

17TH SPRING BENEFIT CONCERT

Funding Student Assistance Awards

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church

789 Merrimon Ave. / Asheville, NC 28804

Sunday, April 16th, 2023 3:00 P.M.

a live concert plus delayed You Tube viewing

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ASHEVILLE AREA PIANO FORUM 17th SPRING BENEFIT CONCERT

Sunday, April 16, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.
Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Asheville
with delayed YouTube viewing May 1 - 31
Funding the AAPF Student Assistance Awards

**FEATURING ASHEVILLE AREA PIANO
FORUM MEMBERS AND GUEST ARTISTS**

**William Bares with Mike Holstein, bass
and Justin Watt, drums**

Elizabeth Churchya

John Cobb

Leslie Downs

Eric Fricke with Wayne Smith, organ

Leonidas Lagrimas

Marilynn Seits with Jenna Jaffe, vocalist

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Mary Killough in memory of Lora Scott

master of ceremonies - Wayne Smith
video / audio engineer - Nathan Shirley

17th Spring Benefit Concert

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Asheville

Sunday, April 16, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

with delayed YouTube Viewing May 1 - 31

Three "Pastoral" Sonatas

K. 415 in D major

K. 9 in D minor

K. 513 in C major

Domenico Scarlatti

1685-1757

Leonidas Lagrimas

Three Étude-Tableaux

F minor, op. 33, no. 1

C major, op. 33, no. 2

F-sharp minor, op. 39, no. 3

Sergi Rachmaninoff

1873-1943

Elizabeth Churchya

Some Other Spring

Arthur Herzog/Irene Kitchings

1900-1983/1908-1975

Spring is Here

Richard Rodgers/Lorenz Hart

1902-1979/1895-1943

April in Paris

Vernon Duke/E. Y. Harburg

1903-1969/1896-1981

Jenna Jaffe, *vocalist* & Marilyn Seits, *piano*

Grand Tarantelle in D minor, op. 67

Louis Moreau Gottschalk

1829-1869

Eric Fricke, *piano* & Wayne Smith, *organ (orchestral reduction)*

~ Brief intermission ~

Transcendental Etude no. 11
Harmonies du soir

Franz Liszt
1811-1886

John Cobb

Danzas Argentinas, op. 2 Alberto Ginastera
Danza del viejo boyero *Dance of the old cowherd* 1916-1983
Danza de la moza donosa *Dance of the graceful maiden*
Danza del gaucho matrero *Dance of the sly bandit*

Leslie Downs

You Held the Light, I Held the Sign William Bares
1972-
Evanescent William Bares

Asheville Art Trio

William Bares, piano ~ Mike Holstein, bass ~ Justin Watt, drums



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*please join us in the Atrium downstairs
for a reception following the concert*

Program Notes

submitted by each performer

Three “Pastoral” Sonatas - Domenico Scarlatti

Leonidas Lagrimas

One of history’s most prolific composers, Domenico Scarlatti’s 500-plus sonatas form an important cornerstone of the piano repertoire. The three sonatas presented today, each with the nickname “Pastorale,” all display Scarlatti’s musical traits at their finest - innovative keyboard writing, richness of textures, and an air of refinement combined with a sense of humor and fun. And yet, each of these sonatas, despite these shared traits and the same nickname, retain their own unique and distinctive style. Although these sonatas were composed originally for harpsichord, it is the performer’s humble opinion that the modern grand piano allows Scarlatti’s masterpieces to shine the brightest.

Three Étude-Tableaux - Sergi Rachmaninoff

Elizabeth Churchya

Rachmaninoff’s études are evocative character pieces demonstrating virtuoso techniques. Étude-Tableaux translates to Study Pictures, implying extra-musical associations. Op. 33, no. 1 is a noble and foreboding march, its sustained melodic line set against rigid accompaniment. Op. 33, no. 2 features a lyrical melody over rustling accompaniment. Composed in the key of C major, frequent borrowed chords impart modal ambiguity and an atmosphere of mystique and longing. Op. 39, no. 3, among the most difficult in all the Étude-Tableaux, is restless and grandiose. While Rachmaninoff avoided revealing exact inspirations, he provided an instruction: “Let [listeners] paint for themselves what it most suggests.”

Some Other Spring - Herzog/Kitchings

Spring is Here - Rodgers/Hart

April in Paris - Duke/Harburg

Jenna Jaffe, *vocalist* & Marilynn Seits, *piano*

“**Some Other Spring**” was one of Billie Holiday’s personal favorites. Herzog was Billie’s song writing partner, and lyricist Irene Kitchings was married to Teddy Wilson, Billie’s long-time accompanist. “**Spring Is Here**” is from the 1938 musical film *I Married an Angel*. Hart’s lyrics about unrequited love were supposedly written after his marriage proposal was turned down twice by the star of the film, Jeanette MacDonald. The beautiful melody line and chord structure are certainly more innovative than much of Broadway’s music written at the time. “**April in Paris**” was written for the 1932 Broadway musical *Walk a Little Easter*. The most famous recording was made by the Count Basie Orchestra in 1955 and features a memorable Thad Jones trumpet solo on “Pop Goes the Weasel.”

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Grand Tarantelle, op. 67 - Louis Moreau Gottschalk

Eric Fricke, piano & Wayne Smith, organ

Gottschalk is America's first famous pianist. A native of New Orleans, Gottschalk was denied entry to the Paris Conservatoire on basis of his country of origin, yet his talent was praised by Chopin and Liszt. His compositions were acclaimed in Europe, particularly for their then exotic use of Creole songs. In May 1865, a newspaper described him as having "travelled 95,000 miles by rail and given 1,000 concerts." Though his works are infrequently performed today, the Grand Tarantelle is one of his most popular pieces, particularly because it was choreographed by Balanchine.

Transcendental Etude no. 11 - Franz Liszt

John Cobb

Franz Liszt composed the first version of what became known as the Twelve Transcendental Etudes when he was a teenager. In 1837 at age 26, he published an expanded version of them that was massively dense and bristling with difficulties. Then in 1851 at age 40, Liszt published the simplified version that we know now. "Harmonies du soir" is one of the three slow pieces in the collection, and the most passionate of all with its sustained climax and brilliant use of three contrasting themes. The introduction emerges from silence with a distant tolling bell, and after all is said and done, silence supervenes as the darkness of night settles in.

Danzas Argentinas, Op. 2 - Alberto Ginastera

Leslie Downs

In this short set of dances written in 1937, Ginastera incorporates elements of folk music of Argentina. No. 1, "Danza del viejo boyero" (Dance of the Old Cowherd) is bitonal and features the hands playing in different keys at the same time. Its quirky rhythms come from the Malambo, a folk dance of Argentina. No. 2, "Danza de la moza donosa" (Dance of the Graceful Maiden) begins languidly, increases in intensity and then returns to its original, languid state. No. 3, "Danza del gaucho matrero" (Dance of the Sly Bandit) is extremely wild and violent and contains malambo rhythms as in the first dance.



You Held the Light, I Held the Sign - William Bares
Evanescent - William Bares

Asheville Art Trio

William Bares - Mike Holstein - Justin Watt

“**You Held the Light, I Found the Sign**” is the title track of my first album—a tribute to those who have helped me to become more alive to signs (places, people, providence, divinity) in my life and work, and to those who shine light for us whenever the way seems unclear. “**Evanescent**” was written for my life-partner, Eva Hericks-Bares, and is dedicated to all of the fleeting, beautiful moments we’ve had together. The songs make use of scalar material I became familiar with as an ethnomusicology Ph.D.: the melodic/ harmonic elements of “You Held ...” use the heptatonic “pelog” scale played by Balinese Gamelan orchestras, while the improvised section to “Evanescent” uses the anhemitonic pentatonic scale that predominates in the Ugandan Akadinda orchestral music.



May 6th - AAPF Annual Meeting and Presentation

“A Morning With Béla Bartók” by Victoria Fischer Faw
Saturday, May 6, 2023, 9:30 AM - 12 PM

First Congregational United Church of Christ
20 Oak Street, Downtown Asheville

9:30-10:00 Meet and Greet

10 - 10:30 Annual Business Meeting;

10:30 - noon Presentation by Victoria Fischer Faw, D.M.A., NCTM



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About Today's Performers

William Bares, pianist, composer and scholar, received his Ph.D in ethnomusicology (Harvard University) in 2009. His research interests include transatlantic jazz and environmental music. He spent 2006-2008 in Europe researching European jazz scenes and playing professionally. He taught at Harvard, Brown, Berkeley College of Music and New England Conservatory before becoming professor of music and director of jazz studies at UNC Asheville in 2011. He was the solo pianist in the Blue Ridge Orchestra's debut of "Rhapsody in Blue" and coordinated the Sunday "Jazz Showcase" at Asheville's famed Isis Music Hall. His book, "Jazz and the European Dream", is forthcoming.

Pianist **Elizabeth Churchya** has concertized extensively throughout the United States and England. She is a prize winner of many competitions including the Charleston International Competition. Elizabeth recently appeared as a "Rising Star" soloist with the University of SC Orchestra performing the Ravel Piano Concerto in G major. She had the privilege of performing in masterclasses for renowned pianists including Nelita True, Edmund Battersby and Dmitri Rachmanov. Her primary teachers include Joseph Rackers, Phillip Bush, Jeffrey Brown and Lelia Sadlier. Elizabeth is a doctoral candidate at University of SC in Music Performance (ABD).

Dr. John Cobb is an international performer and recording artist known for his broad interpretative range and technical command. The New York Times has praised his "solid technique, bronze tone and flexibility of interpretive style." Dr. Cobb has performed and recorded on instruments at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York including a 1720 Cristofori, the oldest piano in the world. He also performs a broad repertoire of chamber music with artists including The New York Philomusica, and Joel Smirnoff, former first violinist with the Juilliard String Quartet. Dr. Cobb studied with legendary 20th Century pianist Claudio Arrau, whose teacher was a pupil of Franz Liszt.

Dr. Leslie Downs is both a solo and collaborative pianist. He has performed in solo, lieder, chamber and choral concerts throughout the US and in Canada. A versatile artist, Dr. Downs enjoys playing many styles of music. For 16 years he worked as a freelance pianist/teacher/vocal coach in New York City. He currently serves as the music director for the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Asheville and maintains a private teaching studio. He holds degrees from Centenary College of Louisiana, Yale University and University of Oklahoma.



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Eric Fricke studied piano with celebrated ballet pianist Miles Fusco, who performed Gottschalk's Grand Tarantelle with the NYC Ballet. Eric dedicates this performance to Mr. Fusco. While residing for many years in Santa Fe NM, Eric was the principal organist of the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, organist for the Santa Fe Symphony and a pianist for the Santa Fe Opera. In 2020 Eric moved to Asheville to pursue the Graduate Certificate in Injury-Preventive Keyboard Technique from Salem College NC. He is now the organist at First Congregational United Church of Christ and an active teacher and accompanist in the Asheville area.

Bassist/composer **Mike Holstein** has been playing music since early childhood. He has been active in the Taken Back Quartet, the Jazz Composers Forum and the band, Cotangent. He performs in jazz clubs in New York, throughout the Carolinas, with the Asheville Original Music Series and the Asheville Art Trio.

Jenna Jaffe is a multi-instrumentalist and has been teaching a holistic approach to music for thirty years. She is also a Gender Vocal and Life Coach, a mixed-media visual artist, an ESL instructor, and a Reiki III practitioner. Jenna is a warrior for racial, gender and sexual equality, justice and the preservation of our planet. In 2022 she received a Tzedek Social Justice Impact Award for her musical and artistic work engaging in community activism and system change. She has advanced certification from the Graduate Institute in Education at Appalachian State University. Jenna is on the board of the AAPF and a member of MTNA. Visit her at: <https://linktr.ee/jennajaffe>.

Dr. Leonidas Lagrimas serves as Assistant Professor of Piano and Piano Pedagogy at Western Carolina University. Recent performances include guest artist recitals at UNC Greensboro, UNC Charlotte, Elon University and numerous faculty recitals at WCU. Collaborative piano highlights include performances with Grammy-winning soprano Hila Plitmann, country superstar Lorrie Morgan and numerous Carnegie Hall appearances. He is a regularly featured performer with the AAPF and is the current pianist for Christ Anglican Church in Cashiers. Leonidas holds National Certification (NCTM) in piano from MTNA and a Ph.D in Music Education and Piano Pedagogy from Florida State University. Prior to his doctoral studies, he was a New York City public school music teacher for ten years.

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Marilynn Seits is a performer, composer and jazz piano teacher. Her New York City performances include the Waldorf Astoria, the Plaza Hotel and the St. Regis Hotel. She plays locally at many venues including the Biltmore Estate, Isis Music Hall and for special events at the Asheville Art Museum. Marilynn is an adjunct accompanist in the music department at Mars Hill University.

Dr. Wayne Smith is a solo pianist, accompanist, church organist and retired piano teacher. He currently serves on the AAPF board and chairs the benefit concerts committee. Wayne is active as a substitute organist/pianist for many churches in and around Asheville. He has been piano soloist with the Dallas Symphony and the Tulsa Philharmonic. Performances in Washington DC include a solo recital for former First Lady, Betty Ford, and a recital at the National Gallery of Art.

Drummer **Justin Watt** is a native of northeastern Ohio and has lived in the Asheville area since 2008. He teaches at UNC Asheville, Furman University and the Asheville Music School. Justin is active as a performer in a variety of settings and styles.



Asheville Piano Competition

Saturday, April 29, 2023

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Remembering Lora Kinsinger Scott

Lora Scott (1932-2021) was born in Fanwood, New Jersey but spent most of her life in the southeast. Beginning piano lessons at age 5, she was an accomplished pianist and vocalist, teaching both privately and also supervising the campus music library at Warren Wilson College for well over twenty years. She regularly hosted meetings and performance groups at the farm she and husband Ed Scott owned in Marshall.

After Ed's passing in 2015, she moved into Givens Highlands Farm in Black Mountain. When her biography was circulated, it caught the eye of Mary Killough, another resident. It was Lora's professed love of playing duets that drew Mary and the two formed a friendship over the piano, playing duets by Schubert, Handel, Mozart, Beethoven and more. Mary remembers her as being a patient and kind teacher even after declining health set in. They played together until Lora could no longer.

Many in the Piano Forum knew her and today, remember Lora as a dedicated volunteer for the organization. At the Fall 2019 Benefit Concert (dedicated to her), she was honored with the lighthearted presentation of an AAPF Survivor Award. Her volunteering was as exemplary as her music skills and for years, she acted as AAPF Corresponding Secretary, whether on the Board or not. Lora was often the glue that kept AAPF running through changes in board members and officers. Lora will always be missed and remembered fondly.



Jenna Jaffe

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AAPF Activities and Events in 2022-23

Student Assistance Awards: Monetary awards are made to students showing financial need in order to begin or continue private piano study. The primary sources of funding for the awards are ticket and advertisement sales from the two annual benefit concerts.

Fall and Spring Benefit Concerts: The annual concerts feature AAPF professional pianists in solos and ensembles. Jazz, classical, original and popular piano styles are all included. Sales of concert tickets fund the Student Assistance Awards.

Presentations at General Meetings: Four or five times a year, highly respected musicians give lectures or demonstrations on topics of interest to pianists. AAPF presents these meetings as in-person events and also on Zoom.

Masterclasses and Student Recitals are featured in the Fall and Spring. Students learn the art of performance as they prepare for these recitals which are attended by supportive family and friends. Instruction at a masterclass is made by a teacher who has extensive experience. The class benefits not only the performing students, but everyone in attendance.



Practice for Pets occurs in February to reward good practicing habits for piano students of all ages, and to raise money for the Asheville Humane Society. You can be a piano student sponsor!

The Asheville Piano Competition is for pre-college students through age 18 competing at different levels of difficulty. The judging is both professional and encouraging. Prize money is awarded, and the 1st Place Advanced Level winner is invited to appear in the next season's Fall Benefit Concert.

Outreach Group Piano Classes sponsored by AAPF provide free piano instruction in a small class setting for students who would not have the opportunity to learn otherwise. The Piano Forum provides digital pianos for at-home practice for these students through the AAPF Instrumental Loan program.

Teacher Roundtable Discussion Groups, held several times a year, allow AAPF member teachers to discuss ideas about teaching piano and to share their teaching experiences.

Amateur and General Performance Groups give opportunities for members to play for one another in informal, social settings at members' homes.

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Asheville Piano Competition 2023

AAPF is grateful to the following sponsors of the 2023 Asheville Piano Competition



Mars Hill University will again host the 2023 Asheville Piano Competition on April 29th with Winners Recital at 3:30 p.m. in Broyhill Chapel.



Now with **Beacon Pointe Advisors**, longtime sponsors **Christine Nelson** and **Kyle Boyd** continue their competition support.



Although new as a competition sponsor, the **McGuire, Wood & Bisette Law Firm** is a longtime supporter of AAPF!

Dr. L. Adlai and **Ms. Karen Boyd** continue their competition sponsorship this season.

New for 2023 is **The Donald Shafer Jettas Memorial Award** of \$1,000 to the First Place Winner at the Advanced Level. Given in memory by **James Hilderbrandt**, the new prize is to encourage the winner to continue music and piano studies.



The **Eric Anderson Weigel Memorial Fund** was established through the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina to honor his memory through charitable giving. Eric valued the work of the Asheville Area Piano Forum and enjoyed the challenge of the annual competition. Support of the musical arts and young musicians is one of the focus areas of the memorial fund.



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About The Asheville Area Piano Forum

“To provide educational and charitable opportunities for Western North Carolina piano teachers, their students and their communities. To enhance the appreciation of piano and keyboard music, pedagogy, and performance in Western North Carolina.”

— *AAPF Mission Statement*

The Asheville Area Piano Forum (AAPF) is a tax exempt 501 (C)(3) non-profit charitable and educational organization of almost 100 members, most of whom live within a 75 mile radius of Asheville, NC. Information about how to apply for membership, AAPF activities, and how to support the Piano Forum’s mission can be found on the website:
www.ashevillepiano.org

**Donations to AAPF
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First Presbyterian Church of Asheville: A community where people of every age, ability, socioeconomic status, family background, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, skin color, and racial identity are invited to seek and experience the love of Jesus Christ by practicing radical hospitality, forming deep relationships, and joining in shared ministry.

Sunday Schedule

8:45 Worship Service in Campbell Chapel

9:45 Faith Formation Classes

11:00 Worship Service in the Sanctuary in person & streamed

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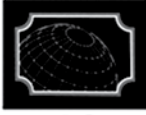
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