

THE ADAMANTER

In This Issue:

- Letter from the President – *page 2*
- 2022 Summer Schedule – *page 3*
- Tributes to Past and Present Adamanters – *page 4*

Faculty Member Matthew Manwarren Named Artistic/Executive Director of Adamant Music School

In the summer of 1998 Matthew Manwarren arrived to teach piano at the Adamant Music School to fill in for faculty member Eugene Barban, who had had to cancel at the last minute. Mary Lou Francis, the Executive Director at the time, made sure to inform Matthew that the appointment was for just that one summer. To the delight of many participants since then, Matthew has taught most years in the three-week Traditional Session, and his deep association with Adamant is now in its twenty-fourth year.

During our job interview with Matthew, he noted that, “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 has certainly changed me.” We know that Matthew has a great appreciation for the history of Adamant, and especially for the vision of founder Edwine Behre and her friends to create a supportive, non-competitive community of pianists, where participants learn from excellent faculty and from their peers. We are also very pleased that beyond his musical knowledge Matthew brings many other talents to the Adamant community, including great communication skills, administrative experience in an academic environment, and strong networks within the world of musical and piano education circles.



Despite the two-year shutdown due to the pandemic, Matthew sees a bright future for Adamant. His enthusiasm shows in his comments. “For the 2022 season we have assembled a wonderful roster of world-class faculty, masterclass artists, and an artist-in-residence for the programs at Adamant this summer.” He has also made clear that he is also looking beyond 2022 and to working with the Board to expand Adamant’s program offerings, and to widening the pool of excellent faculty who are the backbone of the three-week Traditional Session. Matthew sums it all up by saying, “Together, I think we will do great things at Adamant.”

Letter from the President

As I have tackled my new role with the Adamant Music School these past three months, I have had a sense of growing excitement about the future of this beloved place. In particular, the board and I are very pleased to be making great progress towards reopening.



Among our most crucial achievements toward this future is the appointment of Dr. Matthew Manwarren as our Artistic Director. Matt has already established a good working relationship with the Board and has provided valuable advice to all of us. His good humor and deep love and concern for the school makes him among our most valuable assets.

Another achievement is that we have put together a plan to complete necessary and substantial work on several of our buildings prior to the summer sessions, with the goal of making them as pleasant, safe, and livable as possible.

We have organized seven weeks of exciting programs this summer, including four masterclass weeks as well as our three-week “Traditional Session”. Please check our website for details on the impressive resumes of each of our artist-teachers, and the specifics of the various classes within our summer programs.



I am looking forward to seeing all of you this summer!

With best wishes to everyone,

ALEX



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

Our thanks go to . . .

Franklin Larey, who has served as the Coordinator of the Traditional session since 2007. Franklin has stepped down as our Coordinator so that he can spend more time in his administrative duties as Director of the School of Music at Illinois Wesleyan University. He has agreed to serve as a member of the rotating faculty in the Traditional Session and will be at Adamant in the summer of 2022. We are grateful for his calm and steady leadership over these many years, and we are happy he will remain a part of the Adamant community.

Sandra Heikel, as First Vice-President, was an essential part of the team that kept Adamant going during this transitional period. Her association with Adamant goes back several decades, however. Sandra served as the Executive Director, as well as the coordinator of many of the Pressler masterclass weeks. Her understanding of every aspect of how the School ran provided crucial information for the Board as we began the transition. Sandra was instrumental in bringing Matt Manwarren on as our Artistic/Executive Director.

Esther Wang, has served as Coordinator for several of our masterclass sessions in years past. Her supportive and light-hearted personality has been a wonderful asset to our community. In addition to serving as the Interim Coordinator during the summer of 2019, she has taught in the Traditional Session for over a decade. We are also glad that she will remain a part of the rotating faculty in the Traditional Session in future years.



In memoriam: Frank Suchomel and Mary Lou Francis

The Adamant Family was sad to learn that our longtime President, Frank Suchomel, passed away last Fall in Honolulu.

The Adamant family lost one of our most beloved members with the passing of Mary Lou Francis on Sept. 23, 2021. She served as Director of the Adamant Music School from 1984 to 1998, and is remembered for her wise leadership, good humor, innate musicality and personal warmth. She introduced the week of master classes with Menachem Pressler.

For more than 30 years, Mary Lou was Associate Director of the Third Street Music School Settlement in New York City. As a steadfast advocate for children, she ensured that music lessons were accessible to children of all walks of life. At Adamant she nurtured the ideals of founder Edwine Behre, supporting "a wonderful, small, unpretentious, cooperative, supportive school for pianists." For a complete obituary, [click here](#).