Manhattan School of Music

THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT WITH
THE DEPARTMENT OF PIANO

A Tribute To Arkady Aronov

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2026 | 1 PM
GORDON K. AND HARRIET GREENFIELD HALL

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PROGRAM

Remarks	**James Gandre** *President, Manhattan School of Music*
J.S.BACH (1650–1685) (Trans. Alfred Cortot)	Aria (*Largo*) from Concerto in F Minor, BWV 1056
(Arr. Felix Blumenfeld)	Etude in A-flat Major for the Left-Hand, Op. 36 **Aleksandr Bolotin**, piano
LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770–1827)	Sonata No. 30 in E Major, Op. 109 I. *Vivace ma non troppo, sempre legato–Adagio espressivo* **Jennifer Savage**, piano
RICHARD STRAUSS (1864–1949) (Arr. Scott Holden)	*Wiegenlied*, Op. 41, no. 1 **Scott Holden**, piano
KAROL SZYMANOWSKI (1882–1937)	Etude Op. 4, No. 3 **Irina Morozova**, piano

FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN (1810–1849)	Étude in C-sharp Minor, Op. 25, no. 7 **Dmitry Rachmanov**, piano
LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN	Piano Sonata No.2, Op.2, no.2 II. *Largo appassionato* **Sergio Sandi**, piano
FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN	Nocturne in F-sharp Major, Op. 15, no. 2 **Sayaka Tanikawa**, piano
FRITZ KREISLER (1875–1962) (Arr. Sergei Rachmaninoff)	*Liebesliede* **Ilya Kazantsev**, piano
Remarks	**Joyce Griggs** *Executive Vice President and Provost*
FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN	*Andante spianato et Grande polonaise brillante*, Op. 22 **Heather Conner**, piano

Arkady Aronov, piano

Acclaimed by the *New York Times* as "a pianist of high caliber," Russian pianist Arkady Aronov was one of the leading pianists in the Soviet Union before he came to the United States in 1977. The most prestigious Russian musical journal, Soviet Music, praised him as a "universalist. He presents any music with equal clarity, expression, and finality. As a most accomplished pianist he is a welcome sight on any concert stage and should be ranked among the best pianists of our time."

Arkady Aronov gained a reputation throughout Russia as an outstanding interpreter of Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and contemporary music for the keyboard. He has a vast repertoire, including more than forty-five complete recital programs and twenty-four piano concerti. In addition to playing more than a thousand recitals, appearing as guest soloist with numerous orchestras, and on radio and television throughout Russia's major cities, he presented four historic series of twenty concerts embracing the music of three centuries in the Leningrad Concert Hall. Arkady Aronov was the first to perform the music of leading contemporary Russian composers, many of whom wrote works in consideration of his artistic individuality. He also debuted some Western compositions in Russia; his performance of Aaron Copland's Sonata won the praise of the composer, for whom Mr. Aronov gave a special performance in Leningrad. Dr. Aronov has written numerous scholarly works, including *Dynamics, Articulation and Tempi in Beethoven's Piano Compositions* and edited two collections of piano works by the Russian avant-garde. He was also the founder and editor of a series of volumes for students, *Contemporary Composers for Youth*. Arkady Aronov studied piano with the renowned Savshinsky at the Rimsky-Korsakov State Conservatory of Music in Leningrad. In 1960, he was appointed Professor of Piano at the same Conservatory and held the position until 1977. In 1977, Arkady Aronov emigrated to the United States where he has received unanimous critical acclaim for his appearances in major concert halls in New York.

A distinguished member of the Piano Faculties at the Mannes College of Music since 1977 and Manhattan School of Music since 1984, he conducts two big piano studios. More than two-hundred of his students from twenty-five countries graduated the schools with Bachelor, Master, and Doctoral Degrees. Many of them won top prizes at various international and national piano competitions, successfully work at prestigious music schools and universities both in the United States and abroad. In addition to his full-time positions in New York, Dr. Aronov also conducts Piano Master Classes in the United States, Italy, France, Spain, Russia, the People's Republic of China, India, Taiwan, the Philippines, and Hong Kong.

Ilya Kazantsev, piano

Mr. Kazantsev, a fresh and exciting presence on the international music scene, has been praised by *The Washington Post* as "virtually flawless". He has performed as recitalist and soloist with orchestra extensively in Russia and the United States, as well as appearing in Germany, Japan, South Korea, Italy, France, Canada, Ukraine, Belarus and Slovenia. Among his many awards and honors, Ilya received the first prize at the Nikolai Rubinstein International Competition (France) as well as top prizes at the International Chopin Competition (Russia) and the World Piano Competition (USA).

Based in the United States since 2002, Mr. Kazantsev has joined Hermitage Piano Trio which has solidified its place as one of the world's leading piano trios, garnering multiple GRAMMY® Award nominations and receiving both audience and press accolades for their performances that *The Washington Post* singled out for "such power and sweeping passion that it left you nearly out of breath.".

Scott Holden, piano

Scott Holden has performed throughout Europe, Asia and the US, including two solo recitals at Carnegie Hall and has multiple recorded albums. His students have been top prizewinners in numerous national competitions and are regularly accepted to the leading graduate and undergraduate music programs in the country. He travels extensively to adjudicate and give master classes at festivals and pedagogy workshops. Dr. Holden holds degrees from the University of Michigan (BM), The Juilliard School (MM), and Manhattan School of Music (DMA) and was a Fulbright Scholar at the Liszt Academy in Budapest. He has been on the piano faculty of Brigham Young University since 2002 and was the head of its piano program for 14 years. He was a student of Arkady Aronov from 1997-2002.

Sergio Sandí, piano

Costa Rican pianist Sergio Sandí holds BM, MM, and DMA degrees from Manhattan School of Music where he studied with Arkady Aronov. He also holds a second Master of Arts degree in Latin American and Iberian Literature from the City College of New York. Dr. Sandí keeps a private studio in NYC, and is currently working on a recording of the complete sonatas of Beethoven, to be released in 2028.

Heather Conner, piano

Originally from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Steinway Artist Dr. Heather Conner is the Chancellor's Chair of Piano and Professor of Piano at the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University. Prior to this appointment, she was Professor of Piano at The University of Utah School of Music where she served on the faculty for fourteen years. As a recitalist, she has performed in many prestigious venues in New York City, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, New Haven, Moscow, Salzburg, Niagara-on-the-Lake (Canada), Greenville (SC and NC), Stillwater and Oklahoma City, (OK), Tuscaloosa, (AL), Montgomery (AL), Murfreesboro (TN) and Salt Lake City. In 2010, she performed a solo recital at the Zwischen den Jahren festival in Antweiler, Germany. In 2006, she appeared as recitalist and artist teacher at several venues in Seoul, South Korea. Heather has won Grand Prizes at several international and national competitions including the First Hilton Head Island International Piano Competition and the Kingsville International Young Performers Competition and has performed on numerous occasions as soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra.

She has also appeared as soloist with the Lancaster (PA), Lansdowne (PA), Corpus Christi (TX), Pennsylvania Sinfonia Orchestra, Haddonfield Symphony (NJ), Altoona Symphony (PA), Hilton Head Island Symphony Orchestra (SC), Midland-Odessa Symphony (TX), Warminster Symphony (PA), Yale Philharmonia (CT), Norwalk Symphony (CT), New American Symphony (UT), the Salt Lake Symphony (UT) and the DeKalb Symphony Orchestra (GA). Heather has recorded commercially for the Naxos, Centaur and Acis Productions labels and has been heard on NPR's *Performance Today*, WQED in Pittsburgh, WFLN in Philadelphia, and KCSC in Oklahoma City. Her performances can also be heard on the web at instantencore.com.

An avid chamber musician, Heather has appeared in Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall and at the Glenn Gould Studios in Toronto. She holds degrees from The Curtis Institute of Music, Yale School of Music, and Manhattan School of Music.

Heather is extremely proud of her studio of talented and hardworking students. Her Pre-collegiate students have been accepted to such prestigious institutions as the Juilliard School, New England Conservatory and the Eastman School of Music to name a few. She has taught prizewinners in the National Finals of the MTNA competition, the Emory Young Artists Competition and numerous other national and international honors.

Jennifer Savage, piano

Jennifer Savage, is a pianist, professional accompanist and collaborator based in the Washington, D.C. and Virginia area regularly performing at Carnegie Weill recital hall, collaborating with the New York Chamber Players orchestra conducted by Giacomo Franci, Orchestra Manhattan conducted by David Wroe. As a touring artist, she most recently toured with Tahoe Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by James Rawie in the Lake Tahoe-Reno region, performing the Grieg Piano Concerto in June 2026 and has appeared as a soloist with the Lviv National Philharmonic of Ukraine, Orquesta Filarmónica Municipal de Guayaquil in Guayaquil, Ecuador, Virtuosi Brunensis orchestra in Perugia, Italy, and Czech Bohuslav Martinů Philharmonic in Zlin, Czech Republic.

Jennifer works as technical director and producer, head recording engineer with Cicerone Music&Art, Broadcast Host, Script Writer, and social media manager for Virtual Concert Halls (VCHs) producing and directing live programs and concerts entirely remote virtual, in-person, and hybrid (remote and in-person) concert events all over the globe throughout the U.S., Europe, Asia, South America, streaming online on all major platforms. She has worked as Audio/Video/Stream engineer assistant for record label studio recording projects and livestreaming shows, including the Sound Espressivo International Competition, ColOrchestra, and two seasons of the *Jack Price is Right* (JPIR) *Live* show. Jennifer has appeared in live interviews with radio host Steve Robinson from 2024-2026 and was featured on Ukrainian TV channel *Pravda*, in Lviv, Ukraine. Jennifer was previously Program Coordinator and Administrator Assistant at the Summit Music Festival and she will be a Carnegie Hall presenter starting in the fall of the upcoming 2026-27 season.

As a Spotify-verified artist and Price Attractions Artist (artist management agency) Jennifer has performed and recorded albums with record label Cicerone Music & Art, including opening the 2025 concert season with the Paducah Symphony Orchestra, KY conducted by Raffaele Ponti released 2026 performing Rachmaninov No. 2 live. She has also recorded *The Road to Zlin*, released November 2024, performing the Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No. 2 with the Czech Bohuslav Martinů Philharmonic orchestra, conducted by Gevorg Sargsyan in Zlin Czech Republic and the Gershwin Piano Concerto in F with the Lviv National Philharmonic in Ukraine, conducted by Theodore Kuchar, in Lviv, Ukraine, available on Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon etc. She has also performed Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* and given a lecture-concert in Wuhan, China.

Dmitry Rachmanov, piano

Dr. Dmitry Rachmanov is a Director of Keyboard Studies at California State University, Northridge. A sought-after performer, master class clinician, adjudicator and lecturer, Dr. Rachmanov has served on the faculties of Manhattan School of Music and Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University and has been a guest artist/lecturer at The Juilliard School, New England Conservatory, Eastman School of Music, Royal Northern College of Music (UK), Shanghai and Beijing Central Conservatories.

Rachmanov has appeared at Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, London›s Barbican and South Bank Centres, at venues across Europe and Asia, and performed as soloist with Ukraine National Symphony, and National Orchestra of Porto, among others. He has recorded for Naxos, Parma, Vista Vera and Cambria labels.

An active member of the American Liszt Society, Dmitry Rachmanov is the president of the society's Southern California chapter. He was the Artistic Director of the ALS 2016 Festival "Liszt and Russia," hosted by CSUN. His summer festivals include Piano Sicily and InterHarmony in Italy, Adamant in Vermont. He is a Co-Founder of the OpusOne Festival in Los Angeles.

A proponent of Russian repertoire, Rachmanov is a founding member and President of the Scriabin Society of America. His April 2014 commemorative all-Scriabin program at Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall was described as "a 'poem of ecstasy' in every sense: giant in conception, quantity, quality, execution, thoughtfulness, and sensitivity" by the *New York Concert Review*.

Dr. Rachmanov is a graduate of Manhattan School of Music, where he received his DMA under Dr. Arkady Aronov (1989). He is a recipient of numerous awards: "Jerome Richfield Memorial Scholar" at CSUN, the Steinway & Sons Teacher Hall of Fame, and most recently "2026 Lifetime Achievement Award" by the California Association of Professional Music Teachers. https://dmitryrachmanov.com/

Irina Morozova, piano

Irina Morozova made her New York debut with a solo recital at Carnegie Recital Hall in 1996 after winning the Artists International Auditions. Critics raved, "Morozova possesses astonishing beauty of sound and power of ideas... she is the sort of pianist who can turn a simple phrase into magic."

Irina Morozova has given numerous solo recitals throughout the U.S., Germany, Russia, Latvia, Estonia, Ukraine, Chile, China, Hong Kong, and Australia. She has made solo appearances with the South Carolina Symphony, Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra, Irving Symphony Orchestra, and the New American Chamber Orchestra, among others. A passionate chamber music player, she has performed in ensembles with members of the New York Philharmonic and Metropolitan Opera orchestras, Saint-Petersburg Quartet, and The Bronx Arts Ensemble. Her performances were broadcast on Russian radio and TV, KPAC (Texas), WFMT (Chicago), ABC (Australia), and BBC. She participated in the *Film America's Music in the 20th Century* TV series. Her CD of virtuoso transcriptions of Gershwin works, including a unique recording of the solo version of Concerto in F, was released by Samum Publishing.

Morozova has taught and performed at the International Keyboard Institute and Festival in NYC, Cremona International Music Academy (Italy), InterHarmony Festival (Germany), Music Mountain and Caramoor Festivals (USA), Mannes Summer Piano Festival, and PraguePiano festival. She gave masterclasses and workshops worldwide. Ms. Morozova was a top prize-winner of the New Orleans, the Frinna Awerbuch, and the San Antonio International Piano Competitions.

Born to a musical family, Irina Morozova began her musical studies at the Saint-Petersburg Special Music School for Gifted Children and graduated with honors from the Rimsky-Korsakov College of Music where her major teacher was Galina Orlovskaya. While studying with Prof. Vladimir Shakin at the Saint-Petersburg Conservatory, she performed in the major concert halls of Saint-Petersburg, Moscow, Kiev, and many other cities in the former Soviet Union. Ms. Morozova received her Master of Music degree from Manhattan School of Music where she studied with Dr. Arkady Aronov. Since 1996, she has been on the faculties of Mannes College of Music and the Special Music School at Kaufman Center in NYC.

Sayaka Tanikawa, piano

Pianist Sayaka Tanikawa is noted for her sensitive and thoughtful interpretations. She performs as a recitalist and chamber musician in the U.S. and abroad at venues including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Weill Recital Hall, David Geffen Hall, Davies Hall, and Suntory Hall. An accomplished chamber musician, Tanikawa has performed with Peter Frankl and Osmo Vänskä as well as members of San Francisco Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Minnesota Orchestra, San Francisco Ballet, NHK Philharmonic, and Sō Percussion. She has appeared in the San Francisco Symphony Chamber Music Series, Minnesota Orchestra's Sommerfest, Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, Caramoor Performer's Showcase, and Banff Chamber Music Festival, among many others.

An avid educator, she has served as an artist in residence at South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities in Greenville. She is on the faculty of Hunter College and she also serves as artistic director of Duluth Chamber Music Festival in Minnesota.

Tanikawa holds a bachelor's in art history from Columbia University, a master's from Yale School of Music, and a doctorate from Manhattan School of Music.

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 professionally oriented Saturday music program dedicated to the musical and personal growth of talented young musicians ages 8 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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