



# THE ADAMANTER

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## Updates from the Artistic Executive Director

Greetings, Fellow Adamanters!

It is hard to believe that our first session with the John O'Connor Masterclass is only 7 weeks away from now. This summer looks to be even more exciting than when we re-opened last summer after the pandemic. We have had close to 87 applications this year for our various sessions. We have 30 participants enrolled in the Traditional Session, which is 10 more than last year. Currently, we have 13 performers and 6 auditors enrolled in the John O'Connor Masterclass. Thirteen performers have enrolled in Christopher Elton's Masterclass. We have 15 performers and 2 auditors in the Angela Cheng/Alvin Chow Masterclass. Even though the deadline has not closed for the Jeffrey Cohen/Lucie Robert class, we already have 8 performers and 1 auditor lined up for this masterclass session.

While deadlines have already passed for our first 4 sessions, we still have room for 1 or 2 more performers in the O'Connor class, 1 or 2 for the Elton class, and 6 or 7 more for Cohen/Robert. We still have plenty of room for auditors

in each of these masterclasses. If you are interested or know of anyone who might like to attend any of our masterclasses, please know that we can still accommodate a few more people and are happy to consider applications. We especially encourage auditors to apply.

I look forward to seeing you at Adamant this summer!

**Matthew Manwarren**

*Artistic/Executive Director*

## Remembering Menahem Pressler

The Adamant Music School has just learned of the passing on May 6 of our longtime teacher and devoted friend, Menahem Pressler. Please look for an upcoming "Adamanter" with memories of the more than 30 wonderful summers Mr. Pressler spent with all of us.



# 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**

# New faculty appointments

We are pleased to announce the appointment of two new faculty members, Robert Henry and José Ramón Mendez, who will be teaching during the Traditional Session from July 16—Aug. 4.

Hailed as a “consummate artist – brilliant, formidable, effortless, and the epitome of control and poise,” **Robert Henry** is an internationally distinguished pianist, performing throughout the world as orchestral soloist, recitalist, accompanist and chamber musician. Since winning the Gold Medal in four international piano competitions, he has presented critically acclaimed solo debuts at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center, with concert tours of the U.S., England, Nova Scotia, and Italy.



As educator and pedagogue, Robert Henry presents lectures, masterclasses, residencies, youth concerts, and has been featured in *American Music Teacher*. He has served as recitalist, clinician, and juror for state, regional, and national MTNA conventions and competitions. He is Artistic Director of the Great Performances Concert Series in Highlands, NC, and proudly serves as Artist-in-Residence at Kennesaw State University in Atlanta, GA. Mr. Henry earned the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Maryland. A Steinway Artist, he maintains his web-presence at <http://www.parkerartists.com/Robert-Henry.html>

**José Ramón Mendez** has been described as “an artist with a polished sound and tremendous constructive power” and hailed by the Hoja del Lunes de Madrid, as “the Spanish pianist of his generation.” Mendez first gained international recognition when he performed Liszt’s Piano Concerto No. 1 under the direction of Sergiu Commissiona at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. Since then, he has concertized extensively to great acclaim in his native Spain, the United States, Italy, England, Portugal, Holland, and Japan.



At the age of 18, Mendez’s success brought him to the United States, where he began his studies at Manhattan School of Music in New York City. He completed his undergraduate and graduate degrees in Piano Performance with renowned pedagogue Solomon Mikowsky, and went on to finish his Doctorate of Musical Arts under the tutelage of Byron Janis and Miyoko Lotto.

Formerly on the faculty at the University of Texas at Austin, New York University and Pennsylvania State University, he is now Associate Professor of Piano at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. To learn more, visit <https://www.music.northwestern.edu/faculty/profile/jose-ramon-mendez>

Heavy storms this winter did a lot of damage in the Adamant area. Though heavy winds took down many trees, no buildings on the Adamant Music School campus were damaged. The Edward Keele Studio, near Quarry House, remained unscathed, though fallen trees now surround it. Our campus handyman, Noah Humphries-LePage, will clear the logs away and repair the front steps before participants return to campus.

## A new piano for Adamant Music School

We are thrilled to announce that a 1998 **Kawai RX-2 grand piano** has been donated to the Adamant Music School from the estate of David S. Kahn, father of Daniel Kahn, who attended the Traditional Session 21 years ago. We thank Daniel for remembering the school with this major gift in honor of his father, David. New home for the piano will be in the Doris Ramsey Studio.



# The Summer of '67...

by Michael Preddy

Adamant Music School, such an unimposing name for an institution that represents the attempt to carry on the legacy of its founder, Edwine Behre, a student of arguably the most prominent piano teacher of the early 20th century, Theodor Leschetizky. The legacy goes much deeper than this, however, since Mr. Leschetizky was a student of Carl Czerny who was the longtime student of Ludwig van Beethoven. The masterclass format, the Schnabel editions of Beethoven, the direct quotes by Behre from lessons with the great teacher—it made a lasting impression.

Many of Behre's musical family were Jewish refugee musicians who fled antisemitism and the Nazi onslaught of Europe during WWII. I speak of Freda Rosenblatt and her husband, Abraham; Emma Dressler; Lucille and Fred Marantz. These were the people who blessed my life in 1967 at the age of 16 in ways that go so far beyond music. I owe much of my career, my outlook on life and my success to them.

Adamant was the musical dream of Edwine Behre. She created a safe space where musicians of all different backgrounds and ethnicities could live and study together while celebrating the music of the piano. Many have come and gone, many have said they were designated by Behre to carry on this musical heritage. It was Frank Suchomel who took on the challenge and made it his life's mission to pursue his vision of what Adamant could be. Frank was the longtime student and in many ways, the adopted son of Emma Dressler of Brooklyn, NY.

William Chaisson, my teacher in Houston, had been a student of Behre. Every summer he would pack up one station wagon with six kids and two adults, making the

trip from Texas to Vermont in three days. All our luggage was stacked and tied down on top of the car, and we dared not take it down and reload it the next day. Mr. Chaisson allowed us to bring undergarments and socks for each night on the road, but that was it. Yes, we wore the same clothes for three days. It was the trip of a lifetime!

After visiting Niagara Falls on the last day, we drove into the night and finally ended up on a dark gravel road in what seemed like the middle of nowhere. It still excites me—you turn a curve, then slightly downhill in front of you, an area opens up that is like a magical kingdom, a world of dedication to piano—a miracle! We pulled up into the driveway and a few minutes later, two ladies appeared at the front door, Edwine Behre and Alice Mary Kimball, the rulers of this kingdom.

Adamant still has that magic for me today, and I am convinced the magic still resides somewhere inside all the dedicated pianists and musicians who ever came here. It is a life-changing experience. *(to be continued)*



*Edwine Behre was born in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1884.*

# DEADLINE EXTENDED

The deadline for the  
Cohen/Robert Masterclass has been  
extended to May 15. APPLY TODAY!  
<https://www.adamant.org/summer-2023>

# 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](http://www.adamant.org/give)  
to show your support.  
Thanks for your generosity!

## Annual Meeting Notice

The Annual Meeting of Behre Piano  
Associates, d/b/a The Adamant Music  
School will be held via Zoom on  
Sunday, June 4, 2023 at 5:00 pm EDT.  
All members in good standing as of  
May 28, 2023 will be eligible to vote  
either in person at the Zoom meeting  
or by proxy. Complete information  
will be sent by email two weeks  
before the meeting.  
Questions? Contact Alexander Last at  
[president@adamant.org](mailto:president@adamant.org)

### Adamant Music School Staff and Board Members

#### Matthew Manwarren

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#### Chelsea van Vliet

Office Administrator | [office@adamant.org](mailto:office@adamant.org)

**Cameron Steinmetz** | Resident Piano Technician

**Eon Malan** | Publicity/Website Manager

#### Alexander Last

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**Barbara Kudirka** | Vice President Behre Piano Associates

**Janet Yanuklis** | Secretary Behre Piano Associates

**Steven Boyce** | Treasurer Behre Piano Associates

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