



This festival is part of a growing movement whose battle cry is, in John Salmon's words, "to loosen the strictures of perfectionism and literalism that have gradually eviscerated the interpreter's art in this age of 'note-perfect' recordings and competitions, and to reemphasize the beautiful, the imaginative."



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A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



LUKE RACKERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear festival participants, teachers, parents/guardians and other attendees:

Welcome to the 2019 Festival for Creative Pianists!

This is, hands down, my favorite time of year. Fueling our creative capabilities is becoming increasingly important. I am proud to be a part of an initiative that values creativity, hard work, diversity, resilience, imagination, and communication. This educational opportunity is designed for students age 5-19, but the benefits reach far beyond the students who participate.

Year after year, this festival continues to be an inspiration for all the students, teachers, adjudicators, presenters, performers, community members, and directors who participate. I am once again entering this festival with a sense of excitement as well as a deep gratitude for everyone who contributes to this unique learning opportunity. I want to extend a huge THANK YOU to all the volunteers, students, family members, studio teachers, donors, educators, teaching artists, and directors who make this festival possible.

We are once again shattering previous festival records, with a total of 44 students participating this year. We are very pleased to offer the "Festival Alumni Celebration Recital" for the first time this year. Thanks to continued feedback from teachers and parents, we have also revised our attendance and participation requirements for this year. Because of continually increasing enrollment, we will be adding an additional day to the festival next year. The additional day in 2020 will allow us to accept 50+ students and to continue expanding our program offerings. We are developing new educational ideas for 2020 and will be offering a culminating concert by Tatev Amiryan, an internationally acclaimed pianist and composer who is also the Abundant Silence Featured Composition Artist.

Along with this continued growth comes the need for an ambitious fundraising plan. If you know a business or individual who is passionate about supporting music and arts education initiatives, please reach out to me. We need more program sponsors for the 2020 festival to help fund the additional day and new offerings. Finally, don't forget to bid on our online auction items during the festival! Several individuals and businesses donated items to the auction because they value this program. Place your bids by Tuesday, June 11th at 9 p.m. MST.

This festival celebrates musical creativity in all its many diverse forms and encourages students to discover their unique voice through exploration and the creation of new music. Congratulations to all of the students; this festival requires an incredible amount of hard work, creativity, and resilience. Have a wonderful festival and we hope to see you in 2020!

Sincerely,

Luke Rackers

June 5-8, 2019

Alumni Recital, Wednesday June 5th:

Schmitt Music, 155 W. Hampden Ave, Englewood, CO 80110

Adjudications, Workshops, & Evening Events:

Classic Pianos, 1332 S. Broadway, Denver, CO 80210



SCHEDULE

All Events Open to the General Public

Adjudications, evening performances and educational workshops are open to the general public. However, we ask that people do not enter or exit during performances so as not to disturb students. Please keep cell phones turned off during all events.

IMPORTANT: To qualify for all prizes, students must:

1. Attend ONE of the 7 p.m. evening programs (Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday) OR three Friday morning workshops.
2. Perform their best selection (chosen by the judges) at the assigned Saturday 2 p.m., 4 p.m., or 7 p.m. Celebration of Student's Best Recital and be present throughout the subsequent Awards Ceremony.
3. Attend a minimum of 2 other adjudications (in addition to their own).

ADJUDICATIONS

(Classic Pianos; free admission)

– times subject to change

Wednesday, June 5th - 8:50 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 6th - 9:00 a.m. to 4:40 p.m.

Friday, June 7th - 1:05 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

WORKSHOPS

(Classic Pianos – free admission)

Contestants' attendance highly encouraged, but not mandatory

Friday, June 7th

8:25 a.m. - John Salmon: *Improv 101*

9:00 a.m. - Wynn-Anne Rossi: *Muses and Monsters*

9:35 a.m. - Kevin Olson: *The Science of Creative Habits*

10:05 a.m. Break

10:20 a.m. - Evan Mazunik: *Where Do We Go From Here?*

- *How to Move Forward When You're Stuck as a Composer*

10:55 a.m. - Karali Hunter: *Chopin's Shorter Forms - No Less Important*

11:30 a.m. - Arthur Houle: *Chopin's Mazurkas, Waltzes and Nocturnes*

- *Improvisation Bonanzas*

SCHEDULE



EVENING & SATURDAY PROGRAMS

Wednesday, June 5th

7:00 p.m. - Festival Alumni Celebration Recital (Schmitt Music)

Featuring Maria Ali ('14, '15, '16, '17) & Dr. Karali Hunter ('01 & '03)

Suggested donation at the door: \$5 for all attendees

Thursday, June 6th

7:00 p.m. - Written Compositions Program (Classic Pianos)

Suggested donation at the door: \$5 for all attendees

Friday, June 7th

7:00 p.m. - Judges & Guests Recital (Classic Pianos)

Suggested donation at the door: \$5 for all attendees

Saturday, June 8th - Celebration of Students' Best Recitals/Awards

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. (Classic Pianos)

Suggested donation at the door: \$5 for all attendees

Contestants are welcome to attend all 3 programs (approx. one hour each), but attendance/ performance is only mandatory at the assigned recital/award ceremony.

Composition Sessions

with Evan Mazunik throughout the Festival!

Contact Evelyn Billberg for more information & to schedule your session with Evan: ev.billberg@gmail.com

Visit www.evanmazunik.com for more information about Evan's work as a composer & educator.

Learn more about Abundant Silence's mission to support creative music making through composition at www.abundantsilence.org.



ADJUDICATORS



KEVIN OLSON, ADJUDICATOR

Kevin R. Olson is an active pianist, composer, and member of the piano faculty at Utah State University, where he teaches piano literature, pedagogy, and accompanying courses. In addition to his collegiate teaching responsibilities, Kevin directs the Utah State University Youth Conservatory, which provides weekly group and private piano instruction to more than 200 pre-college community students. The National Association of Schools of Music has recently recognized the Conservatory as a model for pre-college piano instruction programs. Before teaching at Utah State, he was on the faculty at Elmhurst College near Chicago and Humboldt State University in northern California. A native of Utah, Kevin began composing at age five. When he was twelve, his composition, *An American Trainride*, received the Overall First Prize at the 1983 National PTA Convention at Albuquerque, New Mexico. Since then he has been a Composer in Residence at the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy, and has written music commissioned and performed by groups such as the American Piano Quartet, Chicago a cappella, the Rich Matteson Jazz Festival, Music Teachers National Association, and several piano teacher associations around the country. Kevin maintains a large piano studio, teaching

students of a variety of ages and abilities. Many of the needs of his own piano students have inspired more than 100 books and solos published by the FJH Music Company, which he joined as a writer in 1994.



WYNN-ANNE ROSSI, ADJUDICATOR

Wynn-Anne Rossi is a dynamic composer and unique music educator. Her compositions have reached audiences throughout the United States and across the oceans. She has over 100 publications, primarily for piano, which are widely distributed online and in music stores. Her repertoire also includes works for vocal and chamber groups, concert band and orchestra. Various commissions have been sponsored by Minnesota Public Radio, the National Endowment for the Arts, Music Teachers National Association and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra.

Wynn-Anne has a specialty for bringing the art of composition to young musicians. She has been offering composition residencies in Minnesota schools since 2003, inspiring hundreds of students to write their own music. Partnerships have included the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, MacPhail Center for Music and the Cowles Center for Dance and Performing Arts. Rossi has also written two comprehensive series that encourage young pianists to compose: "Music by Me" (FJH, with Kevin Olson) and most recently, "Creative Composition Toolbox"

(Alfred).

Active as a presenter, Rossi is known for her innovative lectures, workshops and master classes. Musical outreach has taken her from coast to coast and beyond the borders of the United States. Her talks often center on the importance of musical self-expression. "Discover Latin" is one of her most popular presentations, inspired by the 8-book piano series, "Música Latina."



ADJUDICATORS



JOHN SALMON, ADJUDICATOR

John Salmon has distinguished himself on four continents as both a classical and jazz pianist. He has given recitals for the Dame Myra Hess Series in Chicago, the Discovery Series in Indianapolis, the Van Cliburn Foundation in Fort Worth, and a Busoni Gala at Symphony Space in New York. His recordings are frequently broadcast on radio stations in the U.S., including WNYC in New York, WFMT in Chicago, and KUSC in Los Angeles, and on the national radio stations of Australia, Brazil, Canada, Finland, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the Ukraine. He is particularly noted for his recordings and editions of the music of Dave Brubeck. Salmon is Professor of Piano at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and is the only person to serve as a judge for every Festival for Creative Pianists event since it was founded in 2001.



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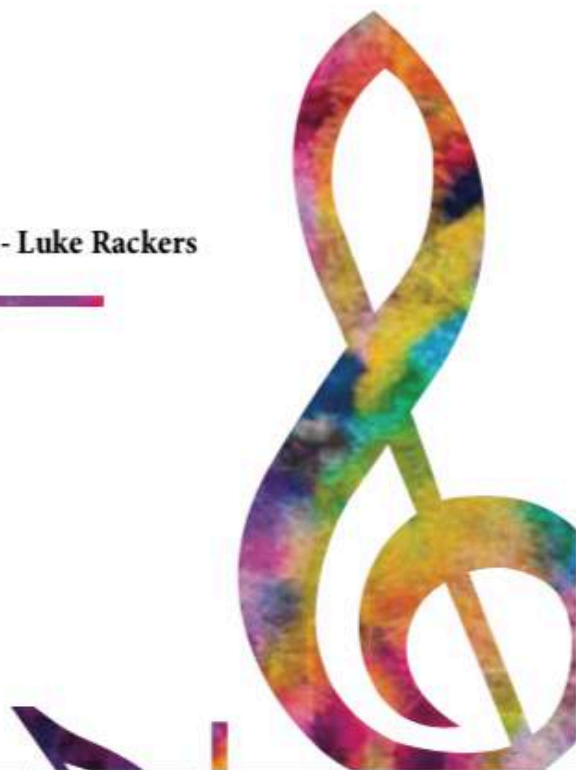
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...and anyone else we may have
inadvertently missed!

VOLUNTEERS

Janet Ali - Zachary Freeman - Evelyn Billberg - Arthur Houle - Luke Rackers

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FESTIVAL DIRECTORS



EVELYN BILLBERG, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Evelyn Billberg brings over 40 years of teaching experience to her Denver Teaching Studio.

Evelyn received her Bachelor Degree in Music at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, as a voice major.

She was involved for ten years in the Fairbanks community performing in theater, Sweet Adelines, the Fairbanks Light Opera Theater, and as a voice major performing in several operas at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

She moved to Arizona where she earned her Masters Degree in Music, Composition and Theory at Northern Arizona University.

Evelyn is a member of Music Teachers National Association and three local chapters: Denver Area Music Teachers Association and Foothills Music Teachers Association, and Grand Junction Music Teachers Association.

Since 2008, Evelyn has assisted Dr. Arthur Houle in the administration of the Festival for Creative Pianists and has served as the Program Director since 2015. Find out more about Evelyn's private studio at www.keyboardmagic.com.



ARTHUR HOULE, FOUNDER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Arthur Houle is professor of music and director of keyboard studies at Colorado Mesa University as well as founder and artistic director of the Festival for Creative Pianists.

Dr. Houle holds degrees from the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, New England Conservatory and the University of Iowa. He was the only pianist to be invited to perform twice, to critical acclaim, in the 1995 International Chopin Music Festival. He has given coast-to-coast lecture/recitals and master classes at institutions such as Eastman School of Music, Dartmouth College, New England Conservatory, Longy School of Music, and for various teacher organizations. Houle also presents often for national and regional professional conferences.

Houle is a critically acclaimed performer and has written for numerous periodicals. He was Abundant Silence's 2015-16 Featured Composing Educator and recipient of a 2011 Music Teachers National Association Fellow Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions to the music teaching profession.

A private teacher since the age of thirteen, Houle taught previously at New England Conservatory, Boston Conservatory, the College of Idaho, and the Universities of Iowa, North Dakota and Texas-Austin.



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**YOUR DONATION TO ABUNDANT SILENCE ENSURES THE CONTINUATION OF OUR PROGRAMS,
INCLUDING THE FESTIVAL FOR CREATIVE PIANISTS.**

*Thanks for your generosity, for supporting unique arts education programs like this festival,
and for helping Abundant Silence create a culture of musical creativity!*

**Support the 2019 Festival for Creative Pianists
by participating in our online auction!**

www.biddingowl.com/abundantsilence

*Bid on Broncos tickets, USAFA tickets, jewelry, artwork, sheet music, coffee roasted by 802
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festival. Bidding is opening now through June 11th at 9pm MST.*

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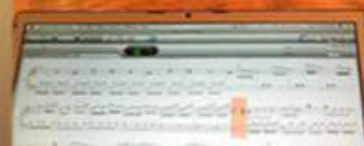
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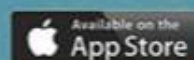


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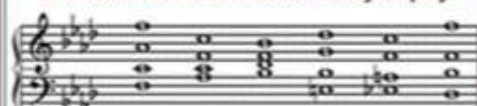


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Mission Statement

Abundant Silence believes that new music should be accessible to all individuals and communities through the practices of creating, listening, celebrating, and playing.

What is the Festival for Creative Pianists???

A showcase of hard work, discipline, and passion

A celebration of the diversity of musical ideas

A creative experience that encourages critical thinking & collaboration

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Abundant Silence

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