

MManhattan School of Music

VOCAL COACHING **REGULAR COACHES' BIOGRAPHIES — FALL 2019**

Pianist **NOBUKO AMEMIYA** has built a reputation as a dynamic and versatile collaborator; her playing is described as “soaring with a thrilling panache, and then with great warmth and suppleness.” (Valley News, VT) Equally committed to opera, artsongs and instrumental chamber music, she traveled three continents to give recitals and concerts with numerous renowned conductors and soloists such as Seiji Ozawa, James Conlon, Brian Priestman, James Dunham, Colin Carr, Rober Spano, and Lucy Shelton. An enthusiastic advocate of new music, Ms. Amemiya has worked with today’s leading composers, including John Harbison, George Crumb, Bright Sheng, Oliver Knussen and George Benjamin. Her music festival appearances include Música da Figueira da Foz in Portugal, Britten-Pears Institute at Aldeburgh Music Festival, Festival de Musique Lausanne in Switzerland, Aspen Music Festival, and Tanglewood Music Center where she was awarded Tanglewood Hooton Prize, acknowledging the “extraordinary commitment of talent and energy.” Prizes and awards include “Vittorio Gui” in Florence, Italy, the Munich International Music Competition, Manhattan School of Music President’s Award and Aldeburgh Music Festival Grant. Also active as a coach and educator, she worked for AIMS in Graz, Opera North, Aspen Music School, IIVA in Italy, Lotte Lehmann Akademie, New England Conservatory and Palazzo Ricci Akademie für Musik in Montepulciano. Ms. Amemiya currently works for the Manhattan School of Music, Prelude to Performances by Martina Arroyo Foundation, Lyric Opera Studio Weimar and Berlin Opera Academy in Germany.

Accompanist/vocal coach, **KARINA AZATYAN**, extensively collaborates with leading figures of vocal art in United States, Europe and Israel. She has developed original method of coaching singers in Russian language based on knowledge of Italian, German, French and English IPA. On a stage Ms. Azatyan was heard in concerts with soloists from New York City Opera, New Israeli Opera, Kirov Opera House, Bolshoj Theater, Vienna State Opera House and many others. Among many distinguished artists Ms. Azatyan worked with and for are Oksana Krovvytska, Dimitri Kavvakos, Richard Troxell, Angela Brown, Veronica Villaroel, Arthur Levy, Rita Shane, Catherine Malfitano, Maria Cleva (UK), Dan Ettinger (Israel), Robert Cowart, Nico Castel, James M. DeBlasis, Ljuba Kazarnovskaya (Russia), Charlie Ricker, Paolo Montarsolo (Italy), Bruno Rigacci (Italy), Svetlana Sandler (Israel), John Norris and Marc Verzatt. Ms. Azatyan has accompanied master classes with such artists as Vera Rozsa, Sherrill Milnes, Diana Soviero, Fedora Barbieri, Licia Albanese, Anna Moffo, Lucine Amara, Lauren Flanigan, Rashel Shulova, Michael Cordovana, Mignon Dunn, Martin Isepp, Martin Katz, Brian Zeger and John Wustman. She has served as accompanist and language coach for Opera Lyra in Ottawa, Dell’Arte Opera Ensemble, Virginia Opera, New Jersey Association of Verismo Opera, Israel Vocal Arts Institute, Brooklyn Youth Chorus Academy, Brooklyn College Opera Theater. Ms. Azatyan holds a Professional Studies Certificate from the Manhattan School of Music in Accompanying, a Master’s Degree from the Brooklyn College, and Artists Diploma from the Jerusalem Rubin Academy of Music and Dance in Piano Solo Performance where she also studied church organ and harpsichord. Her teachers include Warren Jones, Yelena Kurdina, Yevgeny Shenderovitch, Alexander Tamir, Yelena Galustova, Yelena Kaminskaya and

Rashel Shulova. The Opera Insider wrote about Zarzuela concert in Carnegie Hall: “*We must mention the excellent piano work of Karina Azatyan who was particularly fine accompanying Ms. Belaval in Turina’s soulful Saeta en forma de salve a la virgen de la esperanza.*” 2014

The Berkshire Review for the Arts wrote about the Carnegie Hall concert: “*the excellent piano accompaniment of Karina Azatyan.....*” 2008

SUNGAH BAEK is currently Professional Study in collaborative piano for vocal at Manhattan School of Music. She is a New York based collaborative pianist from Seoul, South Korea. She received her Master’s degrees in Collaborative Piano from Manhattan School of Music in New York City and Ewha Womans University in Seoul. Before moving to the United States, Ms. Baek won second place in the Seoul International Music Competition. Recently, Ms. Baek arranged the orchestral score for two pianos of and performed in *Le Pêcheurs de Perles* and *Così fan Tutte* in collaboration with Thomas Muraco’s studio. She has participated in numerous music festivals as fellow pianist and apprentice coach, including the Institute for Young Dramatic Voices, Ornamentation Bootcamp-Teatro Nuovo, Mark Oswald’s Summer Program, Abe Keiko & Rosauo International Marimba Camp, Yeul Voice Music Camp, and Würzburg Music Festival. She has played in master classes with Martin Katz, Thomas Hampson, Renée Fleming, Jane Glover, Patrick Summers, Susan Neves, Jennifer Lamore, Ferruccio Furlanetto, Diana Soviero, and Heikyung Hong. Last summer, she has appeared in the Aspen Music Festival as an opera coach fellow and worked for *Le nozze di figaro* in Aspen.

Vocal coach and pianist **CORY BATTEY** hails from the Pacific Northwest, where he studied music at the University of Oregon. In September of 2017, Mr. Battey joined the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music as vocal coach and répétiteur. Prior to this, he was a music staff member at Palm Beach Opera, where he served as vocal coach for the young artist program, accompanied productions, and led educational outreach programs throughout the region. In high demand as a répétiteur around the country, he has recent collaborations with Portland Opera, Opera Omaha and Wichita Grand Opera, preceded by his work with several major opera companies, including Sarasota Opera, Nashville Opera, Kentucky Opera, Mill City Summer Opera, and Shreveport Opera. Previously, Mr. Battey served on the music staff of Opera in the Ozarks for five seasons, the final two of which as head vocal coach. He has also worked with aspiring singers at the University of Memphis, Brevard Music Center, Seagle Music Colony and the Astoria Music Festival training programs. In addition to continuing his work with the Manhattan School of Music, Mr. Battey returns this fall to the music staff the National Children’s Chorus, and maintains a private coaching studio in Manhattan.

TRAVIS BLOOM is a sought after accompanist and coach in NYC. In 2012, Travis was an M.M. Voice Performance student at the illustrious Jacobs School of Music where he also studied accompanying/opera coaching with Kevin Murphy. The following year, he joined the Indiana University Ballet and Opera Theater music staff as pianist/coach for Rossini’s *Italian Girl in Algiers*, Menotti’s *The Last Savage*, Rodgers and Hammerstein’s *South Pacific*, Rossini’s *The Barber of Seville*, and J. Strauss’ *Die Fledermaus*. While at IU he accompanied numerous voice recitals,

master classes, competitions, auditions, and opera workshop productions. Prior to coaching at IU, he worked as the chorus master for the Buck Hill Skytop Music Festival (2010-2012) training opera choruses for Bizet's *Carmen* and Verdi's *La Traviata*. In the summer of 2015, Mr. Bloom served as the staff pianist for the Sankt Goar International Music Festival and Academy in Germany where he was also selected by casting director, Andreas Geier, to accompany auditions at the Baden-Baden Opera House. More recently, Travis served as a staff pianist for the Bronx Opera company and is the music director of Faith Lutheran Church in Syosset, NY. Travis has been on the coaching/accompanying staff at the Manhattan School of Music since 2017 and recently finished his second summer as a pianist/coach with the International Vocal Arts Institute.

Russian-born pianist **DIANA BORSHCHEVA** started her career nearly 15 years ago. Ms. Borshcheva won several competitions in Russia and Europe before moving to the US, including the International Piano Competition in Gorizia (Grand Prix) and the International Piano Competition by S. Moniuszko (First Award). She received her Bachelor Degree in Solo Performance from Longy School of Music of Bard College in 2016, and a Master of Music Degree in both Solo and Collaborative Piano from Cleveland Institute of Music in 2019. Voice has a special place in Diana's heart. Ms. Borshcheva has been working with singers for more than 10 years. In 2018, Diana, together with her duo partner soprano Caroline Bergan, performed during the renowned Art Song Festival in Cleveland. A vocal coach herself, Ms. Borshcheva enjoys working through vocal repertoire and improving her skills and knowledge of this art form. This past summer Ms. Borshcheva worked as a pianist and coach in Salzburg for Frost Summer Music Program. Ms. Borshcheva has just started her post-graduate study at the Manhattan School of Music, under the tutelage of esteemed pianist and vocal coach, Warren Jones.

JEREMY CHAN is an Australian pianist and vocal coach based in New York City. He has been praised as “superb, summoning about as much color as can possibly be coaxed out” (New York Classical Review).

Jeremy is currently a Vocal Arts Piano Fellow at Juilliard. Upcoming engagements include the Wigmore Hall International Song Competition with tenor, Michael St. Peter in September, 2019 as well as his New York solo debut recital, "Autumn in New York" at Lincoln Center in 2020, presented by the New York Public Library of Performing Arts and featuring the music of Vernon Duke. The 2019-20 season includes multiple appearances at Carnegie Hall, recitals in New York, and engagements with Opera America, City Lyric Opera and Choirs of America. Jeremy sat on the selection committee for the Steinway & Sons 2019 Junior Piano Competition and the American-Australian Arts Fund. He is currently on staff at the Manhattan School of Music. As a vocal coach, Jeremy has worked with singers who have won the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, been accepted to Young Artist programs at major opera houses including Covent Garden, Houston Grand Opera, L.A. Opera and prestigious conservatory programs at Yale Opera, Curtis Institute of Music and the Academy of Vocal Arts. Recent engagements include Manhattan Concert Productions, International Vocal Arts Institute (NYC), performing at the opening of Placido Domingo Hall at the National Opera Center, the 2017 China tour of Bright Sheng's *Dream of the Red Chamber* (San Francisco Opera/ Armstrong Music and Arts), appearances with the American

String Quartet, Hector del Curto Quintet, Choirs of America, and productions with Loft Opera (Otello, Le Comte Ory), Alarm Will Sound/ Opera Theatre of Saint Louis (The Hunger), Aspen Opera Center (A Wedding), Opera Upper West (La Voix Humaine), Delaware Valley Opera (Music Director for Menotti double bill). Jeremy was the official pianist for Aspen Opera Center's New York City 2016 and 2019 auditions. An active advocate for contemporary music, Jeremy has been involved in the world premieres of pieces by Yehudi Wyner, Frank Lerdahl, Bruce Saylor, Z. Randall Stroope, René Clausen while his own compositions have earned him recognition from the Fellowship of Australian Composers. Jeremy appears on the NAXOS label. Jeremy received degrees from Queens College, Manhattan School of Music and has been awarded fellowships for further training at Juilliard, Tanglewood Music Center, Georg Solti Accademia, Toronto Summer Music Festival Academy and the Vancouver International Song Institute. Follow Jeremy on [instagram.com/jeremychanpiano](https://www.instagram.com/jeremychanpiano)

MIRIAM CHARNEY – refer to MSM faculty bios at → <https://www.msmnyc.edu/faculty/>

Brazilian pianist and voice coach, **MOZART DE OLIVEIRA** is a highly sought-after musician. Enjoying a multi-faceted career, he has performed at Avery Fisher Hall, Boston Symphony Hall, Carnegie Hall as well as concert halls throughout Europe, the Middle East and South America. His students sing in major opera houses around the world, including the Vienna Staatsoper, Berlin Staatsoper, Metropolitan Opera House, Houston Grand Opera, Santa Fe Opera and San Jose Opera. As part of the faculty at Boston Conservatory, Mr. de Oliveira worked as a vocal coach before relocating to New York where he worked for several seasons as the assistant chorus master at New York City Opera. As a collaborative artist, he participated in master classes with legends such as Marilyn Horne, Ken Noda, Martin Katz, Charles Reiner and Daniel Ferro. Mr. de Oliveira currently works as a vocal coach at Manhattan School of Music, Israeli Opera House (Meitar Opera Studio) and IVAI in Tel Aviv.

JONATHAN HEANEY is a pianist, vocal coach, and conductor based in New York City. He currently serves as a staff pianist and vocal coach at Manhattan School of Music. He recently completed a year as Piano Fellow for the Vocal Arts department at the Juilliard School, and returned to Juilliard in the fall of 2018 as pianist for Juilliard Opera's production of *Turn of the Screw*. In the summer of 2019, he was a member of the coaching faculty at the Seagle Music Colony, working on productions of *Oklahoma!* and *Le Nozze di Figaro*. He spent the summer of 2018 in Italy as a pianist and coach at Opera Lucca and Classic Lyric Arts in Novafeltria. Previously, he served as a staff pianist for the Janiec Opera Company at Brevard Music Center in 2014-17 for their productions of *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Rigoletto*, *Così fan tutte*, *The Ballad of Baby Doe*, *Albert Herring*, *Don Giovanni*, and *Sweeney Todd*. He was also the assistant conductor for *Die Zauberflöte* and the world premiere of *Falling Angel* by J. Mark Scarce. As Music Director of City Lyric Opera (formerly known as ARE Opera), he led productions of *La Cenerentola*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *Roméo et Juliette*, and *L'elisir d'amore*. He earned his bachelor's degree in piano performance, *summa cum laude*, from

Washington University in St. Louis, and his master's degree in vocal accompanying from Manhattan School of Music under the tutelage of Warren Jones.

RIKO HIGUMA is a highly sought- after pianist collaborator and chamber musician, performing with the world's leading artists throughout the United States, Canada, South America, Europe, Russia and Japan. Top-prize winner at the Jacob Flier International Piano Competition and the Santa Fe International Piano Competition, Ms. Higuma has been featured in numerous music festivals around the world, including the Nagano-Aspen Music Festival, New DOCTA festival in Argentina, New Music On the Point (as a member of the American Modern Ensemble), Lidal North festival in Oslo, Stratford Summer Music in Canada and the La Jolla Music Society Summerfest in California, where her live solo performance was broadcast on NPR's Performance Today. Notably, she was one of the Young Artists for the Van Cliburn Piano Institute in Fort Worth, where she appeared with the Fort Worth Symphony under Edward Browne. Ms.Higuma's collaborations on the recital and concert stage have included distinguished artists such as Albert Markov, Alexander Markov, Neil Rosenshein, Jeffrey Solow, Cho-Liang Lin, Steven Tanenbom, Jorge Bosso, Dora Schwarzberg, Timothy Eddy, Emanuel Borok, Suren Bagratuni, Ray Chen (joining him for the South American tour) and Aaron Rosand (as part of the Gala concert for the Summit Music Festival). Recently, she collaborated with violinist Leonidas Kavakos and Alan Gilbert for the New York Philharmonic premier of Lera Auerbach concerto and also performed at the Zurich Tonhalle with the members of the Tonhalle orchestra as part of their chamber music series. As the founding member of the acclaimed Zodiac Trio, she has garnered top prizes at international competitions, including the International Peninsula Young Artist Festival, Yellow Spring Chamber Music Competition, Joyce Dutka Arts Foundation, FNAPEC Ensemble Competition, and the Cziffra Foundation audition. The Zodiac Trio has appeared in such venues and festivals as Festival Radio France Montpellier, International Colmar Festival, Ottawa Chamberfest, Edinburgh Festival, Shanghai Oriental Performing Arts Center, Beijing National Performing Arts Center, Merkin Hall and Le Poisson Rouge in New York City; Performance broadcasts include France 3 Television, Canada's CBC Radio and Television, WXQR, WGBH, and Radio France; and has given master classes in such institutions as the Boston Conservatory, Berklee College of Music, Boston University, Tufts University, Roosevelt University, University of Calgary and British Columbia in Canada, College Conservatory of Cincinnati and the Manhattan School of Music. In 2012, the Zodiac Trio has launched the Zodiac Music Academy & Festival, a two-week festival working with students from all over the world and presenting concerts in the Côte d'Azur region of the south of France. Ms.Higuma studied with Phillip Kawin at the Manhattan School of Music in New York and chamber music with the Ysaye String Quartet in their Superior Chamber Music Program at the Paris conservatory. Currently, she is on the staff pianist and vocal coach at the Manhattan School of Music.

DURA JUN, one of the most preeminent collaborative pianists and operatic vocal coaches, just had her successful debut with Sarasota Opera during the winter season as assistant conductor as well as music coach. She will be back in New York working with Dell'Arte Opera during the 2018 summer

season. Ms. Jun has served as a vocal coach at Manhattan School of Music since 2012 and has been a faculty member of the Savannah Voice Program since 2015 as well as pianist at IVAI since 2016. This past spring, she had her conducting debut with NYLOT. Currently, she works alongside world-renowned bass-baritone James Morris who enjoyed a Metropolitan Opera career spanning more than 45 years, baritone Javier Arrey who just debuted at the Met in 2017 as Shaunard, and Mignon Dunn who is a legendary Metropolitan Opera mezzo-soprano teaching at MSM and giving master class internationally. Ms. Jun has also worked with renowned baritone Thomas Hampson, Stephanie Blythe, as well as Marilyn Horne in master classes. Ms. Jun was chosen to be full-scholarship fellow in FSI in 2016 and worked with world class artists such as Elly Ameling, Helmut Deutsch, Julius Drake and Roger Vignoles. Her operatic repertoire includes: Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, *Così fan tutte*, *Die Zauberflöte*, Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore*, *Don Pasquale*, Puccini's *La Bohème*, *Tosca*, *Madama Butterfly*, Gianni Schicchi, *Suor Angelica*, Verdi's *Rigoletto*, *La Traviata*, *Un ballo in maschera*, *Il trovatore*, *Falstaff*, *Delibes' Lakmé*, Gounod's *Faust*, *Roméo et Juliette*, *d'Albert Eugen Tiefland*, Bizet's *Carmen* to J. Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*. She also has enjoyed working with the Contemporary Opera Ensemble class at MSM for over 7 years. She holds her Bachelor Degrees from Seoul National University and Masters Degrees and Professional Studies Diploma from Manhattan School of Music where she studied with Thomas Muraco.

CHUN-WEI KANG, coach/pianist, is a native of Taiwan. She has performed in concerts both as soloist and ensemble performer throughout the United States, Canada and East Asia. Ms. Kang has appeared on national Taiwanese television in recitals with violinist Long-Long Kang, was broadcast in Japan with soprano Monique McDonald, and appeared on PBS SundayArts in a showcase for rising young opera singers. She has won several awards and scholarships including the Gwendolyn Koldofsky Memorial Award, which was given to “a musician who demonstrated outstanding professionalism in collaborative piano.” She has served as staff pianist in the National Music Competition in Taiwan, Canadian Provincial Festival, the Centro Studi Italiani Opera Festival, and International Vocal Arts Institute (New York, Virginia, Puerto Rico and Montreal). A graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music with a Master's degree, Ms. Kang is a faculty member at Manhattan School of Music and Long Island University. She also serves as the Music Director for MSM's Opera Role Preparation Workshop directed by legendary mezzo-soprano Mignon Dunn, and has been the Assistant Music Director for the New Choral Society since 2007, and was the Assistant Music Director for *The Tailor of Gloucester* at Manhattan School of Music. In addition, Ms. Kang is the artistic director for two programs in Asia: Creative Voice Institute (Taiwan) and Vocal Coach Asia (Singapore). Ms. Kang has appeared on many stages including David Geffen Hall and Carnegie Hall. She has worked with internationally acclaimed masters such as Anne Epperson, Warren Jones, Nico Castel, Paul Nadler and Joan Dornemann.

ANDREW KING is a New York City based pianist and tenor. He has performed as piano soloist with the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra and the LeMoyne College String Ensemble. He has also performed several operatic roles, including Don Ramiro in *La Cenerentola* and Arsamene in *Serse*. Andrew has worked for the past seven years as a private vocal coach and music teacher in New York City and is a recent graduate of the Manhattan School of Music, where he studied with Warren

Jones. As an Apprentice Coach at the Merola Opera Program, Andrew helped prepare the world premiere of Jake Heggie's 2019 opera "If I Were You." Summer 2018 included performances as harpsichordist for *Le Nozze di Figaro* under Maestro James Conlon, Wagner's *Wesendonck Lieder*, and Barber's *Knoxville: Summer of 1915* at the Music Academy of the West. January 2018 and 2019 saw Andrew at Carnegie Hall as an accompanist for The Song Continues and SongStudio, with masterclasses taught by Renée Fleming, Marilyn Horne, and Graham Johnson. Andrew holds a Bachelor's Degree in Vocal Performance from the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati. He will only be coaching at MSM for the first semester of 2019.

ROBERT KOPELSON has appeared as piano soloist, collaborator, chamber musician and conductor on four continents for as many decades. He has worked with such distinguished musicians as Itzhak Perlman, Dorothy DeLay, Janos Starker, Cho-liang Lin, Robert McDuffie, Joel Smirnoff, Paul Doktor, Felix Galimir, Renata Scotto, Christa Ludwig, Anna Moffo, Roberta Peters, John Aler, Heidi Grant Murphy, Hugues Cuénod, Evelyn Lear, Jan de Gaetani, Alexander Kipnis, Lotte Lenya, Eleanor Steber, Jennie Tourel, Pierre Bernac and Tito Gobbi. He has been an assisting artist with the Martina Arroyo Foundation, the Opera Theatre and Music Festival of Lucca, the Daniel Ferro Vocal Program (Greve in Chianti, Italy), Carnegie Hall Presentations, the Spoleto Vocal Institute, and festivals such as Aspen and Tanglewood. He has taught at the Yale and Syracuse University Schools of Music, Loyola-New Orleans, New York, Seoul City, Sook-Myung Women's and Seoul National Universities, the Mannes College of Music and the Sweelinck Conservatorium Amsterdam. Since 2001 he has been on the Related Vocal Studies faculty of MSM. Also refer to MSM faculty bios at → <https://www.msmnyc.edu/faculty/>

Born in Seoul, **HOHYEON KYUNG** is a sought after music coach, contemporary and traditional classical and composer based in New York City. He has been making his unique career as a collaborative pianist, organist, and conductor, communicating with various musicians. He always tries to analyze the music of the origin by finding text and musical ideas, as in the compositional sight its lead to more be naturally musical as it is. Mr. Kyung received his Professional Studies from Bachelors of Arts degree in music from Yonsei University, where he also studied composition with Sung-Hyun Yun. Mr. Kyung also holds a Masters degree from the Manhattan School of Music in composition under the tutelage of Reiko Fueting, and a Professional Studies degree from the Manhattan School of Music in Collaborative Piano under the tutelage of Kenneth Merrill. He awarded Miami Music Festival Vocal Collaborative Fellowship in 2019 and worked as the apprentice coach and repetiteur and worked as the principal organist(Korean United Presbyterian Church of New Jersey.) Currently, he is a coach at the Manhattan School of Music, worked as the music director at the Korean First Presbyterian Church in New York.

JUAN LAZARO is a pianist and vocal coach from New York. Originally trained at the Juilliard School (2011-2015) for solo piano, he then began pursuing his passion for vocal accompaniment after pursuing voice lessons from Bulgarian bass Valentin Peytchinov. For two years accompanied his master classes in Austria and in Bulgaria. In 2017 Juan began studying Manhattan School of

Music (masters degree) under Thomas Muraco to further refine his training. In the summer of 2019 he will attend the music festival in Aspen as an opera fellow.

JI YOUNG LEE is an accomplished musician with extensive experience as a solo pianist and vocal coach. She is a recital coach at the Manhattan School of Music since 2009 and an adjunct faculty at New York University and Mahanaim Music School. During the summer, she works as a vocal coach for Classical Voice Intensive at NYU. She has been a music director and assistant music director at NYU for *Game of Chance*, *Trouble in Tahiti* and the *Dialogue of Carmelites* and in the past, she worked as a faculty at Chautauqua Institution summer music festival, Hawaii Performing Arts Festival and as an apprentice coach at San Francisco Opera Merola Program. Ms. Lee's performances include concerts at Carnegie Hall, Steinway Hall, Merkin Hall, Alice Tully Hall, and Peter Jay Sharp Theater at Lincoln Center Theater, where she performed in the gala concert "Sing for Hope." She has served as the pianist for numerous Master Classes, including those of Marilyn Horne, Graham Johnson, Fedora Barbieri, Lauren Flanigan, Jane Eaglen, Tom Krause, Steven Blier, Lucia Albanese, Robert Lloyd, Shirley Verrett and more. Born in South Korea, Ms. Lee earned her Bachelor of Music from Yonsei University in Seoul, and a Master of Music in Collaborative Piano from the Juilliard School where she was awarded the George A. Wedge Prize and three merit scholarships. Ms. Lee holds Professional Studies Certificates from The Juilliard School and Manhattan School of Music. She is a fellowship recipient and past attendee at the Music Academy of the West, where she won the 2000 Marilyn Horne Foundation Competition. Ms. Lee happily resides in New York City with her husband and 2 children.

ANN LEWIN is a native New Yorker and a graduate of the High School of Music and Art, Barnard College and U.C.L.A. (Master of Arts in Music). She has studied coaching with Alberta Masiello, Felix Popper, Joan Dornemann and Natalie Limonick; advanced piano with Alan Marks and Elizabeth Moschetti; composition and orchestration with Roy Harris; conducting and score reading with Rudolf Thomas; and voice with Edith Gordon Ainsberg. She has been assistant conductor and coach/pianist for over 50 opera productions in the United States for New Orleans Opera, Florentine Opera of Milwaukee, Opera Colorado, Michigan Opera Theater, Mississippi Opera, Opera Carolina and Vancouver Opera. She has been on staff at Opera Music Theater International (OMTI), Opera Colorado Young Artists Training Center and the University of Texas at Austin, where she was principal coach and lecturer. Since 2000, she has been on the faculty of Mannes College. In addition, Ms. Lewin has performed many recitals throughout the U.S., including 20 with Metropolitan Opera tenor and diction specialist, Nico Castel. Since 2003, Ms. Lewin has been on the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music. Also refer to MSM faculty bios at → <https://www.msmnyc.edu/faculty/>

KANAE MATSUMOTO is currently a vocal coach at Manhattan School of Music, Mahanaim School in Long Island, such summer festivals as Classical Singing and New York in June (CSNY) and Marlena Malas' voice program at Chautauqua Institution. She also closely works with City

Lyric Opera in New York City. Ms. Matsumoto earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in Piano Performance at Aichi Prefectural University of Fine Arts and Music in Nagoya, Japan. She then continued her studies in the United States with Vitaly Margulis and earned her Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of California Los Angeles. After graduation, she was invited to join the faculty of the University and taught there for 7 years. In 2013, she moved to New York City, seeking to expand her musical horizons. She studied Vocal Accompanying with Kenneth Merrill in Professional Studies at Manhattan School of Music. Praised as an "outstanding pianist...unfailingly crisp, warm and sensitive" (*Showtime Magazine*, Toronto), Kanae Matsumoto is a versatile pianist with unique experiences. Ms. Matsumoto has extensively diversified her repertoire from solo to chamber to vocal music. Of her several celebrated recordings, some notable highlights include "Robert Portillo Fortepiano Project" – recording piano works by Beethoven, Haydn, Schumann, Fauré, Chopin, and Debussy on the three distinctive period instruments – Broadwood, Streicher and Erards (to be released soon); "French Violin Sonatas" with Jacques Israelievitch (Fleur de son/Naxos.) Ms. Matsumoto gave recitals featuring all ten of Beethoven's Violin Sonatas with Mr. Israelievitch, solo performance at the World Design Expo at her hometown Nagoya, Japan, as well as many other performances in Japan, Germany, Italy, Russia and the United States. While she resided in Los Angeles, she appeared in numerous recitals and concerts in the Greater Los Angeles area including the chamber music concert series with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Chamber Society at Walt Disney Concert Hall.

DAVID MAYFIELD started work in New York at the Actor's Studio of the New School, where he played for masterclasses with Liza Minelli; currently a recital coach at Manhattan School of Music, he also teaches at New Jersey City University (undergraduate/ grad. diction, grad. vocal literature) and conducted operas ranging from The Magic Flute, and Dido & Aeneas to Trouble in Tahiti and evenings of Baroque opera, and curating surveys of French and American vocal music. His students have included winners of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, and have appeared with San Francisco Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Martina Arroyo's Prelude to Performance, and won awards including the Gerda Lissner, Puccini Competition, and others. He has worked with Lyric Opera of Chicago, Utah Festival Opera, The Dallas Opera, Wildwood Festival, Opera Illinois, New Orleans Opera, Opera El Paso, Virginia Opera, Fort Worth Opera, and toured with New York City Opera, among others; his repertoire ranges from Aïda and Tosca to Hin und Zurück (Hindemith) and The Face on the Barroom Floor. He has conducted or assistant cond. for Le Nozze di Figaro, Abduction, Don Giovanni, Barbiere, Carmen, Hansel & Gretel, Giulio Cesare, Dido and Aeneas, Contes d'Hoffmann, Die Fledermaus, The Mikado, H.M.S. Pinafore, Patience, The Student Prince, Fiddler on the Roof, and others. In addition, he has played harpsichord continuo for Don Giovanni, Dido & Aeneas, Le Nozze di Figaro, L'Elisir d'Amore, and Il Barbiere di Siviglia. He is a graduate of Beloit College (Performing Arts: Musical Directing for the Theater) and University of North Texas (M.M.); he also attended Northwestern University and won a scholarship to the Blossom Festival at Kent State University; he has been a repeat guest artist for residencies at University of Minnesota-Duluth, giving recitals, masterclasses, classes in ornamentation and coaching opera workshop (Il Mondo della Luna, Le Nozze di Figaro), and been a guest clinician at Song Festival at Grace University and University of Nebraska in Omaha and Waldorf College in Iowa. His influences include Nicola Rescigno, founder of Lyric Opera of

Chicago and The Dallas Opera; Roberto Benaglio, chorus master of La Scala, Milan, who knew Puccini and Toscanini and who taught the baritone Piero Cappuccilli; Fiora Contino, who studied with Nadia Boulanger, often played chamber music with Francis Poulenc and also knew Toscanini well; Donald Palumbo, chorusmaster of the Met, Chicago Lyric and Salzburg Festival; and Virginia Botkin, who studied with the man who taught Kirsten Flagstad to sing Wagnerian repertoire. Summer 2019 he returned to Phoenicia International Festival of the Voice as assistant conductor/chorusmaster for L'Elisir d'Amore set in Ghana, having previously served as chorusmaster (Otello, La Bohème) and music director (The Medium, La Cambiale di Matrimonio).

JAMES NAUMANN is well adept as a pianist, organist, vocal coach, and musicologist. He has served as a pianist for a number of voice studios affiliated with Manhattan School of Music, the Curtis Institute, and the Juilliard School, among others. Recently, James has coached roles for productions at the Metropolitan Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Opera Philadelphia, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Chicago Opera Theater, Florida Grand Opera, Heartbeat Opera (NYC), Dayton Opera, and Chautauqua Opera. He has played for numerous vocal competitions and masterclasses with such renowned artists as Marilyn Horne, Lucy Shelton, Lauren Flanigan, Diana Soviero, Martin Katz, June Anderson, Susan Anthony, and Timothy Noble. Among the singers he coaches is Anthony Roth Costanzo, notably for his Grammy-nominated debut recording of George Frideric Handel and Philip Glass arias - *Glass Handel* - which had a multimedia world premiere in September of 2018 as part of Opera Philadelphia's O18 Festival. He has coached numerous opera scenes programs and a growing list of operas, including Bellini's *I Capuleti e i Montecchi*; Benjamin's *Written on Skin*; Gounod's *Faust*; Handel's *Giulio Cesare*; Humperdinck's *Hänsel und Gretel*; Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea*; Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, *Così fan tutte* and *Die Zauberflöte*; Rossini's *La Cenerentola*; Verdi's *Rigotello*; and Weisman's *The Scarlet Ibis*. His foreign language experience includes German, French, Italian, Spanish, and Russian. In the classroom, James has taught courses as diverse as eighteenth-century music and the history of rock & roll. He has delivered award-winning, interdisciplinary papers ranging from the music of Robert Schumann to Paul Bowles and the works of Marcel Proust to Tennessee Williams. In addition to degrees in piano and organ performance, he completed his Performance Studies certificate in collaborative piano at Manhattan School of Music and is a candidate for a PhD in musicology at Ohio State University.

Performer and pedagogue **LEANN OVERTON** is currently on the faculties of the Manhattan School of Music and the John J. Cali School of Music at Montclair State University. Ms. Overton has also taught on the faculties of C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University, Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh and the Chautauqua Voice School. As music director/coach, Ms. Overton has worked for several opera companies and summer festivals including *Lingua e Canto* in Italy, *Midsummer Music Dream* in Canada, *Oberlin* in Italy, *Vocal Arts Festival* of Colorado Springs, *Cincinnati Opera*, and *Tulsa Opera*. Ms. Overton is music director for MSM's Educational Outreach program which brings the classic opera repertoire to the NYC school children. She has also served as music director for MSM's Precollege Opera Ensemble where she has worked with Professor Emeritus Director Gordon Ostrowski and MSM alum David Gordon. This introduction to the operatic repertoire teaches the basic skill set and stagecraft required for today's opera singer. As

stage director for undergraduate opera workshop at Montclair State University, Ms. Overton created “I Speak Gelato ...Scenes from the Italian Repertoire,” “From Stories We Love...” “Behind the Scenes Opera Scenes,” “Upbeat to the Downbeat,” and “Brush up your Shakespeare.” In 2014 Ms. Overton founded “Respiro Opera, NYC” a program designed for the emerging artist to gain more stage experience in a safe environment. This advanced training program focuses on breath/body alignment (yoga for singers, Alexander Technique, Body Mapping), text and musical style. (RespiroOperaNYC.org) Ms. Overton was vocal coach for ATsinging, a new program that immerses the singer in Alexander Technique at the Balanced Arts Center in NYC. Ms. Overton has collaborated with colleague soprano Karen Driscoll on two one acts “Before Breakfast” and “La voix humaine.” During her tenure at LIU, Ms. Overton frequently collaborated with soprano Lisa Radakovich Holsberg. The two recorded the CD *Race for the Sky* featuring the poetry found in the makeshift memorials after the disastrous events of 9/11/1001 with music by Richard Pearson Thomas (see www.raceforthesky.org). In the summer of 2019 she collaborated with cellist Maureen Hynes and mezzo soprano Barbara Fusco-Spera on the benefit recital series towards the restoration of Béla Bartók’s home in Saranac Lake. Ms. Overton has worked for the Metropolitan Opera as title caller since 2000.

Pianist **JINHEE PARK** has built an international reputation as a versatile artist of both vocal and instrumental chamber musician as she has given extensive performances in Italy, Korea, Taiwan, United States, and China. During her current residency in New York, she has performed in Carnegie Hall, Merkin Hall, Lincoln Center, and featured in WQXR’s Midday Masterpieces Series. In her native Korea, she had performed as a concerto soloist with Changwon Symphony and New Seoul Philharmonic. Aside from her performing career, she has worked with Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Julius Drake, Hye-Kyung Hong, Christoph Prégardien, and Craig Rutenberg. During the summer months, Ms. Park has given extensive performances in Aspen music festival, Toronto Summer Music Festival, and Chautauqua Institution. She currently works at the Juilliard School and serves as a vocal coach at Manhattan School of Music and in Chautauqua Institution. Ms. Park received her Bachelor’s degree at the Seoul National University and received her Master’s degree at Juilliard School under the tutelage of Jonathan Feldman, Margo Garrett, Andrew Harley, and Diane Richardson. She is currently pursuing Professional Studies at Manhattan School of Music with Warren Jones as a full-scholarship recipient.

JESTIN PIEPER is a New York City based concert and collaborative pianist, vocal coach, organist, conductor, and educator. Mr. Pieper has appeared in major venues across the country and abroad including guest appearances on the Discovery Channel, WNYC and WNPR and performances at Carnegie Hall, Symphony Space, Manhattan School of Music, Mannes School of Music, The Kaufman Center, Opera America in NYC, The Long Center and Bates Hall in Austin Texas, Harris Hall in Aspen Colorado and performance in Lucca and Palermo in Italy. In the summer of 2019, in collaboration with Double V Records, Jestin will be releasing his first solo album titled “Humoreske” which will feature works by Schumann and Scriabin, and will be available on iTunes and CD baby. A sought after vocal coach and collaborator, Jestin works as a freelancer in NYC, and as a faculty member for several programs, including faculty pianist for the Sherill Milnes Voice experience, staff pianist for the International Vocal Arts Institute and pianist and vocalcoach for the

Manhattan Opera Studio. He is currently on staff as a vocal coach and pianist at Manhattan School of Music. As an educator for 15 years, Mr. Pieper has extensive experience teaching students from beginners to emerging professionals and everything in between. He has given masterclasses, presentations and has done outreach programs at schools in across the country. As a member of MTNA, and as a Steinway Educational partner, he maintains a vibrant piano studio in NYC. Several of his students have already achieved success including acceptance into the Metropolitan Children's Chorus, and acceptance in the countries leading arts school, including LaGuardia HS. Jestin is also a proud co-director of the Elmhurst community school after school music program, whose goal is to develop a strong and robust arts and music program for the K-5 school and the local community. As a conductor, Jestin has worked as an Assistant Conductor and Chorus Master for the Long Island Lyric Opera company, the Martha Cardona Opera company, Amore Opera company, Regina Opera company and Chelsea Opera companies. He made his conducting debut in 2015 with the Hellenic Orchestra at the Bruno Walter Auditorium in Lincoln Center and in 2020 Mr. Pieper is conducting Victor Herberts Madeline for Victor Herbert Repertory Players company. In 2018, Jestin became the principal organist at Holy Trinity Episcopal church in Inwood, NYC and will be taking over the music directorship within the next year. Jestin received his Bachelor of Music, magna cum laude, from Lawrence University, a Master of Music degree from the University of Texas at Austin, and a professional studies degree from Manhattan School of Music.

Ohio native **SHANE SCHAG** has performed in recital both as soloist and ensemble performer throughout the United States and Europe, including a concerto performance with the Ashland Symphony Orchestra. He has won several awards and scholarships, including the Gwendolyn Koldofsky Memorial Award, given to “a musician who demonstrated outstanding professionalism in collaborative piano.” He has worked as a vocal coach for Centro Studi Italiani Opera Festival and as an assistant conductor for the Gotham Chamber Opera. In 2007, Mr. Schag made his debut at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall. Now he serves as staff pianist for Carnegie Hall's Musical Explorers and Link Up concert series. He also serves as the staff pianist for the Lotte Lenya Competition in Rochester, New York. Recently, Mr. Schag appeared on PBS *Sunday Arts* in a showcase for rising young opera singers. He has been the pianist and musical director for numerous recitals and cabaret acts including *Songs My Mother Never Taught Me*, by Deborah Karpel. Mr Schag is a member of the recital coaching faculty and resident musical director for the American Musical Theater Ensemble at the Manhattan School of Music. He has also served on the faculty of Operaworks in Los Angeles and the International Vocal Arts Institute in Tel Aviv and Virginia.

ERIC SEDGWICK has performed with many of music's top talents including Leona Mitchell, Sanford Sylvan and Marni Nixon, Broadway leading ladies Sarah Rice, Carole Demas and Debra Monk, and English hornist Thomas Stacy of the New York Philharmonic. He is a staff vocal coach at the Manhattan School of Music, and since 2009 has been music director and pianist for the Junior Opera Theater there. He is also a staff accompanist for the Tanglewood Music Center, and has served as rehearsal pianist for the Boston Symphony Orchestra, under the batons of Michael Tilson Thomas, Bramwell Tovey, John Williams and Andris Nelsons. He is a regular pianist for events with the Metropolitan Opera Guild, and has worked for Carnegie Hall's Music Education Workshops with Joyce DiDonato, as well as for the International Vocal Arts Institutes in New York

and Montreal. On the west coast, he has been a longtime coach and music director for the OperaWorks training program in Los Angeles. Mr. Sedgwick is the official pianist for the Art Song Preservation Society in New York, a group whose regular masterclass series has included Dalton Baldwin, Thomas Grubb, Margaret Lattimore and Joan Dornemann. He performs regularly with local groups in New York including Opera Singers Initiatives, the Stonewall Chorale, La Forza dell'Opera, and the Halcyon chamber music series, and has been featured in the Center for Contemporary Opera concert series. He has appeared often with the Broadway Concerts Direct performances in upstate New York, in cabaret shows at 54 Below and the Metropolitan Room, and as music director/pianist for "The World According to Kurt Weill" at UrbanStages. He can be heard in the PBS series "The Heart of Art" as well as on the soundtracks for the prize-winning short films "Connection Lost (The Tinder Opera)," "Something Blue (The Bachelor Opera)" and "Someone Like Me (The Facebook Opera)." He was a winner of the Boston Steinway piano competition, and has premiered new works by composers Seymour Barab, J. Mark Stambaugh, Joelle Wallach, and Louis Hardin. He is a graduate of Manhattan School of Music and Brown University.

Pianist and vocal coach **CURTIS SERAFIN** is a recent graduate of Warren Jones's studio at the Manhattan School of Music (M.M.). The summers of 2019 and 2018 have included professional fellowships at the Tanglewood Institute, Stephanie Blythe's Fall Island Vocal Arts Seminar, and as principal pianist for Handel's *Alcina* at the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival, respectively. While at Tanglewood (2019 Vocal Piano Fellow), Curtis was fortunate to coach projects with artists such as Margo Garrett, Alan Smith, and Dawn Upshaw; he was also an active part of the musical preparation for the U.S. premier of a chamber opera under the baton of Sir Thomas Adès, *The Cricket Recovers* by Richard Ayres. During the the spring of 2019, Curtis was a semi-finalist in the Joy in Singing art song competition with Belgian mezzo-soprano Laure-Catherine Beyers, who was awarded the Gérard Souzay Prize for French Mélodie. While a student at Manhattan School of Music, Curtis worked closely alongside Cynthia Hoffmann for her Vocal Performance class, as well as with Miriam Charney as a pianist and coach for her Contemporary Opera Ensemble. After previously graduating from The Peabody Preparatory School, Curtis earned his B.M. in piano performance at Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music, where he received the Michelson Collaborative Arts Award. Curtis is a returning student of German at the Goethe Institute, and his interest in song repertoire and poetry has lead him to produce a book of poems, entitled *Songs Without Music*, and a song cycle for baritone based on texts by Frank O'Hara.

A highly sought-after vocal coach and collaborative pianist, **ANNA SMIGELSKAYA** has performed solo and chamber music throughout the United States and Russia. She began her piano studies as a child at the Music School of St. Petersburg, and was accepted to the prestigious St. Petersburg Rimsky-Korsakov Music College, where she studied with Sveltlan Karzina. In 2010, she relocated to the United States to pursue a performance degree on full scholarship at Sam Houston State University under Drs. Sergio Ruiz and Ilonka Rus. Ms. Smigelskaya graduated magna cum laude from SHSU and recently completed her Master's of Music studies at University of Houston under Prof. Nancy Weems. She has participated in festivals including Pianofest in The Hamptons and Collaborative Piano Institute; competed in piano competitions (1st place in the 2014 TMTA Piano Competition) and performed in venues such as the Juilliard School of Music and

Carnegie Hall. Her collaborations include performances with the Tesla Quartet and Aperio (Music of the Americas). Ms. Smigelskaya served as pianist and organist at Spring Woods United Methodist Church (2014-2018) and held the position of staff pianist at the University of Houston Moores School of Music (2017-2018). In 2018 Ms. Smigelskaya began studying under Warren Jones at the Manhattan School of Music and has since participated in productions of *I due timidi*, *Suor Angelica*, and *Emmeline*. This summer, Ms. Smigelskaya was a fellow at the Music Academy of the West and took part in the production of Jennifer Higdon's *Cold Mountain*.

HYERIM SONG, a native Korean, is an active vocal coach and collaborative pianist in the US and Korea. Most recently, Ms. Song has served on a vocal coach at Martina Arroyo Foundation and has coached at Pittsburgh Festival Opera as a Resident Artist Pianist. Also she worked as a resident coach and pianist at INSIEM Opera, coaching the casts of *La Traviata*, *Gianni Schichi*, *Hansel and Gretel* and playing for various opera scenes as well as chorus. She has worked and collaborated with Seoul Metropolitan Opera on *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Turandot*, *L'enfant et les sortilèges* and *Rigoletto*. In addition, she was awarded the vocal collaborative pianist fellowship at the Aspen Music Festival and School, and was granted a full scholarship to from SongFest at Colburn where she worked closely with Libby Larsen, Graham Johnson, Jake Heggie, Alan Smith, and John Musto. Furthermore, she was a member of the staff pianists at the New Opera NYC, New York Summer Music Festival, American Protégé International Music Competition Euro Music Festival and Yewool Vocal Music Festival as well as participated in Korea National Opera Festival. Ms. Song graduated with her master's degree from Manhattan School of Music, where she is currently pursuing a DMA under the tutelage of Kenneth Merrill.

SHIYU TAN is currently on the coaching staff at Manhattan School of Music. Meanwhile, she is pursuing her Doctoral degree in collaborative piano under Warren Jones's tutorage. In 2016-2018, she has served as rehearsal pianist in Benjamin Britten's *The Turn of the Screw* and Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen* at Manhattan School of Music. Also she was opera fellowship pianist/apprentice coach at Aspen Music School and Festival in the past two summers where she prepared Rossini's *Il Barbiere de Sivigli* and was also involved in their opera scenes program. Other performance highlights include vocal master classes with Sir Thomas Allen, Martin Katz, Jane Glover and Stephanie Blythe, etc. Mrs. Tan holds Bachelor degree in Music Production & Recording Arts from Shanghai Conservatory of Music and Master degree in Collaborative Piano from Manhattan School of Music where she studied with Kenneth Merrill. Ms. Tan has done further studies with Cristina Stanescu of the New School in New York City.

EVGENIA TRUKSHA, pianist, was born in Riga, Latvia. After emigrating to the United States in 2001, Evgenia continued her education at the University of Southern California, studying piano performance with Dr. Daniel Pollack. She holds Master's Degree in Piano Performance from Texas Christian University, and a Professional Certificate Diploma in Collaborative Piano from Manhattan School of Music. Evgenia is a prizewinner of several national and international piano competitions, including Wideman International Piano Competition (USA), Concours International de Piano d'Epinal (France), and Music Teachers National Association Piano Competition, among others. Recent performance venues include Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, and LaJolla Music Society (CA).

Evgenia has served served as collaborative piano faculty at Mahanaim College (Long Island), New York Lyric Opera Summer program, Manhattan School Summer Voice Festival (2011-2014)and has worked as a coach and accompanist at Texas Christian University and San Diego University. Evgenia has been serving as a staff vocal coach and collaborative pianist at Manhattan School of Music since 2011, and as an Assistant to Music Director of Senior Opera since 2016.