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UNIVERSITY

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Kitt School of Music

proudly presents

# Flagstaff Piano Festival

June 22 - June 29, 2024



**FLAGSTAFF  
PIANO FESTIVAL**

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Flagstaff Piano Festival is  
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**NAU Office of the President**

# Flagstaff Piano Festival Concerts

## Kitt Recital Hall

June 22 | 7 PM – Opening Ceremony & Faculty Recital\*

June 23 | 3 PM – ALEXANDER KOBRIN Recital \*\*

June 24 | 7 PM – JEFFREY SWANN Recital<sup>1\*\*</sup>

June 25 | 7 PM – SPENCER MYER Recital<sup>1\*\*</sup>

June 26 | 7 PM – INNA FALIKS Recital<sup>1\*\*</sup>

June 27 | 7 PM – MICHELLE CANN Recital<sup>1\*\*</sup>

June 28 | 7 PM – Competition Awards & Young Artist Concert I\*

June 29 | 11 AM – Closing Ceremony & Young Artist Concert II\*

\*Free Admission

\*\*Ticketed Event

Tickets available through the NAU Central Ticket Office  
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Ticket purchase support available at [tickets@nau.edu](mailto:tickets@nau.edu)

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Unauthorized audio and video recordings are prohibited.*

# Opening Ceremony & Faculty Recital

June 22, 2024 | 7:00 PM

Opening Remarks  
Dr. Silvan Negruțiu, Artistic Director

## PROGRAM

Ritual Fire Dance Manuel de Falla  
(1876-1946)

José Ramón Méndez, Silvan Negruțiu

November Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel  
(1805-1847)  
from *Das Jabr*, H. 385

Tiantian Liang

Sixth Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman Joan Tower  
(b. 1938)

Silvan Negruțiu

Pièces romantiques, Op. 55 Cécile Chaminade  
(1857-1944)  
Primavera  
La chaise à porteurs  
Idylle arabe  
Sérénade d'automne  
Danse hindoue  
Rigaudon

Tiantian Liang, Aimee Fincher

Triana Isaac Albéniz  
(1860-1909)  
From *Iberia*, Book II

José Ramón Méndez

Movement IV for Two Pianos Philip Glass  
(b. 1937)

Aimee Fincher, José Ramón Méndez  
Tiantian Liang, Silvan Negruțiu

## Artist Profiles

**AIMEE FINCHER** serves as Assistant Professor of Practice in collaborative piano at Northern Arizona University, where she is delighted to be part of a vibrant piano-area team. At NAU, she performs with students and faculty, facilitates collaborative piano assignments, coaches chamber music, and co-teaches piano ensemble. An experienced chamber musician, collaborator, and large ensemble pianist, she is comfortable performing wide-ranging styles and genres. Orchestral performances have included premieres by William Price and Amir Zehri, Credo in US by John Cage, and Absolute Jest by John Adams. Prior to her work at NAU, Aimee worked at Oakwood University and the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Dr. Fincher earned her doctorate in collaborative piano at Arizona State University, and performance and pedagogy degrees from the University of Alabama and the University of South Carolina, where her professors included Andrew Campbell, Russell Ryan, and Scott Price.

**TIANTIAN LIANG** serves as Assistant Teaching Professor of Piano Pedagogy and Group Piano in the Kitt School of Music at Northern Arizona University. As a dedicated scholar in pedagogy and performance, Liang's research interests include the works of underrepresented composers. Recently, she performed a lecture-recital for the 2022 Southern College Music Society Conference titled "Introducing Chinese Piano Music to the Advanced Student: Pedagogical Uses for Tan Dun's Eight Memories in Watercolor." She most recently performed selections from Fanny Mendelssohn's *Das Jahr* at the 2023 NCKP in Lombard, IL and the Music by Women Conference at Mississippi University for Women. In 2024, Liang presented "Pedagogical Uses for Rautavaara's Etudes" at the MTNA National Conference in Atlanta, GA. Liang's degrees include a Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, a Performer Diploma from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, a Master of Music from Rice University, and a Bachelor of Music from Concordia College.

**JOSÉ RAMÓN MÉNDEZ** has performed at Porto Pianofest, Palmetto International Piano Festival, Gina Bachauer Series, as well as numerous solo and chamber music performances in the United States, Europe, and Asia. Méndez studied at the Manhattan School of Music with renowned pedagogue Solomon Mikowsky and later under the tutelage of Byron Janis and Miyoko Lotto. He won top prizes in many international competitions, including Hilton Head Island International Piano Competition and the Frédéric Chopin Competition in New York, among others. He is the Artistic Director and on the faculty of the Gijon International Piano Festival in Gijon, Spain, and is frequently invited to perform and teach at various festivals. He has served on the faculty of the University of Texas at Austin, New York University, Pennsylvania State University, the Bienen School of Music at Northwestern University, and the Kitt School of Music at Northern Arizona University. He will join the piano faculty at Oberlin Conservatory in Fall 2024.

**SILVAN NEGRUȚIU** has performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., Ireland's National Concert Hall, the Romanian Athenaeum in Bucharest, Xi'an Concert Hall in China, Showa Recital Hall in Tokyo, and as soloist with orchestras such as Alicante Philharmonic, Dublin Symphony, George Enescu Philharmonic, and the Romanian Radio Chamber Orchestra. He has won top prizes in many international piano competitions, including the Rome, Feis Ceoil, Seiler, Konzertium, and Salerno. His recent albums released by Centaur Records, *Bagatelles* (2021) and *Carl Roskott: Works for Violin* (2018) in collaboration with violinist Akemi Takayama, have garnered rave reviews and a Silver Medal from Global Music Awards. He holds degrees from Shenandoah Conservatory (D.M.A.), the Royal Irish Academy of Music (M.M.), and the Romanian National University of Music (B.M.). Silvan Negruțiu serves as Kitt Endowed Professor and Director of Piano Studies at Northern Arizona University, and Founder & Artistic Director of Flagstaff Piano Festival and Northern Arizona Piano Competition.

Alexander Kobrin, *piano*  
June 23, 2024 | 3:00 PM

PROGRAM

32 Variations in C Minor, WoO 80

Ludwig van Beethoven  
(1770-1827)

Drei Klavierstücke, D. 946

Allegro assai

Allegretto

Allegro

Franz Schubert  
(1797-1828)

*~ intermission ~*

Études-Tableaux, Op. 39

No. 1 in C Minor: Allegro agitato

No. 2 in A Minor: Lento assai

No. 3 in F-sharp Minor: Allegro molto

No. 4 in B Minor: Allegro assai

No. 5 in E-flat Minor: Appassionato

No. 6 in A Minor: Allegro

No. 7 in C Minor: Lento lugubre

No. 8 in D Minor: Allegro moderato

No. 9 in D Major: Allegro moderato. Tempo di marcia

Sergei Rachmaninoff  
(1873-1943)

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# Artist Profile

Called the “Van Cliburn of today” by the BBC, pianist **ALEXANDER KOBRIN** has placed himself at the forefront of today’s performing musicians. His prize-winning performances have been praised for their brilliant technique, musicality, and emotional engagement with the audience. The New York Times has written that Mr. Kobrin was a “fastidious guide” to Schumann’s “otherworldly visions, pointing out hunters, flowers, haunted corners and friendly bowers, all captured in richly characterized vignettes.” “This was a performance that will be revered and remembered as a landmark of the regeneration of exceptional classical music in Central New York.” -a critic wrote after Mr. Kobrin’s performance of the Second Piano Concerto by Johannes Brahms with Syracuse Symphony in Syracuse, NY.

In 2005, Mr. Kobrin was awarded the Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass Gold Medal at the Twelfth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in Fort Worth, TX. His numerous successes in competitions also include top prizes at the Busoni International Piano Competition (First Prize), Hamamatsu International Piano Competition (Top Prize), Scottish International Piano Competition in Glasgow (First Prize).

Mr. Kobrin has performed with many of the world’s great orchestras and has appeared in recital at major halls worldwide, including Carnegie Zankel Hall and Avery Fisher Hall in New York, the Kennedy Centre in Washington, Albert Hall and Wigmore Hall in London, Louvre Auditorium, Salle Gaveau and Salle Cortot in Paris, Munich Herkulesaal and Berliner Filarmonia Hall in Germany, the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatoire, Sheung Wan Civic Centre in Hong Kong, as well as Sala Verdi in Milan and many others.

Though widely acclaimed as a performer, Mr. Kobrin’s teaching has been an inspiration to many students through his passion for music. From 2003 to 2010 he served on the faculty of the Russian State Gnessin’s Academy of Music. In 2010 Alexander Kobrin was named the L. Rexford Distinguished Chair in Piano at the Schwob School of Music at Columbus State University, and from 2013 until 2017 has been a member of the celebrated Artist Faculty of New York University’s Steinhardt School. In July 2017, Mr. Kobrin has joined the faculty of the renowned Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. Mr. Kobrin has also given masterclasses in Europe and Asia, the International Piano Series, and at the Conservatories of Japan and China. In 2020, he became co-director of Hiiumaa Homecoming Festival in Estonia.

Mr. Kobrin has released recordings on the Harmonia Mundi, Quartz, and Centaur labels, covering a wide swath of the piano literature to critical acclaim. His Schumann album, released on Centaur Records has been included into the top-5 albums of the year in 2015 by Fanfare Magazine. Gramophone Magazine raved about his Cliburn Competition release on Harmonia Mundi, writing that “in [Rachmaninoff’s] Second Sonata (played in the 1931 revision), despite fire-storms of virtuosity, there is always room for everything to tell and Kobrin achieves a hypnotic sense of the music’s dark necromancy.”

Mr. Kobrin was born in 1980 in Moscow. At the age of five, he was enrolled in the world-famous Gnessin Special School of Music after which he attended the prestigious Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatoire. His teachers have included renowned professors Tatiana Zelikman and Lev Naumov. Mr. Kobrin immigrated to the United States in 2010 and became its citizen in 2015. Mr. Kobrin is a Shigeru Kawai artist.

Jeffrey Swann, *piano*  
June 24, 2024 | 7:00 PM

PROGRAM

Preludes, Op. 28

- No. 1 in C Major: Agitato
- No. 2 in A Minor: Lento
- No. 3 in G Major: Vivace
- No. 4 in E Minor: Largo
- No. 5 in D Major: Molto allegro
- No. 6 in B Minor: Lento assai
- No. 7 in A Major: Andantino
- No. 8 in F-sharp Minor: Molto agitato
- No. 9 in E Major: Largo
- No. 10 in C-sharp Minor: Molto Allegro
- No. 11 in B Major: Vivace
- No. 12 in G-sharp Minor: Presto
- No. 13 in F-sharp Major: Lento
- No. 14 in E-flat Minor: Allegro
- No. 15 in D-flat Major: Sostenuto
- No. 16 in B-flat Minor: Presto con fuoco
- No. 17 in A-flat Major: Allegretto
- No. 18 in F Minor: Molto allegro
- No. 19 in E-flat Major: Vivace
- No. 20 in C Minor: Largo
- No. 21 in B-flat Major: Cantabile
- No. 22 in G Minor: Molto agitato
- No. 23 in F Major: Moderato
- No. 24 in D Minor: Allegro appassionato

Fryderyk Chopin  
(1810-1849)

~ intermission ~

Fantasia in C Major, Op. 17

Durchaus fantastisch und leidenschaftlich vorzutragen  
– Im Legenden-Ton  
Mäßig. Durchaus energisch  
Langsam getragen. Durchweg leise zu halten

Robert Schumann  
(1810-1856)

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## Artist Profile

**JEFFREY SWANN** enjoys an international performing career which has taken him throughout the United States, Europe, Latin America, and Asia. He won first prize in the Dino Ciani Competition sponsored by La Scala in Milan, a gold medal at the Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels, and top honors at the Warsaw Chopin, Van Cliburn, Vianna da Motta, and Montreal Competitions, as well as the Young Concert Artists auditions in New York City. His large and varied repertoire includes more than 60 concertos as well as solo works ranging from Bach to Boulez.

In addition to presenting lecture-recitals worldwide, Mr. Swann has performed with the symphonies of Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Seattle, Indiana, Dallas, Saint Louis, Phoenix, Houston, Lexington, Baltimore, and Minneapolis; and in Europe with the orchestras of Rotterdam, The Hague, Belgian National and Radio, Santa Cecilia, La Scala, Maggio Fiorentino (Florence), RAI Turin and Rome, Südwest Rundfunk, Bayerischer Rundfunk, the Prague Philharmonic, Radio France de Montpellier, and the London Philharmonia, among many others. The conductors with whom he has performed include Zdenek Macal, David Robertson, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Marek Janowski, Kazimirz Kord, Myung-Whun Chung, Roberto Abbado, Riccardo Chailly, Daniele Gatti, and Leonard Slatkin. In addition, he continues to lecture regularly at the Wagner Festival in Bayreuth, Germany, and at Wagner Societies in the United States and Italy. Mr. Swann has also served as a judge at many competitions, most recently at the Utrecht International Liszt Competition and the Van Cliburn International Junior Piano Competition.

Mr. Swann can be heard on Ars Polona, Deutsche-Gramophon, RCA-Italy, Replica, Fonit-Cetra, Music & Arts, and Agorá recordings. His CD, *The Virtuoso Liszt* (Music & Arts) won the Liszt Society's Grand Prix, and his first volume of the Complete Beethoven Sonatas (Agorá) was chosen one of the Best of the Year by Fanfare magazine. His most recent release features works for piano and orchestra by Chopin with the Haydn Orchestra of Bolzano.

A native of Northern Arizona, Jeffrey Swann studied with Alexander Uninsky at Southern Methodist University and with Beveridge Webster and Adele Marcus at The Juilliard School, where he received his B.M., M.M. and D.M.A. degrees. Swann has served as Artistic Director of the Dino Ciani Festival & Academy in Cortina d'Ampezzo and the Scuola Normale Superiore Concert Series in Pisa, Italy. He is Professor of Piano at New York University and the President's Distinguished Artist-in-Residence at Northern Arizona University.

Spencer Myer, *piano*  
June 25, 2024 | 7:00 PM

PROGRAM

24 Préludes (Book I)

Danseuses de Delphes

Voiles

Le vent dans la plaine

Les sons et les parfums tournent dans l'air du soir

Les collines d'Anacapri

Des pas sur la neige

Ce qu'a vu le vent d'ouest

La fille aux cheveux de lin

La sérénade interrompue

La cathédrale engloutie

La danse de Puck

Minstrels

Claude Debussy  
(1862-1918)

*~ intermission ~*

24 Préludes (Book II)

Brouillards

Feuilles mortes

La Puerta del Vino

Les fées sont d'exquises danseuses

Bruyères

General Lavine – eccentric

La terrasse des audiences du clair de lune

Ondine

Hommage à S. Pickwick Esq. P.P.M.P.C.

Canope

Les tierces alternées

Feux d'artifice

Claude Debussy

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# Artist Profile

Lauded for “superb playing” and “poised, alert musicianship” by The Boston Globe and labeled “definitely a man to watch” by London’s The Independent, American pianist **SPENCER MYER** is one of the most respected and sought-after artists on today’s concert stages.

Spencer Myer’s current season includes touring throughout the United States, highlighted by his debut engagement with Oregon’s Eugene Symphony Orchestra and his return to Michigan’s Traverse Symphony Orchestra, this time for a pair of recitals on its “Maestro Series.” Mr. Myer continues as half of the Daurov/Myer Duo, having teamed up with the award-winning cellist Adrian Daurov in 2012.

Spencer Myer’s orchestral, recital and chamber music performances have been heard throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Africa and Asia. His recital appearances have been presented in New York City’s Weill Recital Hall, 92nd Street Y and Steinway Hall, Philadelphia’s Kimmel Center and London’s Wigmore Hall, while many of his performances have been broadcast on WQXR (New York City), WHYY (Philadelphia), WCLV (Cleveland) and WFMT (Chicago). An in-demand chamber musician, he appeared for five summers at the Lev Aronson Legacy Festival in Dallas and enjoys a recurring partnership with the Miami String Quartet at the Kent/Blossom Music Festival.

Spencer Myer’s career was launched with three important prizes: First Prize in the 2004 UNISA International Piano Competition in South Africa, the 2006 Christel DeHaan Classical Fellowship from the American Pianists Association and the Gold Medal from the 2008 New Orleans International Piano Competition. Additionally, he is a laureate of the 2007 William Kapell, 2005 Cleveland and 2005 Busoni international piano competitions. He also enjoys an expanding reputation as a vocal collaborator since winning the 2000 Marilyn Horne Foundation Competition. Mr. Myer was a member of Astral Artists’ performance roster from 2003-2010.

An enthusiastic supporter of the education of young musicians, Spencer Myer has been a frequent guest artist at workshops for students and teachers, and has served on the faculties of the Baldwin-Wallace University and Oberlin College conservatories of music. He is a graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, The Juilliard School and Stony Brook University. From 2012 to 2022, he held appointment as Artist-Teacher in Piano and Collaborative Piano at the Longy School of Music of Bard College in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In the Spring of 2022, Mr. Myer was appointed Associate Professor of Music in Piano at Indiana University Bloomington’s Jacobs School of Music; in the Spring of 2024 he was named the recipient of the Trustees Teaching Award.

Spencer Myer’s debut CD for Harmonia Mundi USA - solo music of Busoni, Copland, Debussy and Kohs - was released in the fall of 2007 to critical acclaim by Fanfare and Gramophone magazines. He can also be heard on a composer-conducted Naxos CD in performances of three concerti from Huang Ruo’s Chamber Concerto Cycle and in a performance of Ravel’s Chansons madécasses, included on “Intimate Masterpieces.” Mr. Myer’s most recent four recordings – “William Bolcom: Piano Rags,” the Brahms Cello Sonatas with Brian Thornton, the Debussy Cello Sonata and Brahms Clarinet Trio with Brian Thornton and Afendi Yusuf, and Schumann’s works for cello and piano, with Brian Thornton – are available on the Steinway & Sons label. In the Fall of 2022, Steinway Classics released “Chopin: The Four Impromptus”; the album is available worldwide through all download and streaming services. In the fall of 2020, Spencer Myer was elected to the Board of Directors of the New York City-based Musicians Foundation (est. 1914). Spencer Myer is a Steinway Artist.

Inna Faliks, *piano*  
June 26, 2024 | 7:00 PM

**PROGRAM**  
*Manuscripts Don't Burn*

Sirota for Piano and Historical Recording	Ljova Zhurbin (b. 1978)
Basso Ostinato	Rodion Shchedrin (b. 1932)
Master and Margarita Suite	Veronika Krausas (b. 1963)
Manuscripts Don't Burn	Maya Miro Johnson (b. 2001)
Black Earth	Fazil Say (b. 1970)
Polonaise-Fantaisie in A-flat Major, Op. 61	Fryderyk Chopin (1810-1849)

*~ intermission ~*

“Eroica” Variations and Fugue on an Original Theme, Op. 35 Ludwig van Beethoven  
(1770-1827)

Concert Sponsors  
**Karen and Michael Kitt**

## Artist Profile

“Adventurous and passionate” (The New Yorker) Ukrainian-born pianist INNA FALIKS has established herself as one of the most communicative, and poetic artists of her generation. She has made a name for herself through commanding performances of standard piano repertoire, as well genre-bending, interdisciplinary projects, and inquisitive work with contemporary composers.

Ms. Faliks’s distinguished career has brought thousands of recitals and concerts throughout the US, Asia, and Europe. Recent seasons have included performances at the Ravinia Festival, National Gallery of Art, and the Wallis Annenberg Center, tours of China, with appearances in all of its major halls including the Beijing Center for Performing Arts, Shanghai Oriental Arts Theater and Tianjin Grand Theater. She has performed at Carnegie Hall’s Weill Concert Hall, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Salle Cortot in Paris, Moscow’s Tchaikovsky Hall and at many important festivals such as Verbier, Mondo Musica Cremona, Gilmore, Newport, Music in the Mountains, Brevard, Taos, the International Keyboard Festival in New York, Bargemusic Here and Now, and Chautauqua. Since her acclaimed teenage debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under Harvey Felder she has been regularly engaged as a concerto soloist with major orchestras and conductors around the world.

Inquisitive and versatile, Inna Faliks has had a strong commitment to contemporary music giving premieres of works composed for and dedicated her by Timo Andres, Billy Childs, Richard Danielpour, Paola Prestini, Ljova, Clarice Assad, Peter Golub. She went on to create a one-woman show which led to “Polonaise-Fantasia, Story of a Pianist,” an autobiographical monologue for pianist and actress, recently presented as a solo show in New York’s Symphony Space, Shenandoah Conservatory, Music Worcester, and at the Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Italy.

Inna Faliks has been featured on radio and television throughout the world. She co-starred with Downton Abbey’s Lesley Nicol in “Admission – One Shilling,” a play for pianist and actor based on the life of the great British pianist, Dame Myra Hess. Her most recent CD releases, Reimagine: Beethoven and Ravel on Navona Records and The Schumann Project Volume 1, on MSR Classics, received rave reviews, and were named to several “best of 2021” lists. With her all-Beethoven CD release on MSR, WTTW called Faliks “High priestess of the piano, concert pianist of the highest order, as dramatic and subtle as a great stage actor.” Sound of Verse, was released in 2009, featuring music of Boris Pasternak, Rachmaninoff and Ravel. “Polonaise-Fantasia, Story of a Pianist” on Delos captures her autobiographical monologue-recital with short piano works from Bach to Carter. Her musical memoir, “Weight in the Fingertips,” was published in 2023 by Globe Pequot.

Faliks is founder and curator of Music/Words, an award-winning poetry-music series: performances in collaboration with distinguished poets. Her long-standing relationship with Chicago’s WFMT radio has led to multiple broadcasts of Music/Words, which she produced alongside some of the nation’s most recognized poets in performances throughout the United States.

A past winner of many prestigious competitions, Inna Faliks is currently Professor of Piano and Head of Piano at UCLA. She is in demand as Artist Teacher and is frequently invited to judge competitions and give masterclasses at major conservatories and universities. As a writer, she has been published by LA Times and Washington Post. During Covid, she started a weekly online recital series, Corona Fridays, featuring children’s concerts, new music, and poetry. Inna Faliks is a Yamaha Artist.

Michelle Cann, *piano*  
June 27, 2024 | 7:00 PM

PROGRAM

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Ballade No. 3 in A-flat Major, Op. 47   | Fryderyk Chopin<br>(1810–1949)   |
| My Dungeon Shook, Three American Preludes<br>II. Lacrimosa<br>III. L'homme agenouillé                                 | Joel Thompson<br>(b. 1988)       |
| Piano Sonata No. 1, Op. 22<br>Allegro marcato<br>Presto misterioso<br>Adagio molto appassionato<br>Ruvido ed ostinato | Alberto Ginastera<br>(1926–1983) |

*~ intermission ~*

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Sonata in E Minor<br>Andante - Allegro<br>Andante<br>Scherzo | Florence Price<br>(1887–1953) |
| Mephisto Waltz No. 1, S. 514                                 | Franz Liszt<br>(1811–1886)    |

Michelle Cann is represented by  
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**Linda and John Leng**

# Artist Profile

Lauded as “exquisite” by The Philadelphia Inquirer and “a pianist of sterling artistry” by Gramophone, **MICHELLE CANN** has become one of the most sought-after pianists of her generation. She made her debut with The Philadelphia Orchestra in 2021 and has recently performed concertos with The Cleveland Orchestra, the National Symphony Orchestra, the Orquestra Sinfônica Municipal de São Paulo, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the symphony orchestras of Atlanta, Baltimore, and Cincinnati.

Highlights of Cann’s 2023–24 season include appearances with the Charlotte, Hawaii, Indianapolis, Québec, Sarasota, and Winnipeg symphony orchestras, and recitals in New York City, Portland, Berkeley, Beverly Hills, Flagstaff, and Denver. She also has teaching and performance residencies at the University of Indiana South Bend and Meany Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Washington.

Recognized as a leading interpreter of the piano music of Florence Price, Cann performed the New York City premiere of Price’s Piano Concerto in One Movement with The Dream Unfinished Orchestra in July 2016 and the Philadelphia premiere with The Philadelphia Orchestra and Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin in February 2021. Her recording of the concerto with the New York Youth Symphony won a Grammy Award in 2023 for Best Orchestral Performance. Her acclaimed debut solo album *Revival*, featuring music by Price and Margaret Bonds, was released in May 2023 on the Curtis Studio label. She has also recorded two Price piano quintets with the Catalyst Quartet.

Cann was the recipient of the 2022 Sphinx Medal of Excellence, the highest honor bestowed by the Sphinx Organization. She also received the Cleveland Institute of Music’s 2022 Alumni Achievement Award and the 2022 Andrew Wolf Chamber Music Award.

Embracing a dual role as performer and pedagogue, Cann is frequently invited to teach master classes, give lecture-demonstrations, and lead teaching residencies. Recent residencies include the Gilmore International Keyboard Festival and the National Conference of the Music Teachers National Association. She has recorded lessons for ToneBase, the popular piano lesson platform. She has also served on the juries of the Cleveland International Piano Competition, the Kauffman Music Center International Youth Piano Competition, and the piano competition of the Music Academy of the West.

A staunch believer in community-building through music, Cann has served as the director of two children’s choruses in the El Sistema-inspired program Play On Philly and was part of the inaugural class of Artist Year fellows at the Curtis Institute of Music. Through Artist Year, she worked with community partners City Year, Teach for America, and AmeriCorps to provide arts education and access to underserved communities in Philadelphia.

Cann holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in piano performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music, where she studied with Paul Schenly and Dr. Daniel Shapiro, and an Artist’s Diploma from the Curtis Institute of Music, where she studied with Robert McDonald. She joined the Curtis piano faculty in 2020 as the inaugural Eleanor Sokoloff Chair in Piano Studies. She joined the piano faculty of the Manhattan School of Music in 2023. Follow Michelle Cann on Instagram: @michellecann.

**Piano Masterclasses**  
10:00 AM-12:00 PM  
Kitt Recital Hall

June 24 – ALEXANDER KOBRIN, Eastman School of Music\*

June 25 – JEFFREY SWANN, New York University\*

June 26 – SPENCER MYER, Indiana University\*

June 27 – INNA FALIKS, University of California - Los Angeles\*

June 28 – MICHELLE CANN, Curtis Institute of Music\*

**Young Artist Performances**

June 24-27 | 6:00 PM - Pre-Concert Student Showcase Recitals (Room 144)\*

June 28 | 1:00 PM – Competition\*

June 28 | 7:00 PM – Competition Awards & Young Artist Concert I\*

June 29 | 11:00 AM – Closing Ceremony & Young Artist Concert II\*

**Piano Immersion Day**  
June 27, 2024

10:00 AM – INNA FALIKS Masterclass (Kitt Recital Hall)\*

1:00 PM – Teachers' Piano Pedagogy Roundtable Panel (Room 144)\*

3:00 PM – Teachers' Piano Pedagogy Stage Program (Kitt Recital Hall)\*

7:00 PM – MICHELLE CANN Recital (Kitt Recital Hall)\*\*

\*Free Admission

\*\*Ticketed Event



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