

The Adamanter

Please join us for the second online Adamant recital.
Saturday, September 26th, 7:30pm Eastern time
PLEASE CHECK YOUR TIME ZONE

Audience Instructions

- Please invite all of your friends and family to this recital. While there will be a request to donate to the school, there is no admission charge.
- If you do not already have the Zoom software installed on your computer, visit zoom.us. Click on "Sign Up, It's Free" and follow the instructions.
- Update your Zoom software. When you have opened Zoom, click on the "zoom.us" pull down menu, and click on "check for updates". Zoom has recently made changes that improve audio quality for music.
- Click here: <https://su.zoom.us/j/94438452759> on Saturday, Sept. 26th, after 7pm Eastern time. The program will begin at 7:30, but it's fun to see "who's here" and say hello before the program starts.
- Contact Alex Last at alex.last@yahoo.com if you have any questions.



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Please consider donating to the Adamant Music School. The usual admission fee for our concerts is \$20; any amount would make a strong statement about your support for the school.

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And then click on the yellow donate tab.

The Adamant Music School
Saturday, September 26th, 7:30pm

Program

Chaconne in D minor from Violin Partita No. 2,
arranged for left hand alone

Johannes Brahms
1833-1897

Johann Sebastian Bach
1685-1750

Victoria von Arx

Sonata No. 2 in A Major, Opus 2, No. 2.

Ludwig van Beethoven
1770-1827

- i. *Allegro vivace*
- ii. *Largo appassionato*

Nora Popescu

Ballades, Opus 10

Johannes Brahms

- 1. D minor, *Andante*
- 3. B minor, *Intermezzo. Allegro*

Franklin Larey

Suite Bergamasque

Claude Debussy
1862-1918

1. *Prélude*

Ryan Pagels

Nocturne in D-flat Major, Opus 27, No. 2

Frédéric Chopin
1810-1849

Michele Rodrigues

Idyll und Abgrund: Sechs Schubert-Reminiszenzen für Klavier
(*Idyll and Abyss: Six Schubert Reminiscences for Piano*)

Jörg Widmann
b. 1973

Otto Popescu

Sonneto Del Petrarca No. 47

Franz Liszt
1811-1886

Janet Hickey

Transcriptions for piano

Sergei Rachmaninoff
1873-1943

Tchaikovsky Lullaby
Polka de W. R.

Benjamin Bertin

Carnival of the Animals

Camille Saint-Saëns
1835-1921

The Elephants
The Aquarium
The Finale

*Otto Popescu
Nora Popescu*

Performer Biographies



Victoria von Arx is a retired member of the music faculty at the University at Albany in Albany, NY, where she was an active performer of piano and chamber music. A graduate of Syracuse University and the City University of New York, she has performed and taught in New York City, New Jersey, Michigan, and Wisconsin, and has served on both the faculty and the executive committee of the Adamant Music School in Vermont. She is the author of several scholarly

articles appearing in the *Journal of the Society for American Music*, the *International Dictionary of Black Composers*, and the *RiD'im Newsletter*. Her book, *Piano Lessons with Claudio Arrau: A Guide to His Techniques and Philosophy*, draws on her extensive studies with two protégés of Claudio Arrau, Frederick Marvin and Germán Diez, and is available from Oxford University Press.



Nora Popescu started piano lessons at the age of three at the Yamaha Music School and has studied with Lydia Wong (University of Toronto) since the age of 10. She attended the Claude Watson School for the Arts and Earl Haig Secondary School where she recently graduated, garnering awards including The Musician of the Year and the University Women’s Club Award of North York - Claude Watson Arts Award. Nora regularly competes in the Toronto Kiwanis and North York music festivals where she has won numerous awards and scholarships, including the 2019 David Ouchterlony Memorial Scholarship for the Most Promising Piano student at Kiwanis. Nora won first prize at 2015 Ontario Music Festivals Association’s (OMFA) Provincial Competition

and at the 2018 Canadian Music Competition Age 15 category. She has attended the Adamant Summer Music School in Vermont (2018) and the Orford Musique Academy in Quebec. Nora is in her first year of her undergraduate studies with Ilya Poletaev at McGill University.



Hailed as a leading South African pianist of his generation, **Franklin Larey** is acclaimed for his performances of works by Brahms, Mozart, Scriabin and Ravel.

Before becoming Director and Professor of the School of Music at Illinois Wesleyan, Larey previously 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, he has also served as Acting-Director of both the School of Dance and the Opera School, at the same university. During the summer months, he serves as Director of the Adamant Music School in Vermont.

He appears as recitalist, soloist and accompanist, and has worked with the conductors Isaiah Jackson, Gabriel Chmura, Bernard Gueller, Victor Yampolsky, Teri Murai and Lesley Dunner, among others. Of his appearance with the San Jose Symphony, the San Jose

Mercury News wrote, "When Franklin Larey turned to soft poetry, time stood still, and the audience held its breath for an eternity. His slow movement was sheer ecstasy - clear, measured, lyrical."

Larey, who studied with Bruce Gardiner, Laura Searle, Frank Weinstock, and Richard Fields, has received several honors for his work as a concert pianist and for his contribution to music in South Africa, including the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music in 2003. He has been the subject of several articles, publications, and broadcasts. 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 has won several awards, including first prize at the 1991 Young Chang International Piano Competition, and third prize at the 1996 New Orleans International Piano Competition. In 2003, he was awarded a prestigious Fulbright Researcher Award and spent six months in residence at the University of Cincinnati. He regularly performs in the USA, and has performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC, and at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

His critically acclaimed recordings include works by Brahms, Scarlatti, Mozart, Beethoven and Chopin. Most recently he released recordings of Mozart's Piano Quartets, and the second book of Claude Debussy's Préludes with Gabriel Fauré's Sixth Nocturne.

As a scholar, Larey's main research is in the area of Brahms studies, and specifically in the theoretical principles of developing variation and motivic unity which underpin Brahms's compositional style.



Ryan Pagels is a highly sought after conductor, composer and pianist, who currently serves as the Director of Music at St. John’s Episcopal and Collaborative Pianist at Methodist University in Fayetteville, NC. Before moving to Fayetteville, Ryan lived in Central Florida, serving as the Artistic Director and Conductor for the Marion Civic Chorale, and Director of Music at Countryside Presbyterian Church. He also served as chorusmaster for the Ocala Symphony Orchestra for three years, and worked as a vocal coach at Stetson University for the voice studios and the Opera program. With the Ocala Symphony,

Ryan has prepared the chorus for Handel’s *Messiah* and for Orff’s *Carmina Burana*. His studies have taken him to Stetson University, Georgia Southern University, and the University of Kentucky. He has also spent seven summers at the Adamant Music school, an international summer program for pianists.

While at Georgia Southern and the University of Kentucky, Ryan held Graduate Assistantships, accompanying for choirs, chamber groups, opera/theatre and recitals, teaching theory and accompanying classes, and serving as a student conductor for various ensembles, including a community performance of the Brahms Requiem. In 2010, he made his Carnegie debut, collaborated on recitals with faculty from Julliard, and was the pianist for the opening ceremonies of the World Equestrian Games. In 2011, he made his international debut, concertizing in Italy as part of the Orfeo Music Festival. Ryan has been invited as a guest artist and to give masterclasses throughout the U.S., most recently at Marshall University, Butler University, University of Central Florida, Stetson University, Georgia Southern University, and the University of Southern Indiana. Ryan has also worked and concertized with a wide variety of musicians, including Audra McDonald, Marvin Hamlisch, Arlo Guthrie, and Wynonna Judd.



Michele Rodrigues studied voice at the High School of Music and Art in New York City. She earned her B.S. in piano at the Mannes College of Music where she studied with Frances Dillon and John Goldmark. She also attended the Vienna Academy of Music in Austria, where she studied with Grete Hinterhofer. Ms. Rodrigues obtained her M.A. at Queens College of the City University of New York, while studying with Bruce Hungerford. She also attended Hofstra University, and was certified in Orff Schulwerk, Levels I and II.

Ms. Rodrigues has taught Orff Schulwerk and choral music at several Westchester, NY County schools, as well as maintaining a private studio. Currently, she studies piano

with Zelma Bodzin in New York City, and has performed at Adamant Music School in the master classes of John O’Conor and Andre Laplant, from 2014-2018.



Otto Popescu, 16 years old, is from Toronto, Ontario, Canada. He began his piano studies at the age of 3 and completed his ARCT in the summer of 2019. Annually, Otto takes part in local music festivals, where he has won numerous first place awards, honourable mentions and scholarships. He achieved First Prize at the 2018 Canadian Music National Competition; last year, he placed first in the Provincial Competition, Diploma Piano in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.

For the past two years, Otto attended the Adamant Summer Music School in Vermont, USA, where he studied with Willard Schultz and Elias-Axel Pettersson on scholarship merit. Since

November 2018, he has had the opportunity to perform with Orchestra Toronto, under Maestro Michael Newnham, playing the celeste, piano, and organ parts.

This fall, Otto is beginning his senior year at Earl Haig Secondary School. As a piano major in the Claude Watson Arts Program, Otto has performed with the school orchestra, accompanied choirs and played both solo and duets in school events. He currently studies with Dr. Asher Ian Armstrong from the University of Toronto, frequently playing in his piano studio classes and recitals. Some of Otto’s hobbies include playing duets with his sister, skiing, chess, biking, swimming, basketball and archery.



Janet Hickey has appeared extensively in recital as soloist, collaborative pianist and with orchestras including Chicago Symphony at Orchestra Hall. She holds dual Masters Degrees in Voice and Piano Performance from Northern Illinois University winning their Concerto Competition as a student of Donald Walker. Since 1994, she has performed in Menahem Pressler's Master Classes/Recitals at Indiana University and Adamant Music School in Vermont and in 2017 for the Adamant Music School Carnegie Hall 75th Anniversary Concert. In addition, she's performed in the Master Classes of John Browning, Donald Walker, Dimitri Paperno and Ruth Laredo. Janet has been featured in Chicago's 4th Presbyterian Noontime Concert Series and as Musicians Club of Women Artist of the Month. As a member of MTNA, she has been Guest Speaker and Master Class Clinician for numerous Illinois

Chapters. Her extensive teaching background includes 15 years in the Piano Academy and Faculty of North Central College. Her students have won numerous prizes including MTNA's National H.S. Composition Winner. Janet has sung with Chicago's Grant Park Symphony Chorus, and toured with Bel Canto Chorus in Bordeaux France, the Pays Basque region, Berlin, Leipzig and Eastern Germany and has enjoyed numerous roles performing in Musical Theatre. As a long time church musician, she has served as both an Assistant Director and as Director of Music. Janet maintains an Independent Studio in Naperville and the Fine Arts Building of Chicago. She was named Illinois State Music Teachers Association 2016 Teacher of the Year.



Known for his deeply personal interpretations, pianist **Benjamin Bertin** is an artist of innate musical sensitivity fused with an active imagination and probing intellect. His ongoing interest in the music of Nikolai Medtner has resulted in numerous concerts and a recently completed thesis on the Opus 25 Sonatas. Benjamin has appeared in masterclasses with Byron Janis, Artur Pizarro, and Christopher Elton among others, and summer festivals

including Art of the Piano, Adamant, Gijon, and Porto PianoFest. He is currently completing doctoral studies under the mentorship of Paul Stewart at l'Université de Montréal.