

The Adamanter

THE ADAMANT MUSIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

March 2020

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From the President —

A note about last summer at Adamant, and the upcoming concert on June 6 at the DiMenna concert hall — In my humble opinion we may have had the most glorious season of all. Adamant was never lovelier. Glorious flowers everywhere, well-tended lawns and well tuned and cared for pianos. We had wonderful cooks and their assistants, so everyone was happy with the food. Our little school was started in 1942 when Edwine Behre, Alice Mary Kimball and Harry Godfrey took possession of one

old building in Adamant (Barney Hall) Over many years and as the result of many gifts from individuals we have grown to have about fifty buildings, fifty grand pianos, and majestic gardens on almost two hundred acres of land. Please attend the concert on June 6th-- I am hopeful that our members and friends will come.

Frank Suchomel

New masterclass offered: Ilya Friedberg

Ilya, known to many Adamanters as the co-ordinator of the Pressler class, will offer his own masterclass this summer. The class will run from June 20 to 24. Students wishing to continue and study under John O'Connor, whose class begins June 28, may remain on campus at no additional charge during the days in between classes.

Ilya holds a D.M.A. from Indiana University, where he studied with Menaham Pressler, and teaches at the Music Institute of Chicago.



A view down Quarry Road

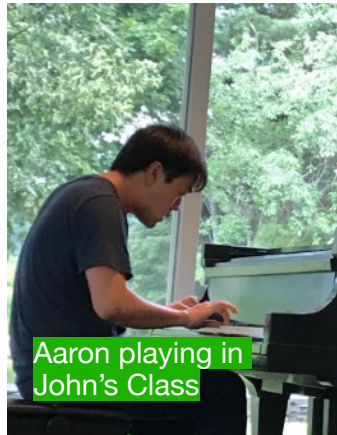


Ilya Friedberg

O'Connor Week: Bach to Scriabin

The O'Connor masterclass week began the season at Adamant. Many veteran students and auditors returned, and we were happy to welcome several newcomers as well. The participants in the class brought repertoire encompassing two hundred years of music, from Bach to Scriabin. John O'Connor, internationally known as the preeminent expert on the First Viennese School, had ample opportunity to demonstrate his expertise on Beethoven in particular. Numerous Beethoven Sonatas were performed, as well as several of Schubert and Haydn. The class heard some Bach; the balance of the performers played works from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, from Liszt, Schumann, and Chopin to Brahms and Scriabin. John O'Connor has become a fixture at the school, his good humor, encouraging words, never-ending well of jokes, anecdotes, and stories are as much sought after as is the beautiful music and setting.

Performers in the O'Connor class came from as close-by as the Montpelier area, as well as a good number from Canada and the Northeast. Our number also included an Australian and a native of Sierra Leone, demonstrating again the strong international reputation of Adamant.



As usual, performers ranged in age from the teen years all the way to the more mature decades, balancing wise maturity with youthful enthusiasm.

The final concerts were well attended, and the week-ending party at Barney Hall was an opportunity for old friends from the area to visit and socialize with the performers, many of whom have been friends for many years.

This article would not be complete without a mention of the auditors' recital, which always takes place on the evening of the third day of classes. Everyone in the class attends. This recital gives an enormously valuable performance opportunity for the auditors. As with even the most seasoned performers who have attended conservatories and given many recitals, the experience of sitting on the stage of Waterside Hall at that nine-foot Steinway is unequalled. At the auditors' recital, we heard duets, movements from sonatas, and some Chopin and Scriabin preludes. Huge smiles were on all faces when the evening was over.

The 2020 O'Connor class begins on June 28th, and applications are still being accepted.

Alex Last

June 6th, 2020: Benefit Concert in New York City

The DiMenna Center for Classical Music, 450 West 37th Street, will be the site of Adamant's 2020 benefit concert, on Saturday, June 6th, at 7:30pm. The performers will be:

Alexandra Eames	Franklin Larey
Ilya Friedberg	Matt Manwarren
Elaine Greenfield	Marina Matsuta
Noah Hardaway	Janice Nimetz

Tickets, \$25, will go on sale soon.



Noah and Marina will perform on June 6th

Elton Masterclass Week: 2nd year A Huge Success

Christopher Elton's second summer of masterclasses at Adamant confirmed first impressions: he's a magnificent part of the Adamant community, and well in tune with the spirit of the place.

His 2019 class of fourteen performers featured a healthy mixture of new and returning Adamanters; camaraderie was rekindled and new friendships abounded. A number of students who attended his masterclasses in 2018 returned in 2019, and best of all, they brought friends as well. *continued on next page*

2020 Summer Schedule

Ilya Friedberg Masterclass, June 20-24
 John O'Connor Masterclass, June 28 to July 2
 Christopher Elton Masterclass, July 7-11
 Traditional Session, July 14 to August 4
 Menahem Pressler Masterclass, August 17-21

Applications are still being accepted

Elton Masterclass week, continued

The word is out, and the level was impressive. As in Dr. O'Connor's class, some students came from afar: one of Professor Elton's students from London crossed the pond. In true Adamant fashion, the age range was wide, although the average skewed younger this year due to our wunderkinds.

In the classes, we heard the gamut of the standard repertoire: a healthy serving of Bach; major works by Schumann, Liszt, and Debussy; sonatas by Mozart, Beethoven (early and late), Schubert (two in A minor), Scriabin, and Prokofiev. We heard a considerable amount of Chopin — everything from famous Ballades and Scherzi to the lesser-known Rondo, Op. 16. To cap things off, there was Fauré impromptu unfamiliar to nearly everyone — except the performer!

All these tangibles are due to Professor Elton's exceptional qualities as an artist and human being. Whether on stage at Waterside Hall or over dinner in the Dining Room, Professor Elton's charm and wit never fail to surprise, delight, enrich, and inform. His energy and generosity are second to none, offering some private lessons and leading the masterclass for as long as five hours without a break on one particularly inspired day. Professor Elton's manner as a teacher is deeply captivating, so much so that we hardly noticed the hours. He has a rare quality which he shares with just a few historic pedagogues: students tend to experience an indefinable yet unmistakable inner excitement under his mesmerizing influence.

Noah Hardaway

Christopher Elton's masterclasses will be held July 6th—10th, 2020, and applications are still being accepted.