

**M** Manhattan  
School of Music

LIVES OF THE PIANO

# **The Piano and Harmony**

**Lisa Yui** (DMA '05), Director

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024 | 7:30 PM  
GORDON K. AND HARRIET GREENFIELD HALL

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## PROGRAM

AMY BEACH  
(1867–1944)

*The Hermit Thrush at Eve*, Op. 92, no. 1

Lisa Yui (DMA '05)

BÉLA BARTÓK  
(1881–1945)

*Romanian Folk Dances*

*Jocul cu bâță* (Stick Dance)

*Brâul* (Sash Dance)

*Pê-loc* (In One Spot)

*Buciumeana* (Horn Dance)

*Poargă Românească* (Romanian Polka)

*Mărunțel* (Fast Dance)

Annie Cao

CLAUDE DEBUSSY  
(1862–1918)

*Estampes*

I. *Pagodes*

Yeontaek Oh

FRANZ LISZT  
(1811–1886)

*Trauvorspiel und Trauermarsch* S.206

Michael Kaykov (DMA '20)

ARNOLD SCHOENBERG  
(1874–1951)

Suite for Piano (*Suite für Klavier*), Op. 25

*Präludium*

*Gavotte*

*Musette*

*Intermezzo*

*Menuett. Trio*

*Gigue*

**Seth Schultheis** (BM '22)

PHILIP GLASS  
(b. 1937)

Etude No. 2

Etude No. 6

**Nelson Ojeda** (PD '04)

OLIVIER MESSIAEN  
(1908–1992)

*Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus*

I. *Regard du Père*

II. *Regard de l'étoile*

**Anastasia Bryant**

ALEXANDER Scriabin  
(1872–1915)

Piano Sonata No. 9, Op. 68 (“Black Mass”)

**Eric Clark**



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the Arts**

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# **ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

## **Anastasia Bryant**

Russian-American pianist Anastasia Bryant began her piano studies at age 5. At age 11, she won her first national piano competition and had her first performance with Voronezh Symphony Orchestra. Since then, she has won several national competitions, and performed as a soloist and with different chamber groups in Russia, Dubai, Kuwait, Austria, Germany, and the U.S. Anastasia received her Master's degree from Voronezh Academy of Arts in 2006 and her Master's certificate in performance from Montclair State University in 2015. At present, she is an adjunct piano professor at Methodist University as well as CEO and founder of AB- Music and Education. Prior to this, she was an accompanist at UNC Pembroke, and professor at Fayetteville State University, Snyder Music Academy, and Van Hoven Music Academy.

## **Annie Yu Cao**

Annie Yu Cao began her piano studies at the age of four and has continued to blossom into a mature and enthusiastic performer. Since 2010, she has participated in numerous festivals and competitions ranging from local to international stages, consistently earning recognition and first place prizes. The past few years have been especially noteworthy with award-winning performances in the B.C. Performing Arts Festival, the Canadian Music Competition, Vancouver International Music Competition, and the Pacific Youth International Piano Competition. Annie graduated with honors from the University of Toronto with a Bachelor's music performance. She is currently pursuing her Master's degree at Manhattan School of Music under the tutelage of Jeffrey Cohen.

## **Eric Clark**

Eric Clark is a pianist currently based in New York. He has been a soloist with the Space Coast Symphony, the Carnegie Mellon Philharmonic, the Queensboro Symphony, and the Palisades Sinfonietta. He was a semifinalist and the only American contestant in the 2018 International Chopin Competition on Period Instruments in Warsaw, Poland and won second prize in the 2023 Chopin International Competition in Hartford, Connecticut. A graduate of Carnegie Mellon University, he studied with Sergey Schepkin and Enrique Graf, and had lessons with Earl Wild and Ilana Vered. Later teachers include Andrei Gavrilov

and Byron Janis. He has given recitals for the International Piano Series in Charleston, South Carolina; Trinity Wall Street; MusicfestPerugia; the Tel Hai master classes in Israel, and Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, sponsored by the Cuban Cultural Center of New York.

## **Michael Kaykov (DMA '20)**

American pianist and educator Dr. Michael Kaykov was born into a musical family and gave his first public performance at the age of six. He has earned his Bachelor's degree with honors from Mannes College of Music and Master's from the Juilliard School. He finished his Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the Manhattan School of Music, writing his dissertation "The Evolution of Alexander Scriabin's Harmonic Language and Pianistic Textures Across his Etudes Op. 8, 42 and 65" under the guidance of Dr. Edward Green. The second album of his ongoing Liszt series was released by Odradek Records in April 2022 and earned favorable reviews: "Five stars: A Liszt recital as unexpected as it is brilliant" (Huntley Dent, *Fanfare Magazine*). Michael Kaykov is a Steinway & Sons educational partner and is on the Harlem School of the Arts piano faculty. Michael's scholarly articles have been published in the IRASM, PMN and ICONI journals. His original piano transcriptions are being prepared for publication by Muse Press (Japan). An album featuring the works of Chopin was released in the Fall of 2022, and a third all-Liszt album will be issued by Odradek Records in 2024.

## **Yeontaek Oh**

Yeontaek Oh studied at Seoul National University and New England Conservatory of Music, where he graduated with honors and a Gilbert Foundation scholarship. Recently, he finished his *Konzertexamen* degree at Hochschule für Musik Freiburg as a recipient of DAAD and a German Government Scholarship, and *Concertiste* degree at Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris with a full scholarship. After his concerto debut with the Wonju Philharmonic Orchestra at 13, he was invited to perform with orchestras as a soloist in Korea, France, Italy, Spain, Morocco, Cuba, and Brazil. He has also given recitals in Korea, France, Germany, Spain, and the U.S. in collaboration with the Lyon Chopin Association, the Animato Association, the Piano Campus Foundation, the Great Mountain Festival, the Kumho Foundation, and many others. In 2019, his performance was live-recorded and released by the Piano Campus Foundation. Recently, he also gave masterclasses at Gangwon Arts High School and Gangwon University in Korea. Oh has won over ten international

competitions including the first prize at the Rio de Janeiro International Competition in 2023 and the second prize at the Prix de Bern by Interlaken Klassics in 2022. Currently, he is finishing his DMA degree at Manhattan School of Music in the studio of Dr. Solomon Mikowsky.

### **Nelson Ojeda Valdés (PD '04)**

New York City based pianist Nelson Ojeda Valdés has been a soloist with the Pacific Symphony, Southeast Symphony, California State University Fullerton Wind Ensemble, and the Lloyd Rodgers' Diverse Instrument Ensemble. His solo and chamber recitals have included Círculo Bellas Artes, El Ateneo, and Fundación Juan March (Madrid, Spain), Esterhazy Palace (Eisenstadt, Austria), Yamaha Resort (Shima, Japan), Yon Sei University (Seoul, Korea), Steinway Society of Puerto Rico, Piano Spheres (Los Angeles), and the DiMenna Center, Juilliard, Manhattan School of Music, Society for Ethical Culture, and Symphony Space in NYC. He has also been active in new music having played at the Queens New Music Festival, Voces Novae New Music Festival, and regularly premiering and recording music by living composers. Mr. Ojeda's upcoming recital at Klavierhaus features the music of Philip Glass, John Adams, and Steve Reich with pianists Adam Sherkin, Lisa Yui, Anthony de Mare, Christopher Bradshaw, and Steve Long. Ojeda Valdés holds degrees from California State University Fullerton and Manhattan School of Music with additional studies at Mannes School of Music and the Juilliard School. His teachers include Martha E. Ojeda (his mother), Lei Kuwada, Earle Voorhies, Susan Svrcek, and Constance Keene.

### **Seth Schultheis (BM '22)**

Pianist Seth Schultheis is developing a professional career as a performing artist who was awarded Grand Prize in the Osaka International Music Competition in Osaka, Japan along with various other national and international competitions. Seth has performed as a soloist throughout the United States and Europe in venues such as Teatro Cajasol in Seville, Spain; Ely Cathedral in England; the Mendelssohnhaus in Leipzig, Germany; Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York; and the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C. He has also concertized with various orchestras, including Europa Musica, New York Concerti Sinfonietta, New York Session Symphony, Londontowne Symphony Orchestra, and Manhattan School of Music Philharmonic Orchestra, performing concerti by Beethoven, Brahms, Rachmaninoff, Prokofiev, and Berg. He has been awarded the top prize in several national and international competitions, including the Five Towns Piano Competition, Steinway Piano Competition in

Washington, D.C., and International Grande Music Competition. Most recently, he received the Fourth Prize and Best Commissioned Piece at the New York International Piano Competition.

After completing his Bachelor's degree with the late Phillip Kavin and Dr. Solomon Mikowsky at the Manhattan School of Music, Seth is currently pursuing his Master's degree at MSM with Dr. Mikowsky.

## **Lisa Yui (DMA '05)**

Described as “a musical phenomenon” (*Pianiste*), Yamaha Artist Lisa Yui enjoys a multifaceted musical career as pianist, lecturer, educator, author, and musical director. Since making her concerto debut at the age of seven, she has performed throughout North America, Europe, and Asia. She is the top prizewinner of the Senigallia International Piano Competition in Italy and has twice been the recipient of a Canada Council Scholarship. Dr. Yui has performed as soloist with prominent orchestras including the Tokyo Symphony, the Polish National Radio, the Toronto Symphony, and the Krakow State Philharmonic. Dr. Yui's insightful writing on a variety of topics has appeared in numerous publications, and she has served as a member of numerous competition juries including the International Stepping Stones of the Canadian Music Competition and the Canadian Chopin Competition. Dr. Yui's principal teachers and mentors include Byron Janis, Marc Silverman, Giovanni Valentini, Oxana Yablonskaya, Edna Golandsky, David Dubal, and Leonid Hambro. Lisa Yui is on the faculties of Manhattan School of Music and Juilliard Extension. She received Manhattan School of Music's President's Medal for Distinguished Service in 2018.

# ABOUT MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Founded as a community music school by Janet Daniels Schenck in 1918, today MSM is recognized for its more than 1,000 superbly talented undergraduate and graduate students who come from more than 50 countries and nearly all 50 states; its innovative curricula and world-renowned artist-teacher faculty that includes musicians from the New York Philharmonic, the Met Orchestra, and the top ranks of the jazz and Broadway communities; and a distinguished community of accomplished, award-winning alumni working at the highest levels of the musical, educational, cultural, and professional worlds.

The School is dedicated to the personal, artistic, and intellectual development of aspiring musicians, from its Precollege students through those pursuing doctoral studies. Offering classical, jazz, and musical theatre training, MSM grants a range of undergraduate and graduate degrees. True to MSM's origins as a music school for children, the Precollege Division is a highly competitive and professionally oriented Saturday music program, dedicated to the musical and personal growth of talented young musicians ages 5 to 18. The School also serves some 2,000 New York City schoolchildren through its Arts-in-Education Program, and another 2,000 students through its critically acclaimed Distance Learning Program.

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## Land Acknowledgment

We want to acknowledge that we gather as Manhattan School of Music on the traditional land of the Lenape and Wappinger past and present, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations. This calls us to commit to continuing to learn how to be better stewards of the land we inhabit as well.



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