



Arizona State Music Teachers Association

JAMES R. ANTHONY
HONORS RECITAL
SATURDAY, MAY 29, 2021



VIRTUAL WINNERS CONCERT

JAMES R. ANTHONY HONORS RECITAL

Elementary 1

Nocturne in C-sharp Minor, Op. posth. *Frederic Chopin*

Katherine Peng, 1st

Teacher – Sherin Moustafa

*Pee-Yaw Lim Wilkes Endowment Award Recipient

Le petit nègre *Claude Debussy*

Austin Fan, 2nd

Teacher – Yuerong Gong

Partita in B-flat Major, BWV 825, Gigue *Johann Sebastian Bach*

Aiden Kaveh, 3rd

Teacher – Ji-Young Kim

Mechanical Doll, Op. 69, No. 6 *Dmitri Shostakovich*

Anna Pressé, 3rd

Teacher – Tatyana Eldridge

Elementary 2

Waltz in D-flat Major, Op. 64, No. 1 *Frederic Chopin*

Alexis Dyche, 1st

Teacher – Ji-Young Kim

*Pee-Yaw Lim Wilkes Endowment Award Recipient

Sonata in B-flat Major, K. 333, 1st mvt. *Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*

Aiden Zhou, 1st

Teacher – Tatyana Eldridge

18 Characteristic Studies, Op. 109, No. 9 and No. 17 *F. Burgmuller*

Daniel Rakes, 2nd

Teacher – Natalya Thran

Sonata in G Minor, Op. 49, No. 1, 2nd mvt. *Ludwig van Beethoven*

David Li, 3rd

Teacher – Natalya Thran

Intermediate 1

Etude-tableaux in E flat Major, Op. 33, No. 4 (7) Sergei Rachmaninoff

Justin Kang, 1st

Teacher – Snezana Krstic

*James Saverio Ruccolo Award Recipient

Lyrical Pieces, Op. 42, No. 1, “Butterfly” Edward Grieg

William Shan, 2nd

Teacher – Qingqing Ye

*Pee-Yaw Lim Wilkes Endowment Award Recipient

Sonata in A Major, K. 331, 3rd mvt Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

William You, 3rd

Teacher – Qingqing Ye

Sonata in D Minor, K. 517 Domenico Scarlatti

Chaeann Lee, 3rd

Teacher – Young Kim

Intermediate 2

Images, Book 1, Reflets dans l'eau Claude Debussy

Claire Xu, 1st

Teacher – Snezana Krstic

Sonatina in F-sharp Minor, 3rd mvt. Maurice Ravel

Bryan Zhang, 1st

Teacher – Kyungsun Choi

*Pee-Yaw Lim Wilkes Endowment Award Recipient

24 Jazz Preludes, Op. 53, No. 23 and No. 9 Nikolai Kapustin

Brayden Wagner, 2nd

Teacher – Natalya Thran

*James Saverio Ruccolo Award Recipient

Ballade No. 2 in F Major, Op. 38 Frederic Chopin

Daniel Kang, 3rd

Teacher – Snezana Krstic

Advanced 1

Jeux d'eau

Maurice Ravel

Hanna Lui, 1st

Teacher – Ji-Young Kim

*Pee-Yaw Lim Wilkes Endowment Award Recipient

Piano Sonata in D Minor, Op. 14, 1st mvt. Sergei Prokofiev

Asuka Firdaus, 2nd

Teacher – Snezana Krstic

*James Saverio Ruccolo Award Recipient

Sonata in C-sharp Minor, Hob. XVI: 36, 1st mvt. Joseph Haydn

Abigail Jung, 3rd

Teacher – Ji-Young Kim

The Lark Mikhail Glinka/Mily Balakirev

Noelle Chang, 3rd

Teacher – Tatyana Eldridge

Advanced 2

Sonata in F Minor, Op. 57, 3rd mvt. Ludwig Van Beethoven

Damian Galasso, 1st

Teacher – Ji-Young Kim

Nocturne in E Major, Op. 62, No. 2 Frederic Chopin

Sharon Hui, 2nd

Teacher – Mandarin Cheung-Yueh

*Pee-Yaw Lim Wilkes Endowment Award Recipient

Jeux d'eau Maurice Ravel

Jisue Choi, 3rd

Teacher – Kyungsun Choi

*James Saverio Ruccolo Award Recipient

Piano Sonata in D minor, Op. 14, 4th mvt. Sergei Prokofiev

Tianwei Zhao, 3rd

Teacher – Qingqing Ye

James Saverio Ruccolo Award

Few people arrived in mid-to-late 20th Century America equipped to accept the title of the complete musician more than James Saverio Ruccolo. Born in Akron, Ohio, James displayed exceptional gifts in music from early childhood, playing accordion, clarinet, and trombone. The piano and its potential particularly captured his heart and mind at age 13, and the synergy they produced was wonderful to behold. His talent matured into extraordinary skills in both the classical and jazz genres. He played with equal skill, respect and insight, with dazzling technique and musical prowess received by enthusiastic audience applause. His skills as a classical pianist and jazz artist are well documented with rave reviews throughout career performances and recordings. His distinctive interpretations of jazz improvisation were living affirmations of his opinion that jazz was meant to be played freely at the moment of conception, rather than as a learned skill such as in classical music literature. He stated that jazz required playing this style of music spontaneously, while it was actually being created. In addition to piano and jazz performance, he wrote music in several composition genres. Collectively, they express a unique combination of his life-experiences, his education and tremendous gifts as a creative person. Each composition allows the listener to intimately know this man as a complete musician and creator.

James' musical curiosity and probing intellect emerged and expanded, leading to world-class educational opportunities and culminating in an impressive list of achievements in performance, composition, and teaching. Most notably, his education included an Eastman School of Music Bachelors Degree in Music as a Rochester National Scholar, graduating second in his class. He then earned a Masters Degree in Music Composition, Summa Cum Laude, from Arizona State university, followed by a Doctorate in Musical Arts Degree in Piano, Summa Cum Laude, as a National Defense Education Act Fellow from the University of Arizona. Dr. Ruccolo's education further included study with many notable piano artist teachers such as Grant Johannesen, Cicile Genhart, Jose Echaniz, Armand Basile, Dalles Franz, and Ozan Marsh, along with published composition teachers Clifton Williams, Robert Muzynski, and Grant Fletcher.

Dr. Ruccolo held the position of Artist-in-Residence and Music Program Director at Prescott College for four years. Until his death in 1985, he served as Professor of Music in Piano at Arizona State University. During his tenure, he taught piano majors, served as a Coordinator of Keyboard Studies, and conducted state and national master classes, adjudicated piano competitions, performed and recorded from live concerts. James Ruccolo's success in performance, recording, and composition, enhanced by an appointment as an Artist representative of the United States Cultural Embassy Department, are living proof that he learned from others while relying heavily on that which is spirit-born.

The Ruccolo Award is graciously donated to the ASMTA Honors Recital by Dr. Margaret Roebke Ruccolo.

Pee-Yaw Lim Wilkes Endowment Award

Pee-Yaw Lim Wilkes was a graduate of the Royal College of Music in London, where she earned her LRSM, LRAM and ACRM diplomas.

Pee-Yaw is remembered for her wonderful talent as a concert pianist and for producing the highest caliber, competitive level students. She was also much sought after as a piano adjudicator and as a national and international piano pedagogue and lecturer.

She held many leadership roles such as: Northern Arizona Music Teachers Association president, Arizona State Music Teacher Association president, and Music Teachers National Association Southwest Division president. These organizations honored her with many awards including a Music Teachers National Association 50- Year Member Award and the Arizona State Music Teachers Association Honorary Lifetime Member Award.

The Pee-Yaw Lim Wilkes Endowment Award has been established to promote support and encouragement to promising, up and coming talented young pianists.

Meet the Adjudicators



Cathal Breslin

Cathal Breslin has been praised worldwide as one of the most exciting pianists of his generation with critical acclaim such as “superb intensity and passion” (Cleveland Plain Dealer, Ohio), “energized and energizing” (Belfast Telegraph, N. Ireland), “a deep connection to the music” (Tampa Oracle, Florida), and “noble poetry...perfumed pianissimo (The Independent, London). Born in Derry, Northern Ireland, he has performed solo recitals in major concert halls throughout Europe, U.S., and Asia, such as Carnegie Hall in New York, Wigmore Hall in London, Kumho Hall in Seoul, and the National Center for the Performing Arts in Beijing.

Recent solo concerto performances have included Rachmaninov, Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev, Beethoven, Mozart, Takemitsu, Poulenc and Liszt Concerti with the RTE National Symphony Orchestra, BBC Ulster Orchestra, Greensboro Symphony NC, Jackson Symphony TN, Turin Philharmonic, Memphis Symphony, and the RTE Concert Orchestra.

As a chamber musician, Cathal has performed extensively with flutist Sir James Galway, soprano Measha Brueggergosman, violinists Augustin Dumay, Anne Akiko Meyers, Dmitry Sitkovetsky, cellists Jan Vogler, Jeffrey Zeigler, Raphael Wallfisch, the Houston Symphony Winds, and the Brodsky, Ceruti and Coull Quartets. He is a regular member of Trio Festivale, a flute-cello-piano ensemble that tours and commissions new works internationally.

In 2008, Cathal and his wife, flutist Dr. Sabrina Hu, created the Walled City Music Festival in Derry, N. Ireland, which has regenerated music with its concerts and outreach activities in the region. Now entering its 13th year, WCM has become one of the most successful arts organizations and festivals, with past Artists such as the Kronos Quartet, the Bang On a Can All-Stars, Ulster Orchestra, the Labèque Sisters, and Jeremy Denk. In 2019, they introduced a new annual WCM International Piano Festival and Competition, which has now become an online competition since 2020.

Cathal moved to the U.S. as an Ireland-U.S. Fulbright Scholar, where he received a DMA Degree from the University of Michigan, studying with Arthur Greene. His earlier studies were from the Royal College of Music in London, the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, the Real Conservatorio Superior in Madrid, and the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin. Cathal is currently an Associate Professor of Piano at Arizona State University in Phoenix/Tempe, Arizona. In 2020, he signed as an exclusive Yamaha Artist, and released a new album entitled “Mirage” – an album of Romantic piano works that create musical illusions of landscapes and fantasies, reflecting light and color.



Christina Eide

Dr. Christina Eide is highly in demand as a chamber musician and soloist. She currently heads piano studies at Glendale Community College, coordinating the class piano program and teaching the piano majors. Dr. Eide has performed with Crossing 32nd Street, a chamber ensemble that specializes in contemporary music. In addition, she has performed at regional conferences of the Society of Composers, the International Alliance for Women in Music Congress, the regional and national conferences of the North American Saxophone Alliance, and the World Saxophone Conference in Montreal, Quebec. She received her Bachelor of Music degree from Capital University Conservatory of Music, winning the Most Outstanding Graduate Award. She was awarded a Masters of Music degree from the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University. While serving as a teaching assistant in piano, Dr. Eide earned her Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Arizona State University.



Andrew O'Brien

Andrew O'Brien teaches at Mesa Community College and Scottsdale Community College, near Phoenix, Arizona, where he teaches piano and music theory. He is a founding member of the Seventh Roadrunner Ensemble, which is on the teaching roster of the Arizona Commission on the Arts. Andrew has appeared in recital at Boston College, Dartmouth College, University of New Hampshire and as soloist with the Nashua (NH), North Valley and San Tan (AZ) Chamber Orchestras, and the Scottsdale Concert Band. He performs frequently in solo and chamber music performances throughout the Phoenix area.

Andrew received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in piano performance at Arizona State University where he studied with Robert Hamilton. He received a Bachelor of Music degree from the Chicago Musical College of Roosevelt University where he studied with Robert McDowell and Pawel Checinski. Andrew received a Master of Music degree from the New England Conservatory, studying piano with Gabriel Chodos and chamber music with Benjamin Zander. For a number of years, he studied privately in New York City with Karl Ulrich Schnabel.

Prior to relocating to Arizona in 2000, Andrew was on staff at St. Paul's School and Concord Community Music School, both in New Hampshire, where he taught piano for 12 years. He is a member of the College of Examiners of the Royal Conservatory of Toronto, Canada. Andrew lives in the Phoenix area with his wife Debbie and their seven cats.



Svetlana Obregon Saens

A co-founder and owner of Ostinato Conservatory, Svetlana enjoys a successful career as a pianist, collaborative artist, and educator. A prizewinner of many international competitions, including International Music Festival "Musica Classica" in Ruza, Russia and the 6th International Competition "Music Without Limits" in Lithuania, she has been heard in recitals and concerts across the world. In addition to her solo accomplishments, Svetlana has been active in chamber music, working with many distinguished artists on two continents. A recipient of Honorable Award for Excellence in Performance and High Professional Achievements as a collaborative artist and teacher, Svetlana received Best Accompanist Award at the Sixth Open Russian Art Song Competition held in city of Vladimir in Russia in 2010, as well as First Prize at the Seventh Annual Chamber Music Competition held in Bowling Green State University in 2013. Her principal teachers include Paul Ostrovsky, Robert Hamilton, Galina Blagovidova, Ellina Vlasova, and Robert Satterlee.

Passionate about giving her knowledge in music and music education, Svetlana has been teaching for more than twenty years both in Russia and United States, guiding her students to a deeper understanding of the art of music. She was on faculty at ASU School of Music and is working at ASU Community Music School (former ASU Music Preparatory Program). Svetlana has served on the jury panel for many piano competitions and examinations, including Dean & Carolyn Elder Piano Competition, ASMTA State Honors Recitals, PMTA Fall Festival and Competition, and Arizona Study Program among others. In her teaching approach, Svetlana considers the individuality of each student and provides the most complete and diverse education. She believes that technical issues should be solved based on the musical goals and serve for the expression of the musical content. Svetlana's students are successful in passing ABRSM, ASP, and Royal Conservatory of Music examinations.



Vitaly Serebriakov

A co-founder and owner of Ostinato Conservatory, Vitaly is a versatile musician, teaching artist, and recording engineer. Described by internationally renowned pianist Robert Hamilton as “an outstanding pianist whose comprehensive performances blend intelligent stylistic understanding with emotional depth and strong technical prowess”, he has performed across the world in such venues as Carnegie Hall and Steinway Hall in New York City, Virginia G. Piper Theater, the Athens Conservatoire, and Dr. Hoch's Konservatorium, among many others. Vitaly is a prize winner in numerous international piano competitions, including the All–Russia Open Contest of Pianists, the 6th International Competition “Music Without Limits” in Lithuania, and the 2nd International Rachmaninov-Gesellschaft e.V. Competition in Germany. He is also a recipient of the prestigious Recognition Award for talented youth given by the Russian Ministry of Science and Education. Vitaly is a D.M.A. candidate at Arizona State University. His principal teachers include Vladimir Feltsman, Paul Ostrovsky, Robert Hamilton, Natalia Fish, and Robert Satterlee.

Vitaly was on faculty at ASU School of Music and is working at ASU Community Music School (former ASU Music Preparatory Program). He frequently participates and gives masterclasses at MTNA conferences and serves on the jury panel for many piano competitions and examinations. His students have successfully passed ABRSM, ASP, and Royal Conservatory of Music examinations, and won local and international piano competitions. Robert Hamilton noted: “Vitaly has proven to be an uncommonly successful teacher whom I regularly recommend to the very finest young talents and parents who seek my advice. He knows what is required to bring gifted pianists to the point of producing a first-rate piano sound, through the proper use of finger, hand and arm weight. Much of this comes from his thorough understanding and mastery of what is perhaps the best technical approach in the piano world, commonly known as the Russian school of piano playing.”