



*the
adamanter*

Adamant Music School

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president's letter

Frank Suchomel, President

Dear Members & Friends:

I guess the election is on most peoples' minds and, as of this writing, I have no idea what is going to happen, although I know by the time you get this *adamanter* the results may be in. As you can probably tell from our Archivist-Historian, Andrew Christiansen's, article, Alice Mary Kimball and Edwine Behre (and Harry Godfrey for that matter) were very political people and extremely active on the political scene.

As usual we have articles in this issue by our Theater Production Coordinator, Rosann Hickey; an article by our Executive Director, Sandra Rogers; and also a recipe from our Chef, Richard Goss. I recently had one of his dishes and it was impressive. This was the salmon with papaya salsa. Fabulous!

We had a great meeting of our Executive Committee in October, as well as a wonderful concert. The performances at the concert were delightful and we had a nice crowd. Myles Pollin, Victoria von Arx, Susan Wang, Sarah Wang, and Desiree Melegrito performed the concert. It was especially nice that we had a large group of current and former Adamant participants and several people took photos of this group after the concert. Regrettably the light was not good for picture taking but if one of them turns out to be printable we shall certainly publish it in the next *adamanter*.

With respect to the meeting of the Executive Committee, several important decisions were reached based on the responses of our summer participants to our annual questionnaire as reported by our Executive Director. The most important one was authorizing the purchase of three

good pianos for Adamant to supplement the pianos we already have. An ad hoc committee was set up consisting of Sandra M. Rogers, Myles Pollin and myself who were authorized to find three pianos, have them inspected for quality by a licensed piano technician, and arrange for the purchase if they agree. Several pianos were suggested and I went with Sandra and approved three of them that later on the committee also approved. The Executive Committee also approved a rather long list of repairs on our existing pianos and our two technicians, Dan Jessie and Tom McNeil, will have a winter filled with piano work.

This was also the first time that our new Members-at-Large, Myles Pollin and Richard Herrmann, attended a meeting and they were extremely helpful in addressing the many issues on the agenda. Richard Herrmann is our second Vermont resident member (other than myself) and Myles Pollin is a fine musician who lives above the apartment in New York City where we have our loft concerts (and my residence until I retired in 1986). It is wonderful to have Vermont people, like Richard Herrmann, actively engaged in formulating policy and to have a musician, like Myles Pollin, on the Executive Committee.

Adamant has already had several snowfalls and this morning Adamant Pond was covered with ice. So I guess winter is setting in slowly. Fortunately none of the snow has stuck, for which I am grateful, and also the ice on the pond still disappears during the day.

Michael and I spent a week in Vermont during the Fall Foliage Festival in early

October and without a doubt it was one of the most glorious autumns ever seen. The leaves were spectacular and the weather could not have been better.

Our Caretaker-Custodian, Eric Ryea, is now working with various agencies of the State of Vermont to get permission to make our swimming pond more usable. It is slowly being overtaken with milfoil, a pernicious weed, which is infesting most of the ponds in the East. Happily the cost of this much-needed improvement will be borne by the Adamant Community Cultural Foundation and not the music school. We hope to get this job finished before the next meeting of the Executive Committee in December.

Mele Kalikimaka and Hauoli Makahiki Hou!
(Merry Christmas and Happy New Year)
Frank Suchomel



Swimming Pond

new york concert season 2000-01



The Sunday concerts are held at 3:00 pm at 34 East 30th Street, 8th Floor, New York City, New York. The only exception is the Weill Recital Hall concert. Membership in the Behre Piano Associates gets members in free. Non-members are charged an admission fee of \$5.00. The concert at Weill Concert Hall, in Carnegie Hall, is the exception. Members and non-members will be charged an admission fee.

- Dec. 10, 2000 Ilya Itin
- Feb. 11, 2001 Rorianne Schrade
- March 11, 2001 Annual Concert at Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall (2:30 p.m.)
- April 8, 2001 Adamant Music School Participants And Executive Committee Members. ■

Dr. Rogers' report

Dr. Sandra M. Rogers, Executive Director

Traditional Piano Session Survey

Many positive comments were made about the 2000 Traditional Piano Session—praising the faculty, the pianos and practice facilities, the food, the supportive environment, the beautiful surroundings, the class format, the many performing opportunities, the focused practice time, the schedule, and the accommodations. Several participants remarked how they enjoyed being around other musicians, how they learned excellent practice techniques and how the experience helped in preparing them for graduate school auditions. Even doing chores proved enjoyable to some!

Several participants suggested longer library hours. With the addition of the CD collection "Great Pianists of the 20th Century" there was an increase in the time spent checking out items. It was suggested that these CD's be available in Waterside Annex (the listening room) and be put on the honor system. However, this collection is very valuable and should be kept intact, as requested by our past Vice-President, Jack Hanus, who magnanimously donated the collection to the school. ■

Master Class Session Survey

This survey provided favorable feedback regarding the overall experience of the Master Class with Menahem Pressler. Specific comments included:

- a marvelous week of learning in a beautiful natural setting with wonderfully supportive people;
- the scintillating master classes, the efficient practice schedules, the excellent facilities, the thoughtful accommodations, and delicious meals make Adamant a very special place.

Several returning participants liked the limit of 15 performers and appreciated having the schedule in advance, noting that knowing ahead of time who would perform and what they would play provided the performers with a more relaxed experience and created a more organized session for everyone involved. And as in the Traditional Session Survey, many participants commented favorably on the facilities, grounds and the food:



Meditation Gardens, Adamant Music School

- the facilities are first rate in every respect;
- the grounds are beautifully kept;
- the food was legendary.

Thank you to each participant who completed his or her survey. The Executive Committee, the faculty and staff of the Adamant Music School all find the survey results enlightening and helpful in their ultimate goal to, as President Frank Suchomel puts it, "make the school better, not bigger." ■

December concert-Ilya Itin

Sunday, December 10, at 3:00 p.m.

Ilya Itin

Born in Sverdlovsk, Russia, Ilya Itin studied from the age of 5 with Natalia Litvinova at the Sverdlovsk Music School for gifted children. He graduated with Highest Honors from the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory where his teacher was the inspirational Lev Naumov. Since 1990, Itin has lived in the United States. He won 1st Prize and the Chopin Prize in the 9th Robert Casadesus

Competition in Cleveland in 1991. In 1996 Itin was the winner of the prestigious Leeds International Piano Competition and now performs throughout the world.

Program:

Scriabin: 5 Preludes from Opus 11 and Opus 15
Scriabin: Sonata No. 4 in F Sharp Major
Rachmaninov: Variations on a Theme by Corelli
Tchaikovsky arr. Mikhail Pletnev: Suite from Sleeping Beauty

Prologue
Danse des Pages
Vision d'Aurore
Andante
La Fée-Argent
Le Chat Botté et la Chatte Blanche
Gavotte
La Canari qui chante
Chaperon Rouge et le Loup
Adagio
Finale

echoes of the future: lives of the founders

Andrew Christiansen, Webmaster & Archivist

Part 5: 1912-1915 As dramatic changes occur in their lives, the world goes to war.

1912

Winter is coming, and the warmth of the wood stove makes us pause to warm our hands and consider the momentous events of this year. In the first half of the year, the U.S. invaded Cuba, Honduras, and Nicaragua; Sun Yat-sen formed the Chinese Republic, while disputing the sovereignty of Tibet; and New Mexico became our 47th state. In the last three weeks we've read in the newspaper that the "Bull Moose" Progressive candidate, former President Teddy Roosevelt, survived a gunshot in the chest while campaigning in Milwaukee on October 14th. Three days later, Bulgaria, Greece & Serbia declared war on Turkey.

Yesterday, November 5th, Woodrow Wilson (D) beat a recovered Roosevelt and President Taft in the presidential election; Arizona, Kansas, and Wisconsin voted for female suffrage; AND Alice Mary became an aunt. Her sister, Laura, had a baby girl named Doris Gould. Alice Mary's father was just as pleased with his first grand-daughter as with Eugene Debs' vote totals— he had 900,000 votes, or double what he had in 1908. Everywhere, the talk is of socialism on the rise.

In Lawrence, Massachusetts, when the strike leader against the American Woolen Company was imprisoned, IWW's Big Bill Hayward and Elizabeth Gurley Flynn came to Lawrence to take over the organizational duties. They immediately faced 22 companies of militia and 2 troops of cavalry. When the city had become an occupied war zone and they had 50,000 people to organize food and fuel for, they succeeded in moving many of the children of the strikers to other places. Thirty-five of them were sent to Barre, Vermont, to be taken care of by the socialists there. Despite attacks and the killings of strikers, they won the strike on March 14th.

In Lithuania, the persecution of Jews is unbearable and most are leaving for the United States or South Africa. Fruma Melamed and her family are now living in Germiston, which is 15-20 minutes away from Johannesburg, South Africa. Once there, they changed their name to Rabinowitz and Fruma changed her name to Freda.

Across the ocean in Williamsburg, which

is a part of Brooklyn, New York, Emma is 9 years old now. She has been taking piano lessons for 3 years from a local teacher and enjoys her music very much.

Alice Mary was still working for the Sewickley Herald in Sewickley, Pennsylvania, when the Titanic sank in the North Atlantic on April 15th, but she is already looking towards moving on. Her 16-year old sister, Florence, was going to the high school in Hardwick, but after taking violin lessons in Burlington and playing for dances with the Hardwick Orchestra, her father allowed her to join a traveling orchestra that plays in N.H. and Massachusetts. She had planned to study piano with the orchestra leader's wife, but there is no time for anything but travel and hard work.

Edwine came back from Europe and established a studio on 45 Columbia Street in her hometown of Atlanta, Georgia. Between January through March, she held a Course of Six Lectures, on "The Pianoforte Sonatas of Beethoven" at her studio, which covered Sonata in C major, Op. 2, No. 3, Sonata in C minor, Op. 13 (Pathetique); Sonata in D minor, Op. 31; No. 2, Sonata in F minor; Op. 57 (Appassionata); Sonata in E flat major, Op. 81 (Das Lebewohl); and Sonata in A flat major, Op. 110. A course card costs \$3; a single lecture costs 75 cents.

1913

Edwine reported that this was a busy year for her. Following the success of her lecture series last year, she repeated it this year with four lecture-recitals devoted to the works of Chopin from February 18th through March 13th. In the first lecture, she covered the Preludes and Nocturnes, the second covered

the Mazurkas and Polonaises, the third looked at Studies, and the concluding session was Ballades, Impromptus and Fantasy. In her flyer for the series she wrote, "The principal works of Chopin will be considered from a technical as well as an aesthetic and psychological point of view, fully illustrated at the piano."

In July, Edwine traveled back to Boston to give a concert at the Town Hall in Cohasset on July 7, 1913. She performed the Bach Prelude and Fugue in D Major, "Melody in D Minor" by Gluck-Sgambati, "Pastorale" by Scarlatti, and "Fantasy in C Minor" by Mozart. Next she played "Davidsbuedler Taenze" by Schumann and concluded the concert with Beethoven's "Appassionata." This is the same concert that won her rave reviews in Atlanta last December when she played at Cable Hall.

Our other young woman, Alice Mary, tells us, "I had my eyes set on more romantic places than Sewickley, Pennsylvania, and after a while I had enough saved. So I dared to take a leap into Paragould, Arkansas, where I had a very flowery letter from a Southern editor, so I became an editor, reporter, whatever, of the Paragould Solophon. It is a daily and it keeps me flying around quite a bit, it is exciting. No one seems to resent a Northerner coming down. I go around, seeing people face to face, interviewing them, there is no real chance for any antagonism."

Life is miserable for Freda because of the emotional abuse of her father and older sister, Liska. Her father is a photographer and has a studio. Freda says, "I very seldom have a happy moment here. My brother Sam and I should be robbers when we grow up, because now we steal money from our father in order to eat. He has a locked desk with money in it. When my father goes away, we stand guard, I on one corner of the street and my brother on the other, while my mother breaks into his desk. Fortunately, he never keeps track of how much money he has, so he doesn't notice. To everyone else he will give anything, to his family, nothing. He buys boxes of fruit that he puts on the shelves of his studio. He never eats the fruit and won't let us have any so it sits there and rots."

Freda says that the black people are not treated well here. On June 16th, the South-African parliament forbids blacks from owning land.



Here is a good view of J.R., the advertising manager, the bookkeeper, and Alice Mary Kimball (second from right) outside the Solophon Building in Paragould, Arkansas in 1913.

of the adamant music school 1912-1915



Freda Rabinowitz's father (on the right) sitting in a rickshaw in South Africa around 1913.

1914

Alice Mary is on the move again and she is writing for one of the most prestigious newspapers in the country. After being in Arkansas for about a year, she is now a staff contributor for the Kansas City Star! A short while ago, she was reading the newspaper and noticed there was a wedding announcement. To her surprise, it was her co-worker at the Kansas City Star, Harry Godfrey, whom she had been dating the last few months! He had been married and divorced with three children. She hadn't the slightest suspicion that he was engaged to be married again. She read further and discovered that the person he was marrying was herself, Alice Mary Kimball! This was the first she had heard of it. Alice Mary said she didn't want to cause any embarrassment, so she and Harry got married on November 18, 1914.

Meanwhile, back in Vermont, her sister, Laura, gave birth to Jennie, born on October 7th. Ada, Alice Mary's other sister, is the secretary and bookkeeper for her husband, Gus Hall, who owns the Hardwick Machine Shop and Garage. She had a daughter, Lucy, born on September 11th.

Other news from the West has galvanized the nation. The Colorado coal strike that started last September, culminated in the National Guard (whose wages were paid by the Rockefellers) launching a machine-gun attack against the miners' tents, burning them to the ground, and then shooting the miners and their families as they tried to escape. This happened on April 20th and is called the "Ludlow Massacre." At one point,

they lured the miners' leader, Lou Tikas, up to the hills to discuss a truce, after the miners had returned fire, but it was a trap and they shot him to death. There were protest demonstrations all over the country and when other miners arrived with a huge arsenal of rifles and guns, President Wilson sent in federal troops to break the strike.

The same day as the massacre President Wilson, who last October 27th promised not to attack another country, ordered an attack on Vera Cruz on the coast of Mexico, after Mexico had arrested some American sailors. Some think this was done to divert people's attention from the class struggle emerging in this country and find a common foreign enemy. The winds of war are raging in Europe. On July 28th, Austria-Hungary attacked Serbia and on Sept. 22nd a German submarine sunk three British cruisers. Now, the whole continent is at war.

In South Africa, Freda is now able to take piano lessons. Her father was pushed by the relatives to do something for her. Such a thing as a piano was undreamt of in Krakonova. Her first teacher is very strict and raps her knuckles hard with a pencil every time she makes a mistake.



Harry Godfrey and Alice Mary Kimball in 1914.

1915

The world is in turmoil. On January 12th, the U.S. House of Representatives rejected a proposal to give women the right to vote and on October 23rd, 25,000 women marched in New York City demanding suffrage. On July 28th, 10,000 blacks marched down 5th Avenue in New York

to protest the ever-growing number of lynchings. On May 7th, the British liner Lusitania was sunk by a German submarine and in 18 minutes, 1,198 lives were lost. The United States called this a monstrous German atrocity on an innocent cargo, but the Lusitania was actually heavily laden with thousands of cases of 3-inch shells, cartridges, and small arms ammunition. The manifests were falsified to hide this and the American and British governments lied about the cargo.

One of those who benefits most from such trade with Europe is J.P. Morgan and Company, which acts as an agent for the Allies. When President Wilson lifted the ban on private bank loans to the Allies earlier this year, it set the stage for Morgan to make huge profits by lending large amounts of money and tying American finance to British interests in defeating Germany.

All is darkness for Edwine, who is horrified by the war and by the killing that has swept Europe where she lived but a few years ago. She wrote about the death of her beloved "Professor" in Germany.

"The time was November, 1915.

The guns of August had long thundered away. The international assemblage of Leschetizky pupils had scattered to their homelands. The master, desolate from the breakup of his class of gifted young people, his sight impaired from an unsuccessful cataract operation, and with the infirmities of his eighty-fifth year upon him, traveled to Dresden to visit his son, taking Pepi (his servant) along to care for him. Finding his son seriously ill, he took lodgings at a hotel. One evening he said to Pepi: 'Heut' nacht werd' ich sterben.' (Tonight I'm going to die.) " 'Aber, Herr Professor, don't talk like that. You're no sicker than you have been right along.'

'No, no, I'm going to die. Go down to the Maitre d'Hotel and get me a bottle of champagne.' "In fear and trembling she went. Professor drank and said: 'Jetzt bet!' (Now pray.) Pepi fell to her knees. He drained a glass, a last toast, as it were, and died, one hopes, in a champagne glow of his long faith in life in art and art in life."

Also visit our Web Site www.adamant.org for more information, photographs, and taped interviews with Alice Mary, Edwine, Freda, and Emma. ■

phillips experimental theater

Rosann Hickey, Production Coordinator / Phillips Experimental Theater



The cast of *Many Moons*, Summer of 2000

As I write this in Vermont all of autumn's gaudy gold has gone and even the last brassy blast of the tamaracks has faded. The palette is subdued—chestnut, russet, maroon, black and the occasional pale gold of dried grasses. We are in "stick season." It is the time when we see the bones of the trees, the structure and contours of the land, unadorned.

How fitting that at this time we are considering the structure of our next season of theatre from Quarry Works. We have the shape of it: a musical, a children's show and a classic—much the same format that worked so well for us this past summer.

Our musical will be Frank Loesser's beloved *Guys & Dolls*, chock full of wonderful tunes like *Luck Be A Lady*, *I've Never Been In Love Before*, *Bushel And A Peck*, *Sit Down You're Rockin' The Boat*, *If I Were A Bell*, *Fugue For Tinhorns*,

Take Back Your Mink, and the beautiful and moving *More I Cannot Wish You*. A fascinating assortment of characters, a strong story line and clever humor put this show on every connoisseur's Top Ten list of all time favorites.

Then we will be presenting *The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins*—a charming tale from the beloved Dr. Seuss. This continues our strategy of presenting magical

pieces of children's literature that prove you can have a great time without physical violence or the use of a joystick.

For our classic we are venturing into Shakespeare. What could be more appropriate to our magical setting than *A Midsummer Night's Dream*? We'll have it all: mischievously enchanting fairies, rude but risible rustics, haughty lords and ladies of Athens and the star-crossed—or just silly—lovers.

Next time I'll tell you more of our plans and just how these selections are related in theme. Meanwhile, there you have it, a season to savor in anticipation. ■



Princess Lenore who wanted the moon.

member news



Many of our members are musicians and have news to share of recent or upcoming recordings and performances. We would like to post this information on our website, www.adamant.org. Please send your information to M'Lou Gillespie at P.O. Box 22, Adamant, VT 05640, or webmaster, Andrew Christiansen (email: oldbarn@together.net) We need all the information, as well as

your contact information for any questions we have. Please submit only your own event and recording information! Since we will be publishing this on our website, we want to make sure the information is accurate and that we have your authorization to do so.

Questions? Please contact: M'Lou Gillespie.

the chef's table

Richard Goss, Chef, Adamant Music School

Penne w/Roma Tomato, Zucchini, Kalamata Olives & Fresh Basil

This simple pasta dish is sure to please everyone, including the cook, with its quick and easy preparation. All the ingredients can even be prepped in advance and held in the fridge until just before dinner.

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|--|--|
| 1 T Olive Oil | 1/4 Cup White Wine |
| 1 Clove Garlic | 4 Cups Penne (cooked) |
| 2 Medium Zucchini, cut into 1/2 moons 1/4" thick | 1 T Butter (optional) |
| 4-6 Roma (Plum) Tomatoes, cut lengthwise 1/4" | Salt & Pepper |
| 1/4 Cup Kalamata Olives, pitted & quartered lengthwise | 10 Large Basil Leaves, cut into *chifonade |
| | Freshly grated Parmesan Cheese |

***CHIFONADE:** Stack leaves directly on top of each other, 5 at a time, roll them up tightly and cut crosswise as thinly as possible.

In larger sauté pan heat oil on high heat and then add garlic. Cook briefly and stir. Add zucchini and cook one minute, stirring regularly. Add tomatoes, olives and wine and cook 2-3 minutes, stirring once or twice. Add butter, salt and pepper, stirring regularly. Add pasta until it is warm and the butter has melted. Remove to large heated pasta bowl, sprinkle with basil and Parmesan and place a sprig of basil on top.

It doesn't get any better than this!

Front lawn of our main building, Barney Hall.



dues time

As we near the end of the year, we would like to remind you that any contributions you make to Behre Piano Associates, Inc. are tax-deductible. This is a good time to remember the Adamant Music School in your year-end charitable donations.

As many of you know, our membership year runs from July 1 through the following June 30. Any participant at the school is automatically a member until the following June. Also our contributors are automatically members provided their contributions exceed the dues requirement. We keep tabs on our contributors and when their contribution has "run out" we will send a dues notice. We, of course, hope you will renew your membership. We like our members and need them. Our dues have not changed in many years and are listed below:

- | | |
|--|---------|
| Single member | \$15.00 |
| Any two members living at the same address | \$20.00 |
| Family membership | \$25.00 |

Your dues give you the right to receive *the adamanter* and to attend all Waterside Hall concerts in Adamant as well as all studio concerts in New York over the course of the membership year.

The dues should be sent to Behre Piano Associates, Inc. c/o M'Lou Gillespie at 1241 Hagggett Road, Adamant, VT 05640. She will then issue a membership card.

Do you have a friend who would be interested in the Adamant Music School? We'd be happy to send them an issue of our newsletter. Just contact M'Lou. Thank you! ■