



# THE ADAMANTER

## In This Issue

- Traditional Session and 2023 faculty p. 1
- Tribute to Menahem Pressler p. 3
- Meet new Board Member Erik Oberlin p. 5
- Giving, Development Committee p. 5

## Happy Holidays!

Even though the summer seems far away, we are finding ourselves busy planning for the next season. In the most recent edition of *The Adamanter*, we published the dates of our sessions. I am excited about the upcoming season, and we anticipate that our enrollment in each of the sessions will be the best yet.

Our 3-week Traditional Session has been described as the “heart and soul” of the Adamant Music School. Our Founder, Edwine Behre, modeled the school after the European tradition of the 19th century. In his later years, Franz Liszt taught public lessons to his students and encouraged his students to be present at the lessons of their peers. We know much about Liszt’s pedagogical style from the writings of his students.

Edwine believed that we all learn from one another. From the very beginning, lessons at Adamant were taught in groups. Typically, our classes comprise of 4-5 participants who meet with an assigned teacher for the entire three weeks. Each participant plays every day in class. Through this method of teaching, participants get to know the piano repertoire more keenly, are exposed to technical and interpretive insights of music based on listening to what their peers are playing, and they are

given opportunities to participate in the learning process in an intimate setting. Because our students come with a wealth of repertoire, they have the opportunity to perform frequently in concerts. Through this intense learning environment, coupled with a spirited and supportive community, we often see enormous transformations in our participants each summer. Indeed, what we offer at Adamant is rarely found at any other summer piano festival.

I am pleased to announce that our 2023 will comprise of returning faculty Elaine Greenfield, Franklin Larey, Deirdre O'Donohue, and Roberta Rust. We are also pleased to announce the appointment of Robert Henry, Professor of Piano at Kennesaw State University in Atlanta, Georgia.

Pianist Rebecca Penneys will be our Artist-in-Residence during the third week of the Traditional Session. Ms. Penneys served as Professor of Piano at the Eastman School of Music from 1980-2017 and chaired the piano area at Chautauqua from 1985-2012. In 2013, she launched the Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival, which has gained an international reputation as being one of the most outstanding summer piano festivals in the country.

Our website is currently undergoing some major revisions. Please visit our website for any updates and latest news at [www.adamant.org](http://www.adamant.org).

In the meantime, we at the Adamant Music School wish for each of you a wonderful holiday season, and we look forward to seeing familiar and new faces at our summer sessions.

**Matthew Manwarren**

*Artistic/Executive Director*



# 2023 SUMMER SESSIONS

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

## MASTERCLASSES

JUNE 19-23 | JOHN O'CONOR

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 FACUTLY



Matthew Manwarren, Artistic/Executive Director

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# A Tribute to Menahem Pressler on his 99th Birthday

by Deirdre O'Donohue

December 16th is a most important date! Two of the world's greatest musical forces were born on this day: Ludwig van Beethoven and Menahem Pressler.

Beethoven felt that art was a higher revelation than any wisdom and that the creative artist was the one who could reveal truth, transform and ennoble mankind.

As a musician and pianist Mr. Pressler has dedicated himself, as Beethoven did, to revealing the powerful mysteries of music, communicating his palpable joy in making music, and always searching and discovering its, and his, greater depths.

As a teacher, he possesses the gift to reveal these mysteries in words, gestures, his tone and touch at the piano, as well as a magical touch on the shoulder to his students: every student at the Menahem Pressler yearly Masterclasses at the Adamant Music School has experienced this transformation. Like a wizard, between the one lesson and the final performance, he liberates and transforms each performer. To feel that you have transcended yourself is an incredible experience and Menahem Pressler, with his infinite wisdom, inspires this in each person.

Do you remember the multiple nests on the Barney Hall porch? We would arrive and there would be a nest, then eggs, then peeps and hungry beaks opening and opening and opening; the baby birds would be fed continuously; then, as individuals, they would fly free and soar. Mr. Pressler has this gift, in a highly compressed time, to nurture, inspire, reveal and release the individual's potential and then to soar in performance. He is a magician, and/or, as Beethoven also said of the artist, the closest to the divine!



*Lady Annabelle Weidenfeld & Menahem Pressler*

Menahem Pressler teaches one to listen, to hear, to see and to feel (tactile too) into the heart of each piece. Remember his wonderful definition of crescendo? "Begin softer" .... that in itself is transforming a mechanical "gradually get louder" into an intense sensuous musical experience where one is involved actively in the process. Mr. Pressler is always involved in the process of making music, always fully present making the world a more beautiful and intensely

expressive experience. He is a life force springing from the stage whether at the Metropolitan Museum, at the Adamant Music School or the Berlin Philharmonic.

For your presence in our lives Mr. Pressler, we are so grateful to you, and, for the presence of beautiful, gracious and generous Lady Annabelle, we are thrilled and grateful for your presence in Mr. Pressler's life and in ours for many wonderful years at the Adamant Music School.



*Deirdre O'Donohue & Menahem Pressler*

*Editor's note: Menahem Pressler, world-renowned award-winning pianist, recording artist, Distinguished Professor of Music at Indiana University, and founding member of the Beaux Arts Trio, offered masterclasses at Adamant for 30 years, from 1989 to 2019. He is now living in London, England.*



## Angela Cheng & Alvin Chow at MTNA Convention in Reno

Angela Cheng and Alvin Chow will co-teach an Advanced Piano Master Class at the MTNA Convention in Reno, NV on March 28, 2023. Alvin will give master classes at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. He has been appointed Jury Chair at the Hilton Head International Piano Competition in South Carolina, where he will also present a 4-hand lecture recital with Alan Chow.

Angela Cheng has concerto performances with orchestras in Halifax, Boulder, Arkansas and Quebec, while giving recitals and masterclasses at Indiana University in Bloomington and the University of California at Fullerton. The husband / wife team will present a 4-hand recital at the Cleveland International Piano Competition Soiree later in the year.

The Angela Cheng / Alvin Chow Masterclass at Adamant Music School will run from July 4-8, 2023. Solo piano, piano concerto, duo-piano and 4-hand piano performances are welcome. Watch for registration details in the next issue of *The Adamanter*.



*Alvin Chow & Angela Cheng*

## Lucie Robert & Jeffrey Cohen



*Jeffrey Cohen, far left, at the Olga Kern International Competition in Albuquerque, New Mexico.*

October was a very busy month for Lucie Robert and Jeffrey Cohen. In addition to their full-time teaching schedules at the Manhattan School of Music, they each adjudicated international competitions in different parts of the globe.

**Jeffrey:** I traveled to Albuquerque, New Mexico to judge the three live rounds of the Olga Kern International Piano Competition. My great colleague Olga Kern has developed a world-class competition thanks to her boundless energy and enthusiasm for finding the best young pianists in the world. During the quarter-final round we heard ten pianists each give a 60-minute solo recital, in the semi-final six pianists performed a choice of one of the Brahms violin sonatas, and in the final round three pianists performed their respective concerti with the New Mexico Philharmonic. After getting over the high altitude, what a pleasure it was to hear the consistently excellent level of playing and also to spend time with my wonderful colleagues on the jury.

**Lucie:** Interestingly, the same exact day Jeffrey left for Albuquerque, I left for Weimar, Germany to adjudicate the International Louis Spoor Competition for Young Violinists! I must say this was the first time that our timing for such events fell at exactly at the same time!! I loved Weimar, the city of Goethe and Schiller and where Liszt lived most of his life and Bach spent nearly 10 years and had two of his sons. I was also so glad that I was invited three days prior to the competition to give masterclasses to the college level violin students of the Franz Liszt Hochschule. The level of the competition was amazing and another great joy of such an event is to reunite with colleagues from all around the world and of course meet new ones!

## New Board Member Erik Oberlin



*Erik and Claudia*

We are pleased to announce the addition of Erik Oberlin to the Behre Piano Associates Board of Directors. Erik and his wife, Claudia are new residents of Adamant, having moved to Vermont from Texas earlier this year. Both have a strong interest in music and were frequent concert attenders at the Adamant Music School summer concerts.

Erik has had a long and varied career, beginning with service in the US Marine Corp and Naval Reserves. He earned a BS degree from Texas A&M University and went on to serve as marine operations engineer, oil tanker captain, and health, safety & environmental consultant in the oil industry. He is currently Audit Chief for the State of Vermont Agency of Transportation in Barre.

Erik will be working closely with the Facilities Committee in managing the Adamant Music School campus.

## Gifts to the Adamant Music School

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role in keeping the  
Adamant Music School  
strong through your financial  
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Thanks for your generosity!

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