



the adamant

Adamant Music School

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Stone cutting exhibition, Summer 2002



New stone work at Phillips Experimental Theater



new york concerts 2003

The Sunday concerts are held at 3:00 p.m. at 34 East 30th Street, 8th floor, New York City, New York. Members of Behre Piano Associates are admitted at no charge; non-members are charged a \$5.00 fee (seniors & students are charged \$2.50). The March Concert at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall is the exception — members and nonmembers alike will be charged an admission fee.

Feb. 9, 2003 Richard Shirk

March 9, 2003 61st Anniversary Concert at Weill Recital Hall (Carnegie Hall) at 2:30 p.m.

April 13, 2003 Adamant Music School Participants and Executive Committee Members

Richard Shirk

Since making his New York recital debut in Alice Tully Hall as the first-prize winner of the Leschetizky Competition, Richard Shirk has twice appeared in Avery Fisher Hall. He has also performed at the Long Island Beethoven Festival, the Bar Harbor Festival, the National Arts Club, the Shanderee Music Festival, New York University, Harvard, Columbia, Stanford, and University of Colorado. He has given recitals in London, Salzburg, Bologna, the Hague, Brussels, and Frankfurt. In Poland, he has given recitals and master classes in Warsaw and Gdansk. He has been to Korea several times to perform and teach and will be going to Japan in May to give a series of recitals and master classes. In addition, he has been featured on the Concertgebouw's series in Amsterdam highlighting the performance of the Romantic piano repertoire on authentic nineteenth-century instruments. Shirk's all-Mozart recital in Merkin Hall was broadcast on National Public Radio. *Audio Magazine* called Shirk "an impeccable Mozart pianist."

An equally impeccable chamber musician, Shirk has appeared with the Mozarteum and Daniel Quartets and has collaborated with noted artists, including soprano June Anderson and clarinetist Gervase de Peyer. As the pianist of the Mozarteum Duo of Salzburg, Mr. Shirk has toured Europe with Karlheinz Franke, concertmaster of the Mozarteum Orchestra; the duo has also performed in Egypt and Turkey.

He is a graduate of the Mannes College of Music, where he was a scholarship student of Richard Goode and the recipient of the Newton Swift Piano Award. In addition, he has studied at the Juilliard School and Indiana University. His teachers have included Adele Marcus, Ania Dorfmann, and Seymour Bernstein. Shirk has taught at the Manhattan School of Music and is currently on the faculty of the Mannes College of Music. ■

from the president

Frank Suchomel, President

December, 2002

Dear Members and Friends:

Our first loft recital of the season at 34 East 30th Street in New York City was a great success. Three participants from this past summer performed to a wonderful audience. A photo of the three performers, Walter Aparicio, Janice Nimitz and Victoria von Arx, can be found on page 3. Walter was a participant in the 2002 traditional piano session, and Janice and Vickie were participants in the Menahem Pressler Master Class that followed. A copy of the concert program is included in this newsletter.

We also had our first meeting of the Board of Directors (we call these members the Executive Committee) on the same date but prior to the concert. Some of you have asked about our Board and so we have a picture of them on page 3. I have been a member of this Board since the incorporation of the Behre Piano Associates, Inc. back in 1956, but of course I have been participating in the School since about 1948 in one capacity or another. These dedicated individuals that make up the Board meet at the loft in New York City twice a year to discuss matters of policy and address any immediate needs of or changes to the School. Of course the various individuals give reports. For example, the Treasurer, Eugene A. Pica, gave the financial report. The Public Relations Director, M'Lou Gillespie, gave a report on the various activities of those who represent us

to the public, and I, as President, reported on the season just past and the upcoming season. High on the agenda at this past meeting was the position of the Executive Director. As some of you may already know, we will be welcoming a new Executive Director of the School in the 2003 season.

The day after the meeting and concert, Michael and I went to Vermont and were fortunate to get there just as the fall colors peaked. It was glorious to say the least!

I just talked to M'Lou Gillespie, our board member who lives in Vermont, and she tells me that it is already snowing. So I guess I can say with some honesty that I am happy to be here in warm and sunny Honolulu.

You'll receive your next newsletter in late January, so I'll take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and healthy holiday season.

With much aloha,
Mele Kalikimaka and Hauoli Makahiki Hou!
(Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!)



Frank Suchomel

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.

Our membership year now runs from October 1 through the following September 30, so members will not need to renew in the midst of our Summer Season. Participants are given free membership through the June following their session at the School. Any contribution that exceeds the dues requirement makes the contributor an official member of Behre Piano Associates, Inc.

When your contribution has "run out," we will send you a dues notice. Keep in mind that we are a 501(c)3 organization and all contributions are tax-deductible.

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 P.O. Box 22, Adamant, VT 05640. A membership card will be mailed to you.

Do you have a friend who would be interested in the Adamant Music School? We'd be happy to send them a complimentary copy of our newsletter. Just call M'Lou at (802) 229-9297. *Thank you!*

october concert

adamant music school

60th Anniversary, 1942-2002

Presented

participants from the Adamant Music School
and Members of the Executive Committee

on

Sunday, October 13, 2002, 3:00 PM

at

The Loft



Janice, Walter and Vickie at the October Concert.

Sonata in C minor, Op. Posth. D. 958

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Allegro

Adagio

Minueto: Allegro

Allegro

Janice Nimetz

Sonata in B-flat major, K 570

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Allegro

Adagio

Allegretto

Un sospiro

Franz Liszt (1811-1886)

Victoria von Arx

Sonata No. 1 Op. 22

Alberto Ginastera (1916-1983)

Adagio molto appassionata

Ballade No. 2 in F Major Op. 38

Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

Walter E. Aparicio



Behre Piano Associates, Inc.
Board Members at the October
Meeting. From left to right:
Richard Herrmann, Victoria von
Arx, Martha McCormack,
Frank Suchomel, Myles Pollin,
M'Lou Gillespie, George
McCormack, Eugene Pica,
Michael Suchomel.

echoes of the future: lives of the founders

Andrew Christiansen, Webmaster & Archivist

Part 13

In the Midst of War, Finding Peace in Adamant

1944

It doesn't seem possible that our little Emma is 41 years old now. She says the warm climate in Los Angeles seems to be helping her 11-year old boy, Hermie, who has a rheumatic heart condition. Her husband, Albert, has been active in the Psychoanalytic Study Group and the Los Angeles Psychoanalytic Society, where he is a member of the Training Staff and the Educational Committee. He gives lectures and seminars on Freud's metapsychology papers.

Freda, now 44, is one of Edwine's most devoted teachers. We expect that she will play an important role at Adamant for years to come. Harry's no spring chicken. He is 62 and still working at the Museum of Modern Art. His job is to review and screen films for the federal Office of Inter-American Affairs, part of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS).

We were saddened when Harry told us that his great friend Art Young had died of heart trouble. He was a famous artist who made illustrations and cartoons for *The Masses*, and was a frequent guest at parties and fundraisers for Edwine's Modern Piano School. This year, his "Annual Hello" card said, "It's a long road, but now we are getting somewhere." At the top of the card is a miniature of the first card he sent in 1916. Perhaps he was thinking of more than just the war, because he mailed the card on the day he died, December 29, 1943. The April-May issue of *Direction* magazine was a tribute to Art and included photography by Harry, who was identified as a "newspaper man and film expert, (and Art's) life-long friend."



Art Young having lunch in the orchard at Bethel.
Photo by Harry Godfrey

Edwine has been teaching in New York for 25 years now ; she turned 60 just before heading to Louisiana to conduct piano clinics for teachers and players. The first clinic, the flyer says, "will be in New Orleans, April 15, the second in Baton Rouge, April 22... A rare teacher's talent for clear, vivid explanation, a sympathetic insight into artistic and human problems, and a profound musicianship brings a succession of interesting pupils to Miss Behre's studio. The list has included the composer, Abram Chasins; Ethel Chasins; Nora Norman; Nora Stirling of NBC; Mrs. Eva Davis of Baton Rouge; Gilbert Seldes, critic and author; and Bernard Gabriel, pianist and lecturer, whose original method of reducing stage fright has been the subject of articles in the *New Yorker*, *Reader's Digest*, *Life*, and other magazines."

Freda, now 44, is one of Edwine's most devoted teachers. We expect that she will play an important role at Adamant for years to come.

We are seeing rapid advances by the Allies in the war. General MacArthur is taking back islands in the Pacific, American forces are pushing back the Germans in Italy, and the Russians are now inside of Poland. As a measure of desperation, the Gestapo randomly arrested and shot Italians in Rome in reprisal for a bomb attack and in France, all 642 inhabitants of Oradour-sur-Glane were executed to avenge the death of an SS officer killed by the Resistance. Meanwhile, American and British air forces are pounding Germany with bombs, including the capital, Berlin.

It's in this time of war and death that Edwine held her third annual piano clinic at the Parsonage in Adamant. Alice Mary, who's now 58, tells us that the church women, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Patch, and others, stop by every day to make sure the musicians don't get into trouble with the oil stove. They show the students, "how to fill the kerosene lamps and keep the chimneys bright and clean; and [then] there is the cellar problem - holes in the Parsonage foundation let in stray animals in search of food and excitement. You have to weight down the cellar crock covers with stones. And you have to keep your head — in case you encounter an exploring skunk, discretion dictates standing stock still — in no case to scream for help."

In November President Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected to his fourth term of office.

1945

In February, Churchill, Stalin, and Roosevelt met at Yalta to discuss postwar Europe and how to carve up territories among the big three super-powers. Concessions to Stalin granted him control of Eastern Europe. Allied bombers continue to rain destruction on Germany. On February 14, weakly defended Dresden, considered the "Florence of Germany," was turned into a fireball. Priceless museums of art and rare architecture were destroyed and 130,000 people, mostly civilians, were killed, prompting protest even in the Allied nations.

April has been a momentous month. On April 12, we were shocked to hear on the radio that President Roosevelt had died of a cerebral hemorrhage at his cottage in Warm Springs, Georgia. Harry Truman took his place as President. Two weeks later, Benito Mussolini was caught, tried, and executed by partisan Italians; on April 30, as Russians were advancing on his bunker, Adolf Hitler killed his mistress, Eva Braun, and then himself.

While all this is happening, Edwine returned to Louisiana for piano clinics. *The*



of the adamant music school 1944-1947



Edwine at the piano in 1945

Baton Rouge State Times reported on April 16, 1945 in a bold headline, "Miss Edwine Behre Is Being Honored Today at Informal, Jolly Party." The article said, "An interesting visitor, Miss Edwine Behre, the sister of Dr. Elinor Behre, arrived here today to be a guest at Dr. Behre's ... apartment this weekend and to conduct a clinic to be held at the Studio of Mrs. Eva Davis on Saturday. ... An arresting personality with thick hair and beautiful brown eyes, Miss Behre came to the South from the East for her parents' 62nd anniversary, which is to be celebrated next week."

While Edwine is away, she pays close attention to the events in Europe where she spent so many years as a student of Leschetizky. As the war begins to end, with Germany's surrender on May 7, concentration camps reveal the madness that permeates Germany.

While there is jubilation in the streets over the end of war in Europe, times are worse for Edwine, Harry, and Alice Mary. Harry's mother died in Illinois. Edwine is not well and has to go into the hospital for a hysterectomy. She will be there for at least two weeks and then there will be a long recovery. As a result, she has had to cancel this summer's session at Adamant. Her mother wrote to her that she realized the operation would probably "take all your savings," and offered to send money. Indeed, without Edwine's steady piano fees the household is beginning to suffer.

On June 13, Harry got a letter from the Museum of Modern Art informing him that he had lost his job. It seems that the Office of Inter-American Affairs is terminating their contract with the Museum at the

end of the month. The timing is terrible — Harry is losing his sight due to cataracts and will need an operation that he can't afford.

On July 28, a B-25 bomber flew into the Empire State Building in NYC, killing 13 people. Harry's sister, Carrie, writing the next day said, "Terrible tragedy yesterday, wasn't it - the Empire State Building disaster." Little did we realize that an even bigger event would dwarf this nine days later when the U.S. dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, killing 80,000 people. It has more power than 20,000 tons of TNT. Three days later, another atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki killing another 65,000. On August 15, Japan surrendered, finally ending the war.

During the next month, Korea was split into North and South, controlled by Russia and the United States, respectively and the French sent troops into Indochina, which Ho Chi Minh has named "Vietnam." On September 26, Bela Bartok, whom Florence Weed had visited in Vermont, died in New York City.

It's November now and the Nuremberg trials are about to begin. Alice Mary, facing a desperate situation with the loss of income in the household, has started working on her novel again. Perhaps if she can get it finished it will bring a change in their circumstances.

1946

Alice Mary is pleased to see that her friend, Eleanor Roosevelt, is playing a pivotal role in the formation of the United Nations in London. President Truman has formed the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), which incorporated the OSS, Harry Godfrey's old employer. Which will take precedence, peace or national security?

On February 3, Alice Mary wrote a letter to the New York papers pointing out that the rhetoric of Ernie Adamson, chief counsel of the Committee on Un-American Activities, attacking the concept of democracy, is, "a part of the propaganda line of Elizabeth Dilling and the whole tribe of native fascists. Identifying democracy with evil was Hitler's line, too. And the more we take a weary and cynical view of such, the less secure our democracy will be." In March, Winston Churchill, describing the Soviet's annexation of eastern Europe, said "an iron curtain has descended across the Continent."

Harry had to go to the hospital for a hernia operation, and his vision is so bad now that he can hardly see anything, but

Edwine is feeling better, and the summer session at Adamant has come again.

It seemed so good to get back to the peaceful countryside, though the calm was interrupted when the neighbor's cows got out and surrounded the Parsonage. The city-bred students were frightened, but Alice Mary restored calm and helped drive the cows home. Edwine has started a six-week piano school for country children in the nearby village of Maple Corners.

Though the long war is over, violence is still erupting. Civil war has been declared in China; the Greeks are battling the return of the right-wing monarchy; and the French are attacking the democratically elected government in Vietnam. The war was supposed to solve problems, but it seems it has just led to more unrest.

If this wasn't bad enough, Edwine and Alice Mary were distressed to hear that scientists, at an October medical conference, are suggesting that smoking cigarettes could lead to lung cancer. This might mean that they should give up smoking.

As we reach the end of the year, we have just heard some very sad news. Emma's husband, who has not been in the best of health lately, died in November. She is distraught, trying to raise her two children alone.

1947

President Truman issued an executive order to have the FBI do loyalty checks on federal employees to remove Communists or their sympathizers. Many of Harry's old friends were communist sympathizers — would Harry pass such a test? Ironically, Harry is in no condition to apply for a federal job. He finally got the cataract operations on his eyes, and one eye is just not healing well.

This spring there is a full slate of informal musicales to benefit "the Students' House in Vermont where Edwine Behre's summer pupils live co-operatively." To mention just a few: May concerts included a folk song afternoon, a "Birds in Spring" concert performed by Edwine and her students, and a concert by the internationally known concert pianist, Eleanor Spencer. She has just returned to the concert stage after some years of "re-education," after becoming totally deaf. According to the publicity flyer, "she plays this recital because of her long friendship with Edwine Behre and her interest in Miss Behre's Vermont project." The final concert in the series will be Fred Freedman, who graduates from high school this June. "He has

echoes of the future: continued

studied piano several years with Miss Behre and is a helpful member of her Vermont Summer School, where he lends a hand with everything that needs doing — running the garden, playing recitals, and teaching in Miss Behre’s music school for country children.”

This year Edwine ran her Maple Corner Music School with the assistance of Rosa Cutler and Joan Askergaarde. Classes were held on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from July 19 - August 30. Alice Mary sent out an “Information Memo” inviting adult pianists and accomplished young students to come to “The Edwine Behre Summer Piano School” in Adamant from August 2 through August 29. She reminded students to bring “sheets, blankets, sugar ration, and flashlight.” The cost for tuition is \$75. “Most students stay in the Parsonage Co-op where Miss Behre lives and teaches. They share light household chores and all expenses, including cook

and cleaning woman.”

On August 8, the School held a fundraiser to buy paint for the Adamant church. The newspaper reported, “In preparation for the [painting] bee, there will be a money-raising community entertainment at the Adamant parsonage on the evening of August 8 at 8 p. m. Paint this summer has sky-rocketed in price and collecting the funds to buy it takes a lot of doing. The Women’s Society of the Adamant church, the summer colony of Weed Farm, and the Edwine Behre Summer Piano School will join forces in a musical and dramatic entertainment, followed by refreshments.”

The Parsonage continues to be an important center in the community. When the Maple Corner Co-op burned down on October 12, the local residents met in the Parsonage to discuss plans to rebuild the store and help the Robinson family, which lived above the store. In November, Alice Mary, who stayed in Adamant this fall, wrote a newspaper article about how the

whole community came together to deluge the Robinsons with food, furniture, and clothes, and should have the new store rebuilt by Christmas.

Adamant seems a refuge from the rest of the world. While the school was in session, Britain granted independence to India and Pakistan. In less than a month, 150,000 people were killed and a million more became refugees from Hindu-Muslim violence.

As a new year approaches, Edwine, Alice Mary, and Harry wonder how a world that has just endured 50 million deaths in the last 6 years, could possibly be considering going to war again, and yet that seems to be what is happening in the Middle East and in Korea and China. Emma is so worried about her son. Will he live past another year? What will become of him? It seems that the only solace to be found is the music in the hills of Adamant. ■

We ran these photos in the last newsletter, but folks asked us to run them again, but bigger, so they could see the faces better—so here they are.



2002 Traditional Session participants



2002 Master Class participants with Menahem Pressler



QuarryWorks

Tom Stevens, Production Coordinator

at the phillips experimental theater

Camelot, Wonderland, Illyria — to quote Dr. Seuss, “Oh, the places we’ll go!” Next summer’s season is all set and we are already working to make it our best one yet.

Summer 2003 will be QuarryWorks’ sixth season, and my first as production coordinator. It was my pleasure to partake in the inaugural season, as well as in the 60th Anniversary celebration of the School at Carnegie Hall in March, 2002, and I am honored to be coming back this year. We will be presenting **Camelot**, **Alice in Wonderland**, and **Twelfth Night**, and who wouldn’t want to spend an evening in any of these fantastical lands?

In preparation for the season, we always search out the best, or the most interesting, versions of the scripts we can find for each play. It is always fascinating to realize that when we study a Shakespearean text, we must remember that the words we are reading may not have been written by his hand. The scripts we use as texts were originally compiled years after they were performed by the actors who performed the roles — and as I get older, I can attest to the inadequacy of memory. All of the famous scripts that we ascribe to the great Wm. Shakespeare may in fact be an approximation of his original intent. These contain scenes, or bits, or stage directions that were not in the original playing script and that leaves an interesting dilemma to those of us who use these texts four centuries later. How shall we treat the script? Sacredly, without questioning the authorship and playability of each and every word, or with reverence and common sense as to what is playable today? So much of what Shakespeare wrote captures the human spirit, and rereading any of the plays shows us that the more things change,

Summertime at Phillips Experimental Theater



the more they stay the same. **Twelfth Night**, subtitled *What You Will*, gives us the opportunity to explore the values of love and mixed identity with humor and verve and music. I can’t wait to pitch a tent in Illyria in August.

Camelot too, has different versions, believe it or not. When **Camelot** opened in 1960, the original production, and the original cast album, contained “*Then You May Take Me to the Fair*” and “*Fie on Goodness!*” The producers felt the production was too long and these numbers were excluded from further licensed productions. Michael, who will be directing the musical, felt the songs provided dramatic impact and had M’Lou Gillespie call Tams-Witmark to see if they were available. They knew exactly what Michael and M’Lou were looking for, and provided us with copies of the songs and the dialogue that appeared with them. We look forward to incorporating them into the production, adding a freshness to one of the most venerable musicals our country has produced.

And finally, for our children’s show, we are producing a version of **Alice in Wonderland** that will require only two



Picnicking at QuarryWorks

actors and a few extra sets of hands! We came across this most interesting version, and felt it contained all the delight of the book with only one actress playing Alice and one actor handling the rest of the roles. Add some puppetry, some music and some old-fashioned stage magic, and we will entertain children of all ages with what promises to be a lively take on the much-loved book.

A gracious “thank you” to Frank and Michael for bringing me aboard, and I hope to see many of you up to the theater this coming summer. Bring a picnic dinner and enjoy the quiet of the quarry before the show, because you may find yourself far, far away from Adamant in a matter of moments. ■

the chef’s table

Richard Goss, Chef, Adamant Music School

In Vermont, just because it’s July and August doesn’t necessarily mean it’s not soup weather. I usually have a cold soup and a hot soup on deck ready for any kind of weather. This recipe is requested quite often.

BLACK BEAN SOUP

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 2 T Vegetable oil | 2 T Balsamic vinegar |
| 1 Large white onion (diced) | 2 T Brown sugar |
| 2 Ribs celery (diced) | Zest of 1/2 orange (finely grated) |
| 2 Carrots (peeled and diced) | 1 T Cumin |
| 1 T Minced garlic | 1 T Black pepper |
| 10 Cups water | 2 T Chopped cilantro |
| 2 Cups Black beans (pre-soaked or canned) | Salt |
| 4 T Soy sauce | |

Sauté onion, celery, carrot and garlic in oil in soup pot, stirring regularly until soft. Add rest of ingredients except for salt. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to simmer until beans are soft.

Using an immersion blender or the counter top model, puree half the beans with some liquid to thicken soup. Stir the blended beans back into the soup and adjust seasoning (add salt as needed).

Top with chopped cilantro (although Fran never would!). **Enjoy!**