

An All-Star Tribute to Michael Neidorff

Olga Kern*, piano Anna Dmytrenko, piano Shmuel Katz* (BM '98, MM '00), viola Vladislav Kern, piano Alexandre Moutouzkine* (MM '03, PS '05, AD '06), piano Philippe Muller*, cello Lucie Robert*, violin Xiao Wang* (BM '13, MM '15, AD '16), violin

*MSM Faculty

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024 | 7:30 PM NEIDORFF-KARPATI HALL

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PROGRAM

Remarks	James Gandre President, Manhattan School of Music
JOHANNES BRAHMS (1833–1897)	Violin Sonata No. 3 in D Minor, Op. 108 <i>Allegro</i>
	Adagio
	Un poco presto e con sentimento
	Presto agitato
	Olga Kern, piano
	Lucie Robert, violin
LISA KAPLAN	Whirligig
(b. 1974)	II. Merry-go-round (4 hands)
	Olga Kern and Alexandre Moutouzkine, piano
JOHANNES BRAHMS	21 Hungarian Dances, WoO 1 (4 hands)
	I. Allegro molto (G Minor)
	V. Allegro (F-sharp Minor)
	Olga Kern and Alexandre Moutouzkine, piano

JOHANNES BRAHMS (arr. R Keller) Symphony No. 3 in F Major, Op. 90 (8 hands) III. *Poco allegretto*

Olga Kern, Alexandre Moutouzkine, Vladislav Kern, and Anna Dmytrenko, piano

21 Hungarian Dances, WoO 1 (8 hands) IV. *Poco sostenuto* (F Minor)

Olga Kern, Alexandre Moutouzkine, Vladislav Kern, and Anna Dmytrenko, piano

Intermission

JOHANNES BRAHMS

Piano Quintet in F Minor, Op. 34 Allegro non troppo Andante, un poco adagio Scherzo: Allegro Finale

Olga Kern, piano Lucie Robert and Xiao Wang, violin Shmuel Katz, viola Philippe Muller, cello



Manhattan School of Music's public programs are made possible in part by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.



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ABOUT MICHAEL NEIDORFF (1942–2022)

Michael F. Neidorff (HonDMA '17) was an extraordinarily accomplished man who envisioned the possible where others often could not. Even with the demands of his allencompassing work, he helped and cared for so many each day of his life.

Along with his beloved wife Noémi (BM '70, MM '72, HonDMA'17), herself a trustee and alumna of Manhattan School of Music, Michael was a transformative force at MSM over the past decade and a half. Among the Neidorffs' many generous contributions to the School was a gift—the largest in the School's history—that made possible the sweeping renovation of MSM's



principal performance space, Neidorff-Karpati Hall, as well as a subsequent contribution that transformed and reopened the hall's Art Deco lounge. These were crowning achievements of the School's 2018-19 Centennial celebrations. Michael and Noémi were a consistent presence in and around the School for galas, special events, competitions, and performances, support continued by Noémi to this day.

The CEO of Centene Corporation for over 25 years, Michael had remarkable business acumen and quiet drive, leading Centene in its extraordinary trajectory from a \$40-million single health plan to a multinational \$125-billion health care enterprise serving 25 million members. It is an inspiring American business success story, and Michael's commitment to providing affordable, high-quality health care to the most vulnerable people positively impacted lives in the U.S. and across the globe. Named Citizen of the Year by the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* in 2017, he was a revered member of his community, having made diversity and inclusion a central focus of his leadership at Centene—*Fortune* magazine ranked the company as the #2 company in the U.S. for diversity and inclusion and having extended philanthropic support to hundreds of not-for-profit organizations. Among his many commitments, Michael served as chairman of the board for the National Urban League and served on the board of directors for the Greater St. Louis Boy Scouts of America and for the Concordance Academy. He was also chairman for his alma mater, Trinity University, where in 2021 the institution named its business school in his honor.

As exhibited by his work with MSM, Michael had a love for the arts and served as chairman of the board of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, where he was appointed as a life trustee. He also served as a trustee for the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis and as Treasurer of the Kennedy Center's board. On his death in 2022, the National Hockey League's St. Louis Blues cited Michael's extraordinary impact on the St. Louis community, one that would "never be forgotten." In addition to his role as loving husband and life partner to Noémi, Michael was father to Peter Neidorff and the late Monica Neidorff, and brother to Susan Neidorff Reinglass and Robert Neidorff. His rich and accomplished life and the many marvelous memories he inspires remain as a source of joy to his family, friends, former Centene colleagues, all of us at MSM, and all the many people around the world whose lives were positively impacted by his vision and commitment.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Olga Kern, piano

With a vivid onstage presence, dazzling technique, and keen musicality, pianist Olga Kern is widely recognized as one of the great artists of her generation, captivating audiences and critics alike.

In 2001, she launched her U.S. career at the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, winning a Gold Medal—the only woman in the last fifty years to do so. She has since performed with top-tier ensembles, among them the St. Louis Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, Detroit Symphony, National Symphony Orchestra (Washington, D.C.), Czech Philharmonic, and Filarmonica della Scala. She has also scored successes with Tokyo's NHK Symphony, São Paulo Symphony Orchestra, Stuttgart Philharmonic, and Pittsburgh Symphony. She was a soloist on U.S. tours with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra in 2018 and 2022, both of which were widely praised. She has also performed riveting recitals in Savannah, Fort Worth, Minneapolis, Poland, and Sweden.

In the 2022–2023 season, she appeared with the Dallas Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony, Filarmónica de Gran Canaria, Ireland's National Symphony Orchestra, and Colorado Symphony. She performed recitals at the Minnesota Beethoven Festival and the International Piano Festival of Oeiras as well as in Brno and Mariánské Lázně, Czech Republic; Virginia Beach; Chicago; and San Francisco. Engagements in the 2023–2024 season include performances of Rachmaninoff's monumental four concertos and *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* with the Austin Symphony and with Virginia Symphony Orchestra, a nationally broadcast New Year's concert with the Czech Philharmonic, and tours of South Africa and Asia.

Olga has served as a jury chairman of several high-profile competitions, including her own, the Olga Kern International Piano Competition, of which she is Artistic Director. A dedicated educator, she has been on the piano faculty of Manhattan School of Music since 2017, and in 2019, she was appointed the Connie and Marc Jacobson Director of Chamber Music at the Virginia Arts Festival. She also established Aspiration, a foundation that provides financial assistance to musicians around the world.

Her well-regarded discography includes works of Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, Chopin, Brahms, and Shostakovich.

Olga's iconic dresses are designed by Alex Teih and her jewelry is designed by Alex Soldier.

Anna Dmytrenko, piano

Ukrainian-American pianist Anna Dmytrenko has performed extensively worldwide at renowned venues such as Carnegie Hall, Kimmel Center of Performing Arts, Lincoln Center, Temple Emanu-El, Auditorium Gaber, Paris Philharmonie, Salle Cortot, Popejoy Hall, Hammer Theatre, and Teatro Sociale di Como.

Anna has won prizes in international piano competitions including second prize, the Audience Choice Award and Best Contemporary Piece Prize at the first Olga Kern International Piano Competition, first prize at the Cantu International Piano Competition, third prize at the Ricard Viñes International Piano Competition, first prize at the Manhattan International Music Competition, and third prize at the New York International Piano Competition.

Orchestral collaborations include projects with the Orquestra Simfonica del Valles, KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic, New Mexico Philharmonic, Bacau Philharmonic, Orquestra Sinfônica Munipal, and Orchestre de Chambre de Paris (conducted from the keyboard). She recorded her debut album in 2018, *Anna Dmytrenko: Live in Recital*, performing works by Medtner, Rachmaninoff, and Barber.

Anna studied at the Juilliard School with Oxana Yablonskaya, the Royal Academy of Music in London with Christopher Elton, and the University of the Arts in Berlin with Pascal Devoyon. She is currently working on a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Manhattan School of Music with Olga Kern.

Shmuel Katz (BM '98, MM '00), viola

Shmuel Katz has been praised as a "world-class musician" by the leading German newspaper *Frankfurter Rundschau*, and heralded by the *Ottawa Citizen* for his "uncommonly rich and introspective" playing.

Mr. Katz is the acting Associate Principal Violist with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra after being an associate member with the company for over a decade. Shmuel serves as Principal Violist of the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra and American Ballet Theatre Orchestra. Previously, Mr. Katz served as the Associate Principal Violist of the New York City Ballet Orchestra, Principal Violist of the Pennsylvania Ballet, and member of the New York City Opera and Orchestra of St. Luke's. He also appeared as concertmaster and soloist with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra in Carnegie Hall. He has toured with the orchestra in Europe, Asia, and North America. Mr. Katz serves on the viola faculty and the Orchestral Performance Program faculty at Manhattan School of Music. He is also on the viola faculty at SUNY Purchase and previously taught at New York University. Mr. Katz has given master classes at TON at Bard College and at North Carolina School of the Arts.

Shmuel is an active recording artist. He has recorded for EMI, Deutsche Grammophon, and Ondine labels with the Philadelphia Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, and Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. His studio work in New York includes albums by Sting, Bruce Springsteen, and Lou Reed as well as more than 20 movie soundtracks.

Mr. Katz performs frequently in chamber music concerts and recitals. He has performed recently with the Concertante, Richardson, and American Chamber Players, St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble, and the Israeli Chamber Project. He has collaborated in chamber music performances with Pinchas Zukerman, Itzhak Perlman, Yefim Bronfman, Michael Tree, Ralph Kirchbaum, Vadim Gluzman, Leif Ove Andsnes, American String Quartet, and Tabea Zimmerman. As a recitalist, Mr. Katz has performed in Weill Recital Hall, David Geffen Hall, the Jerusalem Music Centre, National Library in Ottawa, Canada and more.

He received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Manhattan School of Music where he studied violin and viola with Pinchas Zukerman, Michael Tree, and Patinka Kopec. Before leaving for New York, he studied in Israel with Haim Taub, Ora Shiran, and Yair Kless. He also performed in master classes given by Isaac Stern, Itzhak Perlman, Dorothy DeLay, Josef Gingold, Joseph Silverstein, and Alexander Schneider.

Vladislav Kern, piano

Vladislav Kern is a Russian-American pianist, composer, and poet. He started playing piano at an early age, with his grandmother being his first teacher. At the age of 6 he was accepted to Central Music School at the Moscow State P. I. Tchaikovsky Conservatory, where he studied with Professor V. V. Piasetsky, and later became a scholarship recipient of the Vladimir Spivakov International Charity Foundation.

At the age of 12 Vlad moved to New York and continued his education at the Juilliard School of Music, studying with Professor Y. Kaplinsky. There, he received the prestigious Van Cliburn scholarship, the first time in the history of the Juilliard School Precollege division. From 2016 to 2019 he studied in Italy at Academia Pianistica Internazionale "Incontri col Maestro" di Imola, studying with Professor B. Petrushansky. Currently, Vlad is studying at Manhattan School of Music with Professor A. Moutouzkine. Along his musical journey, Vlad took master classes and lessons from musicians such as Solomon Mikowsky, T. A. Zelikman, Naum Shtarkman, K. A. Shashkina, Oleg Marshev, Antonio Mormone, Ian Hobson, and Boaz Sharon.

Vlad has performed in venues such as David Geffen Hall and Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, La Sala Verdi at the Conservatorio di Milano, Konserthuset Stockholm, Finlandia Hall in Helsinki, the Grand Hall of the St. Petersburg Academic Philharmonia, and the Grand Hall of the Moscow State Tchaikovsky Conservatory. He has collaborated with musicians such as Vladimir Spivakov, Leonard Slatkin, Roberto Minczuk, Sebastian Lang-Lessing, Jindong Cai, Giancarlo De Lorenzo, and Michael Morgan, and has recordings on the radio and television in many countries, including the U.S., Italy, Luxembourg, Sweden, Finland, and Russia.

Vlad is a winner of global competitions and festivals in Denmark, Czech Republic, Republic of South Africa, and the U.S., including the Clara Schumann International Competition in 2022, Tureck-Bach International Piano Competition in New York, and Price Rubin International Competition.

Vlad's 2022–23 season included recitals and concerts with orchestras in Albuquerque with the New Mexico Philharmonic; in Winter Park, Florida (Bach Festival); Carmel, California; and Huntsville, Alabama; solo performances and chamber music at the Virginia Arts Festival; and concerts in Mexico and Europe. Highlights of his 2023–24 season include recitals and concerts in Chicago, San Antonio, Arcata, Denver, and Brno.

Vlad has been a Young Steinway Artist since 2013.

Alexandre Moutouzkine (MM '03, PS '05, AD '06), piano

Russian-American pianist Alexandre Moutouzkine has toured as a soloist with over 60 orchestras across Europe, North and South America, and Asia. Highlights of those performances include appearances with the Cleveland Orchestra, Berliner Philharmoniker, Israel Philharmonic and Israel Camerata, Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal, Philharmonic Orchestras of Moscow and Kiev, and Radiotelevision Orchestra of Spain.

As a recitalist and chamber musician, Alexandre has performed at Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium and Zankel Hall, the Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, the Kimmel Center, Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv, Royal Hall in London, the Great Hall of the Berlin Philharmonic, Palau de la Musica in Barcelona, National Centers of Toronto and Montreal, and Yokohama Minato Mirai Hall in Japan. Alexandre's recital at Wigmore Hall was described by *International Piano* magazine as "grandly organic, with many personal and pertinent insights, offering a thoughtful balance between rhetoric and fantasy...technically dazzling." Alexandre's recital of Frédéric Chopin's *Études* at the Great Hall of Moscow Conservatory was recorded live and released on the Classical Music Archives label in Russia.

Alexandre has claimed top prizes at more than 20 international competitions, including Naumburg, Cleveland, Montreal, New Orleans, Shanghai, Iturbi in Valencia, Maria Canals in Barcelona, and Arthur Rubinstein in Tel Aviv. At age 19, he won the Special Award for Artistic Potential for his performance of Brahms' Op. 117 Intermezzi. A *Dallas Morning News* critic described it as being played "more beautifully, more movingly, than I've ever heard them. At once sad, tender and noble, this was playing of heart-stopping intimacy and elegance."

Other career highlights include a performance of Rachmaninoff's complete works in a six-part recital series with the Carnegie Concert Series in Nyack and the reception of the "Artist of the Season" award from Chamber Music International in Dallas.

His record of Cuban piano music released through Steinway & Sons was recognized by WRTI as one of the top 10 classical music recordings picks for 2017. It also won the Cubadisco award for the best classical music recording in Cuba. Alexandre most recently released a Steinway and Sons recording, *Ravel & Stravinsky*, with violinist Chloé Kiffer. This album features his solo piano transcription of Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite*, which debuted at Philadelphia's Kimmel Center and New York's 92Y.

Alexandre has served as an adjudicator for the Concours International Genève Musicale, Bartok Competition in Budapest, Maria Canals in Barcelona, Santa Cecilia in Porto, Panama International Piano Competition, New Orleans International Piano Competition, and Vladimir Krainev Competition in Moscow.

Alexandre is co-head of the piano department at Manhattan School of Music. His students have won top prizes in numerous competitions throughout North and South America, Europe, and Asia. He is a sought-after teacher and guest artist at music festivals around the world including Beijing International Piano Festival, Paris International Music Academy and MusicAlp Festival in France, Music Fest Perugia, Forum Musicae in Madrid, and the International Piano Festival Genève Musicale.

Philippe Muller, cello

Born in Alsace, Philippe Muller was raised in both the French and German musical traditions that characterize that province. He has always had an open mind to different cultures and carries on with a multi-faceted career. He performs an extensive repertoire, not only as a soloist, but also as a member of various chamber music ensembles.

In 1970 he founded with Jacques Rouvier and Jean-Jacques Kantorow a piano trio particularly appreciated for its dynamism and homogeneity. Seven years of work with the Ensemble Intercontemporain, founded in France by Pierre Boulez, have enabled him to understand and manage the music of our time.

In 1979 he succeeded his master André Navarra as cello teacher at the Conservatoire de Paris. He now carries on with his pedagogy at Manhattan School of Music in New York City. Many of the cellists he has trained, such as Blaise Dejardin or Gautier Capuçon, are enjoying remarkable individual careers of their own.

Philippe Muller is invited to give master classes in the most prestigious institutions, notably in Kyoto, Japan, where he has been involved for twenty-two years in an academy of French music.

Many festivals regularly invite him to perform around the world, primarily in Europe, but also in the United States, Canada, Latin America, Japan, Korea, Australia, and New Zealand. He is also highly solicited to judge international competitions such as the Tchaikovsky in Moscow, Paulo in Helsinki, and Rostropovich in Paris.

His extensive discography reflects his personality and presents a range of works from Vivaldi, Beethoven and Brahms to Faure, Ravel, Martinu, Malec and Merlet, not to mention the complete suites of J. S. Bach.

Lucie Robert, violin

Violinist Lucie Robert has received enthusiastic praise from audiences and critics alike for the expressive lyricism and tonal beauty of her playing. Lauded in the *New York Times* for her "melting tone" and "wonderfully supple approach to phrasing," Ms. Robert carries on the great violin tradition of her teacher and mentor, the legendary Josef Gingold.

A prizewinner of the First Joseph Joachim International Violin Competition in Austria, Ms. Robert has appeared as recitalist and chamber musician throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Asia. She has performed over 30 different works as violin soloist with major orchestras throughout North America. Ms. Robert has also collaborated in chamber music with Menahem Pressler, Richard Goode, Claude Frank, Philippe Entremont, and Isidore Cohen, among others. An active participant in the summer music festival scene, Ms. Robert has been a guest artist or faculty member at festivals such as Bowdoin, the American Conservatoire at Fontainebleau, Meadowmount, Orford, Busan Music Festival, Hida-Takayama Festival, Texas Music Festival, MusicAlp Academy, and the Ishikawa Music Academy.

Highly sought after as a violin pedagogue, Ms. Robert has been a violin professor for over 30 years at Manhattan School of Music and Mannes School of Music. She has given master classes throughout the world at institutions such as Seoul National University, Korea National University of the Arts, Central Conservatory of Music, Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Tokyo College of Music, Yong Siew Toh Conservatory, Oberlin Conservatory, Sibelius Academy, Norwegian Academy of Music, the Glenn Gould School, and the Conservatoire de Musique de Montreal. Ms. Robert has been a member of the jury at the 2022 International Louis Spohr Competition for Young Violinists and the Montreal, Fritz Kreisler, Kumho, József Szigeti, Seoul, Joseph Joachim, Isang Yun, and Jean Sibelius international violin competitions.

Xiao Wang (BM '13, MM '15, AD '16), violin

Xiao Wang has been praised by the *New York Times* as an "excellent violinist," who "made the most of its expressive opportunities." First-prize winner of the 2012 Szigeti International Violin Competition and 2016 New York Concert Artist, he has received numerous prizes and awards from international competitions, including the 2015 Queen Elizabeth Competition and the 2015 Seoul International Competition.

Mr. Wang has toured throughout North America, Europe, and Asia. As a soloist, he has performed at Bela Bartok National Concert Hall, Carnegie Hall, Gewandhaus, Kammermusiksaal of the Berlin Philharmonic, National Center for Performing Art in Beijing, and Seoul Art Center. He has worked under the baton of Marin Alsop, David Gilbert, János Kovács, George Manahan, and András Ligeti, and performed with orchestras such as the National Orchestra of Belgium, the Kodály Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Gewandhaus Academisches Orchester.

Mr. Wang is on the violin faculty at Manhattan School of Music. He has been invited as a guest artist and faculty member and given recitals and master classes at the Budapest Spring Festival, Texas Music Festival, Festival International de Musique de Wissembourg, Bravo Music Festival, Qingdao Music Festival, Beijing International Music Festival and Academy, and Manhattan in the Mountains. As a passionate chamber musician, he has collaborated with members of the American String Quartet, the Mendelssohn String Quartet, New York Philharmonic Orchestra, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, and faculty members of the Eastman School of Music, Mannes School of Music, the Juilliard School, and MSM.

Xiao Wang began his violin studies at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing with Weidong Tong and later studied with Joseph Silverstein at the Curtis Institute of Music. He received his BM, MM, and Artist Diploma from Manhattan School of Music under the guidance of Lucie Robert.

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