



# THE ADAMANTER

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Greetings from Adamant!

Our summer is in full session and off to a great start! Everyone who experienced John O'Connor's masterclass will tell you that it was a magical experience, as always. John has a remarkable way of conveying exactly what is demanded of the music. Our performers rose to the occasion with their brilliant performances.

We were very sorry to have to cancel our second week of masterclasses with Christopher Elton after his wife, Hilary Coates, came down with a last-minute illness. We have been in contact with Christopher and have learned that Hilary is improving each day, and we wish her the best. Four of the participants who were slated to play for Mr. Elton requested to stay on during the second week, and I taught the masterclasses. While we wished the situation had been different, we managed to have a productive week exploring pieces by Handel, Beethoven, Chopin, Mendelssohn, and Ravel. The participants and I performed on the Friday evening concert. We made the best out of a difficult situation, and all of us came away better having kept the momentum going.

Angela Cheng and Alvin Chow are here this week. They have tried something new in that they are team-teaching the masterclasses. Their approach has been lively and refreshing for all who have experienced it. We have a wonderful group of participants for this class here, many

of whom have attended the Menahem Pressler masterclasses for years. It is wonderful to carry on Mr. Pressler's legacy through his beloved students, Angela and Alvin, who bring their wonderful energy to Adamant.

In closing, if you are in the area, we would love to have you at our upcoming concerts. We begin our 3-week Traditional Session on July 16 and the Jeffrey Cohen/Lucie Robert Masterclass on August 8. Concert information can be found online at [www.adamant.org](http://www.adamant.org).

Have a great summer!

**Matthew Manwarren**

*Artistic/Executive Director*



*The 2023 John O'Connor masterclass group.  
From left to right: Yanjue Lim, Mimi Minagawa, Weichen Cheng,  
Saeyoon Chon, John O'Connor (Artist-in-Residence), Ido Shalom,  
and Barbara Kudirka.*



**ADAMANT**  
MUSIC SCHOOL  
adamant.org

# SUMMER 2023

## CONCERT & MASTERCLASS SERIES

### CONCERTS

Tickets are \$20 per person, per concert

**Jul 7 | Jul 8 | 7:30PM**

Performers in Alvin Chow & Angela Cheng Masterclass

**Jul 16 | 3:30PM**

Faculty of the Traditional Session

**Jul 19 | Jul 21 | Jul 26 | Jul 28 | Aug 2 | Aug 4 | 7:30PM**

**SUNDAYS Jul 23 | Jul 30 | 3:30PM**

Participants in the Traditional Session

**Aug 11 | Aug 12 | 7:30PM**

Performers in Jeffrey Cohen & Lucie Robert  
Violin-Piano Duo Masterclass

### MASTERCLASSES

Masterclasses are open to the public  
Tickets are \$100 per person, per day

**Jul 4-8 | 1-5PM**

Masterclasses with Alvin Chow & Angela Cheng

**Jul 31-Aug 1 | 9AM-12PM**

Masterclasses with Rebecca Penneys  
with students of the Traditional Session

**Aug 8-12 | 1-5PM**

Masterclasses with Jeffrey Cohen & Lucie Robert  
Violin-Piano Duo

**BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW AT  
ADAMANT.ORG**

# Meet the participants

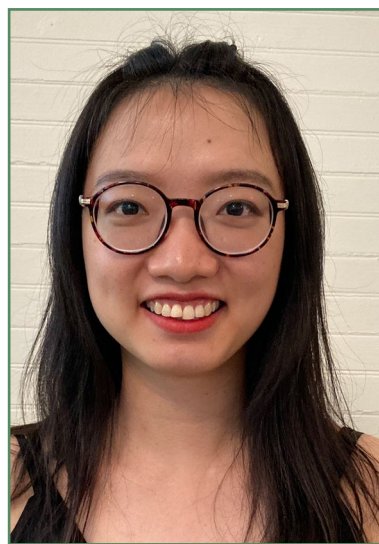


**K**aren Lerner of Brooklyn, NY, is a pianist/educator on the faculty of the United Nations International School in New York City. She holds an MM degree from Yale University, where she studied with Donald Currier.

This is her third summer at Adamant where she has been in the masterclasses of Christopher Elton and John O’Conor. Karen says that Adamant provides an ideal setting for her musical growth, a place where she can search for answers about her piano performance. She finds the interchange with young pianists on the cusp of their careers very invigorating, while at the same time, she can immerse herself in piano in an idyllic space without distraction.

**I**do Shalom made a 26-hour trip from Israel to Vermont to participate in the John O’Conor masterclass. Self-taught as a youth, he went on to study technique with Ina Matinsky during his teen years. Now he has finished his B.A at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance, studying with Dr. Ron Regev. He will begin his master’s degree at the Shenandoah Conservatory this fall, where he will study with John O’Conor.

This summer was his first at Adamant. He was delighted with the the facilities—beautiful grand pianos in forest studios, private rooms for each participant, and a friendly intergenerational supportive community. He commented on the masterclass experience saying that although John O’Conor teaches each student differently, everyone benefited from John’s knowledge of all genres. One word sums it up: amazing!



**Y**anjue Lin was born in the Fujian Province of China. She has obtained degrees from Nanjing University of the Arts in China and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. She will complete her DMA degree at Shenandoah Conservatory with Alexander Bernstein and Marika Bournaki.

While living in China, she was a journalist for three years on the staff of Ganlan Classic Music, a large platform numbering more than 500,000 members.

Yanjue loved Adamant because she could practice without interruption and without pressure. Living in the beauty of nature made a deep impression on her, especially the fireflies, the frogs and the night sky!

# Adamant Music School Board and Staff

**A**lexander Last resigned his position as President of Behre Piano Associates effective June 5, 2023, a position he held for nineteen months. With great courage and fortitude, he guided the Adamant Music School through challenging times, enabling the school to re-open after a two-year shutdown and years of campus neglect. He threw himself wholeheartedly into the work at hand, be it legal, financial, fund raising, or the very practical aspect of campus maintenance. The BPA Board of Directors is grateful to Alex for the service he rendered to our school, and we wish him well. **Barbara Kudirka** has assumed the presidential role until a replacement for Alex can be found.

After serving for the past year as chairman of the Facilities Committee, **Erik Oberlin** has resigned his position as Director-at-Large. Living in the village of Adamant itself, he was able to share concerns of the local community and monitor the campus property during the off-season. A new career opportunity has brought him back to Texas, making it impractical to serve on the Board. The BPA Board of Directors is grateful to Erik for the service he rendered to AMS, and we wish him well.



The Adamant Music School staff does a terrific job in supporting school operations. These outstanding people are: **Office Administrator Chelsea van Vliet, Chef Annie Finegan, Sous Chef Jen Wiater, Kitchen Helper Hannah Wiater, Housekeepers Linda Wheatley and Olga Kissner, Facilities Caretaker Noah Humphries LePage, Landscape Crew Steve Justis, Jenny Johnson and Ford Porter.** Thank you!

## Annual Meeting Notice

Part 2 of the June 5 Annual Meeting will be held via Zoom on Sunday, July 23 at 5:00 pm ET. Formal written notice will be sent to members via email 10 days before the meeting.

## PART 2

# The Summer of '67...

by Michael Preddy

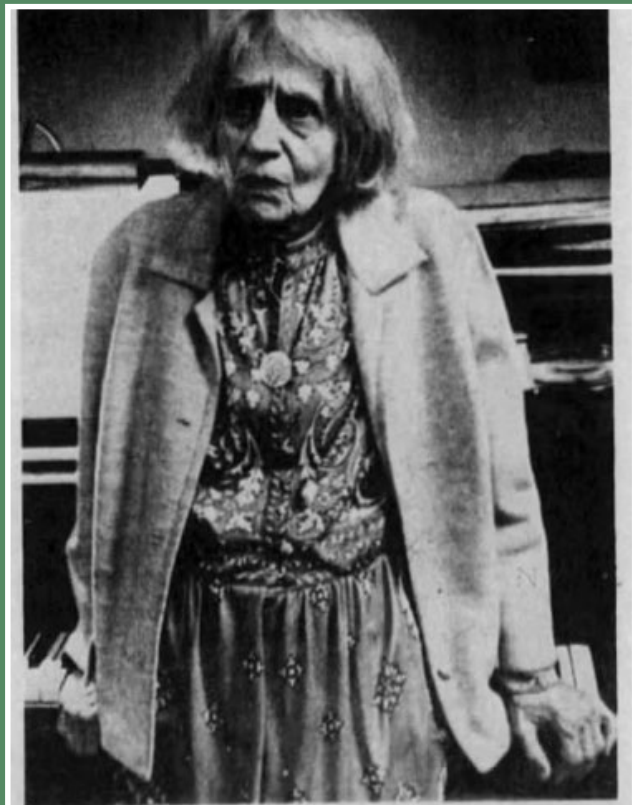
*Editor's note: Michael Preddy continues his reminiscence of Edwine Behre and Adamant Music School in the 1960-70's. He is both a classical and pop musician and his multi-faceted career includes a stint as band director with the Smothers Brothers. He returns to Adamant this summer as a performer in the Jeffrey Cohen and Lucie Robert masterclass.*

Starting in 1967, I came to Adamant for five years in a row. During that time, I flew periodically to New York to study with Edwine Behre if I had a competition or special performance coming up. I still have all the letters she wrote telling me where I would stay, where I could eat, and how to get to the Port Authority from the airport. Who does this! It is all part of the legacy handed to us to carry on. In the early 1980s, I brought students of my own to Adamant and the letters I got from them reminded me of the feelings of inspiration I had for the school. They had inherited that spirit, that legacy, through their common love of piano music.

I return and it's 2022. I am now seventy-one years old, I look around and so many of the people who were part of my youth are gone. No more Frieda Rosenblatt with her constant encouragement and technical magic, no Emma Dressler and her smile with a touch of pathos, and most of all, no more Edwine Behre, who believed in me and considered me talented enough to take under her wing, at least for a while, as I gave it a go at classical piano.

My career had taken a turn toward the pop world and for the next few decades, I worked on the road while

occasionally returning to New York to play in one of the Carnegie Recital Hall Concerts for Adamant. Now I return in 2022, I drive out of Montpelier toward Haggett Road which always seems too far, always seems like I missed. I turn right onto that gravel road and go and go and go until you finally turn that curve, look down slightly and low and behold, that magical kingdom opens and begins to shine again. A world where I am fulfilled, the things I love are the things other people love as well, where music and piano are the most meaningful pursuit in our lives, and we know that Adamant is so much more than a place to take piano, or a summer camp, or a college portfolio stuffer. Adamant IS the ultimate destination. It is a safe space where people, young and old, rich or poor of any nationality or ethnicity can come to live and study alongside others in pursuit of Edwine Behre's dream. A chance to become part of that legacy and the distinct honor to do what we can to carry it forward for those who follow.



AP Photo

Pianist Edwine Behre, 94, recently performed at Carnegie Recital Hall in New York City.

# GET YOUR TICKETS

## Concert Tickets

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

## Masterclass Tickets

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



*Participants of the 2023 John O'Connor masterclass.*



*Performers who played on the opening concert of the 2023 season at Adamant.*

*Performers from left to right: Yilan Wang, Alexandra Eames, Kenneth Crump, Saeyoon Chon, John O'Connor (Artist-in-Residence), Stephen Wasko, and Karen Lerner.*

# 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!

## Adamant Music School Staff and Board Members

### **Matthew Manwarren**

Artistic/Executive Director | [director@adamant.org](mailto:director@adamant.org)

### **Chelsea van Vliet**

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

**Cameron Steinmetz** | Resident Piano Technician

**Eon Malan** | Publicity/Website Manager

### **Barbara Kudirka**

President Behre Piano Associates | [president@adamant.org](mailto:president@adamant.org)

**Janet Yanuklis** | Secretary Behre Piano Associates

**Steven Boyce** | Treasurer Behre Piano Associates

### **Matthew McIntyre, Rob Halpert**

Members at Large

**Linda Wheatley** | Housekeeping

**Noah Humphries-LePage** | Facilities Caretaker

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