

MManhattan
School of Music

A Concert Tribute to Nina Svetlanova

Featuring

Brian Zeger (DMA '87)

Golda Vainberg-Tatz (PS '93, Precollege faculty)

Roberto Hidalgo (DMA '95)

Marc Silverman (MM '77, DMA '83, College and Precollege faculty)

Alexandre Moutouzkine (MM '03, PS '05, AD '06, Piano
Department Co-Head, College faculty)

Gila Goldstein (MM '90)

Juan Pablo Horcasitas (BM '06, MM '09)

Joanne Polk (DMA '90, College and Precollege faculty)

Mark Pakman (College and Precollege faculty)

Hyung-ki Joo (BM '93, MM '99, HonDMA '22)

Martin Labazevitch (BM '03, MM '07, PS '08)

Kathleen Tagg (DMA '09)

Xiayin Wang (BM '01, MM '03, PS '04, DMA '13)

Josu de Solaun Soto (BM '03, MM '05, DMA '11)

Dmitri Shteinberg (MM '01, DMA '04)

Lera Auerbach

Jason Thomas (BM '10, MM '12, DMA '21)

Pavel Gintov (MM '08, DMA '15)

Jae-Hyuck Cho (DMA '10)

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PROGRAM

J.S. BACH
(1685–1750)

Aria from Goldberg–Variationen, BWV 988

Brian Zeger

Remarks

James Gandre

President, Manhattan School of Music

J.S. BACH
(1685–1750)
(Arr. F. Busoni)

Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland, BWV 660a

Golda Vainverg-Tatz

NIKOLAI MEDTNER
(1880–1951)

Canzona matinata from *Forgotten Melodies II*, op. 39
Roberto Hidalgo

Remarks

Alexandre Moutouzkine
Piano Department Co-Head, College faculty

FRANZ SCHUBERT
(1797–1828)
(Arr. F. Liszt)

Ständchen from *Schwanengesang* D. 957
Gila Goldstein

RICHARD DANIELPOUR
(b. 1956)

The Enchanted Garden: Preludes, Book 2
2. Elegy

Juan Pablo Horcasitas

Remarks

Marc Silverman
College and Precollege faculty

W.A. MOZART
(1756–1891)

Piano Sonata No. 4 in E-flat major, K 282
I. Adagio

Jae-Hyuck Cho

Remarks

Mark Pakman
College and Precollege faculty

J.S. BACH
(Arr. Antonio Vivaldi)

Organ Concerto in D minor, BWV 596
iii. *Largo e spiccato*

Martin Labazevitch

S. RACHMANINOFF
(1873–1943)

Prelude No. 5, Op. 32

Kathleen Tagg

J.S. BACH
(Alessandro Marcello)

Concerto in D minor, BWV 974
II. *Adagio*

Xiayin Wang

W.A. MOZART

Piano Sonata no. 17 in B flat, K. 570

II. *Adagio*

Dmitri Shteinberg

S. RACHMANINOFF

Etudes-tableaux, Op. 33, No. 8

II. *Grave*

Jason Thomas

CLAUDE DEBUSSY

(1862–1918)

Lisle Joyeuse

Pavel Gintov

NIKOLAI MEDTNER

(1880–1951)

Canzona serenata from *Forgotten Melodies I*, op. 38

Nina Svetlanova

RECEPTION AND RECORDED PERFORMANCES

GORDON K. AND HARRIET GREENFIELD HALL FOYER

S. RACHMANINOFF

Etudes-tableaux, Op. 33, No. 2

II. *Allegro*

Lera Auerbach

CÉCILE CHAMINADE

(1857–1944)

Toccata, op. 39

Joanne Polk

JOSÉ MARIA LA CALLE

(1859–1937)

Amapola

Hyung-ki Joo

JOHANNES BRAHMS

(1833–1897)

Intermezzo Op. 16, No. 4

Josu de Solaun Soto

TEXT

“The Piano”

Lera Auerbach

My loyal friend with no facial features,
My one-winged angel,
You were made fallen
For disturbing the skies with true passion –

Oh Piano! Eternally melodious,
This hymn I sing for you,
I know, my black and white Seraphim,
That you will tame me.

I'll be your slave, -
As I obey your orders
I will anathematize my thorny lot
And thank you deep inside

You put yourself into my hands, don't you?
The herd of fingers is wandering through your stubborn depths.
The herd of fingers in search of harmony.

My hands are up to my elbows in flats.
What shall we do, my winged friend?
If time holds in its shackles
The birth of a new sonata?

I cheated on you with the Word,
With the typographic ink of books.
And, locked up in sad silence
You forgave me and welcomed me tenderly.

My whole life is made of broken lines,
Of melodies born of unspoken whispers...
You're the only one I trust
With the tremor of my heart, now and forever.

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

Nina Svetlanova was a cherished colleague with a renowned reputation as a pianist and pedagogue and served on MSM's piano faculty for nearly 40 years prior to retiring in December 2022. Her distinguished performance career spanned the world, with concerts in Europe, Australia, North America, Russia, and Asia. In addition, she joined the jury for major international competitions and can be heard on several recordings. Tributes from several members of MSM's community follow below.



I met Nina when I first came to MSM in 1985. From that first meeting, I felt her passion both for music and her beloved students. She was most often understated and quiet, but that belied a strong, clear, and undeterred determination in everything about which she felt strongly. Her imprint on MSM and her students over the nearly 40 years of teaching here is incalculable and will be felt here and in her former students for generations to come.

James Gandre, *President of Manhattan School of Music*

Nina radiated a unique blend of huge-heartedness, poetic soul, exquisite musicianship, wisdom, impeccable taste. She was an inspiration to generations of students and friends, fortunate to have been close to her. I am grateful to have been her student, associate, and a close friend.

Golda Vainberg-Tatz (PS '93)

Precollege faculty

I had the honor of meeting Nina upon my arrival at MSM and celebrating her at the 2019 faculty recognition dinner. She exuded warmth and style, and spoke admiringly and enthusiastically of her students and faculty colleagues.

Joyce Griggs

Executive Vice President & Provost

One of the first performances I heard in New York over 23 years ago was a concert of Nina Svetlanova's students at the Steinway Hall on 57th Street. It was impossible not to admire her artistry, incredibly positive vibes, and the inspiration she brought to everyone and everything. A person who left a profound mark on the musical life of Soviet Moscow, having emerged from Heinrich Neuhaus' studio, she went on to inspire generations of young musicians in New York and far beyond. Nina was incredibly supportive to me personally during my first steps at MSM as a faculty member, always radiating most positive energy and finding encouraging words. She will be greatly missed by many of us, and we are forever grateful for her enormous contribution to building the stature of the piano department at MSM.

Alexandre Moutouzkine (MM '03, PS '05, AD '06),
Piano Department Co-Head, College faculty

An extraordinary pianist and pedagogue, Nina Svetlanova dedicated decades of her life to teaching piano at Manhattan School of Music, nurturing and educating generations of remarkable artists and highly successful musicians. I've had the distinct privilege of serving on the MSM piano faculty alongside Nina, learning from her wisdom and compelling teaching style, as well as enjoying stories about her artistry, wit, and caring personality from several close friends of mine, her students. Professor Svetlanova's unmatched dedication, warm and inspiring presence, and profound knowledge will be immensely missed by our community.

Inesa Sinkevych (PS '06, DMA '10),
Piano Department Co-Head, College and Precollege faculty

Nina Svetlanova was my first true piano teacher, and I met her when I was in my 30s. One issue I struggled with my entire life as a pianist was being a woman, and a small woman at that. Nina dismissed any belief that women and girls were any less qualified to be pianists than men. She started me out by playing every single Chopin Etude, and from there we linked elbows on my journey to becoming as expressive and solid an artist as I could be. I will be forever grateful for every word, every note, every guidance about creating a beautiful sound, about using the tips of my fingers to sparkle, and using the muscles in my back to fill a hall with a bold and lush sound. I visited Nina towards the end of her life, and she was as determined as ever to stay alive, by eating carefully and exercising many times a day. I channel Nina in all my teaching, and she will be with me, in music and in my heart, forever.

Dr. Joanne Polk (DMA '90)
College and Precollege faculty

Although I did not have the privilege of knowing Nina personally, her reputation preceded her long before I arrived at MSM. Her unwavering passion for teaching and her deep love for her students resonated far beyond the boundaries of NYC. Her passing will be profoundly felt by many, yet her legacy will endure through the countless lives she touched and inspired.

JT Kane
Dean of Instrumental Studies and Orchestral Performance

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Brian Zeger (DMA '87)

Widely recognized as one of today's leading collaborative pianists, Brian Zeger has performed with many of the world's greatest singers including Marilyn Horne, Deborah Voigt, Susan Graham, Anna Netrebko, Joyce DiDonato, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, René Pape, Frederica von Stade, Bryn Terfel, Piotr Beczala, Denyce Graves and Adrienne Pieczonka in an extensive concert career that has taken him to the premiere concert halls throughout the United States and abroad.

His recent recordings for the Delos label include *Gathering: Songs by Ben Moore*; *All Who Wander*; *Preludios*; a recording of Strauss and Wagner lieder with Adrienne Pieczonka; *Dear Theo: 3 Song Cycles* by Ben Moore; and *A Lost World – Schubert Songs*. Some of his critical essays and other writings have appeared in *Opera News*, *The Yale Review*, and *Chamber Music Magazine*. Zeger has the distinction of creating, narrating, and performing in five intermission features devoted to art song, a first in the long history of the Met broadcasts.

In addition to his distinguished concert career, he serves as Artistic Director of the Marcus Institute for Vocal Arts at The Juilliard School. He has previously served as the Executive Director of the Metropolitan Opera Lindemann Young Artists Development Program and the director of the vocal program at the Steans Institute at the Ravinia Festival.

Mr. Zeger holds a bachelor's degree in English Literature from Harvard College, a master's degree from The Juilliard School, and a doctorate from Manhattan School of Music ('87). His important teachers have included Morris Borenstein, Sascha Gorodnitzki, and Nina Svetlanova.

Golda Vainberg-Tatz (PS '93, Precollege faculty)

Hailed as “a pianist with wonderful firm, clear touch” (*New York Times*), Golda has performed as a soloist with orchestra, recitalist, and chamber musician to international acclaim. She has performed with ensembles such as the Shanghai Philharmonic, the National Symphony, the Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra, the St. Kristoforas Chamber Orchestra, the Kaunas State Symphony Orchestra, the Moscow Chamber Orchestra, the Ann Arbor Symphony, and the Raanana Symphonette. She has performed for broadcasts on WQXR (NYC), the *Dame Myra Hess Series* (Chicago), *Sundays Live* (LA), Radio France, and more.

Golda frequently collaborates with the Nous Quartet, the Vilnius String Quartet, and violinist Raimundas Katilius. Her recent recordings include the Mozart Piano Concerti K.453, K.466 with the Moscow Chamber Orchestra, piano works of Robert Schumann, and the Mieczysław Weinberg Piano Quintet with the Vilnius String Quartet.

Golda is a laureate of noteworthy prizes such as the first prize in the Lithuanian State Competition for Young Pianists, full scholarships with distinction from the America Israel Cultural Foundation, the Frinna Averbuch International Competition in New York, the Prix du Disque from French Piano Institute in Paris, the Palm Beach Invitational International competition and more.

Golda Vainberg-Tatz has held faculty positions at the Juilliard School and Manhattan School of Music (studio of Nina Setlanova). She is currently on the faculty of Manhattan School of Music's pre-college division. Golda received her musical education in her native Lithuania, the Rubin Academy at Tel-Aviv University, Manhattan School of Music (PS '93), and The Juilliard School. She studied with Emanuel Krasovsky, Bella Davidovich, Nina Svetlanova, and Rosalyn Tureck.

Golda Vainberg-Tatz is a Steinway Artist.

Robert Hidalgo (DMA '95)

Internationally acclaimed pianist Roberto Hidalgo has performed in some of the most prestigious venues in the world and his native Mexico with a repertoire that covers a vast array of works that explore creative boundaries and challenge the listener's imagination. Recent performances include a program devoted to the music of Francis Poulenc at the Bloomingdale School of Music and the Mexican premiere of George Crumb's *Eine Kleine Mitternachtmusik* at the Urtext Festival in Mexico City. Hidalgo has offered Mexican premiers of works by George Crumb, Emmanuel Nunes, and Sebastian Currier. His New York recitals at Weill Recital Hall and Merkin Concert Hall have been enthusiastically received by the press and public.

Hidalgo's international tours have included concerts in Concepción, Santiago, Viña del Mar; Moscow, Tournon, Yerevan, Armenia, and Belarus. He has performed at prestigious festivals and series including Friends of Mozart, Festival Cervantino, Compositores del Caribe Festival, August-to-April Series at Festival Hill, and numerous presentations organized by the Mexican Cultural Institute

in New York and Washington, DC. He has collaborated with conductors such as Carlos Miguel Prieto, Fernando Lozano, and Grzegorz Nowak. Hidalgo has offered a lecture-recital at Moscow Conservatory on Mexican music of the 20th and 21st Centuries.

Hidalgo keeps an ongoing partnership with Marc Peloquin with whom he has formed the Split Second Piano Ensemble presenting a wide array of works for two pianos. He holds a bachelor's and master's degree from Mannes College of Music and a doctoral degree from Manhattan School of Music (DMA '95).

Gila Goldstein (MM '90)

Pianist Gila Goldstein is lauded as a versatile musician who has captivated audiences around the world with her unique artistry and soulful interpretations. Ms. Goldstein has performed as a soloist with orchestra, recitalist, and chamber musician throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, China, Korea, the Philippines, Europe and Israel. Ms. Goldstein is a champion of the music of Israel's leading composer Paul Ben-Haim and has recorded two volumes of his piano and chamber works on the Centaur label. Other recent recordings include the July 2024 release of *Latin American Piano Gems*.

Ms. Goldstein is also a sought-after pedagogue and has given numerous master classes in the USA, China, and Korea. She is currently a member of the piano faculty at Longy School of Music in Boston and a visiting Professor of Piano at Changzhou University in China. Previous teaching positions include Boston University, Brown University, and New York University.

Since 1993, Gila Goldstein has served on the board of directors of the American Liszt Society and is the founder-president of its NY/NJ Chapter. She obtained her music degrees in piano performance from Manhattan School of Music (MM '90) where she studied with Professor Nina Sveltanova, and from Tel-Aviv University's School of Music where she studied with Professor Victor Derevianko. Both her teachers were disciples of the legendary pianist and pedagogue Heinrich Neuhaus.

Juan Pablo Horcasitas (BM '06, MM '09)

Since his Carnegie Hall debut in 2009, Juan Pablo Horcasitas has been performing as a concert and collaborative pianist. His recent performances include recitals in Asia, the Middle East, Europe, South America, Central America, Mexico, and the United States. He has been a soloist with many orchestras, including the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of Singapore, Camerata de Coahuila, and Orquesta Sinfónica de Aguascalientes, among others.

Horcasitas is also an active educator and music director. For many years he held a piano faculty position at the Filomen M. D'Agostino Greenberg Music School for the visually impaired and at the Diller-Quaile School of Music in New York City.

He holds both a Bachelor's and Master's in Piano Performance degrees from the Manhattan School of Music, where he studied with Nina Svetlanova. He also received formal conducting training from Maestro David Jackson at the Metropolitan Opera House in NYC. His teachers in Mexico include Alberto Cruzprieto and Ma. Teresa Frenk. Horcasitas currently serves as the Chair of the Piano Department and Piano Faculty Position at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music.

Joanne Polk (DMA '90, College and Precollege faculty)

Pianist Joanne Polk was catapulted into the public eye with her recordings of the complete piano works of American composer Amy Beach (1867–1944) on the Arabesque Recordings label. Ms. Polk celebrated the centennial of Beach's Piano Concerto by giving the work its London premiere with the English Chamber Orchestra at the Barbican Center under the baton of Paul Goodwin. A few days later, Ms. Polk performed the Piano Concerto with the Women's Philharmonic in San Francisco with conductor Apo Hsu in a performance described as "brilliant" by critic Joshua Kosman of the *San Francisco Chronicle*. He went on to describe Ms. Polk's performance as, "an enormously vital, imaginative reading... She brought a light touch to the foreshortened slow movement and fearless technical panache to the showy conclusion." In 2014, Joanne Polk was named one of *Musical America's* Top 30 Professionals of the Year in an article titled, "Profiles in Courage" for her work promoting the music of women composers.

Ms. Polk has given master classes at festivals and universities across the country, and most recently completed concert and masterclass tours in China and Mexico.

In September 2024, Ms. Polk's second volume of solo piano music by Cécile Chaminade, *Nostalgia*, was released on the Steinway & Sons Label. Ms. Polk received her Bachelor of Music and Master of Music Degrees from The Juilliard

School, and her Doctor of Musical Arts Degree from Manhattan School of Music (’90). She currently serves as a member of the piano faculty of Manhattan School of Music and is an exclusive Steinway artist.

Mark Pakman (College and Precollege faculty)

A graduate of the Moscow State Conservatory, Mark Pakman performed in New York’s major concert halls in recitals with various artists. His solo recitals and collaborations with other musicians have taken him throughout North America, Mexico, Europe, and Russia. He was a featured artist at various festivals including the Mostly Mozart Festival pre-concert, the 8th Annual Cervantino Festival in Mexico, Musica Camerino Festival, Bedford Springs Festivals, South Hampton Chamber Music Festival, The Amati Music Festival, and The Bard Music Festival. Mark Pakman has appeared on Russian and American radio and TV stations. He has premiered compositions by Hayes Biggs, Alexander Zhurbin, and Robert Aldridge and wrote program notes to accompany several CD releases for the “Russian Disc” and “Consonance” labels. As a Russian coach, he worked with many singers including Samuel Ramey, Chester Ludgin, Jeffrey Gall, and Beverly Morgan. For more than twenty years Mr. Pakman has been on the faculty at the Manhattan School of Music working as an associate teacher with Ms. Nina Svetlanova. He is also an Assistant Professor at Montclair State University, deeply involved in the MSU-Moscow Conservatory study abroad program, which he initiated in 2002. Mr. Pakman is a member of the board of the Leschetizky Association. Among his students are winners of piano competition awards (such as a Gold Medal at the International Young Pianist Competition in Cincinnati) and those who successfully passed entrance auditions at Manhattan School of Music and other music conservatories and colleges.

Hyung-ki Joo (BM '93, MM '99, HonDMA '22)

Hyung-ki Joo has been lauded as a “clever, dynamic artist who [...] brings a breath of fresh air to the industry” by *Billboard*. Hyung-ki Joo has already worked with renowned orchestras such as the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, the Wiener Symphoniker, the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, and many others. He also performs as a chamber musician with renowned colleagues such as Janine Jansen and Julian Rachlin and in recitals with Asmik Grigorian or Julian Prégardien. Hyung-ki Joo uses his refreshing creative energy to devise innovative concert formats suitable for the 21st century.

Hyung-ki Joo curated the opening of the Wiener Festwochen in 2023, and his compositions have been performed by renowned orchestras such as the New York Philharmonic and the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich. Together with violinist Aleksey Igudesman, he forms the duo Igudesman & Joo which combines classical music and comedy with pop culture, bringing entertainment and sparkling humor to major concert halls around the world. He collaborates with artists outside of the classical music world such as Billy Joel, whose first album of works for solo piano was arranged by Joo.

A passionate music educator, Joo regularly works with youth orchestras, conducts workshops, and offers masterclasses at various institutions. Joo holds an honorary doctorate from the Manhattan School of Music ('22) and currently serves as the Artistic Director of the Menuhin Competition.

Martin Labazevitch (BM '03, MM '07, PS '08)

Praised by critics in Europe and the United States for his lyricism, virtuosity and an intensity of performance, pianist Martin Labazevitch appeared in many concert halls and festivals in Poland, Ukraine, Finland, Germany, Austria, Italy, Spain, Israel, Japan, South Korea, Peru and the United States. Born in Poland, Mr. Labazevitch studied at the Odessa Conservatory in Ukraine and at the Manhattan School of Music in New York, where his main teachers were Nina Svetlanova and Horacio Gutierrez. In 2019 he received Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Rome School of Music, Drama and Art in Washington D.C. He has been a soloist with leading orchestras in Spain, Poland, Lithuania, Japan, and the United States. Of his debut album release of the Chopin Concerto with the Beethoven Academy Orchestra, *ConcertoNet* wrote, “...he pleasantly refrains from overtaxing Chopin’s conclusive Allegro vivace with shimmering grandeur and eloquent precision that could even rival that of Arthur Rubinstein.” After

his debut at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, *The Strad Magazine* wrote: "... exuberant, multi-faceted, ...gripping from first note to last."

Performance highlights of the recent seasons include: Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York, Terrace Theater at Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., Damme Myra Hess Series in Chicago, Chopin Foundation in Miami, the Philharmonic Society of Lima, Peru and Warsaw Music Society in Poland.

An enthusiastic educator, Mr. Labazevitch has been sharing his passion for teaching with students at the Levine School of Music in Washington D.C. He is also the Co-Founder of the Puerto Rico International Piano Festival, in San Juan and as well as the Artistic Director of the Kosciuszko Foundation Chopin Piano Competition, Chopin Piano Academy in Washington D.C. as well as Berkshire Piano Academy in Massachusetts. In 2022 Mr. Labazevitch co-founded The Paderewski Academy, a pioneer hybrid piano academy based in Zurich, Switzerland. Mr. Labazevitch is a Steinway Artist.

Kathleen Tagg (DMA '09)

Kathleen Tagg is a composer, pianist, and producer based in New York. Since 2010, her work has focused on identity, connection, and sound exploration, and her compositions have been performed on five continents. As a pianist, she has toured the world, including venues such as Carnegie Hall, Pierre Boulez Saal, and the Théâtre du Châtelet, and has produced numerous albums across an array of genres.

As a composer, recent commissions include a song cycle for soprano Golda Schultz and pianist Jonathan Ware which was performed at Lucerne Festival, Festival D'Aix-en-Provence, Kölner Philharmonie, and Melbourne Opera House, amongst others. She also composed a Concerto for Klezmer Clarinet and Orchestra with David Krakauer, as well as music for the feature film *Minyan* by Eric Steel (which premiered in 2020 at the Berlin Biennale).

Her musical, *Erika's Wall*, co-written with Sophie Jaff, was developed by The Music Theater Company of Chicago. She also co-created immersive concert and theatrical events: *Keepers of the Flame* (for Poland's Borderlands Foundation), and *The Ties that Bind Us* (at Pierre Boulez Saal). Her recorded work appears on Table Pounding Records, NAXOS, Alpha Classics, Ossia Records, and Label Bleu, and she is a member of ASCAP, the Dramatist Guild, and Chamber Music America.

She is on the piano faculty at Columbia University, the Accademia Chigiana, and is a former faculty member at SongFest at Colburn. She was a 2014–2015 fellow of the Dramatist Guild, a 2017 Con Ed Exploring the Metropolis Composer in Residence, and is a current fellow of American Lyric Theatre.

Xiayin Wang (BM '01, MM '03, PS '04, DMA '13)

Pianist Xiayin Wang is an artist of keen musicality and sweeping virtuosity. Praised by *The New York Times* for her “estimable grasp of pianistic color and her ability to maintain and illuminate a strand of melody within the thickest of textures,” Ms. Wang has released numerous celebrated recordings. Ms. Wang’s discography has received international acclaim, with her most recent Chandos recording of Tchaikovsky and Scriabin’s piano concerti being hailed as “terrific” (Gramophone) and “the model of refinement” (*The Herald*). Her recording of Alberto Ginastera’s Piano Concertos Nos. 1 and 2 with the BBC Philharmonic was commended by *Gramophone* as “jaw-droppingly impressive.” Ms. Wang’s 2018 release of a lesser-known collection of works by Granados was praised by *BBC Music Magazine* as catching “the spirit of youthful Spanish ardor.”

Wang has performed with the Baltimore, Houston, and Pittsburgh Symphonies, the Vienna Chamber Orchestra, Israel Chamber Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, and the Orchestra Sinfonica di Roma, and has appeared in recitals at prestigious halls around the world.

A multi-award-winning performer, Xiayin completed her studies at the Shanghai Conservatory and garnered an enviable record of first-prize awards and special honors for her performances throughout China. Ms. Wang, who began piano studies at the age of five, came to New York in 1997. She holds Bachelor’s (BM '01), Master’s (MM '03), Professional Studies (PS '04), and DMA degrees ('13) from Manhattan School of Music.

Josu De solaun (BM '03, MM '05, DMA '11)

Josu De Solaun has been lauded by critics like Nikolaus Frey (*Fuldaer Zeitung*) for his “poetic sense of sound, bold artistic vision, and brilliant virtuoso skills, always and completely in service of the works he performs.” Twice awarded the International Classical Music Awards (ICMA) in 2021 (chamber music) and 2023 (best soloist), the ICMA jury declared: “De Solaun is one of the most impressive discoveries of the past decade. Free from aesthetic dogma, he creates universes of a solitary nature, engaging with works symbiotically and at the highest energy levels.”

He is the only Spanish pianist to win both the José Iturbi (2006) and George Enescu (2014) international piano competitions since their respective foundations. The Enescu Competition was previously won by Elisabeth Leonskaja and Radu Lupu. In recognition of his contributions to Romanian music, he was named an Officer of the Order of Cultural Merit by President Klaus Iohannis in 2019.

He has performed with orchestras such as the Spanish National Orchestra, Mariinsky Theatre Orchestra, George Enescu Philharmonic, and Radio Orchestras of Bucharest and Prague, collaborating with conductors like Giancarlo Guerrero, JoAnn Falletta, and Laurence Equilbey. His upcoming albums include Chopin's Complete Mazurkas and Bernstein's *The Age of Anxiety*.

De Solaun studied in Spain under Salvador Chuliá, María Teresa Naranjo, and Ana Guijarro before training at Manhattan School of Music with Horacio Gutiérrez and Nina Svetlanova (BM '03, MM '05, DMA '11), a pupil of Heinrich Neuhaus. Svetlanova's influence, rooted in a great Russian piano school, profoundly shaped his artistic vision.

De Solaun, also a published poet, resides in Madrid, where he teaches at the Escuela Superior Musical Arts.

Dmitri Shteinberg (MM '01, DMA '04)

Called "protean and refined" by the *New York Times*, Shteinberg has recorded for NPR, Bavarian Radio, Summit Records, Fleur de Son Classics, Sono Luminus labels, and the Yamaha Disklavier. He has collaborated with cellists Han-Na Chang and Natalia Gutman, violinists Julian Rachlin and David Garrett, violist Tabea Zimmermann, and members of the New York Philharmonic. His interest in new music has led to world premieres and numerous commissions, including concertos by Avner Dorman, Jonathan Kolm, and Robert Chumley, and the first-ever recording of Samuel Barber's recently discovered violin sonata.

Shteinberg has taught at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts since 2011. A number of his studio alumni now hold university teaching positions. Shteinberg is a former faculty of the Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival in Burlington, VT, and the Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival in Tampa, Florida. Currently, he is the artistic director of the three-week Summer Piano Intensive at UNCSA.

Dmitri Shteinberg studied with Nina Svetlanova between 1999 and 2004.

Lera Auerbach

Lera Auerbach studied at Manhattan School with Nina Svetlanova, and later at The Juilliard School in piano (under Joseph Kalichstein) and composition (under Milton Babbitt and Robert Beaser). Her graduate studies were supported by The Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans. She also studied comparative literature at Columbia University and earned a piano diploma at the

Hochschule für Musik Hannover.

Auerbach has performed as a recitalist and orchestral soloist at Carnegie Hall, the Moscow Conservatory, Tokyo Opera City, Lincoln Center, Herkulessaal, Oslo Konserthus, Chicago's Theodore Thomas Orchestra Hall, and the Kennedy Center.

Auerbach's compositions have been commissioned and performed by a wide array of artists, orchestras, choirs, and ballet companies including Gidon Kremer, the Kremerata Baltica, David Finckel, Wu Han, Vadim Gluzman, the Tokyo, Kuss, Parker and Petersen String Quartets, the SWR and NDR symphony orchestras, Berg Orchestra, Netherlands Chamber Choir, RIAS Kammerchor, the Royal Danish Ballet, Caramoor International Music Festival, Lucerne Festival, Lockenhaus Festival, Bremen Musikfest, and Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival.

She has collaborated with choreographer John Neumeier, and her works have been premiered by the Düsseldorf Symphony, Hannover's NDR Radio Philharmonic, the Bremen Philharmonic with the Latvian National Choir, the Estonian Opera Boys Choir. Her operas *Gogol* and *The Blind* debuted at Vienna's historic Theater an der Wien and Lincoln Center.

In 2005 Auerbach received the Hindemith Prize from the Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival. She is the youngest composer to be represented by music publisher Internationale Musikverlage Hans Sikorski of Hamburg, Germany.

Jason Thomas (BM '10, MM '12, DMA '21)

Dr. Jason Thomas is a concert pianist with a broad range of repertoire. His performances have been featured worldwide, including on the 3 Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) and in Suolahti, Finland.

Throughout his career, Jason has received many awards and commendations for his performances. Some of his awards include a stipend from the Suolahti International Music Festival, in which he was asked to perform a solo recital there. Other awards include the Elizabeth Voitle Tucker Honorary Award for outstanding achievement in music study, as well as several scholarships from the Manhattan School of Music. He was also a scholarship recipient from the Cirio Foundation.

Jason has had a long list of piano teachers including Nina Svetlanova, Shou-Ping Chiu, Barry Goldsmith, Carlos Juris, Emanuel Krasovsky, Antti Siirala, Erik T. Tawaststjerna, and Lauri Väinmaa. Jason has also performed in masterclasses with renowned musicians such as Seymour Bernstein and Barry Snyder.

Dr. Thomas received his doctorate from the Manhattan School of Music ('21). His thesis focused on the evolution of George Walker's piano style.

Jason deeply loved Nina Svetlanova who he feels has helped him develop in many ways besides piano playing.

Pavlo Gintov (MM '08, DMA '15)

Pianist Pavlo Gintov has been described as “a poet of the keyboard” by Marty Lash of the *Illinois Entertainer*, a “musical storyteller” by the Japanese publication *Shikoku News*, and “a fantastic pianist and extraordinary artist” by Jerry Dubins of *Fanfare Magazine*.

Following his debut at the Kyiv Philharmonic Hall at the age of 12, Mr. Gintov has been touring throughout Europe, Asia, Africa, South America, and the United States, appearing at such stages as Carnegie Hall in New York, Berlin Philharmonic Hall, Teatro Verdi Nazionale in Milan and Kioi Hall in Tokyo. He has been a soloist with the Tokyo Royal Chamber Orchestra, the National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine, Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa, the National Symphony Orchestra of the Dominican Republic, and Manhattan Chamber Orchestra under such conductors as Michiyoshi Inoue, Victor Yampolsky, Thomas Sanderling, Volodymyr Sirenko, and Tomomi Nishimoto.

Mr. Gintov studied at Moscow State Conservatory, where he was a student of Lev Naumov, and at MSM (MM '08, DMA '15), where he studied with Nina Svetlanova.

Jae-Hyuck Cho (DMA '10)

Acclaimed pianist and organist Jae-Hyuck Cho is one of the most active concert artists in Korea. As the winner of the Pro Piano New York Recital Series Auditions, Jae-Hyuck made his New York debut in 1993 at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall. He has since been active as a recitalist, a soloist and a chamber musician throughout North America, Europe, and Asia, appearing in prestigious venues worldwide. He has made appearances with numerous orchestras including the Monte-Carlo Philharmonic Orchestra of Monaco, New Jersey Symphony, Louisiana Philharmonic, Plano Symphony and San Angelo Symphony of Texas, Jalisco Symphony of Mexico, and most major orchestras in South Korea. His interest in collaborating with artists of different mediums led him to work together in special projects with the Korean National Ballet and an illusionist Lee Eun-gyeol, resulting in creating new ways to merge different genres.

Jae Hyuck Cho has released albums with SONY Classical and Evidence labels. He studied at The Juilliard School and Manhattan School of Music where he was a student of Nina Svetlanova (DMA '10).

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