

The Adamanter

Please join us for the fourth online Adamant recital.
Saturday, December 12th, 7:30pm Eastern time
PLEASE CHECK YOUR TIME ZONE

Zoom link is <https://su.zoom.us/j/97762142725>

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.
- The program will begin at 7:30. Please join by 7:15 to say hello before the program starts.
- Contact Alex Last at alex.last@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

In this edition of *The Adamanter* —

- Concert Program, page 2
- Performer Biographies, pages 3 - 5



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.

[Click Here](#)

And then click on the yellow donate tab.

The Adamant Music School
Fourth Online Recital
Saturday, December 12th, 7:30pm Eastern time

Program

Four Mazurkas

Fryderyk Chopin
1810-1849

Op. 6 No. 2 in C-sharp minor

Op. 7 No. 3 in F minor

Op. 41 No. 2 in E minor

Op. 24 No. 2 in C major

Étude in A-flat major, Op. 25 No. 1 “Aeolian Harp”

Fryderyk Chopin

Alexandra Eames

Piano Suite No. 2 in D major, Op. 10

George Enescu
1881-1955

1. *Toccata*

3. *Pavane*

Nora Popescu

Prélude, Chorale et Fugue

César Franck
1822-1890

Otto Popescu

Performer Biographies



Journey of a New York Pianist: Alexandra Eames

“Ms. Eames possesses a poetry rarely heard on the concert stage today.” (Roger B. Trefethen, *The Cape Gazette*).

Alexandra Eames began piano studies at the age of eight with Livia Rabinek, a student of Zoltan Kodaly. Within a year, Alexandra was performing works of Bach, Mozart, Beethoven and her own compositions. Her love and commitment to classical music has been unwavering throughout her life.

Being challenged with extreme vision impairment since birth, Alexandra received a mainstream education as a child; she attended the Manhattan Country School and the Dalton School where she graduated at the age of sixteen. She entered the Manhattan School of Music on a full scholarship where she earned her Bachelor’s degree, and later attended the Juilliard School where she received a Master’s degree in piano performance. In 1986 she was listed in *Extraordinary Students of America*.

At age thirteen, Ms. Eames performed at the Aspen Music Festival where she was the youngest participant as a pianist. As a winner of the Five Towns Music and Art Foundation Competition she was invited to play with orchestra at Hofstra University under the late conductor, Laszlo Halasz. Ms. Eames also won a fellowship to study and perform at the Rutgers Summerfest, working with pianists Ilana Vered and Karl Ulrich Schnabel.

Since making her New York recital debut at Merkin Concert Hall and her Chicago debut in the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series, Alexandra Eames has had an active career including co-founding the Delmarva Piano Festival in 1992. She has been invited to give recitals, lectures and master classes at many educational institutions including Andrews University in Michigan, Barrie University in Florida, The Longy School of Music in Massachusetts, the University of Nebraska and the University of Delaware.

David Dubal, author of *Reflections from the Keyboard*, has written, “Alexandra Eames is one of the finest interpreters of the Chopin Mazurkas, as both scholar and executants.” She has been his guest regularly to perform for his Piano Literature classes at Juilliard, and Mr. Dubal has broadcast her CDs of Chopin and Schubert on WQXR Radio. She was also recently invited to play in an all-Chopin Marathon at WQXR’s Greene Space.

Continued on following page

Continued from preceding page: *Journey of a New York Pianist: Alexandra Eames*

A dedicated teacher for many years, Alexandra Eames has served on the piano faculty of Mannes Cooege Preparatory Division since 1991 where she also coaches chamber music and teaches music history. She is the creator and artistic director of Performers Lab, a series of studio workshops for musicians of all levels focusing on a range of topics including stage fright, musical memory, practicing techniques, and demystifying auditions and competitions.

In addition to her passion for music, Alexandra enjoys writing, cooking, great books and movies, deep friendships, and watching *Jeopardy!* (she hopes to be a contestant some day). She lives with her husband, Jacek Lewandowski, their son Matthew, and her Freedom Guide Dog, a black Labrador named Koda.



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.



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, honorable 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.