

# **M**Manhattan School of Music

## **VOCAL COACHING** **REGULAR COACHES' BIOGRAPHIES — SPRING 2021**

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 Krovvtska, Dimitri Kavrakos, 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

**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** has been an assistant conductor/pianist at many of the major festivals and regional opera companies in the U.S., including Glimmerglass Opera, the Banff Festival (Canada), Opera Company of Philadelphia, Florida Grand Opera, New Orleans Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Connecticut Opera, and Chautauqua Opera (for 25 seasons). She was assistant conductor to Gerard Schwarz and Leopold Hager for the Mostly Mozart Festival, as well as functioning as casting consultant and playing continuo in performance. She has performed with Lauren Flanigan, André Solomon-Glover, Paul Groves, Brenda Harris, Mark Gould, Pamela South, and Jacque Trussel and assisted in master classes given by Marilyn Horne, Renata Scottò, Marlena Malas, and Stephen Wadsworth. A life-long champion of contemporary opera, she prepared premieres by Lee Hoiby, William Schuman, Jacob Druckman, Thea Musgrave, Tobias Picker, and Ricky Ian Gordon, as well as preparing and performing workshops of new works by Viviane Fine, Janice Hamer, and Susan

Botti for American Opera Projects. As music director in theater, Ms. Charney toured India with The Wooster Group and was instrumental in the development of new music-theater pieces with Elizabeth LeCompte and the late Spalding Gray. She toured Europe with Elizabeth Swados' company and music-directed for NYU's Experimental Theatre Wing. She has performed in venues ranging from Alice Tully Hall to Le Théâtre de la Monnaie in Brussels to the Amphitheatre at the Chautauqua Institution.

Ms. Charney received a National Opera Institute grant and is a former president of the National Association of Accompanists and Coaches. She has been on the faculties of Juilliard, the University of Connecticut, and Goddard College, and was Head Coach at the Hartt School of Music for 13 years. Currently, she is Adjunct Artist in Music at Vassar College, directs the Opera Workshop with renowned counter-tenor Drew Minter, and is a member of the piano faculty. Since 1996 Ms. Charney has been a faculty member in the Opera, Piano, and Related Vocal Studies departments at Manhattan School of Music, where she also created and directs the Contemporary Opera Ensemble. She was the official pianist for the Elardo International Opera Competition, before its recent move to Brussels.

Ms. Charney received her BA in Music with honors from Brandeis University, completing further study at Wesleyan University, Columbia University, and the Dalcroze School of Music. Her teachers have included Dorothy Taubman, Edna Golandsky, Kyriena Siloti, and Martin Canin for piano; Kenneth Cooper and Paul Echols for harpsichord; Joan Dornemann, Martin Isepp, and Margaret Singer for coaching and accompanying; Robert Koff for chamber music studies; and Paul Nadler, Catherine MacDonald, and James Olsen for conducting studies.

Ms. Charney maintains an active coaching studio in Manhattan where she makes her home with her husband, photographer Roger Maltby. Their son, formerly a child soloist with New York City Opera, is a graduate of Williams College and currently pursuing an acting career in NYC.

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.

**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 → <http://www.msmnyc.edu/FacultyBio>

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.

Canadian **CHRIS LYSACK** brings a vast and unorthodox skill set to his craft. Having received his formal training at Indiana University in piano (DM '09) and French literature (PhD '14) before completing his vocal studies at Manhattan School of Music, he is uniquely positioned to approach the most challenging repertoire with intellectual rigor and refined musicianship of the highest caliber. For the past ten years, the "intrepid, individual artist" (*Opera Now*) has performed as a leading tenor throughout Europe, including at the **Hamburg State Opera, Salzburg State Theater, Linz State Theater, Nationaltheater Mannheim, Stadttheater Bern, Deutsches Nationaltheater Weimar, Opera på Skäret**, and the **Theater Bremen**, site of his "sensational début" (*Opernglas*) in the Wagnerian repertoire as Stolzing in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* in 2014. Lysack has performed a broad cross-section of the repertoire, ranging from the title roles in *Lohengrin*, *Les contes d'Hoffmann*, and *Peter Grimes*, to such favorites as Florestan (*Fidelio*) and Cavaradossi (*Tosca*), and to lesser-known modern works, including York Höller's *Der Meister und*

*Margarita* and Brett Dean's *Bliss*. The versatile musician achieved acclaim as the Prince (*Rusalka*) and Laca Klemeň (*Jenůfa*) at the **Theater Aachen**, as well as in Janáček's masterpiece *Zápisník zmizelého*, and has been awarded three grants from the Canada Council for the Arts, including support for language study and role preparation in the Czech Republic. As a pianist, Lysack made his German début at the **Laeiszhalle** in Hamburg in 2015, has appeared as a concerto soloist with the **Aachen Symphony Orchestra** and **Bremen Philharmonic**, and his discography includes recordings on the Capstone and Centaur labels. He began his singing career with young-artist engagements at **Chautauqua Opera** and **Glimmerglass Opera** in New York before joining the International Opera Studio, and later the ensemble, of the **Hamburg State Opera**.

**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 → <http://www.msmnyc.edu/FacultyBio>.

**TONGYAO LI** is currently a Professional Study student in collaborative piano for vocal at Manhattan School of Music under Kenneth Merrill's tutorage. She is a New York-based collaborative pianist from China. She gained her master's degree in piano performance in Shanghai Conservatory of Music and collaborative piano for vocal from Manhattan School of Music. Tongyao won prizes in competitions held in Italy and China during this period. She performed solo and chamber music both in the United States and China. She performed solo of Ravel, Debussy and Schubert, chamber music of Grieg and Mozart in the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, Shanghai Concert Hall and China Art Museum. In 2017 and 2018, she played *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* and *Don Giovanni* in He Luting Concert Hall in Shanghai Conservatory of Music. In 2018, Tongyao became a student in Kenneth Merrill's studio in Manhattan School of Music and has participated in productions of *La Rondine*. In 2019-2020, she has served as a rehearsal pianist for opera *I due Figaro* and *Martha*. She became a scholarship student of the collaborative piano program in Aspen Music Festival and School 2019 Summer Season and she hold her recital in Harris Hall in Aspen. In 2020, Tongyao was chosen to be an opera coach fellow in the Aspen Opera Theater and VocalARTS of Aspen Music Festival and School.

**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. Israelievich, 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).

Pianist **KYUNG-EUN NA** has cultivated a multi-faceted career as a performer, educator, opera coach, and music director. Na recently was appointed to the faculty at Purchase College Conservatory of Music SUNY as Head of Collaborative Piano. Prior to her current position she served as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Chamber and Collaborative Music at the IU Jacobs School of Music and as an Assistant Professor of Collaborative Arts, she taught at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock. Before entering academia, she worked at Virginia Opera as a Spectrum Resident Artist Coach and Education Outreach Tour Manager for the 2008–09 season's main stage

productions, playing for rehearsals, conducting the off-stage chorus, coaching the cover casts, as well as leading outreach tours to approximately one hundred public schools in Virginia. Furthermore, she has been participating as a coach, pianist, and harpsichordist in multiple opera productions and concerts at Hawaii Opera Theater, Ravinia Steans Music Institute, The Soo Opera Theatre Project, Inc., IU Jacobs School of Music Opera and Ballet Theatre, The Juilliard School, Manhattan School of Music, the Music Academy of the West, Aspen Opera Theater Center, International Music Academy in Siena (Italy), and Teatro Amazonas (Brazil). Winner of the Marilyn Horne Foundation Competition in 2007, Na participated in recital tour projects and master classes with emerging singers such as Nadine Sierra, Brenda Rae, and Isabel Leonard under auspices of the foundation. Her chamber music credits include collaborations with renowned soloists such as Matthew Lipman (viola), Jasmine Choi (flute), Soovin Kim (violin) as well as members of the New York Philharmonic, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, Los Angeles Opera Orchestra, and Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra. Her collaborative performances include recital tours and opera gala concerts at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Steinway Hall, Town Hall, and Merkin Hall in New York City, as well as at major venues throughout the United States, South America, Europe, and Asia. In addition to her active performing career Na is highly sought after as a guest lecturer at universities in the U.S.A., Korea and China.

Born in Seoul, Korea, Kyung-Eun Na earned her doctorate degree in Accompanying from Manhattan School of Music, master's degree in Collaborative Piano from The Juilliard School, artist diploma from Oberlin Conservatory, and bachelor's degree in Piano Performance from Yonsei University.

**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](http://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.

**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 vocal coach 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.

Pianist and conductor **GORDON SCHERMER** has performed on three continents with some of the world's finest musicians. He joined the music staff of The Santa Fe Opera in 2019 for Puccini's *La bohème* and the world premiere of Poul Ruders' *The Thirteenth Child*. Last season, Mr. Schermer prepared productions of Philip Glass' *Satyagraha* at LA Opera, Verdi's *Aida* at Seattle Opera as well as Puccini's *La bohème*, Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* and Massenet's *Werther* at Florida Grand Opera. Recent engagements as a conductor include *Frida* at Florida Grand Opera, *La traviata* and *Carmen* at Opera Maine, and *Tosca* and *Les Pêcheurs de perles* at Tulsa Opera. Additionally, he has worked for the Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago and Michigan Opera Theatre. He has appeared in master classes given by Renée Fleming, Marilyn Horne, Sherrill Milnes, Mignon Dunn, Thomas Hampson, Ben Heppner, Carol Vaness, Catherine Malfitano and Nathan Gunn. Mr. Schermer holds a Bachelor's Degree in Piano Performance from The University

of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Master's Degree in Collaborative Piano from Manhattan School of Music. His teachers have included Ian Hobson, Kenneth Merrill and John Wustman.

**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 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 Svetlana 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.

ool of Music since 2011, and as an Assistant to Music Director of Senior Opera since 2016.