



THE ADAMANTER

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Adamant Music School at MTNA Reno Convention 2023

Greetings, Fellow Adamanters!

Applications for summer 2023 sessions are now beginning to come in. We have applicants as far away as Taiwan. Get yours in as soon as possible and be a part of a wonderful summer at Adamant! Some have asked if they can turn in their applications late. We always have last-minute attendees, and we are always happy to accept more performers and auditors if space allows.

I just returned from Reno, where I attended the conference of the Music Teachers' National Association. It was great to see old friends and meet new ones. Adamant had a booth at the exhibits. The highlight of being at the exhibits was to see former Adamant alums. These include:

Jennifer Snow, Executive Director of the Frances Clark Center; Jennifer attended Adamant in the early 90s and was a student of Gwen Beamish, who taught on our faculty for decades.



Left to Right: Angela Cheng, Jennifer Snow, Alvin Chow



Adamant Music School booth at the Music Teachers' National Association 2023 Conference in Reno, NV

Michael Preddy, whose history with Adamant goes back to the 1960s, when he studied with Edwine Behre, the school's Founder.

Jasmine Wong, a doctoral student at the University of Michigan who attended the Traditional Session for a couple of summers; Jasmine is also a former student of Gwen Beamish.

Guqi Zhang, a graduate student at Miami University of Ohio, where she studies with Adamant alum Frank Huang (incidentally, Frank Huang is also an Adamant alum who attended Adamant in the late 90s; he is a former student of Willard Schultz who taught on our faculty for decades); Guqi attended the Traditional Session in 2019.

Janet Finch, who attended as an auditor this past summer in the Cheng/Chow Masterclass.

I am grateful for faculty members **Roberta Rust** and **Esther Wang** for assisting at the exhibit booth. It was also thrilling to observe a joint masterclass given by our very own **Angela Cheng** and **Alvin Chow**. They visited our booth and spoke to prospective participants.

As you can see, the "roots" of Adamant run deep. I hope you will be a part of our ongoing legacy by your presence at our sessions and for your continued support of the school.

Matthew Manwarren

Artistic/Executive Director



Front: Michael Preddy and Esther Wang
Back: Guqi Zhang, Matthew Manwarren, Jasmine Wong



Left to Right: John Perry, Matthew Manwarren, Janet Finch, namd Andrew Cooperstock

Deadline for registration extended to April 15.

Performers and Auditors register online now for Masterclasses and the Traditional Session.

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

JOSÉ RAMON MENENDEZ, 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

All About Auditors!

Auditors are an essential part of the Adamant community. They attend masterclasses and participate fully in the weekly schedule - without the requirement of performing solo in class or recital - though they have an opportunity to perform in the Auditor's Recital, if they wish.

Adamant auditors are piano teachers, church musicians, college professors, doctors, entrepreneurs, entertainers and just about anything you can imagine. The musical artistry of the faculty and participants, as well as the tranquil beauty of the campus keep auditors coming back year after year. Life-long friendships are made here.

First-time auditor in the 2023 John O'Connor masterclass, **Dr. Mary K. Lindberg**, had this to say:

"All experiences as an auditor were positive. My memories include the excitement and inspiration of meeting and hearing young pianists on the cusp of their careers and listening up close to the high level of playing and teaching by John O'Connor. . . . All this plus the green magic of Adamant — where the woods sing with pianists practicing and the birds applaud. I plan to return as a performer in 2023 and may play a piece I first heard in the class last summer."

Retired professor, **Carl Riskin**, has audited the John O'Connor classes since 2009, where he understood in the very first class that he:

"could learn a huge amount from watching John teach others, especially when they were the able and responsive students that so many of them were."

Reflecting on the solitary nature of piano practice, Carl went on to say:

"Adamant socializes the experience, bringing fellow pianists and piano enthusiasts together in a mutually supportive way for a brief period in the summer, and that social radiance shines on throughout the year until the next time."



Carl Riskin

Linda Lienhard, a long-time auditor in the Menahem Pressler masterclasses says:

"Hearing repertoire prepared so well with Mr. Pressler's suggestions for improvement was a fantastic boost and inspiration in my own piano teaching. . . . Spending one week focused on music, with no meal preparation was a rare treat. . . . And having so many grand pianos in their own cabin in the woods is quite magical."

Mark Jaffe, a retired eye doctor, was introduced to the Adamant Music School by Traditional Faculty member Elaine Greenfield. For the last five years, he has been an auditor in the John O'Connor masterclass. Mark shared his thoughts in these words:

"I started taking piano lessons at the age of 50, and up until Adamant, I had never played in front of an audience. The collective warmth and love I experienced among the people at Adamant along with their accepting nature gave me the courage to perform at the Auditor's Recital. It was a terrifying experience, but I got through it and experienced such an acceptance by others that I have been performing every year since. I love the natural beauty of Adamant and sharing the collective love and passion of classical piano music."

Mike Preddy, a teenage student of Founder Edwine Behre, returned last summer as an auditor in the masterclasses of Angela Cheng & Alvin Chow and Jeffrey Cohen & Lucie Robert. His impressions:

"Auditing at Adamant is akin to attending a world-class teaching and performance seminar. As a professional musician, I consider it an important part of my continuing education. By observing the teacher-student interaction each day, I learn new concepts and techniques that I often can't wait to take home and apply in my own studio. The numerous practice studios provide ample opportunity to practice. For me there is no better opportunity to learn from the world's best musicians than as an auditor at Adamant!"



Mark Jaffe

Congratulations to Franklin Larey!

Following a competitive national search, Franklin Larey has been named Director of the School of Music and Professor of Music at the College of Fine Arts at Ball State University, effective July 1. Dr. Larey has served as Director of the School of Music and Professor at Illinois Wesleyan University since 2019. Previously, he served as Director of the South African College of Music at the University of Cape Town, and as Professor of Piano there until 2019. Additionally, Dr. Larey served as Acting Director of both the School of Dance and the Opera School at the same university.

Dr. Larey is hailed as a leading South African pianist of his generation and he has received several honors for his work, including the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music in 2003. Former students of his have been winners at several piano competitions, and some are recipients of prestigious scholarships and awards. In South Africa, he has served on the National Arts Council, a documentary of his career was aired on national television, and he was featured in the Human Sciences Research Council's series Living Treasures in 2003. He is featured in the Oral History Project of the Association for Diplomatic Studies, first published online by the American Library of Congress, and, in 2014, by SUNY Press as the book *Outsmarting Apartheid*. He regularly performs in the USA, including engagements at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC and at Carnegie Hall in New York City.



President Georgia Nugent of Illinois Wesleyan University said, "Franklin Larey has been a valued partner since his arrival in 2019. He is widely respected throughout the university, and his thoughtful voice is much appreciated. While we are happy for Franklin to assume this new role at Ball State and certainly wish him well, we are very sorry to see this wonderful colleague leave our university."

Due to the fact that Franklin begins his administrative duties at Ball State University on July 1, he will not be able to be on the Traditional Session Faculty in 2023. Please stay tuned for an announcement next month about the faculty member appointed in his place to teach in the Traditional Session.

Provost Mark Brodl noted that Dr. Larey has provided important leadership for Illinois Wesleyan's School of Music "that was always a combination of strength and understanding. His vision for 21st century music education has inspired important and ongoing innovations in our music curriculum, opening exciting learning opportunities for students in music majors as well as those fulfilling general education requirements. He will be missed for his warm and endearing interactions with all Illinois Wesleyan community members."

COVID took a particularly hard toll on programs of music, since rehearsals were constrained in many ways and going into high schools to play and to recruit students was impossible. Nevertheless, Franklin led his colleagues in successful efforts to carry on the music program – including outdoor and distanced rehearsals, as well as urging the development of new courses of interest to students not majoring in music.

DEADLINE EXTENDED

Deadline for registration
extended to April 15.

Performers and Auditors
register online now for Masterclasses
and the Traditional Session.



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You play an important
role in keeping the
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