Beethoven 2020

The Complete Piano Sonatas of Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827) in Consecutive Order in Six Concerts

The Emory Chamber Music Society of Atlanta is supported by the Cherry L. Emerson Endowment, the Rebecca Katz-Doft Chamber Music Endowment, the Ethel Orentlicher Gershon Fund, a generous gift from Dr. John and Linda Cooke, the Office of Educational Programs at the Michael C. Carlos Museum, and the Friends of Music at Emory.

Emerson Concert Hall
Schwartz Center for Performing Arts
schwartz.emory.edu
The Complete Piano Sonatas of Ludwig van Beethoven
Concert One
Sunday, February 16, 2020 • 2:00 p.m., Emerson Concert Hall

Sonata No. 1 in F Minor, op. 2, No. 1
   Allegro
   Adagio
   Menuetto: Allegretto
   Prestissimo
   Todd Qualls

Sonata No. 2 in A Major, op. 2, No. 2
   Allegro Vivace
   Largo appassionato
   Scherzo: Allegretto
   Rondo: Grazioso
   Jasmin Arakawa

Sonata No. 3 in C Major, op. 2, No. 3
   Allegro con brio
   Adagio
   Scherzo: Allegro
   Allegro assai
   Dmitri Vorobiev

—Intermission—

Sonata No. 4 in E-flat Major, op. 7, “The Beloved”
   Allegro molto e con brio
   Largo con gran espressione
   Allegro
   Rondo: Poco allegretto e grazioso
   Stephanie Leon Shames

Sonata No. 5 in C Minor, op. 10, No. 1
   Allegro molto e con brio
   Adagio molto
   Finale: Prestissimo
   Irene Chen, Nathan Trinkle, Alejandro Arzú
The Complete Piano Sonatas of Ludwig van Beethoven
Concert Two
Sunday, February 16, 2020 • 5:00 p.m., Emerson Concert Hall

Sonata No. 6 in F Major, op. 10, No. 2
  Allegro  
  Allegretto  
  Presto

  Robert Henry

Sonata No. 7 in D Major, op. 10, No. 3
  Presto  
  Largo e mesto  
  Menuetto: Allegro  
  Rondo: Allegro

  Elizabeth Sun

Sonata No. 8 in C Minor, op. 13, “Pathetique”
  Grave; Allegro di molto e con brio  
  Adagio cantabile  
  Rondo: Allegro

  Philip Thomson

—Intermission—

Sonata No. 9 in E Major, op. 14, No. 1
  Allegro  
  Allegretto  
  Rondo: Allegro comodo

  Sergio Gallo

Sonata No. 10 in G Major, op. 14, No. 2
  Allegro  
  Andante  
  Scherzo: Allegro assai

  Jennifer Zheng

Sonata No. 11 in B-flat Major, op. 22
  Allegro con brio  
  Adagio con molta espressione  
  Menuetto  
  Rondo: Allegretto

  Sergio Gallo
The Complete Piano Sonatas of Ludwig van Beethoven
Concert Three
Sunday, February 16, 2020 • 8:00 p.m., Emerson Concert Hall

Sonata No. 12 in A-flat Major, op. 26, “Funeral March”
   Andante con Variazioni
   Scherzo: Allegro molto
   Marcia funebre sulla morte d’un Eroe
   Rondo: Allegro

   Philip Thomson

Sonata No. 13 Quasi una fantasia in E-flat Major, op. 27, No. 1
   Andante
   Allegro molto e vivace
   Adagio con espressione
   Allegro vivace

   Jasmin Arakawa

Sonata No. 14 Quasi una fantasia in C-sharp Minor, op. 27, No. 2, “Moonlight”
   Adagio sostenuto
   Allegretto
   Presto agitato

   Julie Coucheron

—Intermission—

Sonata No. 15 in D Major, op. 28, “Pastorale”
   Allegro
   Andante
   Scherzo: Allegro vivace
   Rondo: Allegro ma non troppo

   Rachelle McCabe

Sonata No. 16 in G Major, op. 31, No. 1
   Allegro vivace
   Adagio grazioso
   Rondo: Allegretto

   Jonathan Shames
The Complete Piano Sonatas of Ludwig van Beethoven
Concert Four
Sunday, February 23, 2020 • 2:00 p.m., Emerson Concert Hall

Sonata No. 17 in D Minor, op. 31, No. 2, “Tempest”
   Largo; Allegro
   Adagio
   Allegretto

   Jack Li

Sonata No. 18 in E-flat Major, op. 31, No. 3
   Allegro
   Scherzo: Allegretto vivace
   Menuetto: Moderato e grazioso
   Presto con fuoco

   Julio Elizalde

Sonata No. 19 in G Minor, op. 49, No. 1
   Andante
   Rondo: Allegro

   Alexander Wasserman

   —Intermission—

Sonata No. 20 in G Major, op. 49, No. 2
   Allegro ma non troppo
   Tempo di Menuetto

   Julio Elizalde

Sonata No. 21 in C Major, op. 53, “Waldstein”
   Allegro con brio
   Introduzione: Adagio molto
   Rondo: Allegretto moderato

   Elena Cholakova

Sonata No. 22 in F Major, op. 54
   In tempo di Menuetto
   Allegretto

   Alec Chien
The Complete Piano Sonatas of Ludwig van Beethoven
Concert Five
Sunday, February 23, 2020 • 5:00 p.m., Emerson Concert Hall

Sonata No. 23 in F Minor, op. 57, “Appassionata”
   Allegro assai
   Andante con moto
   Allegro ma non troppo
   Keiko Yamashita Ransom

Sonata No. 24 in F-sharp Major, op. 78, “Fur Therese”
   Adagio cantabile—Allegro ma non troppo
   Allegro vivace
   Inna Faliks

Sonata No. 25 in G Major, op. 79
   Presto alla Tedesca
   Andante
   Vivace
   Raffi Besalyan

—Intermission—

Sonata No. 26 in E-flat Major, op. 81a, “Les Adieux”
   Adagio-Allegro (The Farewell)
   Andante espressivo (The Absence)
   Vivacissimamente (The Return)
   Elizabeth Pridgen

Sonata No. 27 in E Minor, op. 90
   Mit Lebhaftigkeit und durchaus mit Empfindung und Ausdruck
   Nicht zu geschwind und sehr singbar vorgetragen
   Sara Wang

Sonata No. 28 in A Major, op. 101
   Etwas lebhaft, und mit der innigsten Empfindung
   Lebhaft. Marschmassig
   Langsam und sehnsuchtsvoll
   Geschwind, doch nicht zu sehr; und mit Entschlossenheit
   Alec Chien
The Complete Piano Sonatas of Ludwig van Beethoven
Concert Six
Sunday, February 23, 2020 • 8:00 p.m., Emerson Concert Hall

Sonata No. 29 in B-flat Major, op. 106, “Hammerklavier”
  Allegro
  Scherzo: Allegro assai
  Adagio sostenuto
  Largo; Allegro risoluto: Fuga a tre voci, con alcune licenze
  Michael Gurt

—Intermission—

Sonata No. 30 in E Major, op. 109
  Vivace ma non troppo
  Prestissimo
  Andante molto cantabile ed espressivo
  William Ransom

Sonata No. 31 in A-flat Major, op. 110
  Moderato cantabile, molto espressivo
  Allegro molto
  Adagio ma non troppo—Fuga
  Read Gainsford

Sonata No. 32 in C Minor, op. 111
  Maestoso—Allegro con brio ed appassionato
  Arietta: Adagio molto semplice e cantabile
  Michael Gurt
Performer Biographies

Hailed by Gramophone for her “characterful sparkle,” Jasmin Arakawa has performed widely in North America, Central and South America, Europe, China, and Japan. A prizewinner of the Jean François International Music Competition, she has been heard at Carnegie Hall, Salle Gaveau in Paris and Victoria Hall in Geneva, as well as in broadcasts of the BBC and Radio France. She has appeared as a concerto soloist with the Philips Symfonie Orkest in Amsterdam, Orquestra Sinfonica de Piracicaba in Brazil, and numerous orchestras in the United States and her native Japan. Arakawa released her debut solo album Klavierabend on MSR Classics to critical acclaim, praised by American Record Guide for her “rich lyricism” and “supreme clarity.”

Arakawa has collaborated with notable artists including cellists Colin Carr and Gary Hoffman; flutists Jean Ferrandis, Marina Piccinini, and Carol Wincenc; clarinetist James Campbell; and the Penderecki String Quartet. In addition, she has served as collaborative pianist in residence at the Banff Centre in Canada for three seasons. Recently she released the complete works of Witold Lutosławski for violin and piano on PARMA Recordings with Canadian violinist Véronique Mathieu.

Arakawa is a graduate of Tokyo University of the Arts. She has doctor of music and master of music degrees in piano performance from Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where she studied with Emile Naoumoff, the last protégé of Nadia Boulanger. Arakawa is assistant professor of piano and piano area coordinator at the University of Florida, as well as director of the UF International Piano Festival.

Alejandro Arzú is an Emory junior double majoring in biology and human health. He was born and raised in Guatemala City, Guatemala, where he graduated from the Klavier Piano Academy, headed by his instructor, Consuelo Medinilla. At Emory, he has integrated music into his pre-health career and aspires to return home as a physician-scientist to improve access to and quality of the Guatemalan healthcare system. Arzú performed the Gamelan movement of Godowsky’s Java Suite and shared the stage with the Emory Gamelan Ensemble in October 2019.

Hailed as “a true heir of the mainstream of Russian pianism, like Horowitz” (Chopin Magazine, Japan), “a keyboard phenomenon”
Fanfare Magazine), “a formidable pianist with a commanding presence and rich interpretive gifts” (American Record Guide), “a master of his art” (The Record Geijutsu Magazine, Japan), Raffi Besalyan has established an international reputation as a magnetic and passionate performer.

Associate professor of piano at Georgia State University, Besalyan has toured North and South America, Europe, Russia, and Asia, performing in such prestigious venues as Carnegie Hall and Merkin Hall in New York; Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.; Orchestra Hall in Chicago; Atlanta Symphony Hall; Max M. Fisher Music Center in Detroit; Moscow Conservatory’s Rachmaninoff Hall; and Maly Zal, Izumi Hall, and Phoenix Hall in Osaka. He dazzled his audiences appearing as a soloist with many prominent orchestras, including the Osaka Symphony in Japan; the Orchestra Sinfonica Del Festival Di Chioggia in Venice, Italy; the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra; the Yerevan Symphony in Armenia; the Belgorod Symphony in Russia; the Kharkov Symphony in Ukraine; the New Jersey Festival Orchestra; and the Moscow Chamber Orchestra; among others. Besalyan’s performances have also been heard on National Public Radio, WQXR New York, WGBH Boston, WFMT Chicago, WABE Atlanta, CBC Public Radio Canada, and Tokyo FM Japan. Critics on both sides of the Atlantic have praised his performances for their virility, poetry, and extraordinary technical command.

Besalyan received international accolades for his solo albums Dance, Drama, Decadence (IMC Music, Japan) and The Return (Sono Luminus/Naxos). He is also featured on the Bach-Busoni Edition, Vol. I for Koch International Classics with pianist Sara Davis Buechner. Besalyan studied at the Yerevan State Komitas Conservatory in Armenia, Rowan University, the Manhattan School of Music, and the Moscow State Conservatory.

Irene Chen is a sophomore at Emory pursuing a double major in business administration and piano performance. Originally from Woodstock, Georgia, Chen grew up studying and performing on both piano and violin for more than 11 years. Under the tutelage of Hsin-Lan Chien, Chen participated in competitions throughout Georgia such as GMTA and MTNA. At Emory, Chen studies with William Ransom and actively performs around the Emory campus and in her community back home. When not playing piano, Chen teaches young students, ages 4–13, in her own piano studio. As part of the Atlanta community, Chen enjoys volunteering weekly with Emory
Food Chain and PAWS animal shelter. In her free time, she enjoys graphic designing, running, and reading.

Alec Chien has bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral of musical arts degrees from the Juilliard School studying with Adele Marcus. Grand-prize-winner of the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition and prize winner of the Sydney International Piano Competition, the Paloma O’Shea International Piano Competition, and the Affiliate Artists Xerox Piano Program, he has performed in solo and chamber recitals and as soloist with orchestras in countries on four continents, including Australia, Austria, People’s Republic of China, Greece, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Poland, Spain, and Taiwan.

Major symphony orchestras with which he has been featured include the Philadelphia Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Utah Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic, New Zealand Symphony, American Symphony, and Hong Kong Philharmonic. Chien is also active in chamber music, an has appeared with members of the New York Philharmonic and the Philadelphia Orchestra, as well as the Alexander String Quartet, the Cavani String Quartet, and the Ariel Woodwinds Quintet.

In 2015, Chien retired from being professor of music and artist in residence at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania, where he had taught for 35 years. Having concluded a seven-concert series performing all 32 Beethoven piano sonatas, he endeavored to present an eight-concert series devoting to the major works of Franz Schubert and Frederic Chopin. A firm believer in bringing music to Meadville and its surrounding communities, where he was honored as the city’s “adopted native son,” Chien has been very active in presiding over the Meadville Neighborhood Center and the Meadville Youth Vision Released Time. In fall 2013, he joined the piano faculty of Carnegie Mellon University School of Music teaching piano literature and repertoire for graduate piano majors.

Bulgarian pianist Elena Cholakova regularly performs in important musical centers in Eastern and Western Europe, South America, and the United States. She has given solo recitals at the Liszt Academy in Budapest, the United States Embassy in Budapest, Bulgaria Hall and Sofia Conservatory in Bulgaria, Aosta Concert Hall in Italy, Fellbach Musicschulle in Germany, Fazioli Salon in Chicago, and more.
Cholakova recently performed Stravinsky’s *Rite of Spring* with Atlanta Symphony Orchestra’s music director Robert Spano in a multimedia production hailed as “one of the most important collaborations of the year.” As a member of the Atlanta Chamber Players, Cholakova has appeared in the International Chamber Music Festival in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico; has performed in Atlanta’s Spivey Hall; and has premiered commissioned works by leading American composers. Cholakova has a MMus and DMus in piano performance from Northwestern University and she serves as director of piano studies at Emory University.

Born in Oslo, Norway, **Julie Coucheron** has a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree with honors from the Royal Academy of Music in London. Coucheron has established an international career, winning major awards in Italy, Germany, UK, and the United States. She has worked with musicians such as Emanuel Ax, Chee-Yun Kim, Christopher O’Riley, and Yo-Yo Ma, and has toured Europe, America, South America, and Asia, performing in halls including Verizon Hall, Wigmore Hall, the Kennedy Center, and Carnegie Hall.

Coucheron has performed with the Norwegian Radio Symphony, Oslo Philharmonic, Jena Symphony, and the Ukrainian Symphony in Kiev. She regularly performs at festivals such as the Oslo Chamber Music Festival, Bergen International Music Festival, Highlands-Cashiers, and La Jolla Summer Fest. She is artistic director of the Fjord Cadenza festival in Norway and for the Kon Tiki Chamber Music Festival in Oslo.

Coucheron enjoys a close collaboration with her brother, concertmaster of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, David Coucheron, and together they have released two recordings, *Debut* and *David and Julie* on the Naxos label. In addition to her busy concert schedule, Coucheron is a sought-after teacher. In August 2014, she was appointed assistant professor at Kennesaw State University. Coucheron has given master classes and taught at schools including the New England Conservatory, Emory University, and Mercer University. She enjoys a various and wide range of styles and repertoire emerging from her highly trained classical background to the more contemporary and popular music. Recent collaborations include performances with the Steve Miller Band and Elton John.

Praised as a musician of “compelling artistry and power” by the *Seattle Times*, pianist **Julio Elizalde** is a multifaceted artist who enjoys
a versatile career as soloist, chamber musician, artistic administrator, and educator. He has performed in many of the major music centers throughout the United States, Europe, Asia, and Latin America, to popular and critical acclaim. Since 2014, he has served as the artistic director of the Olympic Music Festival near Seattle.

Elizalde has appeared with many of the leading artists of our time. He tours internationally with world-renowned violinists Sarah Chang and Ray Chen and has performed alongside conductors Itzhak Perlman, Teddy Abrams, and Anne Manson. He has collaborated with artists such as violinist Pamela Frank, composers Osvaldo Golijov and Stephen Hough, baritone William Sharp, and members of the Juilliard, Cleveland, Takács, Kronos, and Brentano string quartets.

Elizalde is a founding member of the New Trio with violinist Andrew Wan and cellist Patrick Jee. The New Trio was the winner of both the Fischoff and Coleman National Chamber Music Competitions and was awarded the Harvard Musical Association’s prestigious Arthur W. Foote Prize. As part of the New Trio, Elizalde has performed for leading American politicians such as President Bill Clinton, Secretaries of State Condoleezza Rice and Henry Kissinger, and the late Massachusetts Senator Ted Kennedy. He was a featured performer for the soundtrack of the film *Jimmy P*, composed by Academy Award–winning Howard Shore.

Elizalde is a passionately active educator. In 2013, he served as a visiting professor of piano at the University of Puget Sound and has given piano and chamber music master classes throughout the United States at major conservatories and universities. He has also appeared at various summer music festivals including Yellow Barn, Taos, Caramoor, Bowdoin, Highlands-Cashiers, Kneisel Hall, and the Music Academy of the West. In 2012, Elizalde was the youngest juror ever selected at the Fischoff National Chamber Music Competition held at the University of Notre Dame.

Originally from the San Francisco Bay Area, Elizalde has a bachelor of music degree with honors from the San Francisco Conservatory, where he studied with Paul Hersh. He has master’s and doctoral degrees in musical arts from the Juilliard School in New York City, where he studied with Jerome Lowenthal, Joseph Kalichstein, and Robert McDonald.

“Adventurous and passionate” (the New Yorker) Ukrainian-born American pianist Inna Faliks has made a name for herself through her commanding performances of standard piano repertoire, as well
as genre-bending interdisciplinary projects, and inquisitive work with contemporary composers. After her acclaimed debuts at the Gilmore Festival and with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, she has performed on many of the world’s great stages, with numerous orchestras, in solo appearances, and with conductors such as Leonard Slatkin and Keith Lockhart. Faliks is professor of piano and head of piano at UCLA. Critics praise her “courage to take risks, her expressive intensity, and her technical perfection” (General Anzeiger, Bonn), “remarkable insight” (Audiophile audition) “poetry and panoramic vision” (Washington Post), and “riveting passion, playfulness” (Baltimore Sun). Highlights of recent seasons include performances at Ravinia Festival and the National Gallery in Washington, D.C.; tours of China with appearances in all the major halls such as Beijing Center for Performing Arts, Shanghai Oriental Arts Theater, and Tianjin Grand Theater; as well as acclaimed performances at the Festival Intenacional de Piano in Mexico, in the Fazioli Series in Italy, and in Israel’s Tel Aviv Museum; at Portland Piano Festival and with the Camerata Pacifica; with the modern dance troupe Bodytraffic at the Broad Stage Santa Monica; and Jacaranda Series in Los Angeles. Faliks has been featured on WQXR, WNYC, WFMT, and many international television broadcasts, and she has performed in many other major venues such as Carnegie Hall, Met Museum, and Moscow’s Tchaikovsky Hall, among others. She collaborates with and premieres music by some of today’s most important composers including Billy Childs, Richard Danielpour, Timo Andres, and Clarice Assad. She is known for her poetry-music series Music/Words, for which she has collaborated with many important poets. She regularly tours with her monologue-recital Polonaise-Fantasie, the Story of a Pianist, which tells the story of her immigration to the United States from Odessa. This has been recorded on Delos; other acclaimed recordings include all-Beethoven, and Rachmaninoff/Ravel/Pasternak CDs for MSR Classics. Upcoming recordings include Reimagine Beethoven and Ravel (nine world premieres) on Parma and the Master and Margarita project, with three world premieres; and Liszt Sonata, on Sono Luminus.

Faliks is also a writer—her article on China and classical music was recently published by the Washington Post. Faliks is a Yamaha artist.

Pianist Read Gainsford has been described as possessing “finger-numbing virtuosity and delicately chiseled precision.” Known for his insightful introductions from the stage, he has collaborated with oceanographers in presenting Crumb’s Voice of the Whale, consulted
with art historians and living artists to create a series of images to accompany performances of Messiaen, and reenacted the famous piano duel between Liszt and Thalberg.

Born in New Zealand, he has performed widely in the United States, Europe, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, as solo recitalist, concerto soloist, and chamber musician, making successful solo debuts in Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall and London’s Wigmore Hall, as well as playing in the Kennedy Center, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Queen Elizabeth Hall, and others. Recent highlights include performing concertos with the Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra in Olomouc, Czech Republic; the Frenz ensemble in Paris; and Orchestra da Camera in Champaign-Urbana; and tours across the United States including a fourth concert in Carnegie Hall. Gainsford was a founding member of Trio Solis, who made its Carnegie Hall debut in 2009. He has also collaborated with the Audubon and Serafin quartets, Pressenda Chamber Players, Aaron Berofsky, Kathryn Votapek, Richard Stoltzman, Jacques Zoon, Ricardo Morales, and many others. A keen supporter of living composers, he has premiered and recorded Ladislav Kubík’s Third Piano Concerto and Marc Satterwhite’s Five Rivers of Hades, and recorded Ellen Taaffe Zwilich’s Images for two pianos and orchestra.

Highly in demand as a master class clinician and teacher, he is professor of piano at Florida State University, where he is also coordinator of keyboard. Recent engagements include festivals in Italy, Illinois, and Vermont; and recitals in London, Berlin, New Zealand, and the United States. During 2020 he will perform the complete cycle of 32 Beethoven piano sonatas in honor of the 250th anniversary of the composer’s birth.

A Steinway artist, Sergio Gallo has made several acclaimed recordings for Eroica, and a recent release with Naxos of Liszt’s transcriptions of opera by Meyerbeer, which was critically acclaimed by BBC Magazine: “Gallo makes a good case for Liszt’s honoring of the operatic originals.” In 2011 he won the Global Music Awards Award of Excellence for his album, Mostly Villa-Lobos: 20th Century Piano Music from the Americas. His new recording of works by Beethoven will be released by Naxos in February 2020 as part of the celebration of the composer’s 250th anniversary.

Gallo has performed with orchestras throughout the Americas and worldwide. Since his Brazilian national radio debut in 1986 (Radio Cultura, São Paulo) and his European radio debut in 1988 (Radio
France, Paris), his work has been regularly played on classical music radio outlets around the world.

Gallo is the winner of concerto competitions of the São Paulo Symphony Orchestra and of the University of California Symphony in Santa Barbara. He has received a grant from the Henry Cowell Incentive Funds at the American Music Center in New York to record works by that composer. He holds the Diplôme d’Excellence from the Conservatoire Européen de Musique de Paris, a post-graduate certificate from the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest, an MM and an artist diploma from the University of Cincinnati, and a doctorate of musical arts from the University of California, Santa Barbara. He lives in the United States where he is professor of piano performance at Georgia State University, and is on the affiliated artist staff of the Rocky Ridge Music Academy in Estes Park, Colorado.

**Michael Gurt** is Paula Garvey Manship Distinguished Professor of Piano at Louisiana State University. He won first prize in the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition in 1982, and was a prize winner in international competitions in Pretoria, South Africa; and Sydney, Australia. He has performed as soloist with the Chicago Symphony, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Utah Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony, the Memphis Symphony, the Capetown Symphony, the China National Symphony, and the Natal Philharmonic Orchestra in Durban, South Africa. He has made solo appearances in Alice Tully Hall and Weill Recital Hall (Carnegie Hall) in New York; Ambassador Auditorium in Los Angeles; Orchestra Hall in Detroit; City Hall in Hong Kong; the Victorian Arts Center in Melbourne, Australia; Baxter Hall in Capetown, South Africa; and the Attaturk Cultural Center in Istanbul, Turkey. He recently completed tours of Portugal and Brazil. Gurt has collaborated with the Takács String Quartet and the Cassatt String Quartet, and has performed at the Australian Festival of Chamber Music in Townsville, Queensland. He has served on the juries of both the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition and the New Orleans International Piano Competition, and he has recorded on the Naxos, Centaur, and Redwood labels.

He serves as piano mentor at the National Music Festival in Chestertown, Maryland, and was the chair of the piano department at the Sewanee Summer Music Festival from 1987 through 2007. He has served as piano chair of the Louisiana Music Teachers Association, and has taught at two summer music seminars held at Tunghai
University in Taichung, Taiwan. Gurt has degrees from the University of Michigan and the Juilliard School.

Hailed as a “consummate artist—brilliant, formidable, effortless, and the epitome of control and poise,” Robert Henry is an internationally distinguished pianist, performing throughout the world as orchestral soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician. Since winning first prize in four international piano competitions, he has presented solo debuts at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and Wigmore Hall. In 2016, he released his third critically acclaimed recording, As the Songbird Sings: Music of Schubert and Brahms.

Henry has a doctor of musical arts degree from the University of Maryland, with additional studies at the Cleveland Institute of Music and the Glinka Conservatory in St. Petersburg, Russia. He is an MTNA nationally certified educator and has lectured and performed at universities, conservatories, and festivals worldwide. He has served as recitalist, clinician, and juror for state, regional, and national MTNA conventions and competitions. He has been featured in American Music Teacher, Clavier, and Gramophone. He is a founding member of the Summit Piano Trio. He is interim director of the Atlanta Boy Choir and music director and organist/choirmaster of the Saint George’s Episcopal Church in Griffin, Georgia. An international Steinway artist, he maintains his web presence at roberthenry.org. In 2019, Henry presented his lecture, Practicing Like a Pro at the MTNA National Convention. He is coordinator of the piano department at Kennesaw State University.

Jack Li is an Emory sophomore double-majoring in mathematics and music on a pre-med track. He was born in Mason, Ohio. Prior to entering Emory, he studied piano for approximately 15 years with private lessons from Luba Federov. Li’s musical studies at Emory have so far been largely Beethoven-based, including a performance in the 2019 Emory Concerto Competition (first movement of Third Piano Concerto, No. 3). In addition to this, Li has also performed with the Emory University Symphony Orchestra, playing the celesta part of Mussorgsky’s Pictures at an Exhibition.

Rachelle McCabe, professor of music at Oregon State University, enjoys an international career as a concert pianist and artist teacher. She has performed as soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States, and in China, Canada, Southeast Asia, France, and
England. She has held teaching residencies in Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, and British Columbia.

McCabe is director of piano studies at Oregon State University (OSU) and is artistic director of Corvallis-OSU Piano International and its prestigious Steinway Piano Series. She directs numerous educational programs at Oregon State, including frequent master classes with world-renowned pianists, the OSU Chamber Music Workshop, and the OSU Summer Piano Institute.

Believing in the power of collaborative arts to bring about change, McCabe has created innovative programs with writer/philosopher Kathleen Dean Moore, to address the global crisis of climate change and extinction. The two have performed their compelling program, A Call to Life: Variations on a Theme of Extinction, in many cities across the United States, Canada, and United Kingdom. McCabe enjoys a long-time duo-piano partnership with her sister Robin McCabe. In 2018, the duo performed recitals and taught at four leading music conservatories in Beijing.

McCabe has a doctorate from the University of Michigan, a master’s degree from the Juilliard School, and a bachelor’s degree from the University of Washington. Her teachers were Willard Schultz, Bela Siki, Ania Dorfmann, Gyorgy Sandor, and Theodore Lettvin.

Pianist Elizabeth Pridgen has distinguished herself as a soloist and chamber musician. Named artistic director of the Atlanta Chamber Players in 2014, she has led the group in performances of both new and standard chamber works to critical acclaim. Pridgen recently made her major orchestral debut with the Atlanta Symphony conducted by Robert Spano and released three albums including the Chausson Concerto for Violin, Piano, and String Quartet with Andres Cardenes and the Vega String Quartet. Highlights of the current season include recitals with Lynn Harrell and Robert McDuffie, a return to the ProMusica concert series in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, and a recording of the John Corigliano Sonata for Violin and Piano.

An advocate of new music, Pridgen has participated in the commissioning of works by noted composers such as Adam Schoenberg and Michael Gandolfi and supports underserved composers through her leadership of the Rapido Composition Competition. Pridgen has toured extensively throughout the United States, Mexico, and Europe, and she performs regularly at festivals including the Rome Chamber Music Festival, Italy; the Aspen Music Festival; the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival; the Highlands-
Cashiers Chamber Music Festival; the Madison Chamber Music Festival; and the Kon-Tiki Chamber Music Festival in Oslo, Norway. An avid chamber performer, she is a member of the Cortona Trio and Georgian Chamber Players. Pridgen is a distinguished artist and piano chair at the McDuffie Center for Strings and holds the G. Leslie Fabian Piano Chair at the Townsend School of Music at Mercer University. She has a master of music degree from the Juilliard School where she studied with Joseph Kalichstein and a bachelor’s degree from the Peabody Conservatory of Music as a student of Ann Schein.

**Todd Qualls** began his piano studies while growing up in Atlanta. He went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in music from Emory studying piano with William Ransom, and graduated with the Emory class of 1994. He later completed a master’s degree in piano performance with a pedagogy emphasis at Florida State University where he studied with Carolyn Bridger. Qualls has had a varied career in music, with experience in solo performance, accompanying, chamber music, and teaching. His recent performances have included Emory keyboard faculty presentations of Bach’s *Goldberg Variations* and Saint-Saëns’s *Carnival of the Animals*, recitals with trombonist Ed Nicholson and also a solo recital at Emory last year. Qualls devotes much of his time to teaching students at Emory and in the surrounding community.

**Keiko Yamashita Ransom** has given concerts throughout her native Japan as well as in the United States. She studied at the Tokyo College of Music and the Juilliard School in New York and has served on the faculties of Vanderbilt University and the Sewanee Summer Music Center. She has collaborated with such artists as pianist Robert Spano, cellist Gary Hoffman, hornist Dale Clevenger, and cellist Lazlo Varga; appeared as soloist with the New Japan Philharmonic, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, and the Sewanee Festival Orchestra; and she has given solo and duo-piano recitals (with William Ransom) to public and critical acclaim. Currently she is on the piano faculty of Emory University, has a private studio of talented pre-college students, and she is a founding member of the Emory Chamber Music Society of Atlanta.

Pianist, artistic director, master teacher, editor, and judge for international competitions, **William Ransom** appears around the world as soloist with orchestras, recitalist, and chamber musician. His performances have been broadcast on National Public Radio
and television in the United States, Argentina, Poland, and Japan. He regularly collaborates with musicians including Yo-Yo Ma, Richard Stoltzman, William Preucil, Stephen Isserlis, and Robert McDuffie; and members of the Tokyo, Cleveland, Juilliard, American, St. Petersburg, Borromeo, Parker, Ariel, and Lark string quartets; the Empire Brass Quintet; Eroica Trio; and the percussion group Nexus, among others. As a master teacher, he also performs and gives master classes at numerous schools of music and universities around the world. He has recorded for ACA Digital and Rising Star Records. Ransom is the Mary Emerson Professor of Piano at Emory University in Atlanta where he is founder and artistic director of the Emory Chamber Music Society of Atlanta. A graduate of the Juilliard School and the University of Michigan, in the summers, Ransom is artistic director of the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival in North Carolina and for a decade was an artist-faculty member at the Kamisaibara Pianists Camp in Japan. In 2016 he was named artistic director of the Juneau Jazz and Classics Festival and also one of Musical America Worldwide’s “30 Musical Innovators.”

Launched after a prize-winning performance in the finals of the 1982 Moscow International Tchaikovsky Competition, the pianistic career of Jonathan Shames has included performances in Russia, Finland, France, Germany, and Korea, as well as throughout the United States. Shames has recorded with the Moscow Chamber Orchestra and Cologne Radio Symphony Orchestra, toured with the Radio and Television Orchestra of Belgrade, and appeared as soloist with the Seoul Sinfonietta and the symphony orchestras of Seattle, Milwaukee, and Indianapolis, as well as the Boston Pops, among many others.

Since 2004, Shames has been the director of orchestral activities and artistic director of opera theater at the University of Oklahoma, where he has conducted more than 40 different productions, and introduced to Oklahoma audiences music of George Crumb, Henri Dutilleux, Louis Andriessen, Claude Vivier, Luigi Nono, Wang Lu, and Bernd-Alois Zimmerman.

Previously music director of the Wyoming Symphony, Olympia (Washington) Symphony, the Seattle Youth Symphonies, and Marrowstone Music Festival; and associate director of orchestras at the University of Michigan; Shames has conducted ensembles including Musiqa in Houston (Anthony Brandt’s opera The Birth of Something for Albany Records), Clermont-Ferrand Conservatoire Orchestra (France), Louisiana Philharmonic, Richmond Symphony,
Reno Chamber Orchestra, Sewanee and Pine Mountain music festivals, and the Opera Company of Boston. Shames shares the 2005 Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Recording for the University of Michigan CD of William Bolcom’s Songs of Innocence and Experience; his recording of Daniel Asia’s Scherzo-Sonata, dedicated to him, appears on Summit Records.

Upcoming performances include Rimsky-Korsakov’s The Golden Cockerel and Mozart’s Così fan tutte with University of Oklahoma Opera Theater, recitals in Oklahoma and for the American Pianists Association (of which Shames was a winner), and an intensive exploration of the piano works of Schubert to be presented on four consecutive evenings next May at the University of Oklahoma.

The performing career of Stephanie Leon Shames includes international concerts, as well as solo appearances with the Detroit Symphony, Seattle Symphony, Wyoming Symphony, New Orleans Philharmonic, Tacoma Symphony, and the Orchestra of Chur, Switzerland, among others.

As a chamber musician, Leon Shames has appeared at numerous international festivals, including the Radio France-Montpellier and MIDEM Classique Festivals; the International Piano Festival at La Roque d’Antheron, the Bordeaux Festival, the Saarbrucken Chamber Music Festival, the Pine Mountain (Michigan), and Olympic (Washington) Music Festivals. She has performed in Detroit’s Orchestra Hall, Boston’s Tsai Center, the National Museum for Women in the Arts in Washington D.C., Salle Gaveau, the Louvre Recital Hall, the American Conservatory at Fontainebleau, Victoria Concert Hall in Singapore, and London’s Royal Academy, and has been featured on the B.B.C., Radio France, South-German Radio, French TV, and NPR.

As an artistic ambassador for the United States Information Agency, Leon Shames gave master classes and concertized throughout China, Singapore, Indonesia, and Canada. She was an official accompanist for several international competitions, including the Rostropovich Cello Competition, Jacques Thibaud Violin Competition, and Lionel Tertis Viola Competition. As part of the Duo Leon with violinist Suzanne Leon, she is heard on two CDs of Fauré and Dvořák for Cassiopee Disques. With her husband and duo-pianist partner, Jonathan Shames, she co-founded the Boston Players, a chamber ensemble that drew upon Boston Symphony members and international soloists.
Since 2005, Leon Shames has been on the faculty of the University of Oklahoma, teaching chamber music and collaborative performance. In this capacity she appears often at universities and conferences around the country, as well as with visiting guest artists at the university. Leon Shames’s 2019–2020 concerts include performances with cellists Christopher Adkins and Michael Kannen, and violinists Ari Streisfeld, Sean Wang, and Min-Jeong Koh.

Elizabeth Sun is a third-year student at Emory pursuing a double major in biology and piano performance. Originally from Rolling Hills Estates, California, Sun has been studying and performing piano for 14 years. She has participated in numerous competitions and music festivals around the United States, such as the Bowdoin International Music Festival, International Institute for Young Musicians, and the Liszt International Piano Competition. Sun actively performs solo and collaborative works in various events on Emory’s campus and in the surrounding community. Last March, she performed Rachmaninov’s Piano Concerto No.1 with the Emory University Symphony Orchestra. Sun would like to express utmost appreciation towards her piano teachers at Emory, who have included William Ransom and Elena Cholakova.

Also devoted to academics, Sun studies biology and engages in ecological research with monarch butterflies in the De Roode Lab. She is passionate about healthcare, spending additional time gaining clinical experience in pediatric research, and brainstorming potential innovations with her friends. She hopes to apply to medical school in the next few years. Outside of academics, Sun’s favorite weekend activity is volunteering with Trees Atlanta to plant trees in efforts to maintain the urban forest. In her free time, she loves exploring the outdoors and new cuisines.

Philip Thomson was born in Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada. He began piano studies in his home town at age five with Carol O’Neil, who remained his teacher until he entered the University of Toronto as a student of Swiss pianist Pierre Souvairan. His graduate studies were at the Juilliard School with the renowned pianist Abbey Simon; there, he won Juilliard’s Liszt concerto competition, and performed Liszt’s Concerto No. 1 in Alice Tully Hall. While still a student, he was already concertizing widely in Canada, and has played with all of Canada’s major orchestras and in every important concert center in the country. He has also performed in Hungary, Austria, England,
Ireland, France, the United States, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, and China. Since 2010, he has appeared as a soloist numerous times in China and in Korea, including performances in the prestigious Seoul Spring Festival concert series.

Thomson came to worldwide attention when he recorded the world-premiere of Liszt’s *De Profundis* with the Hungarian State Orchestra, which was released on the Hungaroton label. Its universal critical praise secured for him the opportunity to perform the Hungarian, Italian, American, and Canadian premieres of the work. He was subsequently invited by Naxos Records to record many of Liszt’s solo works. He released three CDs of Liszt, all of which received excellent reviews from the major musical journals throughout the world. He has also recorded, to wide critical acclaim, the complete Preludes and Impromptus of the Russian composer Felix Blumenfeld on the Ivory Classics label.

Thomson enjoys good food, chess (he was the chess champion of the province of New Brunswick for a year), logic puzzles, good card tricks, and listening to his favorite band, the Snids. An avid and expert cruciverbalist, Thomson has had his work in this field published in the *New York Times*.

Thomson has been on the faculty of the University of Akron since 1994, and since 2003 has been the head of piano studies.

**Nathan Trinkl** is a sophomore at Emory aspiring to earn a BS in neuroscience and behavioral biology and a BA in music performance. At Emory, Trinkl studies piano with Patricia Dinkins-Matthews. He has always enjoyed classical music and began playing the violin at age four. Later on, he decided to dedicate a majority of his time to playing piano music—and particularly, the piano music of the early 20th century. He won numerous local and state-wide competitions in his home state of Wisconsin, including his recognition as “exemplary soloist” during the 2015 Wisconsin State Solo and Ensemble festival. Trinkl is an avid concert-goer and has travelled to many summer music festivals, including the Verbier Festival in Switzerland and the Salzburg Festival in Austria, to hear and meet his favorite artists. Among these are the pianists Evgeny Kissin, Grigory Sokolov, Daniil Trifonov, and Arcadi Volodos.

**Dmitri Vorobiev** first gained international attention after winning the Casagrande International Piano Competition in Italy in 1994. He has been a major prize winner in the Busoni, Cincinnati World, AMA
Calabria, Iowa, and New Orleans international piano competitions. In 2000 he placed first and also took three special prizes at the Unisa International Piano Competition in South Africa. Vorobiev appeared as a soloist with Cape Town Symphony, Pretoria Chamber Orchestra, Durban Symphony, Terni Philharmonic, Louisiana Philharmonic, Winston-Salem Symphony, and others. His solo and chamber music performances have taken him throughout the United States, Israel, Czech Republic, Canada, Germany, and South Africa, with a most recent performance in Weill Recital Hall of Carnegie Hall with violinist Ivan Zenaty. One of his recent projects is performing complete solo piano works by Beethoven. Vorobiev is an associate professor of piano at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

**Sara Wang** is a sophomore at Emory double-majoring in business and music. She started studying piano with Martina (Hsiu-Shan) Liao at age five, and later studied with Ethan (Chin-Chuan) Chang in her homeland, Taiwan. At age 11, Wang held her first solo recital in Taichung, Taiwan; since then, she has been invited to perform as a soloist in various performance venues and events.

Wang has competed in a number of regional and national piano competitions and has received top honors and awards. Most recently, Wang won the Georgia Young Artist solo piano division of Music Teachers National Association Competition, and received an Honorable Mention at the Emory Concerto and Aria Competition.

In addition to piano performance, Wang has conducted research with the Music Therapy Association of Taiwan analyzing psychological development and has suggested possible methods for promoting healing through music therapy. The research paper was later submitted to the *Wall Street Journal, US News*, and *Time* magazine.

Wang studied with Keiko Yamashita Ransom and William Ransom during her first year at Emory, and she currently studies under Elena Cholakova. In college, she has started playing chamber music and two-piano repertoire and found a great passion in playing with other musicians. During the summer, Wang regularly attends music festivals including the Paris International Sessions, International de Musica de Torrelodones, the National Taipei University of Education International Piano Festival, and the Prague Piano Festival. She wholeheartedly appreciates the joy she has experienced and the amazing friends she has made through music.
Alexander Wasserman serves as assistant professor of music at Reinhardt University as well as the founder and artistic director of the Reinhardt Piano Festival and Academy. He maintains an active concert schedule with performances in Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, La Jolla, Los Angeles, Portland, San Diego, San Francisco, Minneapolis, and Santa Barbara. His performances have been broadcast on television and classical radio stations. As a concerto soloist, Wasserman has performed concertos by Mozart, Beethoven, Liszt, Grieg, Rachmaninoff, Tchaikovsky, and Gershwin. This past season included performances of Rachmaninoff’s Piano Concerto No. 3 with the Hollywood Chamber Orchestra (California), Mozart’s Piano Concerto in D Minor with the DeKalb Symphony Orchestra (Georgia), and Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue with the Young Harris Wind Ensemble (Georgia). He is also a frequent guest artist for the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra’s “pre-concert chamber music” series, and regularly collaborates with members of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. Wasserman has a doctor of musical arts degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music. His teachers have included Suzanne Julian, Antoinette Perry, Daniel Shapiro, Yong Hi Moon, and Antonio Pompa-Baldi. Additional study with Paul Schenly and Sergei Babayan have been of great influence. His students have been winners of regional, national, and international competitions, including MTNA Senior Division (first prize), GMEA, GMTA (first prize), Rising Stars, Emory Young Artists Competition, Osaka International Piano Competition, Nashville International Piano Competition (bronze medal), AMTA Romantic and Impressionistic competition (grand prize), Ruth Kern Concerto Competition, Rome Symphony Concerto Competition, and many others. Wasserman is a Shigeru Kawai artist.

Jennifer Zheng is a sophomore student at Emory studying applied mathematics and statistics and double-majoring in music with a piano performance track. Zheng moved from Shanghai, China, to Houston, Texas, in eighth grade and started studying with Yanzi Lin in ninth grade. In high school, she also joined choir and was the alto section leader of the varsity choir. Zheng received first prize with honors in the 2016 and 2018 Sonatina and Sonata International Youth Piano Competition. She also received a rating of “1” in the Texas University Interscholastic League Solo and Ensemble piano solo. In 2017 and 2018, Zheng won third prize in both the International Piano and String Competition and the AADGT International Young Gifted Musicians
Festival “Passion of Music 2017.” She also performed at the winners’ recital at Carnegie Hall in May 2017.

Aside from piano performance, Zheng has also worked with Duke Libraries and the Duke Data and Visualization Services in the past summer and created an informative dashboard that will enable academic libraries to optimize journal subscriptions. Zheng is currently conducting research with Clifford Carrubba over accountability and transparency in legislative behavior using modern data science and is planning on pursuing research in applied mathematics after graduation.

At Emory, Zheng studies piano with Patricia Dinkins-Matthews and is excited to also be learning two-piano repertoire. Throughout the years of learning, music has become an inseparable part of her life. She is thankful for her teachers and friends along the way.