

LIVES OF THE PIANO 26TH SEASON

Lives of the Piano:
Classical Meets Jazz I—
Reimagined Classics

Lisa Yui (MM '00, DMA '05), Director

Ted Rosenthal (BM '81, MM '83), Co-Director

Featuring Students, Faculty, and Friends of MSM Classical and
Jazz Piano Departments

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2026 | 7:30 PM
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The Piano and Jazz

CLAUDE DEBUSSY
(1862–1918)

La soirée dans Grenade from *Estampes*, CD 108

Lisa Yui (MM '00, DMA '05), Classical Original
Daniel Zawel (MM '28) and **Andrew Yuska** (BM '29),
Jazz Reimagining

PYOTR TCHAIKOVSKY
(1840–1893)

June: Barcarolle from *The Seasons*, Op. 37a

Zicheng Edmund An (MM '24, DMA Candidate),
Classical Original
Derek Lewis (MM '27), Jazz Reimagining

BILLY STRAYHORN
(1915–1967)
(ARR. ERIC STERN)

U.M.M.G. (Upper Manhattan Medical Group)
In the style of Debussy's *La Sérénade interrompue*
from *Prelude Book 1*, no. 9
Eric Stern (MM '25)

Intermission

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN
(1770–1827)

Adagio cantabile from
Pathétique Sonata No. 8 in C Minor, Op. 13

Terri Ji (BM '26, MM '28), Classical Original
Ted Rosenthal (BM '81, MM '83), Jazz Reimagining

ROBERT SCHUMANN
(1810–1856)

Träumerei from *Kinderszenen*, Op. 15

Eric Clark (DMA Candidate), Classical Original

Daniel Kuk (MM '28), Jazz Reimagining

FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN
(1810–1849)

Tempo giusto, Waltz in C-Sharp Minor, Op. 64, no. 2

Gastón Frydman (DMA Candidate),
Classical Original

Jack Ta (BM '28) and **Evan Anderson** (MM '27),
Jazz Reimagining

Panel discussion with the performers to follow the performance

ABOUT THE PIANISTS

Zicheng Edmund An (MM '24, DMA Candidate)

Chinese pianist Edmund Zicheng An, based in New York City, has established an active career as a soloist, chamber musician, and interpreter of contemporary music. He has appeared at music festivals across the United States and Europe and has collaborated frequently with the Qingdao Symphony Orchestra as concerto soloist. A committed advocate for new music, Mr. An has also given premieres of contemporary works in both the United States and abroad. His performances and recordings have been broadcast on WQXR, while his work as a writer includes music criticism and reviews for the professional publication *Music Weekly*. He has worked with distinguished artists and pedagogues including Jonathan Biss, Richard Goode, Robert McDonald, Pinchas Zukerman, and Eugene Drucker. Mr. An earned both his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from Manhattan School of Music, where he is currently pursuing the Doctor of Musical Arts degree under Dr. Marc Silverman. At MSM, he holds dual assistantships in Music History and Elective Piano.

Evan Anderson (MM '27)

Evan Anderson is a jazz pianist and composer from Orlando Florida who focuses on progressing his music through pushing the limits of genre and texture. Evan received his bachelors degree in jazz piano from University of North Florida and is now pursuing his masters degree in jazz piano at Manhattan School of Music. Evan currently studies with Ted Rosenthal and Phil Markowitz and has previously studied with Lynne Arriale, Todd Delgiudice, Per Danielsson, and others.

Eric Clark (DMA Candidate)

Pianist Eric Clark has performed to great acclaim throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. This past summer, Eric was invited to be on the piano faculty of the inaugural edition of the Eastern Festival of Music, where he performed Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 24 in C minor, K. 491 under maestro Gerard Schwarz. Currently completing his third year of the Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Manhattan School of Music studying with pianist William Wolfram, Eric was the winner of the 2026 Eisenberg Fried Concerto Competition and will perform John Corigliano's Piano Concerto with the MSM Symphony in December 2026. Eric was invited to compete in the New York screening round of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in 2013, and was the only American contestant selected to attend the First International Chopin Competition on Period Instruments in Warsaw, Poland in 2018, where he made the semifinal round. Eric earned a bachelor and master's degrees from Carnegie

Mellon University, where his primary teachers were Enrique Graf and Sergey Schepkin. In addition to maintaining a private teaching studio in the Upper West Side, Eric teaches at the Greenwich House Music School and currently teaches keyboard literature and required piano classes at Manhattan School of Music.

Gastón Frydman (DMA Candidate)

Gastón Frydman is “a pianist of exceptional talent and artistry... a true master and a giant at the keyboard” (*De Paraíso para usted*). Managed by MUCHIMUSIC, he has performed across the Americas, Europe, and Asia, including at Teatro Colón and the National Auditorium in Buenos Aires. He has appeared as soloist with Argentina’s National Symphony Orchestra and collaborated with members of the New York Philharmonic. A two-time winner of the Argentinian Musical Critics Association’s Stimulus Prize, he has appeared at Gabriela Montero at Prager, PianoFest in the Hamptons, Piano Cleveland, and Mozarteum Salzburg Summer Academy. He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees with honors and a Piano Pedagogy Diploma at the Cleveland Institute of Music under Antonio Pompa-Baldi. He is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts at the Manhattan School of Music, where he is Maestro Horacio Gutiérrez’s sole student and teaches secondary piano as a teaching assistant. A Steinway educator, he also maintains a private studio in New York. A three-time fellow of the Montero Piano Lab Artist Diploma, he was co-founder and artist-in-residence of Room of Wonders.

Terri Ji (BM ’26, MM ’28)

Currently based in New York City, Terri Ji has performed in notable venues throughout the United States and internationally. Her performance highlights include appearances with the Vienna Ball Orchestra at the Vienna Konzerthaus and with the Manhattan Symphony Orchestra in New York City. She has also been featured as a finalist of the KINGFM *Young Artist Awards* on live radio, with 98.1FM Northwest Focus Live. Over the years, she has received many accolades, winning the 2024 Dora Zaslavsky-Koch Concerto Competition, the Lillian Fuchs Chamber Music Competition, and the Rubinstein Award at Manhattan School of Music, which is given to a female pianist demonstrating exceptional promise in piano performance. She was a named recipient of the Anselmo Academy of Music and the Arts Piano Scholarship at MSM, where she graduated with her Bachelor of Music degree under the guidance of Professor Marc Silverman.

Daniel Kuk (MM '28)

Daniel Kuk is a pianist, multi-instrumentalist, and composer who grew up in the Nashville area. Music was always a big part of his childhood, and he quickly discovered his love for piano as well as picking up the bass, guitar, and drums. Daniel studied with a handful of great pianists in Tennessee, such as Jon Cowherd, Pat Coil and the late Rick Jackson. He is now a graduate student at MSM, studying with renowned pianist Ted Rosenthal. Daniel has also gotten to perform with a handful of highly-respected artists, such as Jason Marsalis, Jeff Hamilton, Dan Gottlieb, Miguel Zenon, and others.

Derek Lewis (MM '27)

Derek Lewis is a pianist, composer, and educator from Buffalo, New York. His interest in the piano began at the age of 14, when he first began making connections between 90s hip hop samples and the classic jazz records they often came from. Since then, despite specializing in jazz, he has enjoyed exploring and drawing connections between many genres in his own art. Derek holds a BFA in Jazz and Contemporary Music from The New School, and is currently in his 2nd year in the Jazz Arts masters program at MSM, where he studies under Ted Rosenthal.

Ted Rosenthal (BM '81, MM '83)

Ted Rosenthal is one of the leading jazz pianist/composers of his generation. He tours worldwide with his trio, as a soloist, and has performed with many jazz greats, including Gerry Mulligan, Art Farmer, Phil Woods, Bob Brookmeyer, and James Moody. Winner of the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Piano Competition, Rosenthal has released nineteen CDs as a leader, including a series of 4 CDs in 2025/26, featuring his distinctive arrangements of the *Great American Songbook*, reimaginings of classical themes and original compositions. His *Rhapsody in Gershwin*, which features his arrangement of *Rhapsody in Blue* for jazz trio, reached #1 in jazz album sales at iTunes and Amazon. A recipient of three grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, Rosenthal's compositions include jazz tunes and large-scale works. Rosenthal's jazz opera, *Dear Erich*, was premiered by New York City Opera in 2019. Rosenthal has also been commissioned by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and The Park Avenue Chamber Symphony. Rosenthal has also performed with Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, The Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, and Jon Faddis and the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band and has been the Pianist/Musical Director for vocalists Ann Hampton Callaway, Kurt Elling, Helen Merrill and Barbara Cook. Rosenthal's orchestral performances include featured appearances with The Detroit Symphony, The Phoenix Symphony, The Boston Pops and The Pittsburgh Symphony. He performed Gershwin's Concerto in F and *Rhapsody in Blue* for the opening concert

of the 92nd Street Y's 2015-16 season. Rosenthal received his Bachelors and Masters degrees from Manhattan School of Music. He went on to continue his piano studies with Phillip Kawin. He is on the faculties of The Juilliard School, and Manhattan School of Music. Rosenthal has taught and mentored many of the leading jazz pianists of the younger generation and presents jazz clinics throughout the world. He has published piano arrangements and feature articles for *Piano and Keyboard* magazine, *Piano Today*, and *The Piano Stylist*. Ted Rosenthal is a Steinway Artist.

Eric Stern (MM '25)

Originally from Brooklyn, Eric Stern is a 25-year-old pianist who “makes keyboarding look like surfboarding” (*Broadway World*). Through performances with Latin Jazz masters such as John Benitez and Samuel Torres, as well as his own Latin Jazz group, set to release its debut album sometime in 2027, rising-star jazz vocalists such as Samara Joy and Kate Kortum, music directing a salsa band entitled Latin Soul Collective, and playing with a hip-hop group, Eric has a unique fluency in a wide range of genres of music. After studying jazz piano at the Frost School of Music and Manhattan School of Music and developing a passion for the music of Debussy and Ravel, this performance is a world premiere of one piece of a planned suite of twelve, arranging jazz standards in the style of each piece from Debussy's *Preludes, Book One*. By combining both worlds, maintaining the harmonic brilliance of Ravel while simultaneously keeping improvisation as the essence of the music, Eric hopes to present a true synthesis of classical and jazz that all can appreciate.

Jack Ta (BM '28)

Jack Ta is a highly spirited jazz pianist, composer, and educator. Born in Vietnam and raised in New Zealand, he began his musical journey at age seven on drums before finding his voice on the piano at twelve. In 2024, Jack relocated to New York City after being accepted into the prestigious Manhattan School of Music, where he studies under renowned pianist Ted Rosenthal. Jack has performed at notable venues, including Jazz at Lincoln Center and several universities in New Zealand. He has shared the stage with leading artists such as Benny Benack III, Ingrid Jensen, Rick Margitza, Samuel Torres, and many others. Alongside performing, he has taught and mentored more than 50 students across five countries through private lessons, masterclasses, and school programs. Rooted in the jazz tradition, Jack draws inspiration from artists including Art Tatum, Bud Powell, Hank Jones, McCoy Tyner, and Oscar Peterson. His music blends tradition, joy, and soul, reflecting both reverence and curiosity. A winner of the 2023 New Zealand National Jazz Improvisation Competition and a National YoungArts Winner, Jack is dedicated to creating honest music that uplifts, inspires, and, as he puts it, “happifies” people.

Lisa Yui (MM '00, DMA '05)

Described as "a musical phenomenon" (*Pianiste* magazine), Yamaha Artist Lisa Yui enjoys a multifaceted career as a pianist, lecturer, teacher, author, and musical director. A top prizewinner of the Senigallia International Piano Competition and the Super Classics International Auditions in Tokyo, she has performed across North America, Europe, and Asia with orchestras including the Tokyo Symphony, Polish National Radio, and Toronto Symphony, and at venues such as Suntory Hall, Roy Thomson Hall, and Théâtre du Châtelet. In 2005, she represented Canada at the World Exposition in Aichi, Japan. Yui founded The Lives of the Piano, Manhattan School of Music's first piano lecture/concert series, now in its 26th season, and has lectured at the Juilliard School, Princeton University, and the University of Toronto. Her recordings include an album of Weber and Dussek, awarded the "Pianiste Maestro" distinction, and a DVD/Blu-ray of four Beethoven sonatas with commentary on Aurora Classics. Her writings on subjects such as virtuoso pianist Marie Pleyel and the history of piano music in Asia have appeared in *Piano Magazine*, *Clavier Companion*, and *EPTA Journal*. At Manhattan School of Music, Yui teaches doctoral and graduate courses, including piano literature, Piano Music by Composers from Asia, and The 32 Beethoven Sonatas, and received the 2018 President's Medal for Distinguished Service. She is also on the faculty of the Juilliard Extension.

Andrew Yuska (BM '29)

Andrew Yuska is a multifaceted pianist and composer from Orlando, Florida. Yuska has received countless accolades for his work across the arts, including numerous scholarship competitions and performing at established venues across the country. Yuska hopes to touch everyone he plays for in some small way, as he believes that music is one of the greatest forms of storytelling and human connection.

Daniel Zawel (MM '28)

Daniel Zawel is a pianist and organist from Ithaca, New York. Before moving to New York City, he performed alongside many of upstate New York's top jazz musicians, while earning his bachelor's degree at the Eastman School of Music. Among these musicians are Bob Sneider, Rich Thompson, Mike Melito, Dan Vitale, and Christine Jensen. Since making the move to NYC, Daniel has performed on both organ and piano across the city and begun a masters degree at MSM.