

THE ADAMANTER

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Successful Masterclass Kickoff with John O'Connor and Christopher Elton

It has been a complete joy to be open again. Our two first masterclasses with John O'Connor and Christopher Elton were an enormous success. The intense musical moments and the camaraderie for which we are known were evident in these two classes.



Group Portrait for Christopher Elton masterclass

Both John and Christopher, two uniquely different teachers, got to the heart of the music with each performer in their own way. It was amazing to see the transformation with each student on the final concerts.

Our participants ranged in age from 15 to late 80s. Some of these were auditors who have attended many times over the years and who provide support and encouragement for our performers. The community bonds and lifetime friendships formed through the beauty of music is something I have not seen anywhere else.

As I write this, participants and faculty in the Traditional Session are arriving. We have a great group of participants coming this year along with an outstanding faculty. It will be great to see how lives will be changed with this group, as we always see with everyone who experiences Adamant.

There have been many who have worked behind the scenes, including kitchen staff, housekeepers, gardeners, and maintenance crew who help keep Adamant going. So many people have given so much to see the success of our re-opening. We are all navigating new territory as we assume our new leadership roles. Everyone who has been involved in our re-opening has played an integral role in our successful summer thus far, for which I am immensely grateful.

It is wonderful to be back in this magical place.

Matthew Manwarren
Artistic/Executive Director

Interview with John O’Conor

The Adamanter caught up with John O’Conor at the end of June as he opened the 2022 Adamant Music School season with his twelfth summer masterclass.

TA: *It is so good to have you back on campus after the lengthy pandemic break. Tell us what you have been up to this year.*

John O’Conor: It has been a busy time! In addition to my regular teaching at Shenandoah University and the Glenn Gould School in Toronto, I’ve traveled all over the world from Istanbul to South Carolina, teaching and giving solo and orchestral performances. In May I chaired the jury of the Dublin International Piano competition and in June I was on the jury of the New York International Piano Competition. Later this summer I have residencies at the Showa University of Music in Japan, and the Aspen Summer Music Festival.



TA: *You must know how to deal with jet lag! I understand that 2022 is an extra-special year for you. Please tell us about it.*

John: On Aug.19, a concert will be held at the National Concert Hall in Dublin celebrating my 75th birthday. I will perform the Beethoven Fifth Piano Concerto with the RTE National Concert Orchestra and will be joined by Alexander Bernstein for a performance of the Mozart Double Concerto. Earlier this year, I celebrated with my entire family on vacation in Barbados.

TA: *You have been in residence at Adamant since 2008. How would you describe the school to someone who has never been here?*

John: The atmosphere is friendly and non-competitive. Students return year after year, forging long-lasting friendships. And the campus offers ample practice space with very fine grand pianos.

TA: *Thank you, John. Best wishes for all that lies ahead, and Happy 75th Birthday from all of us at the Adamant Music School!*

Green Music in Vermont

When I think of Adamant, my senses evolve. I hear green music. I feel pure air, grass; I see waving trees, yellow flowers swaying in baskets; I hear rippling water fall from a trellis of blooming roses. All around ponds reflect undulating groves of trees, mountains.

The woods sing with music as pianists practice in over 30 secluded, small buildings that each house two grand pianos, benches, a lamp, and a fan. For me the most unique aspect of Adamant is the ubiquitous live piano music — scattered across a serene campus in the Green Mountains. Keyboards resound from pianists’ practicing; music rides on air from the woods or across a lawn.

Here is freedom to listen and learn from musicians of all ages and stages of musical careers in a non-judgmental environment — where nature becomes the studio.

In the summer of 2022, Dr. Mark Jaffe, a retired ophthalmologist who attended as an Auditor in the master class with renowned pianist and teacher, Dr. John O’Conor, commented: “When I think about Adamant, what comes to mind is love, passion, acceptance, safety, creativity, camaraderie, inspiration, and hope.”

Certainly most other participants would agree. Adamant provides opportunities to play, practice, listen to others, provide and enjoy feedback that is sincere, insightful, and friendly. It offers a learning experience with no strings attached — people are free to comment, make suggestions and offer new challenges.



At Adamant the world is full of green music.

Dr. Mary Lindberg
(Auditor, Dr. John O’Conor Master Class, Summer 2022.)

Highlights of John O'Connor and Christopher Elton Masterclasses



Enroute to the John O'Connor Masterclass outside the Adamant Community Center



Student performers in the O'Connor Class with Matthew Manwarren



Christopher Elton, masterclass teacher, and his wife, pianist Hilary Coates, outside Barney Hall



Alex Last with John O'Connor masterclass performers and auditors outside Adamant Community Center



Performers' recital, June 30, 2022, for the John O'Connor masterclass



John O'Connor masterclass session, Tuesday June 28, 2022

Campus Updates

Our Sincerest Gratitude

We wish to thank an anonymous donor for providing funds for the air-conditioning unit installed at the Adamant Community Club. This generous gift has made it possible to enjoy the classes and concerts in comfort while providing a more stable environment for the concert grands. Thank you!



Traditional Session teachers Dierdre O'Donohue, Roberta Rust and Elaine Greenfield with Pres. Alex Last enjoying lunch in Montpelier

If you wish to support the Adamant Music School, please go to our [website](https://www.adamant.org/giving) at <https://www.adamant.org/giving>. To speak with a member of the board about our programs or about specific giving opportunities, please send an email note to admin@adamant.org. Every gift is deeply appreciated.

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The Adamanter

Barbara Kudirka, Managing Editor

Steve Wasko, Layout Editor & Photos

August Masterclasses Still Available

Auditors and performers: there are still spaces available for the August masterclasses:

Jeffrey Cohen & Lucie Roberts--Aug. 9-13

Angela Cheng & Alvin Chow--Aug. 18-22

For more information, visit the website at www.adamant.org or contact Artistic Executive Dir. Matt Manwarren at director@adamant.org



Adamant COVID Policy

In order to maintain a healthy community, all participants are required to show proof of Covid-19 vaccination and booster at the time they register on campus. All participants accepted into programs must acknowledge their understanding of this policy prior to enrolling in our summer sessions. Participants must wear face coverings in public settings, including masterclasses and concerts. For additional information, [click here to read our school's COVID-19 Protocols](#).



Barbara Kudirka and Steve Wasko, the Adamanter editors



SUMMER 2022 SESSIONS

Matthew Manwarren, Artistic/Executive Director

June 27 - July 1

John O'Connor

*Piano
Masterclass*

July 6 - 10

Christopher Elton

*Piano
Masterclass*

July 16 - August 6

3-week

*Traditional Session
with*

Elaine Greenfield

Franklin Larey

Deirdre O'Donohue

Roberta Rust

Jose Ramos Santana

**Victor Rosenbaum,
Artist-in-Residence**

August 9 - 13

**Jeffrey Cohen
& Lucie Robert**

*Piano Solo
Piano/Violin Duo*

August 18 - 22

**Angela Cheng
& Alvin Chow**

*Piano
Masterclass*

visit www.adamant.org for application and tuition information

The Adamant Music School was founded in 1942 in the unincorporated village of Adamant, Vermont and promotes non-competitive piano study in an atmosphere of cooperative living.



*We are a wonderful, small, unpretentious, cooperative, supportive school for pianists.
This is all we want to be.*

Edwine Behre, Founding Teacher