

MATTHEW MANWARREN

“A pianist of substance.” – Times-Argus

Matthew Manwarren has served as a faculty member at the Adamant Music School since the summer of 1998. He came that year to Adamant as a replacement for faculty member Eugene Barban, who had to cancel at the last minute when a family emergency arose. Mary Lou Francis, the Executive Director at the time, told Matthew the appointment was for only one year. Twenty-three years later, he continues to have an association with Adamant, having taught most years in the three week Traditional Session.

“Adamant is a special place in every sense of the word – from the idyllic surroundings to the wonderful people associated with the school, including participants, faculty, and community supporters. Adamant is a place that changes people, and it certainly changed me.” Matthew has a great appreciation for the history of Adamant and how the people who helped form the school had a vision to create a noncompetitive community of pianists. The school’s principal founder, Edwine Behre created a supportive artist colony of sorts where participants learn from excellent faculty and from peers. Classes are taught in group settings, similar to the 19th century masterclass teaching style of European teachers such as Franz Liszt. Through these settings, pianists learn from one another as well as from the artist teacher. What results is a transformation for all who experience Adamant. Others have come and gone, including Frank Suchomel, who continued Edwine’s vision in expanding the school’s property and who contributed to the growth of the school. Elaine Greenfield, Edwine’s student in the late 60s, continues to serve as the musical lineage to the past, having served on the faculty since 1973. Other numerous dedicated faculty have served school over many decades. Matthew states, “It is a tremendous honor and responsibility to carry on the legacy of the school set forth by the Founders and the outstanding faculty with whom I have had the pleasure of serving for the past twenty-three years.”

After a two-year shutdown due to a pandemic, Matthew sees a bright future for Adamant. “We have a wonderful roster of world-class artists-in-residents who will be at Adamant this summer to present masterclasses, such as John O’Conor, Christopher Elton, Jeffrey Cohen and Lucie Robert, and Angela Cheng and Alvin Chow. I look forward to working with the Board to expand program offerings in future years and to increasing our faculty pool in the three week Traditional Session.”

Originally from El Paso, Texas, Matthew has established a notable career as performer and artist teacher. In 2006, he was appointed as Professor of Piano at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC. Since 2018, he has served as Visiting Professor of Piano at the University of South Carolina. He has also served on the piano faculty at Belmont University in Nashville, TN, and at Erskine College, where he held the Harriet Pressly Smith Caldwell Professorship in Music and where he chaired the Department of Music. His recent recording, *Youthful Passion and Fantasy*, can be found on the Americus Label. Matthew received his Bachelor of Music degree at Texas

Tech University as a student of William Westney. He received his master's and doctoral degrees at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music as a piano student of Frank Weinstock and Elisabeth Pridonoff and an organ student of David Mulbury. Additional teachers include John O'Connor, Virginia Hutchings, Walter Hautzig, Sheila Paige, and Mary Lou Hindman Wade.

Matthew states, "I am excited to work with Adamant's newly appointed Board members, who have all demonstrated a commitment to Adamant's future. Together, I think we will do great things at Adamant."