



THE ADAMANTER

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Greetings, Fellow Adamanters!

It won't be long now until spring arrives. Trees and flowers will bud to life again. Warmer weather brings renewed energy to us all. And soon, the sounds of music will fill the air at Adamant. And once again, the Adamant community will gather – some new participants as well as returning ones.

It is truly thrilling to see the number of people who supported our end of year 2022 campaign. The fact that we doubled our fundraising efforts in 2022 from the previous year and increased the number of donors by two and a half times than the previous year is astounding. Throughout my years at Adamant, I cannot remember a time where our community came together to support the school in the way that it did this past year. It is thrilling to see the number of people who are investing in the school and taking an active part in its sustainability.

Besides monetary contributions, there are many other simple and non-time-consuming ways you can invest in the Adamant Music School. These include:

- **Telling people about Adamant.** You, our participants and supporters, are our best advertisement! If you know of pianists interested in attending our sessions as performers, please encourage them to apply. We also want to encourage you to invite persons who might have an interest in auditing our masterclasses to apply. It is our goal to expand this part of our community significantly this

year. You may know of a piano teacher or a music-lover looking for summer workshops to attend. Encourage them to be a part of the Adamant experience.

- **Liking us and following us on our new Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/adamantmusicschool>.**

Also, sharing our Facebook posts on your own pages whenever you come across any of our messages or announcements. The more people who see our Facebook page, the more people who will research our school by visiting our website. You can help us expand our community by doing something as simple as this.

- **Inviting one or two friends who have never attended our concerts to one of our performances.** If you live near Adamant, please “talk up” our concerts to your friends. We depend on locals to spread the word about Adamant.

There are many ways to invest in the school that cost little to us. I hope you will consider how you can help us to succeed. We cannot do this without your support!

Matthew Manwarren

Artistic/Executive Director



JOIN US IN SUMMER 2023

41 grand pianos | 23 forest studios | 13 world-class teachers

MASTERCLASSES

JUNE 19-23 | JOHN O'CONNOR

JUNE 27-JULY 1 | CHRISTOPHER ELTON

JULY 4-8 | ANGELA CHENG & ALVIN CHOW

3-WEEK TRADITIONAL SESSION

JULY 16-AUGUST 4 | ELAINE GREENFIELD, ROBERT HENRY,

FRANKLIN LAREY, DEIRDRE O'DONOHUE, ROBERTA RUST

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE: REBECCA PENNEYS

SOLO PIANO & PIANO/VIOLIN DUO MASTERCLASS

AUGUST 8-12 | JEFFREY COHEN & LUCIE ROBERT

2023 FACULTY



Matthew Manwarren, Artistic/Executive Director

for application, scholarships
and tuition information visit

ADAMANT.ORG

John O’Conor - Professor of Piano at Shenandoah University and the Glenn Gould School



Noah Alden Hardaway & John O’Conor

John O’Conor travels the globe, performing, teaching, and adjudicating major competitions. He has delighted the Adamant community in masterclasses since 2008 with his wealth of knowledge, incisive comments and energetic good humor.

You can see John “in person” online in these YouTube videos:

- In a two-minute clip entitled “Your First Piano Trick,” John teaches repeated notes: <https://youtu.be/lOkKBgix6v0>
- John is interviewed by Ben Laude of *tonebase* in this conversation entitled “Hearing the Human Behind Beethoven’s Sonatas.” <https://youtu.be/n4aAOTJ3b0I>
- John has recorded all of the Beethoven Sonatas and performed them innumerable times. Here is a recent video of the *Pathetique* from Shenandoah Conservatory’s digital streaming platform: <https://youtu.be/BPgLXTSQBtc>
- “Beethoven Boot Camp,” is a documentary detailing a deep dive into the sonata repertoire with 10 hand-picked international students at Positano, Italy in 2007. Highly entertaining and educational. <https://youtu.be/zrq0e1H11E>

Register now for the
John O’Conor Masterclass

June 19 to June 23 at

<https://www.adamant.org/2023-oconor>

Performers and auditors are welcome!

Christopher Elton - Professor Emeritus of the Royal Academy of Music, London, England



Christopher Elton

Christopher Elton joined the Adamant Music School faculty in 2018. He has had a distinguished career in the UK as professor of piano at the Royal Academy of Music in London. Among the guests to his studio have been both Princess Diana and the late Queen Elizabeth.

He is a teacher of competition winners, most recently, Anna Geniushene, silver medalist in the 2022 Cliburn Competition, and internationally known performing artists such as Benjamin Grosvenor and Freddy Kempff.

You can get to know Christopher Elton through these videos:

- A brief interview at the Cliburn Competition 2017: <https://youtu.be/7gPIeNyWh80>
- From his studio at the Royal Academy of Music on the music of Chopin: <https://youtu.be/rJlRvUvqi6o>
- “International Competitions - Love Them or Hate Them?” The lecture includes clips from pianistic greats Martha Argerich and Radu Lupu in competition performances early in their careers: <https://www.youtube.com/live/3HMPYbhvmBU?feature=share>
- Benjamin Grosvenor performing “Ondine” from Ravel’s Gaspard de la nuit: <https://youtu.be/fGUEZUmuBhA>
- Anna Geniushene performing the Four Ballades by Johannes Brahms at the 2022 Cliburn Competition: https://youtu.be/EaKHU_OP8ga



Benjamin Grosvenor



Anna Geniushene

Register now for
Christopher Elton’s masterclass
June 27 - July 1 at
<https://www.adamant.org/2023-elton>
Performers and auditors are welcome!

Rachel Breen - 2021 Virtual Adamant Masterclass



Rachel Breen

A world-class instructor cadre attracts many accomplished pianists to the Adamant Music School. Having studied at Juilliard and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Rachel Breen has been awarded top prizes at numerous piano competitions. In addition, she has performed and taught masterclasses throughout the United States and Europe.

Rachel participated in a virtual Adamant masterclass during the summer of 2021 with Christopher Elton. “I’ve met Professor Elton before at competitions where he served as a juror and can distinctly recall advice he gave me from as early as 2013. Aside from that, he’s taught colleagues I deeply admire, such as Benjamin Grosvenor,” stated Breen. “I thought about Professor Elton’s feedback regularly throughout the rest of the year; he’s a very influential man, and his judgment is important to the piano community.” According to Breen, “I would absolutely love to explore the gorgeous area (Adamant) and share music there in the future! I tend to work best when I’m surrounded by nature. . . Adamant sounds like the perfect marriage of an idyllic setting with highly esteemed professors.”

A video of the work Rachel Breen performed during the Elton virtual masterclass, Beethoven’s Sonata No. 32, Op. 111, can be viewed on her personal website:
<https://www.rachelbreenpiano.com/>

Sae Yoon Chon - Summer of 2022

Sae Yoon Chon, international prize-winning student of John O’Conor, is currently a student at the Juilliard School in New York. He attended the Adamant Music School in 2022, performing among other repertoire, the Tchaikowsky Concerto No 1 in D-flat Minor.

Here is a link to his performance of Liszt’s Rhapsodie Espagnole at the Seoul Piano Competition in 2017:
<https://youtu.be/LmgexobHTiU>



Sae Yoon Chon

More 2022 Donors

Our apologies to Elaine Greenfield, who was inadvertently left off the donor list in the Jan-Feb. issue of The Adamanter. Anyone else from 2022? Please let us know. Donors for 2023 will be listed at the end of this year.

Gifts to the Adamant Music School

You play an important role in keeping the Adamant Music School strong through your financial contributions. It's easy! Just go to www.adamant.org/give to show your support. Thanks for your generosity!



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