

**D**Grand  
Piano Series  
Milana Strezeva, Artistic Director



**SEASON 8**  
**2023-2024**

## MISSION

Grand Piano Series is a non-profit concert and education organization committed to presenting and preserving extraordinary music repertoire. Through memorable concerts with world-class international artists, dynamic educational initiatives for all ages, engaging online programs, and meaningful community outreach, we make great music accessible to all.

Grand Piano Series does not discriminate on the basis of religion, race, ethnicity, nationality, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, parental status, or disability in any of its programs, services, employment, or activities.

All events are accessible.



## FOUNDERS



**Milana Strezeva** is a Moldovan-American pianist, and at 11 began playing chamber music with her father, a clarinetist, and her mother, a renowned soprano. Milana's love for family collaboration eventually grew into a passionate advocacy of chamber music. As a graduate of famed Juilliard School and founding member of the award-winning Manhattan Piano Trio, Milana has performed in over 30 American States, in Australia,

South Africa, Italy, and in venues such as Alice Tully Hall, Merkin Hall, and Carnegie Hall. Together with Raniero Tazzi, she formed Grand Piano Series in 2016. Learn more about Milana at [www.milanastrezeva.com](http://www.milanastrezeva.com)



**Raniero Tazzi**, originally from Assisi, Italy, holds a DMA in Piano Performance from Perugia Conservatory. Between 1995 and 2010, he had the privilege of touring with renowned musicians and orchestras such as The Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, The BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Robert Levin, Joshua Rifkin, Charles Dutoit, Jiří Bělohlávek, Mariss Jansons, Daniel Harding CBE, Sir Andrew Davis,

Martha Argerich, Lang Lang, Chantal Juillet, Sarah Chang, Dame Evelyn Glennie, Sir Andras Schiff, Pinchas Zukerman, and the legendary pianist Friedrich Gulda. Additionally, Raniero has been actively pursuing professional photography since 1985. Learn more at [www.ranierotazzi.com](http://www.ranierotazzi.com)



## WELCOME!

Since the Grand Piano Series' inception, we've searched the globe for exceptional emerging talents to captivate our passionate audience in Southwest Florida. It makes me happy to share that, year after year, we consistently showcase future stars on our stage, and this season is no different.

For those who have been attending our concerts since the very beginning of the Grand Piano Series, you might recognize one name from this year's lineup - Eric Lu. Back in 2018, he graced our series with his talent shortly before he went on to win the prestigious Leeds International Piano Competition, one of the most important in the world. Since then, he has performed with Chicago Symphony, Boston Symphony, and London Symphony, among others. Each of our exceptional artists will present an awe-inspiring program, and we sincerely hope that you will join us for every captivating event.

In addition to pursuing our artistic endeavors this year, we are placing a strong emphasis on sustainability and growth. We warmly invite you to consider making a planned gift (details on page 11) as we tirelessly work towards establishing the Grand Piano Series as one of the leading cultural organizations in the country. Our influence extends far beyond our local community. Did you know that each year, over 100,000 music enthusiasts from around the globe, including as far away as Australia and New Zealand, eagerly tune in to listen to our online concert videos?

With your generous support, we remain steadfast in our mission to preserve the rich tapestry of classical music. Not only do we bring many timeless compositions to life through our live performances, but we also champion music education through comprehensive school programs and maintain a vibrant online presence. Your continued partnership is vital as we sustain this incredible music and inspire countless lives to appreciate its magnificence.

We extend heartfelt gratitude for being an integral part of this exhilarating journey. Rest assured, we're just scratching the surface. Will you join us as we continue to ignite the hearts and minds of audiences worldwide?

With boundless appreciation,

Milana Strezeva  
President & Artistic Director



## ARE YOU NEW TO CLASSICAL MUSIC?

Welcome to the world of classical music! We're thrilled to have you here. Brace yourself for a journey filled with powerful emotions and extraordinary experiences only music can provide. After discovering new works in our concerts, head to YouTube and make them your new companions. Get ready to embark on this magical adventure with us! Check out the video of Dave Hurwitz on "How to Listen to Classical Music: The Basics."



## FAMILIAR MUSIC

Discover the power of familiar tunes and the joy of exploring new musical gems! We all have those beloved songs that feel like old friends, but let's not forget that every favorite was once a first-time listen. Join us on a journey to embrace both the comfort of the familiar and the excitement of unfamiliar pieces that have shaped our culture and expanded our minds. Let's enrich our souls through the wonders of music!

## ARE YOU A PASSIONATE MUSIC LOVER?

Discover world-class artists from around the globe as they bring their exceptional talent to Southwest Florida. Immerse yourself in a diverse selection of classical music that will captivate even the most seasoned music enthusiasts. Don't miss out - join us on this unforgettable musical journey and you might just find your new favorite masterpiece!

## WHAT SHOULD I WEAR?

Dress to impress, whether it's in formal business attire or a more relaxed business-casual look. But remember, we don't want your outfit to hold you back from enjoying the concert. So feel free to let loose and dress casually or in your favorite resort wear. The most important thing is that you join us and have an amazing time!

## FAQ



Q: Why do I see QR codes in the booklet?

A: By scanning these codes with a smartphone, you can access artists' biographies and other important online information.



Q: What does the sign above mean?

A: See explanation on **Page N. 46**

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Welcome everyone to our eighth season of exceptional concerts and engaging community activities. We looked beyond our extraordinary artists and stirring concert programs as we planned the current year, and focused on expanding our range of activities to deepen our community contribution, strengthen our connections to supporters, and expand our services at local schools. Donor events will be scheduled before evening performances, and after-concert socials are planned following afternoon concerts to allow us to get to know each other and interact with our artists. Special "Meet-the-Artist" concert and lecture events are planned at local retirement centers, our collaborations with local and national arts non-profits are continuing, and educational programs at Collier and Lee County schools are expanding. This focus on enriching our entire community through the magic of music excites all of us at Grand Piano Series!

We hope each of you will find the time to participate in more than just our concert programs and allow us to get to know you better. Together we can build a stronger community through our shared love of music! I look forward to seeing you at our events.

Sincerely,

Dean Hargis  
Chairman of the Board





## WHAT MAKES US SO GRAND?

**Quality in all aspects of our program** - Our President & Artistic Director, Milana Strezeva, is an accomplished concert pianist and a graduate of the prestigious Juilliard School. She brings her expertise and passion to managing our organization.

**Exceptional concert performances** - Live concerts by world-class artists on one of the finest concert pianos available, the Fazioli F308.

**Grandest of pianos** - Our Fazioli F308, spanning over 10 feet in length, is renowned globally as one of the most exceptional concert instruments. This phenomenal piano boasts a sweetly captivating tone that will leave you in awe. From its distinctive growling bass to the clear midrange resembling pure water, and the sparkling crystalline highs, this instrument empowers our skilled artists to paint beautiful musical masterpieces.

**Professionalism** - Recognized with a Platinum Seal from Guidestar, the world's largest publicly available non-profit registry. We earned their highest rating based on our fiscal responsibility, concert and community programs, management details, and transparency.

**Popular online programming** - We're thrilled to be expanding our audience reach through our online programs, connecting with over 100,000 listeners annually. What's more, over 75% of these listeners fall within the age group of 18 to 35, a demographic that is often underrepresented at live classical music events.

**Masterclasses for advanced students** - Our instructors, who are internationally acclaimed performing artists and educators from renowned institutions such as The Juilliard School, Colburn Conservatory, Columbia University, and other notable schools, are dedicated to providing high-caliber instruction to advanced students.





Lighthouse of Collier County participants

**Genuine love of our community** - We offer a generous free ticket program to broaden community participation, including free tickets to students, special needs groups, and seniors in need. Contact us if you represent a group that you would like us to include!

**Engaging youth programs** - At our monthly concert performances in local Title 1 Schools, we have the incredible opportunity to expose students to fine music and inspire them through direct interactions with international artists. We work closely with local teachers to align our program with their curriculum, bringing the students' lessons to life!



Bonita Springs Elementary School visit

**Our Audience!** - Friendly, generous, intelligent, well-educated, and community-oriented. Join our family and make new friends!

## OUR PROGRAM

Season 7, 2022-2023 activities.



55  
EVENTS



160  
LOCAL DONORS



3,468  
CONCERT ATTENDANCE



58%  
PRIVATE DONATIONS



7,139  
STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



20%  
GRANTS & CORPORATE FUNDS

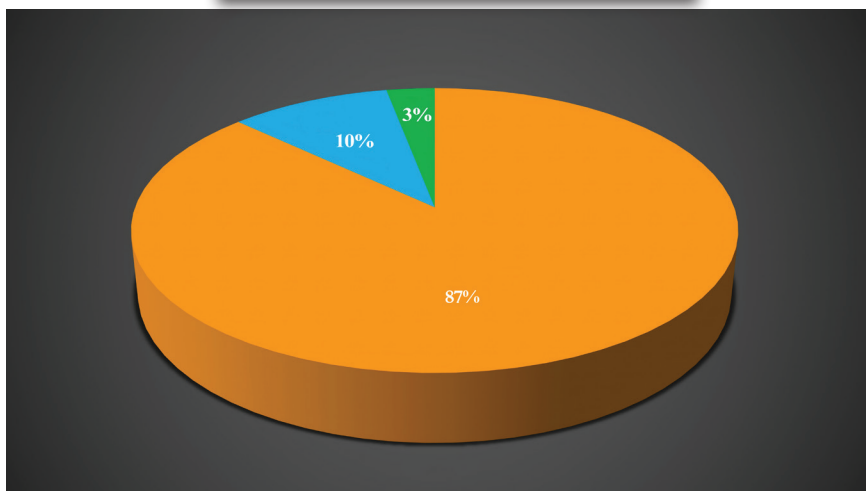


100,562  
ONLINE AUDIENCE



22%  
TICKET SALES

### OUR USE OF FUNDS



87 % Program    10 % Management    3 % Fundraising

SCAN QR CODES TO LISTEN & [SUBSCRIBE ONLINE](#)





## VOLUNTEERS

Our success is undoubtedly owed to the invaluable contributions of our dedicated staff and volunteers. We are so incredibly grateful for their unwavering support and commitment. They play a vital role in ensuring the smooth execution of our events, from setting up to ticket management. Moreover, their involvement extends beyond logistics, as they assist with organizing group outings for our concerts, community events, coordinate various activities, provide expert piano tuning, aid in accounting and tax reporting, create a vibrant online presence on social media channels, host talented artists, and offer their specialized expertise to our Board. To each and every one of these remarkable individuals, we extend our heartfelt thanks. Their belief in our mission and unwavering support in our endeavors within the community mean the world to us.

The superstars who helped make last year a success:

**Our dedicated staff:** Donna Messner, Prospero Rodriguez, Ivan Seligman, Konstantin Soukhovetski, Mark Travis, Katelyn Werner.



**Our incredible volunteers:** David and Rhonda Allen, Shelley Anderson, Sudhir Bajaj, Veronica Banski, Maria Antonietta Benni†, Edward Brennan, Asia Brutian-Grant, Paloma and Danielle Chaprka, Daniel Cornejo, David and Tarie Curtiss, Joseph DeJesus, Mason Huffman, Kristen Jasinski, Stephen Jones, Donna Maturi, Jerry Nestico, Randi Newbery, Svetlana and Peter Strezev, Kuniko Washio, Dina Yaschin, and of course our volunteer Board of Directors!

## INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION



We are dedicated to preserving great music through captivating performances by exceptional musicians. But that's not all - we also have a special focus on supporting local schools. Our concerts bring the best musicians from around the world to our area, and we extend the impact by bringing these incredible artists to multiple schools, including Title 1 Schools\*. This program goes beyond typical classroom lessons, as it directly connects the magic of concert performances and artist interaction to students, complementing their curriculum.

Every year, we provide over 6000 student days of instruction, all at less than \$10 per student day. It's incredible what we can achieve with your support!

We invite you to join us and become a patron of our program. Your contribution will help inspire the next generation of classical music lovers and allow us to continue our mission of preserving great music. Even a small gift makes a big difference! If you have any questions or want to learn more, please call us at (469)333-3231. We appreciate gifts of any amount.

Together, let's make a lasting impact on students' lives and support the future of music education.

\* Title I is a federal education program that supports low income students throughout the nation.

## SHAPING THE FUTURE



### **Experience the Joy of Preserving Great Music**

Your support is vital for securing a sustainable future for the Grand Piano Series. By including the Grand Piano Series in your estate planning, you can make a lasting impact that will resonate for future generations. We'd love to talk to you about our long-range plans and how your planned giving can make it possible. Besides our concerts, our current program includes a variety of community educational activities, all related to our principal mission.

### **Unleash the Transformative Power of Planned Giving**

By making a planned gift to the Grand Piano Series, you become part of our long-range planning to support young artists' career potential and develop the next generation of music lovers. Many of our planned programs require multi-year funding commitments best supported by a predictable income stream.

### **Giving Options and Considerations**

Planned giving can provide tax advantages that differ from routine cash donations. Some even offer current tax benefits in return for future contributions. Gifts of appreciated assets, IRA distributions, and life insurance offer significant tax-related benefits compared to traditional donations. Many options are addressed in estate plans through bequests or beneficiary designations. We can help you understand options you can discuss with your financial advisor.

### **Inspire Future Generations through Your Gift**

Including GPS in your estate plan allows us to plan for the future and create a timeless impact on young artists and future generations of music lovers. If you have already included us in your estate plans, please let us know so we can express our gratitude. In recognition of your support, you will receive exclusive invitations to special events and intimate cocktail parties. Your commitment matters, and by supporting our planned gift program, you lead the way in shaping the future of music and the Grand Piano Series.



# FAZIOLI PIANO

Paolo Fazioli signing our piano Fazioli F308



Experience the captivating sound of Fazioli Pianoforti, loved by many for their exceptional quality. Our Fazioli F308 is a true masterpiece, one of only seven in the country. This extraordinary instrument was introduced to us by our co-founder, Raniero Tazzi, who fell in love with it at first touch.

Raniero's journey into the world of Fazioli pianos began through his friendship with the late Davide Lupattelli (1962 - 2023), a renowned Italian piano technician. The passion and dedication



Davide Lupattelli working at the Fazioli F 278 - Teatro alla Scala, Milano

of Paolo Fazioli, the engineer and pianist-founder, is truly remarkable. Each piano goes through meticulous examination, with no expenses spared on the materials. In fact, the same type of wood used by Antonio Stradivari for his legendary violins is used for the Fazioli soundboard.



Milana and Raniero with the rim of a Fazioli F308

Paolo Fazioli's continuous technological research keeps Fazioli Pianoforti at the forefront of piano engineering. The Fazioli sound philosophy is rooted in the Italian "bel canto" tradition, allowing artists to truly explore the instrument's singing quality, colors, and dynamics.

At Grand Piano Series, we believe in uncompromising excellence. It is for this reason that we have chosen the Fazioli F308 Concert Grand Piano, measuring an impressive 10'2". The captivating voice of this piano touches our imagination and soul in the most profound way.



**Bruce Liu**

First prize winner at the  
Fryderyk Chopin International Piano Competition in Warsaw, 2021  
on Fazioli concert grand F278

Building Pianos is our way to love Music but also our way  
to support those who, with Music, want to build their Future.

FAZIOLI and the next generation of pianists:  
the Future of the Piano.

FAZIOLI

## MINOR & MAJOR

In the wondrous world of classical music, two main characters love to play hide and seek with our emotions - the Major and the minor keys. Now, if you're thinking these are the keys to some ancient, magical kingdom, you're not entirely off track!

Let's imagine you're at a grand party. The Major key is that bubbly, outgoing person always surrounded by a crowd, making everyone laugh with delight. Think of a jovial holiday jingle like "Jingle Bells" in song terms. It's typically happy, bright, and uplifting.



One excellent example of music in a Major key is the lively "Rondo alla Turca" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. It's in the key of A Major. The Rondo alla Turca, penned by Mozart, is a lively splash of musical energy that leaves listeners tapping their feet. Its catchy melodies, set in a Major key, reverberate with a sense of joy and vigor, embodying Mozart's unique ability to blend complexity and accessibility. Alla Turca, often remembered as the "Turkish March," carries an air of exoticism, a delightful homage to the Turkish music popular in Mozart's time. It's a piece that sparkles with creativity, a shining example of Mozart's timeless genius.

On the other hand, the minor key is the moody poet in the corner of the room, captivating yet introspective. It's like the melancholic "Moonlight Sonata" by Beethoven. Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata, particularly its first movement, is an unforgettable melody that captures the heart and soul. It's like a gentle whisper in the night, told in c-sharp minor's somber yet captivating tones. The rhythm is steady and soothing as a lullaby, yet the deep minor key brings an undercurrent of melancholy. Despite this, the Moonlight Sonata is more than just a sad tune; it's a journey of emotions, beautifully crafted by Beethoven's genius. It's a piece of music that stays with you, echoing in your mind long after the last note has been played. Music in the minor key often has a more sorrowful or introspective tone. These kinds of pieces often create feelings of sorrow and longing.

So, when it comes to classical music, Major and minor keys are like two sides of the same coin. They bring contrast and give life to the piece by providing a balance between light and dark. Together, they create a fascinating landscape of emotions that keep us listening for more! - *Raniero Tazzi*





## "Moonlight" Sonata in C sharp minor

(1st movement: quasi una fantasia)

Ludwig van Beethoven

Adagio sostenuto



## RONDO ALLA TURCA

from SONATA IN A MAJOR, K. 331

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART  
1756-1791





## WHAT ARE THE OPUS NUMBERS?

Classical music commonly uses the term “Opus Number,” abbreviated as Op.X No.Y. It’s like an address for a composer’s work. It’s a way to keep things organized and identify their pieces, usually in chronological order.

Now, let’s say you have two pieces: Sonata No. 2 Op. 35 and Sonata Op. 35 No. 2. At first glance, they may seem identical, but there’s a subtle difference. Sonata No. 2 Op. 35 is the composer’s second Sonata, the 35th piece they’ve published. On the other hand, Sonata Op. 35 No. 2 is the second Sonata within the 35th published set of multiple Sonatas by the composer. Tricky, isn’t it?

Now, not all composers used opus numbers, especially those from the Baroque period and earlier. For these composers, their works are usually cataloged by other scholars. For instance, Bach’s works are often denoted by “BWV” (Bach-Werke-Verzeichnis, German for “Bach Works Catalogue”), followed by a number. Likewise, Mozart’s compositions are cataloged with

421 728-2 [OH]

FLORILEGIUM · LYRE

**JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH**  
Cantata BWV 8 “Liebster Gott, wenn werd ich sterben”  
Cantata BWV 78 “Jesu, der du meine Seele”  
Cantata BWV 99 “Was Gott tut, das ist wohlgetan”  
JULIANNE BAIRD · ALLAN FAST · FRANK KELLEY · JAN OPALACH

**THE BACH ENSEMBLE**  
**JOSHUA RIFKIN**

FLORILEGIUM · DIGITAL

“K.,” short for “Köchel,” the musicologist who cataloged Mozart’s works. Finally, let’s discuss this slightly eerie term: “Opus Posthumous.” It feels like it’s straight out of a ghost story, right? Well, it’s less haunting than it sounds. An “Opus Posthumous” is a work published after the composer’s death. It’s like the composer’s final encore from beyond the grave – their last gift to the world of music.

## Fantaisie - Impromptu.

(Oeuvre posthume . Vers 1834.) (Op. 66.)

(Publié par J. Fontana.)

Fr. Chopin.



So, the next time you see those cryptic numbers and letters beside classical music pieces, you’ll know they’re not some secret code but rather a fascinating glimpse into the composer’s musical journey. - *Raniero Tazzi*

## DID YOU KNOW...

... that at the age of 14, the prodigious Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart visited the Vatican, where he heard Gregorio Allegri (1582-1652) “Miserere, mei Deus” (1630) being performed. This was a piece of music so sacred that the Vatican forbade its removal or copying. However, after hearing the piece just twice, Mozart transcribed it entirely from memory, a feat considered nothing short of miraculous. When this was discovered, it caused quite a stir. Mozart and his father Leopold found themselves in a predicament with the



Church. Rather than punish the young prodigy, however, the Pope summoned Mozart and, impressed by his remarkable feat, absolved him of any wrongdoing. Quite a testament to his genius, don’t you think? Scan code to hear the fantastic Allegri’s “Miserere.”








## THE MIRACLE OF MUSICAL NOTATION

Why is classical music nothing short of a miracle? Let's take a moment to appreciate its incredible impact on humankind's culture and history. Around the year 1000 AD, the monk Guido d'Arezzo gave us the gift of modern musical notation, a true miracle in itself. This brilliant invention allows us to reproduce the imaginative and inspiring compositions created by a select few geniuses over the past ten centuries.

While other art forms, such as fine arts, may lose their intensity in photographs or books, experiencing them in person evokes an entirely different emotion. Just as you need to visit Rome and the Vatican to marvel at the Sistine Chapel or the Moses of Michelangelo, you need to go to museums to appreciate the masterworks of Raphael, Caravaggio, Velázquez, Monet, Renoir, Dalí, or Picasso. Attending live concerts brings the same level of experience, surpassing the enjoyment of listening to a CD. I vividly remember seeing Pierre-Auguste Renoir's "The sisters" in books and finding it very beautiful, but when I finally saw it at the Art Institute of Chicago, I was moved to tears. I could not believe my eyes!



The background of the page is a reproduction of the painting 'Rainy Day, London' by the English Romantic painter J.M.W. Turner. The painting depicts a woman in a large, vibrant red hat with a dark veil, looking slightly to the side. In the lower right corner, a young child with blue eyes and a wide-brimmed hat adorned with red and white flowers looks towards the viewer. The scene is set in a park with trees and a path in the background, rendered with soft, visible brushstrokes characteristic of Impressionism.

Similarly, witnessing our great interpreters' recreation of a musical masterpiece is breathtaking. After hundreds of years, these incredible artists bring the genius of composers to life right before our eyes and ears. Through accurate enough details but still leaving room for personal interpretation, they transport us back in time. It's like experiencing the creative mind of a musical genius: the composer.

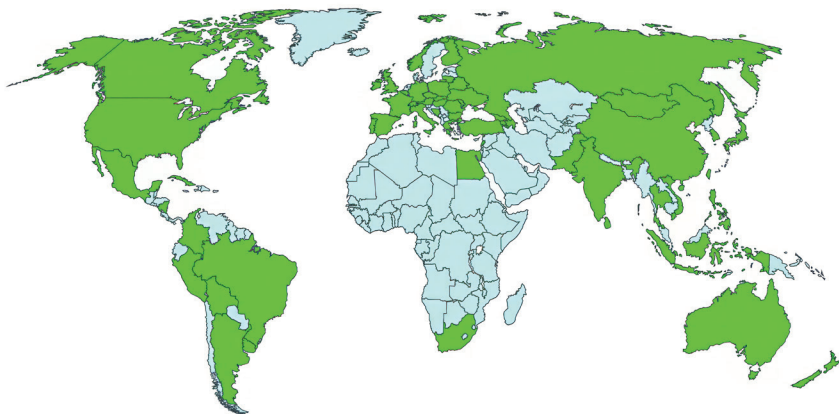
Thanks to musical notation, we can recreate these masterworks anywhere, even in places the composer never knew existed, like right here in Florida, which was once the kingdom of Alligators and Mosquitoes. Who knows, maybe we'll even hear Chopin's works on the Moon or Mars one day! The possibilities are endless, all thanks to the invention of musical notation. Isn't this a miracle?

What truly sets classical music apart is that it's an ever-evolving art form. With each performance, interpretation, and recording, we breathe new life into these works, ensuring their relevance for future generations. - Raniero Tazzi



## SUBSCRIBE TO OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Join us in fulfilling our mission to spread appreciation of great music by regularly visiting our YouTube channel. We post some live concert videos, and listeners worldwide eagerly tune in to watch our latest uploads. Subscribe now and share your favorite concert moments with your friends. Please help us build worldwide awareness of the vital work we do together to preserve and present extraordinary music, support our exceptional artists in building their online presence, and help them further their musical careers. [www.youtube.com/c/grandpianoseries](http://www.youtube.com/c/grandpianoseries)



Our online audiences come from the following countries:

Argentina	Cuba	Lithuania	Singapore
Armenia	Czech Republic	Malta	Slovak Republic
Australia	Egypt	Moldova	South Africa
Austria	Finland	Mongolia	South Korea
Azerbaijan	France	Netherlands	Spain
Belarus	Georgia	New Zealand	Sri Lanka
Belgium	Germany	Nicaragua	Switzerland
Bolivia	Greece	Norway	Taiwan
Brazil	Hong Kong	Pakistan	Thailand
Bulgaria	Hungary	Peru	Turkey
Canada	Indonesia	Philippines	UK
Mexico	Ireland	Poland	Ukraine
China	Israel	Portugal	Uruguay
Colombia	Italy	Romania	USA
Croatia	Japan	Russia	Vietnam

Wed

**NOV 15**

*"...astonishing pianist..."*  
New York Classical Review



MARTÍN GARCÍA GARCÍA  
piano

Thu

**DEC 14**

*"...His playing is in a rare class..."*  
BBC Music magazine



ERIC LU  
piano

Thu

**JAN 18**

*"...lush intensity and bravado..."*  
Third Coast Review



CALLISTO | MILANA STREZEVA  
string quartet | piano

Thu

**FEB 8**

*"...he is not just a remarkable virtuoso,  
but a poet..."*  
Gramophone



CLAYTON STEPHENSON  
piano

Thu

**FEB 29**

*"...vigor...refinement...and drama..."*  
The New York Times



KONSTANTIN SOUKHOVETSKI  
piano

Wed

**MAR 20**

*"...sensual interpretation..."*  
Crescendo Magazine



FLORIAN NOACK  
piano

Wed

**APR 24**

*"impeccable intonation"* Gramophone  
*"graceful, lyrical"* Cleveland Classical



SHANNON LEE | YING LI  
violin | piano

Wed

**3:00 PM**

Thu

**7:30 PM**

ST. LEO AUDITORIUM  
28350 BEAUMONT RD.  
BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34134

**Grand**  
Piano Series  
Milana Strezeva, Artistic Director



**(469) 333 3231**  
**GRANDPIANOSERIES.ORG**

**15**NOV  
WED**MARTÍN GARCÍA GARCÍA, piano****Sponsor: Joanne Wyss**

*"Martín García García is an astonishing pianist of great musicality and indomitable technique..." - New York Classical Review*

**M**artín García García has won first prize in several national and international competitions, highlighting his victory at the **2021 Cleveland International Piano Competition** and his 3rd Prize at the **XVIII International Chopin Piano Competition** (and the special award for the Best Concerto).

As a graduate of Reina Sofia School of Music, he studied there for more than a decade with Galina Eguiazarova, receiving from Her Majesty the Queen Sofia the prize for the Best Student of the Chair, and got his Masters in Piano from Mannes School of Music in New York City, where he spent 3 years under the guidance of Jerome Rose.

2022 has been an extraordinary turning point in his career, with more than 70 concerts worldwide, performing in venues such as Carnegie Hall in New York, the Suntory Hall in Tokyo, and the National Auditorium of Music in Madrid. In addition, he released his first album, "Chopin and His Master," produced by the artist and recorded at the Fazioli piano factory in Sacile (Italy). It includes works by Bach, Chopin, Liszt, and Scriabin. He recorded the repertoire developed during the 21/22 season. The album is available on digital platforms (Spotify, Amazon Music, and Deezer) and physically sold only in Japan (Nippon Arts).

Martín García García, who feels a sense of responsibility and service to humanity, reduces his challenges to each concert. No matter the size of the venue or audience, he understands there is deep content to offer to each person who has decided to come and listen to him.





**ERIC LU, piano**  
**Sponsor: Therese & Barry Bentley**

**14**  
DEC  
THU

*“Lu’s playing is in a rare class - sensitive and emotionally intuitive.”*

– BBC Music Magazine

Eric Lu won First Prize at The Leeds International Piano Competition in 2018 at the age of 20. The following year, he signed an exclusive contract with Warner Classics, and has since collaborated with some of the world’s most prestigious orchestras, and presented in major recital venues.



Recent and forthcoming orchestral collaborations include the London Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Boston Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Seattle Symphony, Shanghai Symphony at the BBC Proms, amongst others. Conductors he collaborates with include Riccardo Muti, Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, Marin Alsop, Vasily Petrenko, Sir Mark Elder, Thomas Dausgaard, and Martin Fröst.

Active as a recitalist, he is presented on stages including the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Queen Elizabeth Hall London, Leipzig Gewandhaus, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, San Francisco Davies Hall, BOZAR Brussels, Fondation Louis Vuitton Paris, 92nd St Y, Seoul Arts Centre, Warsaw Philharmonic, and Sala São Paulo. In 2024, he is appearing for the 6th consecutive year in recital at Wigmore Hall London.

Born in Massachusetts in 1997, Eric Lu first came to international attention as a Laureate of the 2015 Chopin International Competition in Warsaw aged just 17. He was also awarded the International German Piano Award in 2017, and Avery Fisher Career Grant in 2021. Eric was a BBC New Generation Artist from 2019-22. He is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, studying with Robert McDonald and Jonathan Biss. He was also a pupil of Dang Thai Son, and has been mentored by Mitsuko Uchida and Imogen Cooper.





18  
JAN  
THU

## CALLISTO QUARTET

MILANA STREZEVA, piano

Sponsor: Brooks & Joan Fortune Family Foundation



*"Callisto Quartet found warmth and severity...both searching and genial, with a tremendous variety of color..." - The Strad*

**T**he Callisto Quartet (Cameron Daly, violin; Gregory Lewis, violin; Eva Kennedy, viola; Hannah Moses, cello) is a highly acclaimed ensemble known for its intense performances and remarkable cohesion. Formed in 2016 at the Cleveland Institute of Music, Callisto has succeeded in international chamber music competitions, including winning the Grand Prize at the 2018 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition and the Second Prize at the 2019 Banff International String Quartet Competition. Currently serving as the **Fellowship Quartet in Residence at Yale University**, Callisto has held residencies at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music and the Escuela Superior de Música Reina Sofía in Madrid, Spain. They have also been the Ernst Stiefel Quartet in Residence at Caramoor Center for Music and Arts from 2020 to 2022, presenting all six string quartets of Bartók. Callisto has collaborated with distinguished artists like David Geringas and Franklin Cohen. They have performed at prestigious venues such as Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall, the Kennedy Center, the Ravinia Festival, and the Heidelberg String Quartet Festival. Notable appearances include renowned chamber music festivals like La Jolla Music Society Summerfest and the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival. With a commitment to expanding their musical horizons, mentoring students, and engaging with audiences, Callisto continues to leave a lasting impression in the world of chamber music.



**M**ilana Strezeva is a Moldovan-American pianist. She started playing chamber music at the age of 11, collaborating with her father, a clarinetist, and her mother, a renowned soprano. Milana's love for family collaboration grew into a passionate advocacy of chamber music. She graduated from the prestigious Juilliard School and co-founded the award-winning Manhattan Piano Trio. Milana has performed in over 30 American states, as well as in Australia, South Africa, and Italy. She has graced renowned venues such as Alice Tully Hall, Merkin Hall, and Carnegie Hall.



The Callisto Quartet is managed exclusively by Earl Blackburn of Kanzen Arts.

*"Stephenson is not just a remarkable virtuoso, but a poet, a dramatist and a master story-teller."*

- Gramophone

**C**layton Stephenson, an American pianist, is renowned for his captivating stage presence, expressive power, and natural ease with the instrument. He has performed with notable orchestras such as the Calgary Philharmonic, Chicago Sinfonietta, Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, Louisville Symphony Orchestra, Lansing Symphony Orchestra, and North Carolina Symphony Orchestra.



Clayton has given recitals at prestigious venues like the Phillips Collection Concert Series, Foundation Louis Vuitton Auditorium, Bad Kissinger Sommer Festival, BeethovenFest, Colour of Music Festival, Ravinia Festival, and Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. He has been recognized through appearances on NPR, WUOL, and WQXR and his participation in the "GRAMMY® Salute to Classical Music" Concert at Carnegie's Stern Auditorium.

Clayton's musical journey began in New York City, where he started piano lessons at 7. By age 10, he was accepted into Juilliard's elite Pre-College program, studying with renowned teachers such as Matti Raekallio, Hung-Kuang Chen, and Ernest Barretta. Growing up, he was supported by community programs, including the 3rd Street Music School, the Young People's Choir, and the Juilliard Outreach Music Advancement Program.

Currently, Clayton is pursuing a bachelor's degree in economics and a master's degree in piano performance as part of the Harvard-NEC Dual Degree Program. His achievements include being the first Black finalist at the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in 2022. He was also named a 2022 Gilmore Young Artist and a Young Scholar of the Lang Lang International Music Foundation. Additionally, he received a jury discretionary award at the 2015 Cliburn International Junior Piano Competition and Festival.



29

FEB  
THU

KONSTANTIN SOUKHOVETSKI, piano

Sponsor: Susan Bookbinder



*"Mr. Soukhovetski... brought the audience to its feet.  
He spared no indulgence..."*

- The New York Times

**Konstantin Soukhovetski**, a renowned pianist, has earned tributes from audiences and accolades from critics worldwide. He has established himself as a creative force with over 17 awards and top prizes from competitions such as Cleveland, Naumburg, and UNISA. Konstantin's interpretive vision and virtuosity shine through his solo and concerto repertoire performances. Notable highlights include acclaimed performances at Kennedy Center's Terrace Theater, Musée du Louvre in Paris, Paul Klee Zentrum in Bern, and Carnegie's Weill and Zankel halls. His debut at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall received praise from the NYTimes Arts Section, and his Wigmore Hall debut in London earned 5 stars from The Independent. Konstantin's upcoming engagements include performances with Pegasus: The Orchestra at Lincoln Center, Brooklyn Chamber Orchestra, and SOLO DUE with Jacopo Giacopuzzi at La Jolla's The Conrad. In 2024, Konstantin will tour Latvia, Ireland, and the UK with cellist Max Beitan. Additionally, Konstantin will serve on the selection juries of the Cleveland International Piano Competition, Nashville International Chopin Competition, and Odysiad Competition. He joined the faculty of The Juilliard School in 2020 and is currently the Director of Pedagogy and Narrative Musicianship at the Bronx School for Music. Konstantin is dedicated to musical education, teaching masterclasses, and residency programs worldwide.

He has also served as Artist-in-Residency at Pianofest in the Hamptons since 2011. Konstantin's creativity extends to innovative artistic projects, including dance collaborations and piano compositions. He has premiered various ballets, such as "Encounters" and "Emily," and released piano miniatures during the COVID-19 lockdown. His solo violin composition, "Postcard from The Edge," is featured on Elmira Darvarova's CDs. Konstantin's opera transcriptions and original compositions will be published, and his work, "The Pride Suite," will have a pre-premiere as a choreographed art piece.



**FLORIAN NOACK, piano**  
**Sponsor: Louise and Lawrence Ost**

**20**  
**MAR**  
**WED**

*"Noack demonstrates superior keyboard control. Precision, lyricism, delicate sonority, bravery; it's all there" - Diapason*

Imagine a world map turned upside down, where the terms "obscure" and "well-known" lose their significance. **Florian Noack**, a Belgian pianist born in 1990, discovered a whole new world of piano repertoire at a young age. In addition to studying the works of Chopin and Beethoven, Florian also delved into the compositions of Alkan, Medtner, and Lyapunov, thanks to the influential book "Piano Music" by Guy Sacre. Inspiration flowed from his love for Russian literature and his studies with pianist-composer Vassily Lobanov. Florian's piano transcriptions based on orchestral works by Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov, and Rimsky-Korsakov caught the attention of esteemed musicians like Boris Berezovsky and Dmitri Bashkirov. Praised for his recordings, Florian received the ECHO Klassik Award "Emerging Artist of the Year 2015," the International Classical Music Award, the Octave de la Musique, and the Diapason d'Or of the Year 2017. Florian's virtuosity is recognized as a means to captivate audiences with his interpretative skills and programmatic innovation. His formative experiences include studying with Claudio Martinez-Mehner and attending Academy masterclasses with Ferenc Rados in Prussia Cove, Cornwall. Florian has succeeded in various international competitions, including the International Rachmaninoff, the International Robert Schumann, and the International Piano Competition Cologne. Through invitations from festivals and concert halls worldwide, Florian engages in meaningful collaborations with fellow musicians, conductors, and orchestras. He has released six well-received CDs featuring a diverse range of repertoire and his own piano transcriptions.



He joined the Frates Trio in 2016 with violinist Fedor Rudin and saxophonist Hayrapet Arakelyan. Florian Noack is interested in merging jazz and classical repertoire from the 1920s and beyond. He tutors at the Musikhochschule in Cologne, teaches at the Miami Piano Festival Academy 2020, and regularly gives master classes.





24

APR  
WED

SHANNON LEE ,violin - YING LI, piano

Sponsor: Dean Hargis



*"...remarkable fire, impeccable intonation, and big, vibrant tone" - Gramophone*

**S**hannon Lee is a prize-winning violinist known for her success in international competitions. She has received top prizes and awards, including the Sendai Competition in Japan, the Queen Elisabeth Competition in Belgium, the Shanghai Isaac Stern Competition, the Naumburg Competition in New York City, and the Indianapolis Competition. Shannon has performed solo with renowned orchestras such as the Tokyo Symphony, Antwerp Symphony, Belgian National Orchestra, and New York String Orchestra at Carnegie Hall. Shannon began playing the violin at the age of four and has studied with esteemed teachers such as Ann Grosshans, Paul Landefeld, and Jan Mark Sloman. She currently resides in the Netherlands, pursuing an artist certificate at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam.



*"...graceful, lyrical" – Cleveland Classical"*

**C**hinese pianist **Ying Li** won the First Prize at the 2021 Young Concert Artists Susan Wadsworth International Auditions. She has also received prestigious awards from competitions such as the Antonio Mornone International Prize, the Sarasota Artist Series Piano Competition, and the International Liszt Piano Competition for Young Pianists. Ying has performed with renowned orchestras like The Philadelphia Orchestra, L'Accademia Orchestra del La Scala, and NWD-Philharmoniker, collaborating with conductors including Lina Gonzalez-Granados and Xian Zhang. Notable recital debuts include Carnegie Hall's Zankel Hall and the Kennedy Center's Terrace Theater. Chamber music appearances have occurred at festivals like Verbier Festival Academy and



Ravinia's Steans Institute. Ying's musical journey started in China at age five, and she later studied at the Curtis Institute of Music and The Juilliard School with Jonathan Biss, Seymour Lipkin, Robert McDonald.



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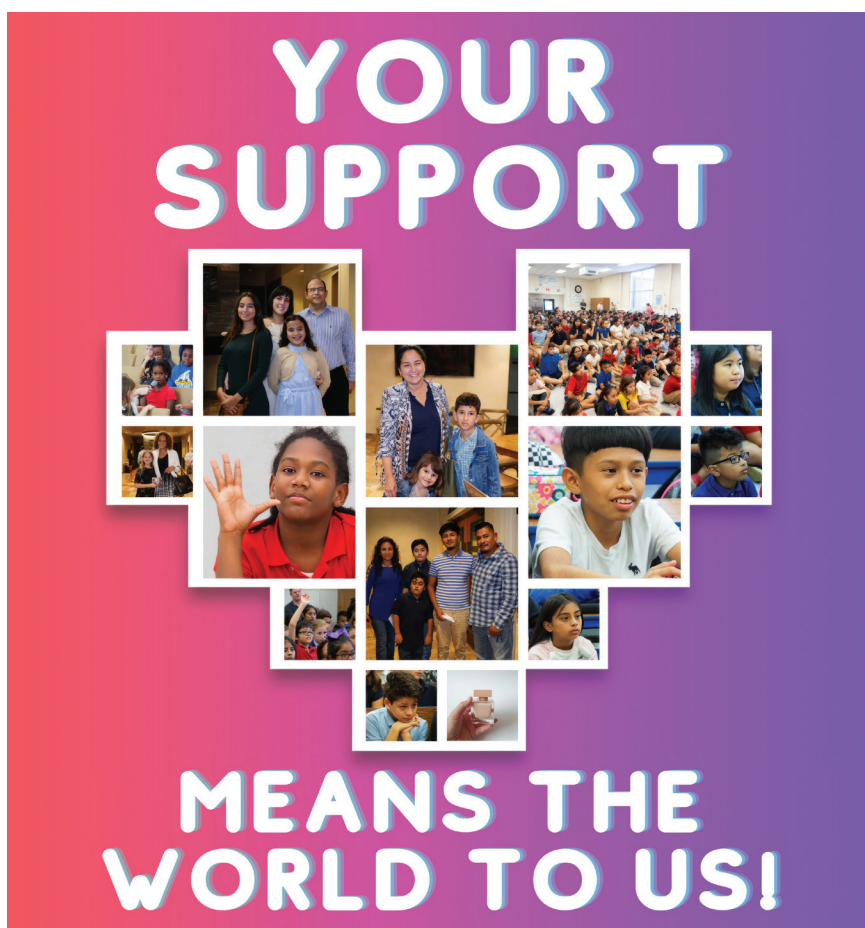
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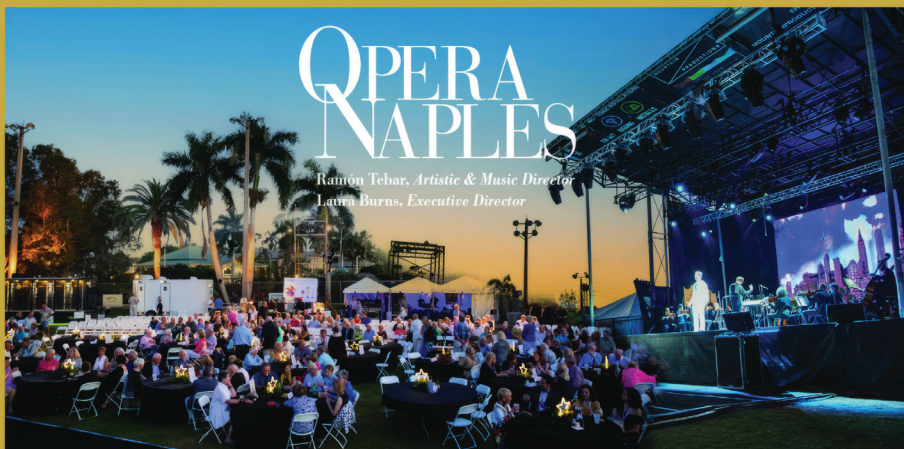
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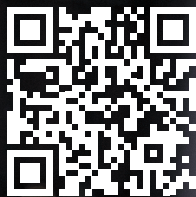
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- The New York Times



By Quiara Alegria Hudes  
Directed by Laura Moreno

OCT 14-29, 2023  
PREVIEW: OCT 12 & 13

Sometimes you have to get lost to find yourself.  
26 Miles is the story of a broken family rediscovering understanding, redemption, and love.

"The perfect Christmas revue!  
Crackles with energy and joy!"  
- LA Weekly

### Winter Wonderettes

By Roger Bean  
Directed by Dawn Dumas

NOV 18-DEC 17, 2023  
PREVIEW: NOV 16 & 17

A Holiday musical confection for the whole family!  
Rock around the Christmas tree with this festive confection of 1960s holiday hits sung in "marvelous" four-part harmony!

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### THE REFUGEES

By Brent Askeri  
Directed by Marshall Jones III

JAN 13-FEB 4, 2024  
PREVIEW: JAN 11 & 12

When you lose everything, how do you find a place to belong?

Equal parts hilarious and thought-provoking, *The Refugees* is a bold new comedy exploring patriotism, identity, and belonging.

"An absolute delight...like a breath of fresh air."  
- Houston Press

### INTO THE BREECHES!

By George Brant  
Directed by Jackson Gay

FEB 17 - MAR 10, 2024  
PREVIEW: FEB 15 & 16

A moving comedy about the singular way art and community reveal our boldest selves

In 1942, a passionate, albeit inexperienced, band of actresses move from the sidelines to centerstage to mount an ambitious Shakespearean production. Will their performance be a victory on the home front or a disaster of epic proportions?

"A lingering and deeply satisfying sweetness...  
for those moments when you sense a song in your heart."  
- The New York Times

### She Loves Me

Book by Joe Masteroff  
Music by Jerry Bock Lyrics by Sheldon Harnick  
Directed by Kristen Coury

MAR 23-APR 21, 2024  
PREVIEW: MAR 21 & 22

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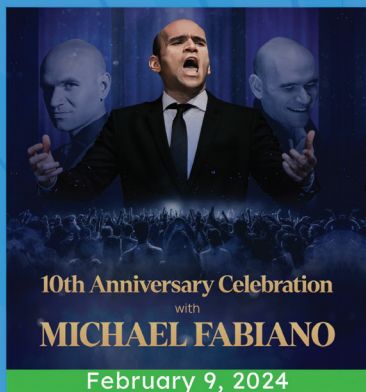
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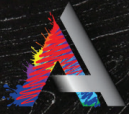
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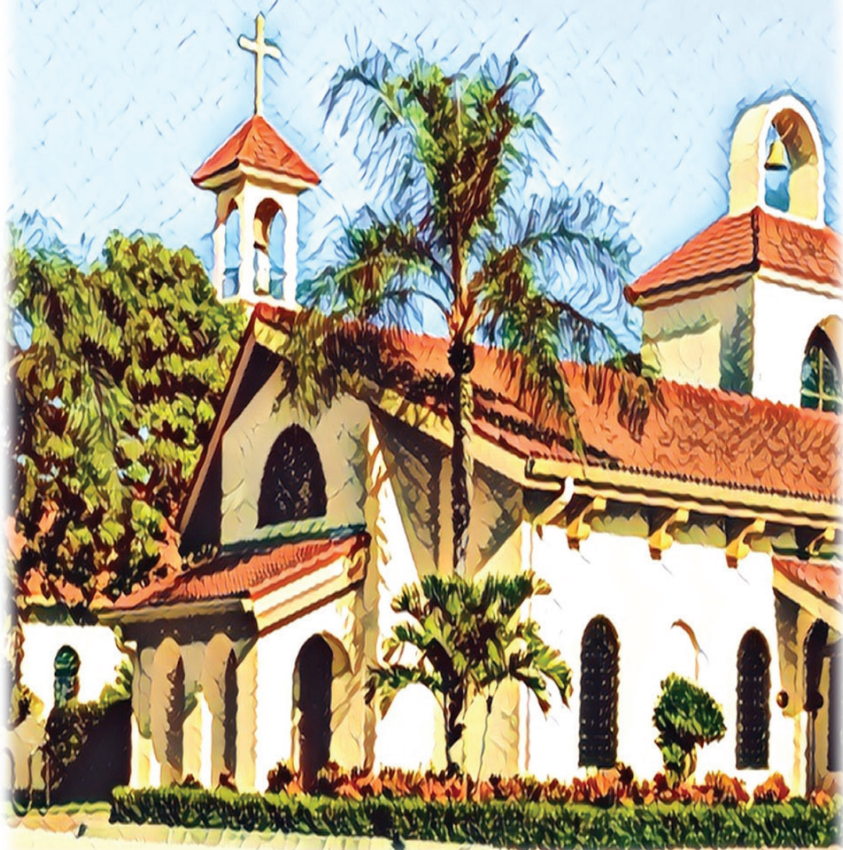


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## CONSERVATION STATUS INDEX ©

Threatened of extinction from  
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