



EUNMI KO, pianist

Hailed as “kaleidoscopic” (San Francisco Classical Voice), “excellent” (Gramophone), and “exceedingly interesting and original” (New York Concert Review), pianist Eunmi Ko recently appeared in the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Herbst Theatre, Festival de Musica Contemporanea (Madrid), among others. As an active collaborator, she has worked with numerous composers, including Hilary Tann, Lansing McLoskey, David Liptak, and Chihchun Chi-Sun Lee. She is co-founder and co-director of the new music ensemble *Strings & Hammers*, which has the unusual instrumentation of violin, piano, and double bass. Since 2015 she has been the resident artist for *McCormick Percussion Group (MPG)* and collaborated with Director Robert McCormick for the Concerti for Piano and Percussion Project. MPG and Ko give premiere concerts every year at the University of South Florida. Their recordings

include *Kid Stuff* (Ravello Records) and *Places & Times* (Innova Recordings).

Ko holds graduate degrees (MM and DMA) from the Eastman School of Music. She is Assistant Professor of Piano and co-advisor of the New-Music Consortium at the University of South Florida. She is co-director of the international new music festival *Dot The Line* (Korea).



LARISA SOBOLEVA, pianist

Born in Chisinau, Moldova, Larisa Soboleva began her piano studies at the age of five. In 2003, Ms. Soboleva was accepted into the National Academy of Music, Theatre and Fine Arts in Chisinau, where she studied with Inna Hatipova and Sergei Covalenco. In 2008, Ms. Soboleva received a full scholarship from Rowan University to study with Professor Veda Zuponic. During her years of study, Ms. Soboleva was awarded top prizes in national and international competitions in Moldova, Romania, and the U.S.A. She has performed with the National Orchestra of the Teleradio Moldova, the National Chamber Orchestra, and the Rowan University Orchestra. Ms. Soboleva holds two Master of Music degrees in Piano Performance: from the Academy of Music, Theatre and Fine Arts in Chisinau and from Rowan University,

where she graduated with the Jacob Steinway Award, given to the most outstanding pianists graduating in either BM or MM programs. Ms. Soboleva received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Keyboard Performance and Pedagogy from University of Miami in the Spring of 2016, where she studied under professors Santiago Rodriguez and Naoko Takao.



ANDREW ROSENBLUM, pianist

Andrew Rosenblum, Chicago-based pianist and harpsichordist, is highly sought-after as both a soloist and collaborative artist. Rosenblum won 2nd Prize in the harpsichord category of the 2018 International Bach Competition in Leipzig, Germany. In 2017, Andrew won 2nd Prize in harpsichord at the Prague Spring International Music Competition, as well as the prize for the newly commissioned work, *Harpsycho* by Petr Wajsar.

An advocate for new music, Rosenblum performed on every concert of the 2017 Chicago Ustvol'skaya Festival and has recorded for multiple upcoming CD releases of Lori Laitman's songs. He has performed vocal recitals at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, and The Kennedy Center, and has performed internationally in Mexico, Canada, St. Lucia, Germany, and the Czech Republic.

Rosenblum has worked as a staff/faculty pianist for the Music of the Baroque Chorus, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Northwestern University, DePaul

University, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland Orchestra Chorus, and Heifetz International Music Festival. He plays continuo with Haymarket Opera and Music of the Baroque Orchestra and has appeared as harpsichord soloist with Leipzig Baroque Orchestra and Civic Orchestra of Chicago. | (Photo by: Aleksandr Karjaka at Karjaka Studios)



DAN SATO, pianist

Just when Miami thought it got rid of Dan Sato, he was invited back to play some George Crumb! Since migrating to the snowiest city in the US, he has been in demand as a 'human jukebox' for various collaborative endeavors. Known to possess "the grace of a swan and the power of a gorilla," Dr. Dan is currently the studio pianist for Laura Bossert and Terry King at Syracuse University, and as a founding member of The Sound Gallery, he regularly performs the major works for piano and strings. This summer, he will join the artist faculty of the Perlman Music Program and return to the Taconic Music Summer Festival for a rare performance of the Piano Quintet by Vittorio Giannini. 2019 began with his European recital debut performing the complete Chopin Études in honor of his mentor, Dr. Frank Heneghan, followed by recitals with his friends in Arizona and Montreal. His CD with saxophonist, Diane Hunger was

released in March as he was recording the complete works for cello and piano by Henriette Bosmans with Leah Plave.



JACOB MASON, pianist

Pianist Jacob Mason leapt onto South Florida's classical scene at age 14, when he made his orchestral debut with the New World Symphony, playing Prokofiev's Piano Concerto no. 1. He has since performed as a soloist with numerous orchestras, including the Alhambra Orchestra and the New England Conservatory Wind Ensemble. He has made concert appearances with illustrious musicians including bassist Robert Black and trombonist Norman Bolter. He is the Artistic Director of the Escape Ensemble, in residence in Seaside, Florida, and he is a founding member of Carduus, a non-profit vocal chamber group in Boston. Mason, now age 20, currently studies with Kevin Kenner at the Frost School of Music. He studied for two years at the New England Conservatory with Stephen Drury. He was awarded Interlochen's Maddy Summer Artist Award in 2014, and has won the Miami

International Piano Festival Academy's Concerto Competition and the New England Conservatory's Piano Honors Competition. He has been hailed by critics for his "dazzling fingerwork and ear for phrasing," "rock-solid technique and attention to detail," and "well-placed dynamic contrasts and strong technical arsenal."



EMIRI NOURISHIRAZI, pianist

Emiri Nourishirazi started piano lessons at the age of seven with Russian-American pianist Irena Kofman. She has been the winner of numerous competitions at a young age. Participating in the International Keyboard Odyssey Competition and Festival in the summer of 2015, she was the silver medalist in her category. She also had the honor of performing with the Ars Flores Symphony Orchestra and Coral Gables Symphony Orchestra. In addition to her performance career, Emiri is an active teacher. She currently teaches at the Frost Preparatory Program, where she works with children of various ages.

Emiri received her Bachelor's degree in Piano Performance in 2016 at the Frost School of Music - University of Miami, where she studied with Santiago Rodriguez. In 2018, she obtained her Master of Music degree from the same institution, studying with Kevin Kenner. During her studies at the Frost School of Music, Emiri was the piano fellowship recipient of the Henry Mancini

Orchestra, an ensemble with which she has recently performed with at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts. Emiri is currently teaching at the Frost School of Music Preparatory Program.



NATSUMI IKENAGA, pianist

Japanese pianist Natsumi Ikenaga started the piano at the age of four. After graduating from the Toho Gakuen High School of Music in Tokyo, she gained her Bachelor of Music (Hons), Master of Music, and Artist Diploma in Performance degrees at the Royal College of Music, London, where she was supported by the Gordon Calway Stone Memorial Award. In 2014, Natsumi was named as a Chanel Pygmalion Days Artist and participated in the prestigious Pygmalion Days Concert Series, organized by Chanel K. K. at Nexus Hall, Tokyo. Natsumi has performed in many international venues, including the Mirabell Palace in Salzburg, Steinway Hall in New York and London, the National Gallery, Victoria & Albert Museum, Regent Hall, Royal Festival Hall, Royal Albert Hall Elgar Room, Handel House, Tokyo Opera City Recital Hall, Kioi Hall in Tokyo, and the Moscow Conservatory Rachmaninoff Hall. Natsumi is currently a Teaching Assistant and a doctoral

student in keyboard performance at the Frost School of Music, University of Miami, under professor Kevin Kenner.



SOPHIA PILEGGI, pianist

An accomplished pianist, collaborator, and pedagogue, Sophia Pileggi began her piano studies at the age of 9 with Janice Morris Puckett. Ms. Pileggi continued her music education at The Catholic University of America under the tutelage of Dr. Nikita Fitenko for her undergraduate degree and later with Dr. Ivo Kaltchev for her master's degree. Ms. Pileggi has performed in master classes for pianists Alexander Peskanov, Faina Lushtak, John Perry, Nelita True, Santiago Rodriguez, and Alexander Kobrin and at such venues as the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., the Amalfi Coast, Xi'an, China, and Lisbon, Portugal.

In 2015, Ms. Pileggi participated in The Benjamin T. Rome School of Music's 50th Anniversary, performing Carmina Burana at the Kennedy Center. In Spring 2016, Ms. Pileggi was awarded First Prize in the Cosmic Symphony's Young Artist Competition where she was featured performing

Schumann's Piano Concerto in A minor. Other competition awards include the Lancaster International Piano Competition, The Silk Road: The Sound of Piano Strings and Voice International Piano Festival and Competition in Xi'an, China, and the First Prize at the Washington International Piano Festival Competition in July 2017.

When she is not performing or managing her active piano studio, Ms. Pileggi also enjoys singing, yoga, Pure Barre, Italian food, and Russian Literature. Ms. Pileggi is currently pursuing her Artist Diploma in Keyboard Performance at the University of Miami under the instruction of Santiago Rodriguez.



ERMIR BEJO, composer | guest lecturer

Ermir Bejo, born in 1987 in Tirana Albania, is a composer working primarily in the contemporary classical and electronic music traditions. Both within and apart from his music, Bejo draws significant influence from visual art, cinema, classic literature, mathematics, and philosophy. Bejo's approach is grounded in an interdisciplinary study of time, particularly the exploration of the hierarchies and conflicts arising from the treatment of musical time as a non-linear concept. His music has been performed and commissioned by virtuoso performers and ensembles such as Ums n Jip, Nova, ACJW, Irvine Arditti, Malgorzata Walentynowicz, Elizabeth McNutt, Mia Detwiler, Redi Llupa, Alexander Richards, and Juan Sebastian Delgado among others. Since 2015, he has served as director of Score Follower organization, developing new

music curatorial projects with a wide international reach and participation. During 2016-17, he served as president of the Composers Forum organization at the University of North Texas. Currently, Bejo teaches music composition and audio technology in Dallas, Texas.