## PCLAYTON FESTIVAL

Oct. 31 - Nov. 9, 2019

2011 - 2019

Jonathan Levin. Artistic Director

Celebrating 150 Years of Clayton





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#### From the Director

Dear Friends of Music.

CPF is my way of giving back to a community which has given much to me and to share my love and enthusiasm for great music with as many people as possible. Each of the festival concerts has a specific theme and follows a narrative where the audience hears directly from the artists about the music they are presenting, the lives of the composers who created it and what this music means to the performers themselves. The idea is not just to put on great concerts but to really engage the audience in a personal way in order to promote a more relaxed and meaningful experience - to bring the living room into the concert hall. There's no pressure to know a lot about the music in advance - as the evening progresses, the audience can discover a new favorite work or composer along the way.

I think most people, regardless whether they are regular concert goers or not, approach 'classical' performances with something akin to apprehension. There's a feeling that the music has no relevance to their experience or they may feel uncomfortably out of place. My goal is to create a unique, social, interactive, fun and accessible experience with each performance. We tend to forget that this music was written by people who were fundamentally the same as you and me. They had similar joys, fears, sorrows - they struggled with the same basic issues of existence as we do today. I believe the great works which they have created are still with us because they capture a universal essence of what it is to be human and they speak to us in ways which only music can.

Live performance is a vital part of this art form – anyone can listen to a recording or watch a video on youtube but there's so much more excitement in a live setting where, in the words of one famous musician, 'so much can go wrong, but so much can also go mysteriously right!' When a performer is up there on stage tapping into whatever wizardry the composer may have conjured up and the audience is able to relate and connect with that, there is a shared experience that occurs which is nothing short of magical. And that is the mission of CPF - to create magic!

Sincerely,

andhan Jevin

The Clayton Piano Festival is a non-profit arts organization devoted to cultivating interest and attention to classical piano music and music education in Clayton, NC and the surrounding communities.

## HALLOWEEN

10.31.19 | Thursday | 7:30 PM

THE BARN AT BROADSLAB

David Brooks, piano

This concert is brought to you in part by Johnston UNC Health Care



and Misty and Bryan Smith.

Organ Prelude BWV 553 - J. S Bach (1685-1750) Transcribed by D.Kabalevsky (1904 - 1987)

Adagio for strings and organ - T. Albinoni (1671 - 1751) Transcribed by A. Ulrich (\*1955)

**Tic-Toc-Choc for double manual harpsichord** - F. Couperin *Transcribed by G. Sokolov (\*1950)* 

Archipel IV - A. Boucourechliev (1925 - 1997)

**Aufenthalt** - F. Schubert (1797 - 1828) *Transcribed by F. Liszt (1811 - 1886)* 

**Der Wanderer** - F. Schubert (1797 - 1828) *Transcribed by F. Liszt (1811 - 1886)* 

> **Gretchen am Spinnrade** F. Schubert (1797 - 1828) *Transcribed by F. Liszt (1811 - 1886)*





#### LIVING IN THE MOMENT

JOEY CHANG, PIANIST CARY ARTS CENTER WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2019 AT 7:30 PM

#### Improvisations in the style of

The Baroque/Contrapuntal

The Romantic

The Blues

The Timeless

The Ecstatic

The Intense

The Work hard, Play Hard

#### **Twelve landscapes**

Twelve miniatures, no more than a minute and a half each, played alongside imagery.

### Improvisations on suggestions given by the audience

Improvisation based on stories, descriptions, or memories, written on pieces of paper and drawn at random out of a basket to play.



This concert is brought to you by Hopper Piano Company, Eric Thompson, and Dr. Steve and Sharon Levin

## THE CLAYTON CENTER SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2019 AT 8:00 PM NIA FRANKLIN, SOPRANO/COMPOSER | CHRISTIN DANCHI, VIOLIN JOEY CHANG, PIANIST/IMPROVISOR | JONATHAN LEVIN, PIANIST/COMPOSER

Featuring

#### ROSALIND LEAVELL, CELLO | NONOKO OKADA, VIOLA | VICTORIA PEDROZA, VIOLIN DAVID RICHARDS AND THE SWINGSTERS UNION BAND

This concert is brought to you by The Town of Clayton, Dr. Stephen and Sharon Levin, and Johnston UNC Health Care

#### YESTERYEAR

Kern/Hammerstein/arr. Levin Can't Help Lovin' dat Man

Film - A Look Around Town

Joseph Brackett/Aaron Copland Simple Gifts Béla Bartók

Rhapsody No. 1 (Friss)

LOVE (CONT.)

Jonathan Levin Now Voyager

Film - Father and Son

**Jonathan Levin** Elegy for Landon Johnson

Film - Revival 1869

FARMING

FARITING

Frederic Rzewski Winnsboro Cottonmill Blues

THE ARTS COMMUNITY

Film - No Place Like CYT

David Richards and the Swingsters Union Band

Ode to Clayton

Music by Joey Chang Film by Jonathan Levin



Film - Sam Robertson talks about WWII

NATURE

Nia Franklin

Sunflower Clouds in Theory

Mark O'Connor

Appalachia Waltz

Nia Franklin

Burgundy in Autumn

LOVE

Film - Pizzazz

**Shelby Stephenson**Poetry Reading

#### The Artists

Pianist, host, and author Zsolt Bognár holds a meteoric, multi-dimensional career that re-defines what it means to be a musician in the 21st century.

Known to many around the globe in musical and cultural circles, Mr. Bognár is host of the award-winning film series Living the Classical Life. As concert pianist, he frequently gives inspiring performances in North America, Europe, and Asia.

Zsolt Bognár's acclaimed work for Living the Classical Life seeks to highlight the inner world, artistic output, and vigorous process of famous performers and musical personalities including Vladimir Ashkenazy, Joyce DiDonato, Yuja Wang, Yefim Bronfman, Daniil Trifonov, Joshua Bell, John Corigliano, Susan Graham, and many more. With over 60 episodes, the show continues to grow and feature more outstanding artists discussing the rarely heard stories of how they became who they are today.



A protégé of Deutsche Grammophon recording artist and distinguished teacher Sergei Babayan, Mr. Bognár has toured as recitalist, chamber musician, and concerto soloist throughout North America, Europe, and Asia. He has appeared at New York's Lincoln Center and 92nd Street Y, and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. With notable performances in Berlin, Vienna, Munich, Amsterdam, Tokyo, Chicago, and Los Angeles, he has appeared on many NPR programs including full-length recital programs, interviews, poetry readings, and discussions of historical recordings and performers.

Zsolt Bognár's debut album Franz & Franz

was recorded in Berlin with Grammy-winning producer Philipp Nedel. It has been heralded by international press for the benchmark status in solo works by Schubert and Liszt.

Especially praised for his concert work in Germanic, Russian, and Romantic repertoire, he often chooses to highlight lesser-known masterpieces by the great composers with themed programs exploring links between composers and aesthetic trends, often giving his own pre-concert lectures.



**David Brooks** enjoys a busy musical life as a pianist, violinist, violist, composer, and teacher. He has performed across the United States and Europe, and was recently a featured artist at IRCAM (Institut de Recherche et Coordination Acoustique /Musique) in Paris. A winner of several national and international competitions, he now performs a repertoire spanning the avant-garde and the neglected romantics, as well as the established greats.

Especially committed to the performance of new music, David has taken part in the first performances of works by more than 100 composers. A composer himself, his song cycle First Steps (2013) was premiered in Bucharest, Romania, and his 'Metamorphosis' Variations premiered in New York. More recently, his first full-scale opera, Urban Legend, was premiered at Wingate University. Also an enthusiastic proponent of the art of transcription, he has transcribed a wide array of works for solo piano by composers ranging from Bach to Penderecki.

In 2014, David joined the faculty of Wingate University in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he is an Assistant Professor of Piano and Music Theory. At Wingate, he founded the new music group ensemble243, which performs extended-techniques-works for "bowed piano." Wingate's music department is on the verge of becoming one of the first 'All-Steinway" schools in the region. In addition to his teaching at Wingate, he serves on the collaborative piano faculty of the National Music Festival in Chestertown, Maryland. David previously taught at Adelphi

University, and at the Pre-College Academy of Stony Brook University in New York.

David graduated from Western Washington University in 2008 with double performance degrees in piano and viola, where he studied with Jeffrey Gilliam and Eric Kean. He studied with Robin McCabe at the University of Washington before completing his doctorate at Stony Brook University with Christina Dahl.

In his spare time, David enjoys studying graphology, statistics, architecture, and interior design, as well as reading about conspiracy theories and drinking excellent coffee. In 2019, he will continue his lecture-recital series, "What Makes It So Damn Good?!," perform brand new chamber and solo works at the Charlotte New Music Festival, and learn how to build timber frame houses by hand at the Shelter Institute in Woolwich. Maine.

**Christin Danchi** is a collaborative violinist and violist with a passion for exploring connections between music and visual arts, politics, sports, and other disciplines. Her performance interests include solo, chamber and orchestral collaborations.



She has performed at a variety of locations including the North Carolina House of Representatives, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., Saint Patrick's National Cathedral in Dublin, Ireland, the Antiguo Convento de la Trinidad in Alcalá la Real, Spain, and Carnegie Music Hall in Pittsburgh. She has worked with conductors Manfred Honeck, Yan Pascal Tortelier, Joseph Silverstein, Gerard Schwarz, Paul Polivnick, Barry Douglas, and Andrés Cárdenes. Christin played baroque violin as part of the UNC Baroque Ensemble and has experience in chamber music from the Baroque to the contemporary.

Christin also enjoys southern and Irish fiddle music, as well as sacred collaborations in her church. She is an active freelance performer in and around her home in Raleigh, North Carolina. Some of her recent appearances include May 2018 solo performances during Masterclass Al-Andalus in Alcalá la Real, Spain, and collaborative work with pianist Jonathan Levin and tenor Curtis Bannister for the Clayton Piano Festival's 2018 Valentines Day Gala Concert in Clayton, North Carolina. Christin works as the Annual Giving Coordinator for the North Carolina Symphony and is honored to serve on the boards of the Philharmonic Association and the Clayton Piano Festival.



Joey Chang gave his first formal recital at age 10 with a solo concert during the WPPI international piano festival. He garnered awards and recognition from local international competitions as well as competitions, including International Russian Music Piano Competition, New Orleans International Young artist and Schimmel International Junior. Joey was the youngest top-prize winner of the Jacob Flier International Piano Competition in 2009 and made a debut concerto performance under the baton of maestro Vladimir Feltsman. The performance brought a review from the Record for playing Time-Herald ...accompaniments and cadenzas with precocious agility and focus, letting the bell-like arpeggios ring at his fingertips with precision and ease...

Following his residency as an improviser at the Banff Centre in the summer of 2017, Joey works extensively in collaborative, cross-discipline, freeform improvisation. He has performed free improvisation around NYC in contexts ranging from free jazz to classical piano including The Stone at the New School, Cornelia St. Cafe Underground, The Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Spectrum NYC, and Juilliard's Paul Hall. He has performed with musicians such as Peter Evans, Michael Formanek, Jim Black, Weasel Walter, Luke Stewart, Immanuel Wilkins, Jasmine Wilson, and Jack Mcguire. As an improvising soloist, he performed improvisation in a classical solo piano concert featuring his mentor, Jerome Lowenthal and Vassily Primakov at the Sparkhill concert series and Bronxville

women's club. He has composed structured improvisation for art installations as well as dance choreography performed at student choreography showcases at Marymount Manhattan College. Joey attended the renowned Juilliard School in New York City, where he graduated in 2018. While there he was the organizer and leader of the "improv You Are Enough!" sessions, a series of informal jam sessions between musicians, dancers, and actors, and continues to network and workshop collaborative improvisation in these settings.

An avid composer, Joey began to compose at age 6 and performed his first original work in the Yamaha USA national "Junior Original Composer" concert at age 7. He has since composed music for solo piano, chamber groups, and piano and chamber orchestra premiered at Juilliard's Double Vision concert series

A passionate believer in musical advocacy and outreach, Joey is a member of and has participated in educational programs run by organizations like ASTEP and Sing-For-Hope based in New York. In the summer of 2015, Joey spent 6-weeks in Taiwan, including two weeks of living and teaching in the mountains of Taidong in a community of Taiwanese Bunun aboriginal descendants. The project culminated in a concert held in Hsing-Kang, Chiayi in which Joey performed original compositions and improvisations based on his experiences in Taiwan in a collaboration with the Hsing-Kang elementary school orchestra.



Nia Franklin was born in Winston-Salem, North Carolina and lived in the state through graduate school. She earned an undergraduate degree in music composition from East Carolina University, and a master's in music composition from The University of North Carolina's School of the Arts. Shortly after, Nia was awarded a Kenan Fellowship at New York's Lincoln Center Education and made the move to New York City.

During Nia's college freshman year, her father was diagnosed with a rare form of lymphoma,

and she became his stem cell donor. This turn of events led Nia to the Miss America Organization. "I had to find a way to pay for myself to go to school and so I entered this competition and this organization, and it became much more than just the scholarship money for me, it was also about the mentorship, leadership and sisterhood you find in this program."

Nia was crowned Miss Five Boroughs at the age of 24, and then went on to win Miss New York 2018. And was awarded the job of Miss America 2019 on September 9, 2018.

A gifted singer/songwriter, Nia has been a teacher and music mentor, and has written over 100 songs, including one she began performing at age five. (The lyrics begin: "Love, love, love, love, love is the only thing that matters to me..."). For the Miss America 2019 competition, Franklin sang "Quando m'en Vo" from Puccini's La Boheme and wowed audiences and judges alike.

Throughout her year as Miss America, Nia has been promoting her social impact initiative ADVOCATING FOR THE ARTS through appearances at colleges and universities, performing with orchestras and operas across the country, at arts schools and holding master classes.

At the invitation of the New York Philharmonic, she hosted their "Phil the Hall" and was named by the New York Times as the perfect host for the program which opens up music to all through programming. Among other events, she has been a part of the NY Metropolitan Opera and LA Opera's opening nights, was keynote speaker for the Center for Education Reform and the Lincoln Center's most recent board meeting and has worked with Sing for Hope to promote the arts among disadvantaged students. As Miss America, Nia has also brought joy to hundreds of children being at Children's Miracle treated Network as National Hospitals the Goodwill Ambassador for CMN. In keeping with the Miss America Organization's longstanding relationship with the military, Nia has also spent time supporting our men and women in uniform through her many appearances with the USO.

Hailed by the New York Concert Review as "much more than a pianist, but a musician with a fine mind and enormously promising creative energy", Jonathan Levin is quickly establishing a reputation as an enthusiastic and compelling advocate for classical music, creating integrated programs that garner closer connections with audiences through illuminating discussion and example.

Born in North Carolina, Jonathan made his debut with the Raleigh Symphony Orchestra when he was fifteen. Since then, he has become a sought after recitalist and soloist, performing throughout the country in concert

halls, museums, universities, schools, libraries and private salons. Jonathan was recently chosen to present a special performance of Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue at the Grand Kremlin Palace in Moscow, Russia as a part of the 4th Melody of Generations Festival with the Presidential Symphony Orchestra of the Russian Federation. Other engagements have included performances at Carnegie Hall, the Dame Myra Hess Concert Series at the Chicago Cultural Center, The DiMenna Center for Classical Music, Steinway Hall, New York Society for Ethical Culture, Brooklyn Public Library, the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland and the Foundation Manhattan. Kosciusko in Jonathan has played solo recitals and taught masterclasses all across the country including engagements in North Carolina, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Nevada, Florida, Washington State, California and also in Ontario, Canada. He has performed with the Durham Symphony, the North Carolina Symphony and as a returning guest artist with the Raleigh Symphony as well as appearances at the NC Governor's Mansion and the NC Museum of Art. In addition, Jonathan has been a laureate of many competitions and prizes including the National Stillman-Kelley Award, 2nd Prize at the 2012 Los Angeles International Liszt Competition and recipient of the Alan Walker Award from the American

Liszt Society. Most recently he was awarded 2nd Prize at the George Gershwin Brooklyn International Music Competition as well as a special prize for Best Performance of American Music. He made his solo recital debut at Carnegie's Weill Hall on September 20, 2016 presenting "American Portraits", his new program highlighting the work of living American composers.



#### Acknowledgements

#### Clayton Piano Festival would like to thank the following for their generous support

#### **Johnston County Music Association**

Julie Stewart, president

#### Stacy Yoak, piano technician

For his excellent work on so many pianos!



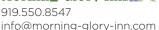
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for their loving support and volunteer contributions







This Project was supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.















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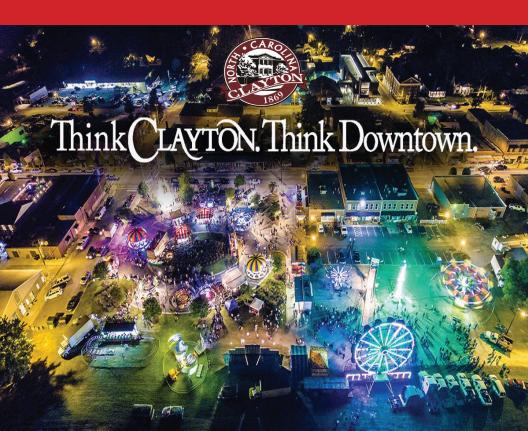
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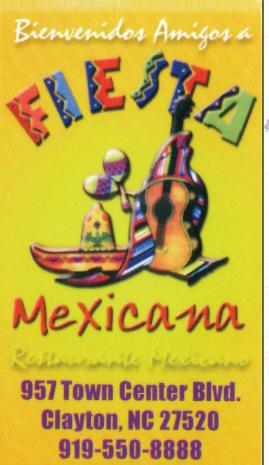
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Your support of Clayton Piano Festival represents an investment in the future of Clayton's cultural growth and in the lives of the musicians, students and all the area residents who will benefit from it as its legacy grows in the years to come. We invite you to support Clayton Piano Festival in its ongoing mission to bring great music to the community through interactive presentations in local schools, public classes for local piano students, and concert performances with insights from the performers who visit from all around the world. We are a nonprofit organization so all gifts will be tax deductible.

#### Other volunteer activities:

- Be an usher or greeter at a concert
- Invite friends to CPF fundraising events
- Help provide transportation or housing for festival musicians
  - Provide refreshments for event receptions
  - Help with CD sales and signings at concerts
    - Bring friends to concerts
    - Help with mailings and special projects
      - Organize food for the festival artists

#### More information at www.ClaytonPianoFestival.org/community













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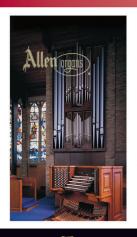












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