music and Musicology (Performance) at the University of Évora, doing research in piano improvisation (under the guidance of Professor Ana Telles).

He has been teaching since 1994, and currently teaches Piano, Body Percussion and Accompaniment and Improvisation at the Music Academy of Almada.

As a pianist and teacher, Ricardo Sá-Leão is particularly interested in promoting a creative, individual and free artistic experience, namely through a comprehensive and integrated development of skills, thus seeking to recover a historical tradition of musical practice and teaching. In this sense, he dedicates himself to the arrangement, creation and promotion of pedagogical materials and musical works – mainly in the areas of practical musicianship and improvisation –, participation in improvisation projects and regular orientation of workshops.



Grzegorz Niemczuk



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Grzegorz Niemczuk - Polish classical pianist. During the last 14 years of his career he has performed over 400 recitals and concerts in 33 different countries on all 6 continents. Admired for his sensitivity, poetry, beautiful sound and passionate virtuosity he became a favorite with audiences and critics alike particularly in Norway, Japan, China and Latin America. His solo debut performance in Tokyo in July 2017 was a spectacular success, described in the "Chopin Magazine" as the "performance with firm structure, and beautifully solid in expressing the essence of the story, virtuosity and agitation, transmitting the nuances of changing the light and shadow as well as the poetic tune of mind". He became a favorite of Japanese audience immediately, having been invited to another tours every year.

His Carnegie Hall debut (with Chopin's 2nd Piano Concerto) was described by The Epoch Times as "full of fluidity, extremely wide dynamic range – from resounding fortissimos to whisper-soft pianissimos, variety of tone colors, and dazzling virtuosity". Niemczuk's vast repertoire spans more than 200 solo pieces and 30 piano concerti ranging from the Baroque to the contemporary era. His particular specialty is the Romantic period.

Grzegorz Niemczuk is the prizewinner of many international piano competitions, he has received many honorable awards in his home country including from Prime Minister and the Ministry of Culture. In addition to his performing career he is also a dedicated pedagogue and currently serves on the piano faculty of the Silesian University in Katowice, His students are winners of many international piano competitions. He is also invited to present masterclasses and lectures in many music universities in Norway, China, Japan, Peru, Singapore, Ecuador, Costa Rica and United States



Adam Skoumal



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Adam Skoumal is known to the audiences in Europe, USA, and Japan as one of the foremost Czech pianists and composers. He has appeared as soloist with leading Czech and Slovak orchestras (e.g., under the baton of Petr Altrichter, Serge Baudo, Lukasz Borowitz, Jiří Kout, Leoš Svárovský, Jakub Hruša, Stanislav Vavřínek, Petr Vronský, Andreas Sebastian Weiser) and a number of European orchestras, such as the Bamberger Symphoniker led by Jonathan Nott. In past years, he has performed at the concert series organized by the Czech Philharmonic, Prague Symphony Orchestra, Prague Chamber Philharmonia, Pilsen Philharmonia, Carlsbad Symphony Orchestra and at festivals such as Prague Spring, Prague Autumn, Janacek May Ostrava, Lípa Musica, Concentus Moraviae and Moravian Autumn. He regularly travels abroad with the Czech National Theatre Orchestra. Adam Skoumal studied at the Prague Conservatoire and the Academy of Performing Arts (under Jan Panenka and Peter Toperczer) and then continued abroad at prestigious universities in the USA. He won scholarships first at the SMU School of Arts in Dallas, Texas and two years later at the Manhattan School of Music, New York, where he was a protege of Ruth Laredo. During his studies he participated in several international master-classes given by such pianists as Lazar Berman, Philippe Entremont, András Schiff, Eugen Indjic and Marián Lapšanský. Adam Skoumal won 1st prize in the Czech Conservatoires Competition, and in 1998 he won 2nd prize in the Prague Spring International Competition. He was also a prize-winner in other international competitions: Portugal (Porto 1999), Italy (Pinerolo 1999), USA (T. Leschetizky Competition) and a finalist in many other competitions, such as the W. Naumburg Competition and East & West Artists Competition in New York. In 2001, he won the main prize at the Young Podium Festival in Carlsbad for his performance of Rachmaninoff's Third Concerto.



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Kasia Wiczorek



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LECTURE:
THE ART OF ACCOMPANYING
MASTERCLASSES

Kasia Wiczorek was born into a musical family in Jelenia Gora, Poland and has won several prizes in National and International Piano Competitions. These include the Carl Bergemann Sight Reading Competition in 2007, the Marco Polo International International Piano Competition and the Chopin Competition for the Youth. She studied with Prof. Martin Dörrie and Prof. Matti Raekallio (Juilliard School) at the Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien (Music Academy for Music, Theatre and Media in Hanover. Aside from giving master classes throughout Europe, Asia and USA, Kasia Wiczorek works as a lecturer at the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Frankfurt am Main, the city in which she makes her home. Her versatility and collaborative supportiveness has led her to collaborate with some outstanding musicians including Steven Isserlis, Sol Gabetta, Ana Chumachenko, Julian Rachlin, Grace Bumbry, Guy Braunstein, Nobuko Imai and more. She has recorded for WDR Radio Cologne, Swiss Radio, HR Radio, NDR Television and for the exclusive BBC Radio Series "New Generation Artists". Her reputation has taken her to countless festivals; from the Rheingau Music Festival to the Bastad Chamber Music Festival, the Lucerne Festival, the Beethoven Fest Bonn, and the Ludwigsburger Schlossfestspiele, among others. Katarzyna Wiczorek is the official accompanist for such international competitions as the ARD Wettbewerb Muenchen, Aeolus Wettbewerb Düsseldorf, Buenos Aires International Violin Competition, Jeju Festival in South Korea and International Henryk Wieniawski Violin Competition and the collaborative pianist at the University of Music and Drama in Hanover (since 2005) and Folwang School of Music in Essen (since 2009).



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Maria Yefimova



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Hailed by critics as ‘highly artistic’, “brilliant”, and “truly outstanding”, internationally acclaimed pianist Maria Yefimova has toured throughout the US, Russia, and Europe, performing in such major venues as Carnegie Hall, Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory Hall, Lisinsky Hall (Croatia), Teatro Puccini (Italy), and Slovak Philharmonic Hall. She has been featured on Bravo TV network, Tele Monte Orlando (Italy), Paradise Radio (USVI), Slovak National Television, WCVE public radio, as well as on major TV art networks in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico, and Chile. She is a featured artist in a film documentary Women of Music- a classical music series that presents performances and interviews with today’s top artists from around the world. Ms. Yefimova’s festival appearances include Virginia Arts Festival, Meranofest and Vello Music Festivals in Italy, Rachmaninoff Festival in Russia, Water Island Music Festival in USVI, Chamber Music Institute in VA, and Lake George Music Festival in NY. As an orchestral soloist she performed with Slovak Philharmonic, Tambov Philharmonic, and William and Mary Symphony Orchestras, in concertos by Mozart, Liszt, Brahms, Rachmaninoff, and Prokofiev. As an avid chamber musician, Maria has collaborated with such prominent artists as trumpet virtuoso Joe Burgstaller (Canadian Brass), violinist Dmitri Berlinsky (Paganini Gold medalist), cellist Eric Jacobsen (Brooklyn Rider Quartet, the Knights Orchestra), and world-renowned pianist and pedagogue Boris Slutsky. She is a founding member of the award winning Atlantic Chamber Ensemble. Educated at the Moscow Conservatory and the Manhattan School of Music, Dr. Yefimova is on the faculty of the College of William and Mary. She is the recipient of the “Best Teacher” Award from The X International Tchaikovsky Competition for Young Musicians (2017).