

# CONVENTION ARTISTS AND PRESENTERS



**Katrin Arefy** is the founder and artistic director of the Golden Key Piano School in Berkeley. Katrin received

her Bachelor and Master degrees in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from the Gnessin School of Music in Moscow. She also holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Painting from Azad University in Tehran. Katrin is the author of *A Thousand Stories for A Little Pianist* and the series titled *My First Piano Book*. She translated Anna Artobolevskaya's *First Meet with the Music* and Heinrich Neuhaus' *The Art of Piano Playing* from Russian to Farsi. Her lectures on the Russian methods have been well received at the University of Oregon, Ohio University, and the Music Teachers' Association of California Convention. Katrin is a member of the Music Teachers' Association of California. Her very first students are now professional pianists who are graduating from some of the finest music universities in Austria and Armenia.

**Dr. Charles Ashe** has appeared as a recitalist, concerto soloist and chamber musician throughout the



US, Russia, Asia, and South America. Concert venues have included the historic Rachmaninoff Hall at the Moscow Conservatory and Carnegie Hall, to name a few. Originally from Miami, Florida, Dr. Ashe began his early studies with Peggy Neighbors Erwin. He later studied at the University of Texas with John Perry. He was a member of piano faculties at the Interlochen Center for the Arts, the Claremont Colleges, and the International Institute for Young Musicians. He is currently Senior Lecturer in Piano at the

University of California at Santa Barbara. Dr. Ashe's current and former students have won various competitions, including the Leni Fe Bland Scholarship auditions and the Bronze Medal at the 1993 Van Cliburn International Competition. In addition, his former students are currently serving as piano faculties at many well-known universities throughout the US.



A graduate of the Eastman School of Music with an M.M. in Performance and Literature (Piano), **Nancy Bachus** is an internationally

known clinician and teacher. A student of pianists Eugene List, Fernando Lares and the accompanist Brooks Smith, she has recently presented workshops in North America, Asia, the United Kingdom, and Australia. Nancy has an independent studio in Ohio, is on the adjunct piano faculty of Cleveland State University and is also the Associate Editor for Repertoire and Performance for *Clavier Companion*.

**Lori Bastien** began piano lessons with her mother at the age of 4. She received her Bachelor of Music degree in piano



performance from Rice University. Currently, Lori teaches both private and group lessons to students of all ages in her home studio. She enjoys composing fun, motivational music and has coauthored the series *Bastien Piano for Adults*, and *Bastien's Invitation to Music*, with her mother, Jane Smisor Bastien, and her sister, Lisa Bastien. Lori, her husband Eric Vickers, and their two children Abby and Riley live in La Jolla, California. Lori writes a blog which can be found

at [bastienpiano.blogs.com](http://bastienpiano.blogs.com), which gives the reader an inside look into Lori's private piano studio.

A composer, arranger, clinician and teacher, **Melody Bober** enjoys creating motivational piano pieces that foster her students' understanding and love of music. She holds music degrees from the University of Illinois-Urbana and Minnesota State University. Melody's dynamic sessions are enriched by her experience as a studio owner, classroom teacher and church musician.



**Ronald M. Borczon**, MT-BC, has 30 years of clinical experience in music therapy. In 1984, he



founded the music therapy department at Cal State Northridge. He is also the Director of the CSUN Music Therapy Wellness Clinic and currently Department Chair. In 1995, Borczon conducted a special workshop on Music Therapy and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder for therapists in Oklahoma City after the Oklahoma City bombing. Borczon also assisted in the planning of music therapy interventions for the students of Columbine and Santee High School shootings. He also did work in south Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina. In 1994, he received the Presidential Award from the President of the National Association for Music Therapy for work done following the 1994 Northridge, California earthquake. In 2006 he received the Award of Merit from the American Music Therapy Association, the highest award given by the Association for accomplishments in music therapy.



**Susan Bruckner** is a pianist with degrees from the Eastman School of Music, New School for Music Study, and

the San Francisco Conservatory. Her teachers include Frances Clark, Jerome Lowenthal and Paul Hersch. She lives in Santa Cruz, is head of the piano department at Cabrillo College, and is author of *The Whole Musician: A Multi-Sensory Guide to Practice, Performance & Pedagogy*. Susan has given workshops on the topics of learning styles, group teaching, and developmental stages for musicians throughout the U.S. and in Europe. She performs regularly with the Santa Cruz Chamber Players.

**Michael Delfin** is currently both a Bachelor of Music student at the Peabody Conservatory of Music

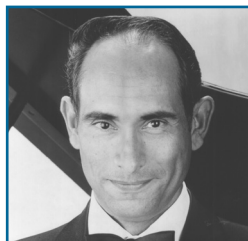


(where he studies piano with Boris Slutsky and composition with Judah Adashi), and a Bachelor of Arts in History student at the Johns Hopkins University. An avid solo and collaborative performer on both the East and West Coasts he made his solo debut with the EMF Young Artists Orchestra under Eric Garcia performing Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 2, which was lauded as a "beautiful performance of great warmth." He has performed in master classes and privately for many celebrated artist-teachers including Leon Fleisher, Joseph Kalichstein, Yoheved Kaplinsky, Jon Nakamatsu, John O'Connor, John Perry, and Pascal Rogé. His interest in chamber music led him to be a founding member of the trio 'Inuendi' which took first prize in the Levine Chamber Music Competition, and subsequently performed at the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage and the Bulgarian Embassy in Washington D.C.

**Gavin English** is the General Manager of the Steinway Piano Gallery in West Hollywood. A former private piano instructor and high school music teacher, English is a graduate of the Berklee College of Music. Gavin began his career at Steinway Hall on 57th Street in New York City and went on to manage the Steinway Piano Gallery of New Jersey, before opening the new Steinway Piano Gallery in West Hollywood which is the first Steinway Factory owned showroom on the West Coast.

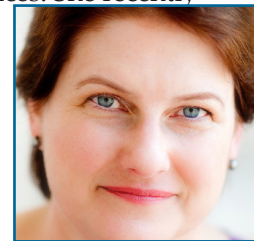


**Charles Fierro** is an accomplished pianist, teacher, professor, author and music reviewer. He has worked



with many legendary musicians including Nadia Boulanger, who personally invited him to perform in the 1976 American Bicentennial Recital at the Palace of Fontainebleau in France. Fierro has a wealth of highly acclaimed recordings to his credit including the piano works of Aaron Copland which was made under the auspices of the composer himself. Fierro has made concert tours for the National Endowment for the Arts and the California Arts Council and has given more than 25 concerto performances with orchestras. He has appeared twice at the National Gallery of Art and the Dumbarton Oaks Foundation in Washington, D.C. Currently a Professor Emeritus of Piano at California State University Northridge, where he received the Distinguished Teaching Award, Fierro holds a Doctorate of Music "with Distinction" from the University of Southern California.

Pianist **Diane Hidy** is known for her expertise in writing music for students with ADD and other learning differences. She recently presented at the 2014 MTNA Conference in Chicago.



Her **Attention Grabbers**

are *National Federation of Music Clubs'* selections for 2014–16 and her **Sight Reading Flashcards** are downloaded hundreds of times each week. With Keith Snell, she co-wrote **Piano Town**, a method series for beginning piano students. Besides her 40+ recordings of piano teaching repertoire, her most recent recording was with Jane Bastien on Bastien's newest **Piano Literature, Volume 6**. Diane made her Carnegie Hall debut following her studies with John Perry and Leon Fleisher. Diane was the first woman Fellow of the American Pianist Association and won the national MTNA Collegiate Artist Award. She attended Julliard and holds music degrees from the USC and Peabody. Diane lives in San Francisco with her husband and two children.

**John S. Hord, M.A.**, is active as a performer and an educator. His performances have occurred throughout



the United States and many foreign countries. Mr. Hord has been a member of the music faculty at Fresno City College since 1990. Also, he is a member of the Music Teachers' Association of California and has served twice as President of the Fresno County Branch. Mr. Hord had the privilege of studying piano with Dr. Bob L. Bennett of California State University, Fresno and Dr. Robert Pace of Columbia University, New York. Dr. Bennett was a student of Karl Friedberg who had studied with Clara Schumann and Johannes Brahms. Dr. Pace was a student of Josef and Rosina Lehvinne.

In addition to being an adjudicator and a composer, Mr. Hord presents workshops on a variety of subjects including: *The Intermediate Piano Literature of Franz Liszt* and *Ineffable Beauty - French Music*.

### Jade Huang

is currently a third-year undergraduate at the Johns Hopkins University and the Peabody Institute where she is pursuing a double major in computer science and piano performance. Recently, she was a finalist in the Sixth New York International Piano Competition, & was awarded third prize in the Classical Masters Music Festival Competition. Aside from music, Huang was a software intern with the Mobile Communications Group Customer Technology Solutions Atom Processor Tablet Debug group at Intel in the summer of 2013. Jade is originally from Granite Bay, California, where she studied with Sylvia Hsieh and Tien Hsieh. She was a VOCE winner as a member of the Epos Trio in 2011, was on Public Radio's program From the Top, and was a MTAC Young Artist Guild member class of 2010.



**Fred Karpoff** is the winner of the Frances Clark Keyboard Pedagogy



Award for *The 3-D Piano Method*, a whole-body approach to piano playing and teaching, currently in use in thirty

countries worldwide. He presents workshops and master classes throughout North America, including as guest artist at many state MTA conferences and as presenter at MTNA and NCKP. In March 2014, he unveiled his new online video resource for teachers and students, *Entrada Piano Technique*. Fred has served on the faculties of the Peabody Conservatory, University of Maryland

at Baltimore County, and as Visiting Professor at the Eastman School of Music. In 2013, he lived in Strasbourg, France, where he led SUAbroad's music program in conjunction with the Conservatoire de Strasbourg. He is Professor of Piano at Syracuse University. Fred Karpoff is a Steinway Artist and a former Artistic Ambassador for the U.S. Information Agency. [www.entradapiano.com](http://www.entradapiano.com)

### Forrest Kinney,

NCTM, has taught music for 35 years. He is the author of 19 books, including the *Pattern Play* series on improvisation and the *Chord Play* series on arranging. His book *Creativity—Beyond Compare* explores common misconceptions about creativity. Forrest has given hundreds of presentations for music educators throughout North America and Europe on the Four Arts of Music: improvising, arranging, composing, and interpreting. Other topics have included performance anxiety, piano technique, theory, songwriting, and music history. Forrest has performed 21 times at the home of Bill Gates. He has given many solo and collaborative concerts, including one with a singer that was entirely improvised. Aside from performing, Forrest also composes and arranges his own music. He recently published *World Songs*, two collections of original art songs. His arrangements have been included in dozens of publications. In addition, he created a website to share his own piano compositions.



**Dr. Vivian I-Miao Liu** is a versatile collaborative pianist. She has worked with the Long Beach Opera, Los Angeles Opera, Opera Pacific, Boys Choir of Harlem, Calico Winds, California Quartet, Pacific Symphony,



Redlands Bowl, Riverside Philharmonic, Pokorny Low Brass Seminar and many others. She

collaborated with major philharmonic orchestras and symphonies in Chicago, Los Angeles, Pacific, San Diego, San Francisco, Shanghai, and Vienna, as well as with singers from major operas in Baltimore, Bayerische Staatsoper, Los Angeles and New York. She also performed in Taiwan, Russia, Austria and the U.S., and appeared on radio and television. She received a DMA in keyboard collaborative arts from USC and has given lectures at the Tainan National University of Arts in Taiwan. She was also asked to adjudicate competitions at the MTAC and SYMF. Currently she is on the faculty at the Chapman University and principal rehearsal pianist with the National Children's Chorus.

### Dr. Janet Lopinski,

Director of Academic Programs at the Royal Conservatory, has performed as soloist and collaborative pianist, and has presented lectures, workshops and master classes across North America, Europe and Korea. She is a graduate of the Royal Conservatory (ARCT gold medalist), University of Toronto (Bachelor of Music) and University of Cincinnati (Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts). She has taught piano, piano pedagogy, music history and theory at the Royal Conservatory and is co-author of the music history handbook "Explorations", published by the Frederick Harris Music Company. Dr. Lopinski is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Canadian Chopin Society.



**Jerome Lowenthal**, born in 1932, continues to fascinate audiences with a youthful intensity and eloquence born of life-experience. Mr. Lowenthal studied with Olga Samaroff-Stokowski, William Kapell, Edward Steuermann, Alfred Cortot,



and Artur Rubinstein. Having won three international competitions, he then moved to Jerusalem where he played, taught and lectured for three years. He made his debut with the New York Philharmonic in 1963. Since then, he has performed quite extensively, appearing as soloist with conductors including Barenboim, Ozawa, Slatkin, Leonard Bernstein, Eugene Ormandy, and Pierre Monteux. He has also collaborated with Itzhak Perlman, Ursula Oppens, the Lark, Avalon and Shanghai Quartets. Mr. Lowenthal has also taught for 22 years at the Juilliard School. His recordings include concerti by Tchaikovsky and Liszt, solo works by Sinding and Bartok, opera paraphrases by Liszt and Busoni, and chamber-music by Arensky and Taneyev. Recently, he recorded the complete Annees de Pelerinage by Franz Liszt.

**Elissa Milne** is an Australian composer, teacher, pianist, writer and presenter. She has studied composition,



education, arts administration, performance studies and semiotics (University of Auckland, University of Sydney, University of Technology Sydney), is an award-winning song-writer, composed for musical theatre and has created conceptual art works. She established a private piano teaching studio in Sydney in 1989, and provides professional development for piano teachers in Australia. Her piano, cello, and trumpet compositions are included in syllabi for ABRSM, Trinity College, Australian Music Examination Board, and the London College of Music. She has created innovative repertoire collections for AMEB and Hal Leonard Australia. She speaks regularly at conferences in Australia and is a key contributor and consultant to the Australian "Piano Teacher Magazine." She is a member of the NCKP independent studio teachers committee, recently serving on two panels at NCKP 2013. Her

piano compositions are published by UK Faber Music.



**Mitchell Newman** began playing in the second violin section of the Los Angeles Philharmonic in 1987. In 1991 he

moved to the first violin section and has remained there until the present day. He also is active in performing with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Chamber Music Series and the Green Umbrella Series which features new music performances. Besides a private teaching schedule, he is the founder and director of Hilltop Boot Camp; and orchestra audition preparation course. Newman also gave adjunct private lessons for Pepperdine University until 2010. Mr. Newman attended the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia.

**Bryan Pezzone** has been a freelance performing and recording artist in the Los Angeles area since 1987. He is known as a versatile performer who is comfortable in classical, contemporary and improvisational styles. He performs with composers and musicians as diverse as Pierre Boulez, John Williams, and John Adams; and records on countless film and television soundtracks. He is the pianist in the group Free Flight, a crossover classical/jazz quartet, where these concerts feature many of his own compositions. Bryan has been principal pianist in the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra from its inception in 1991-1999 as well as the former chair and founder of the Multi-focused keyboard department at the California Institute of the Arts from 1987-2000. He abandoned both those positions in order to discover new paths. He is passionate about continuously redefining himself and his role as an artist, musician,



and person in today's complex and eclectic culture.

**Dr. Dmitry Rachmanov** is a Professor of Piano at California State University, Northridge, where he serves as Chair of Keyboard Studies. Dr. Rachmanov has served on the faculties of Manhattan School of Music and Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University, and has appeared



as a guest artist, masterclass clinician and lecturer at schools such as UCLA, University of Chicago, Indiana University, University of Michigan, University of Washington, University of Iowa, Tulane University, Royal Northern College of Music (UK), Shanghai Conservatory, Shanghai Normal University, and Beijing Central Music School. Rachmanov has been heard at venues such as New York's Carnegie Hall, Washington DC's Kennedy Center, and in major halls throughout North America and Europe. He has recorded for Naxos, Parma, Master Musicians and Vista Vera labels. Dmitry Rachmanov is a graduate of The Juilliard School and he holds the DMA from Manhattan School of Music.

**James Ramos** is an educator, idea developer, and consultant focused on optimizing individual and organizational performance. His specialties include Classical and Jazz/Contemporary styles, Collaborative Piano, Improvisation, Composition, and Pedagogy. He received Piano Performance degrees from the University of Redlands (B.M.) and the University of Arizona (M.M.). He pursued advanced doctoral work at the University of Arizona, and studied in Salzburg, Austria. In addition, Ramos earned a Master of Public Administration at CSU, Northridge. He has served as Coordinator of Piano



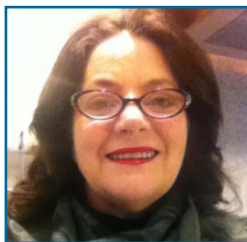
Accompanying at CSU Bakersfield, and Piano Instructor and Musical Director for the Opera Program at the University of Arizona, where he was nominated for teacher of the year. At the University of Redlands, Ramos was named " Performer of the Year." He has served as an officer and board member at the Branch and State level in MTAC, and the California Association of Professional Music Teachers (CAPMT).

**Keith Porter-Snell** is a pianist, piano teacher, and writer of educational music for piano students. He



received Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in Piano Performance from the University of Southern California, where he was a student of John Perry. After winning the Joanna Hodges International Piano Competition in 1984 he withdrew from the concert stage in 1988 after being diagnosed with focal dystonia, and focused on expanding his teaching studio at the same time becoming a highly successful editor, author, and composer of educational piano music for the Kjos Music Company, and founder and owner of Academy Records. His music books and CDs are ranked among the most popular teaching resources on the market today. He returned to the concert stage in 2006 as a left handed pianist, discovering an intensely gratifying new journey of music making. Keith is a Steinway artist.

An accomplished teacher, performer and author **Dr. Janet Soller** studied with Julio Esteban at the Peabody Conservatory and Marjorie Clementi at the Royal Northern Music Conservatory in England. She earned a doctorate from American University in Washington, DC and has performed in the US and



England winning several scholarships including awards from Rotary International and the Leopold Schlepp Foundation. Dr. Soller has taught music on both the east and west coasts working with piano students of all ages from Pre Kindergarten to college level and beyond. Dr. Soller is a published author in the fields of music education, the gifted and talented arena, and educational program management and has presented at state, national and international conferences in fields of education, gifted research, and music. She is highly sought after as a festival and competition judge.

Past-President of the West Los Angeles Branch of the MTAC and current member of the Santa Monica Bay Branch,



**Alpha Walker**, graduated with honors from the Eastman School of Music where she majored in both oboe and piano. As a chamber musician she has collaborated with members of major orchestras in the US and was accompanist for Jean-Pierre Rampal master classes in France and the Martha Graham Dance Studio in New York. With her husband, David Weiss, she formed a chamber duo known as DnA, maintaining a busy performing schedule including a six concert tour of Costa Rica and performances on several cruise ships. In addition, she is the composer of the 1997 off-Broadway musical 'The Great American Singing Commercial' which played to capacity audiences and received rave reviews. In great demand as a teacher, Alpha is well known for her innovative teaching methods effective both for children and adults.

**Karen Wallace** earned her Bachelor of Music from Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas and her Master of Education



in Music from the University of Houston, and has maintained a piano studio since 1981. She currently runs successful group piano lessons for ages 3-6 in the Houston area. Alongside her teaching commitments she is a publisher and co-owner of Alpha Major™, a publishing house dedicated to music education products, teacher resources, and print music. Alpha Major's piano duets were selected for inclusion in the *Federation Festivals Bulletin 2014-2015-2016*, a rare accomplishment for a new, small publishing house. Ms. Wallace is President-Elect of the Texas Music Teachers Association (TMTA) and in that role was responsible for the 2013 TMTA Convention in Dallas. Currently, she is responsible for the 2014 TMTA Convention in Houston. In 2003, Ms. Wallace was named TMTA Teacher of the Year.

Pianist **Micah Yui** made her solo recital debut in Canada at age ten and her orchestral debut two



years later. She is the recipient of three consecutive Canada Council Grants, two Ontario Arts Council Grants, the Alberta Achievement Award, and the Edmonton Civic Award. Micah is a top prizewinner of the Frinna Awerbach International Piano Competition, Yale Gordon, Harrison Winter, and Canadian Music Competitions. Micah has appeared as soloist with the Montreal Metropolitan Orchestra and the Syracuse, Edmonton, and Victoria Symphonies. She has also performed with Paul Coletti, Daniel Heifetz, James Dunham, Jacques Israelivitch, and the St. Lawrence String Quartet, to name a few. Micah holds degrees from the Juilliard School, Peabody Conservatory, the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto and the University of Toronto. Her recording with the London Symphony Orchestra was "Record of the Year" by *Stereophile Magazine*. Micah is currently on the faculty at The Colburn School. 🎵