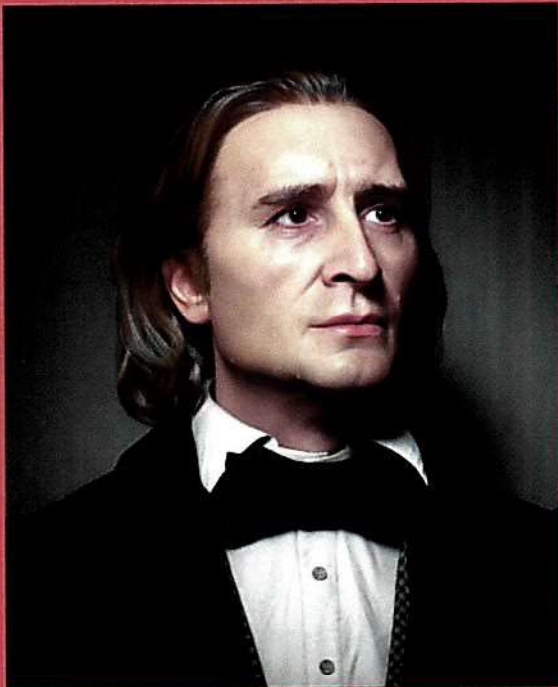




The New York  
Franz Liszt  
International  
Piano Competition

# Moving with time



The New York Franz Liszt International Piano Competition and Festival are the first of its kind on the grand stage of Carnegie Hall in New York City. It aims to bring new energy to promoting Liszt's heritage to audiences in the spotlight of New York City. We celebrate his genius, humanity, and legacy through this international piano competition and festival.

The New York Franz Liszt International Piano Competition invited its winner in 2021 to Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall to perform a full Liszt recital. Derek Wang's well-deserved 1st Prize was followed by an uplifting concert at Carnegie Hall and inspired us to continue our mission in 2022.

In 2022, we announced the competition in a very unusual format. We invited exceptional talents from all over the world to compete in our video selection (semifinal) round and picked four outstanding pianists to perform at the Solo and Grand Finals in New York City's Carnegie Hall.

This way, our competition offers a unique opportunity for four outstanding pianists to compete in the live round with a 30-minute solo program at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall on October 5 at our Solo Final and to perform a piano concerto with the highly-acclaimed Orchestra of St. Luke's at Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage on October 7, 2022, at our Grand Final.

# Director's Message

Dear Friends,

It is my honor and privilege to welcome you all to one of the most important Liszt Celebrations of today.

We started this competition with no less goal than to provide our competitors with the exceptional experience of performing at one of the world's most prestigious concert halls and allow them to grow artistically during this experience. We are sincerely thankful to our individual and corporate partners for supporting our competition and enabling us to produce this event, which is truly inspiring to our participants, our audiences, and with our live webcast, to millions of listeners around the globe.

I can't thank enough our artistic and advisory board for bringing this event to life. I am especially grateful for the ones who joined our journey at the very beginning without hesitation, believing in our mission and trusting that together we can make a difference in inspiring the next generation's young talents. Among our supporters, special mention goes to Orsolya Bakos and Janos Santa, Zsolt Rozenberszki, Andrea Mari and Gyula Szelezky, Yvonne and Howard Tsao, Colleen Bell, Michael Ludwig and Leslie Smithey, David Rasztoivits and Dora Farkas, Peter Talos, Sandor Scheer, Sandor Nagy, Daniel Jellinek, Sylvia Hemingway, Umesh Trikha, Andrew Komaromi and Heidi Lee Komaromi, Scott Lynn, Jay Miostaw, Tamas Hoffman, Scott Reinhart and Kumiko Nishiyama, Tamas Sellyey, and Metta Murdaya, just to name a few who helped us to realise this fantastic week of events in New York City.

Thank you for your continued support. We hope to see you among our supporters in 2023.

Adam Gyorgy  
Founder and Artistic Director

# Orchestra of St. Luke's at the Grand Final



Our Orchestra partner for the Grand Final, Orchestra of St. Luke's grew from a group of virtuoso musicians performing chamber music concerts at Greenwich Village's Church of St. Luke in the Fields in 1974 to performing in diverse musical genres at New York's major concert venues, drawing on an expanded roster for large-scale works, and collaborating with artists.

Orchestra of St. Luke's signature programming includes a subscription series presented by Carnegie Hall, now in its 34th season; the OSL Bach Festival at Carnegie Hall, Manhattan School of Music's Neidorff-Karpati Hall, and at the DiMenna Center for Classical Music each June; a chamber music series featuring appearances at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall and Merkin Hall at Kaufman Music Center; and a summer residency at Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts. The Orchestra has participated in 118 recordings, four of which have won Grammy Awards, has commissioned more than 50 new works, and has given more than 175 world, U.S., and New York City premieres.

Nearly half of Orchestra of St. Luke's performances are presented free of charge through its Education & Community program, which reaches over 11,000 New York City public school students each year with school-time concerts. Youth Orchestra of St. Luke's provides free instrumental coaching, the Chamber Music Mentorship Program provides professional development opportunities and workshops for pre-professional musicians.

Orchestra of St. Luke's built and operates The DiMenna Center for Classical Music in Hell's Kitchen, New York City's only rehearsal, recording, education, and performance space expressly dedicated to classical music. The DiMenna Center serves more than 500 ensembles and more than 30,000 musicians each year.

Bernard Labadie, Principal Conductor  
James Roe, President & Executive Director  
Valerie Broderick, Vice President & General Manager

# The Finalists of 2022

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## Eri Yamamoto



Eri Yamamoto was born in Tokyo. After achieving her BA and MA with the highest honors at the F. Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest as a Stipendium Hungaricum scholar, she moved to London in 2017 to further her skills by studying the Professional Diploma course at the Royal Academy of Music. Currently, in the UK, on as an Exceptional Talent, she is also an official piano accompanist in the Strings Department of the Royal Academy of Music.

Eri won numerous prizes and awards, including membership in the Liszt Society. She was the Finalist of the Liszt Society Piano Competition (UK), the Absolute First Prize in the 'Citta di Barletta' (Italy), and Second prize in the G. Gershwin Int. Piano Competition (NY, US), the Rosalia de Castro Special Prize, which included a CD recording prize in the International Piano Competition 'City of Vigo' (Spain), Second Prize in the Putra International Piano Competition (Malaysia), First in the 'Grand Prize Virtuoso' International Music Competition (Salzburg), Silver prize in WPTA Finland and other honors throughout Europe and Asia.

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## Gergely Kovacs



Hungarian pianist Gergely Kovacs is a rising star of his generation in Hungary. Even though his piano teacher's grandmother inspired his love for the piano at a young age, Gergely did not begin his piano studies until he was eight. Despite his late exposure to piano education, Gergely continued to excel and took the challenge of international competitions, winning awards such as 3rd in Serbia, 5th in Weimar at the International Franz Liszt Piano Competition for Youth, and 1st prize at the Pietro Argento Piano Competition in Gioia del Colle, Italy. After turning eighteen, he started to tour internationally: Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, the United States, and all around Europe.

In 2020, he was awarded the Talent Prize of the Cziffra Festival Budapest. In 2021, he received the 3rd prize in the International Franz Liszt Piano Competition in Los Angeles and the International Liszt Piano Competition in Hungary.

His performance at the 2020 New Year's Day special program on Channel M5 was broadcasted to 1 million viewers in Hungary.

# The Finalist of 2022

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## Yi-Chen Feng



Pianist Yi-Chen Feng is the recipient of numerous prizes from competitions such as the Grand Canal International Piano Art Festival, the San Jose International Piano Competition, and the Virginia Waring International Piano Competition.

In 2019, Feng appeared as a soloist with the Hangzhou Philharmonic Orchestra. Feng made his orchestral debut at 17, performing Liszt Piano Concerto No. 1 with Kaohsiung Youth Symphony Orchestra. He is the top prize winner of the first International Maestro Piano Competition in Taiwan, earning concert engagements and a record deal with the Universal Music Group label for the 2021-2022 season. He earned his Bachelor's degree at the Peabody Conservatory and Master of Music and Artist Diploma degree at the Yale School of Music..

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## Maxim Lando



Nineteen-year-old American pianist Maxim Lando has been described as a “dazzling fire-eater” (ARTS San Francisco), a “pianist who dares to do things not considered by others” (ConcertNet, The Classical Music Network), and “a total musical being” (The New Criterion). He was lauded by the New York Times as displaying “brilliance and infectious exuberance in his New York debut” combined with “impressive delicacy” and a “wild-eyed danger.” In addition to being named Musical America’s New Artist of the Month, Maxim has been awarded the 2021/22 Vendome Grand Prize and the 2020 Gilmore Young Artist Award. As winner of the Juilliard 2021 Concerto Competition, Maxim made his Alice Tully Hall debut performing with the Juilliard Orchestra led by Xian Zhang. At age 16, Maxim won First Prize at the 2018 Young Concert Artists International Auditions. His sold-out recital debuts at Carnegie Hall’s Zankel Hall and the Kennedy Center’s Terrace Theater, including Liszt’s complete Transcendental Etudes, were hailed by The New York Times as a concert “You Won’t Want To Miss!”

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# Our Jurors

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## Adam Gyorgy

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND JUROR

Adam Gyorgy achieved worldwide recognition when he performed at the opening ceremony of EURO 2012, the UEFA European Football Championship in Warsaw. His unique interpretation of Chopin's Winterwind was televised to 300 million people across the globe.

Since becoming a Steinway Artist at 23, Adam Gyorgy has been a proud ambassador of Steinway & Sons. Most well-known for the authenticity of his Liszt interpretations. His recitals have been described by the world's press as 'sensitive', 'playful', 'elegant' and 'warm'. Adam Gyorgy made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2008, and ever since, he is a regular performer at Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage. Through his extraordinary talent and memorable performances, Adam Gyorgy exemplifies the attributes and objectives of the fine arts. As a pianist, he preserves the tradition of historic classical artists. He is also innovative in piano performance, Adam Gyorgy filmed his music video, A Day in New York, in the monumental New York Grand Central Terminal. His performance attracted observers in the busy terminal and created an unexpected pause in the hectic pace of New York City.

A prolific artist, Adam Gyorgy's recordings include: Adam Gyorgy Plays Liszt, Bach and Mozart; Adam Gyorgy: Concert in Budapest; Adam Gyorgy plays Bach and Mozart; and Adam Gyorgy Plays the Piano. In 2015, he released a CD of his 2012 The Carnegie Hall Concert and a DVD of a live recording of his Budapest Concert.

With 20 years of performance experience on the global stage, Adam Gyorgy has sold-out performances at large venues such as Aula Simfonia (Jakarta), Esplanade (Singapore), The Palace of Arts (Hungary), St. John Smith's Square (London), Carnegie Hall (New York) and toured extensively in many countries.

He is the recipient of the Golden Cross of Merit in Hungary in 2016 and the Franz Liszt Award in 2020, which places him among the finest musicians of his home country, Hungary.

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## Gabor Farkas

JUROR

Gábor Farkas received the Franz Liszt Award (the highest Hungarian State Award for artists) in May 2009 he received the “Gundel Art Prize”, in November 2008 he was given the “Prima Junior” prize; and in March 2008 he was awarded a special state prize “The best young artist of the year”. In October 2015 he became an Honorary Citizen of his home town, Ózd. In the past years along the concert halls of Hungary he performed in the most famous concert halls such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Merkin Hall (New York), Teatro la Fenice (Venice), BOZAR (Brussels), Konzerthaus (Berlin), Auditorio Nacional de Música (Madrid), NCPA Concert Hall (Beijing), Oriental Art Center (Shanghai) and Bunka Kaikan (Tokyo). He was invited to prestigious international festivals, such as the Classical Bridge Festival (New York), Spring Green Music Festival (Kanazawa), Sendai Classic Festival, Kirishima Music Festival, Budapest Spring Festival; International Piano Forum (Berlin), Schumann Festival (Zwickau), Bach Festival (Thuringia), Pélerinages-Kunstfest (Weimar), Musicathlon (Beijing), Piano Festival (Vilnius), Kaposfest, Ferenc Liszt Festival in the Castle of Gödöllő, Hungary, Festival Academy Budapest.

His debut CD recording entitled “An evening with Liszt” was published by Warner Music in November 2008, which won the prestigious “Grand Prix” as the best Liszt recording of the year 2009 given by the Franz Liszt International Society. His second album was a live recording of the Official Opening Concert of the Liszt Year 2011 with the Hungarian National Philharmonic Orchestra, also published by Warner Music in July 2011. In 2017 Steinway & Sons published his Liszt CD in January, NYC, USA, and Hungaroton released his Schumann Album in May, and a recording of Piano Concertino of Ferenc Farkas became available for the public by Toccata Classics, London in June. He made recordings also for Brilliant Classics.

In March 2017, he’s been chosen unanimously by the Steinway Haus of New York, Hamburg, and Budapest to be a Steinway Artist and represent the company worldwide and was asked to make further recordings for the company.

He was honored to have a Professor job at the Tokyo College of Music as the youngest and the first European Professor at the prestigious university in May 2017. He is also a distinguished jury member at the PTNA International Piano Competition, Tokyo. In 2019 he was given the Aoyama Music Award for the ‘Concert of the Year. His latest CD of Chopin Ballades and Impromptus was released in May, 2019, earning high acclaim in the circle of reviewers worldwide; the recording got a 5-star rating - among others - from Fanfare Magazine and Piano News Magazine.

Currently, he is the Head of the Keyboard Department and Head of the Doctoral School at the Liszt Academy of Music, Budapest, and a Guest Professor at the Tokyo College of Music, Japan.





Steven Spooner  
JUROR

Steven has been engaged at many of the world's most prestigious venues, such as Carnegie Hall, The Great Hall of the Liszt Academy (Budapest), Salle Cortot (Paris), and Shanghai Concert Hall, among many others, as a soloist with orchestra and recitalist. During the past seasons, he has daringly reinvented the solo recital by allowing audiences to vote for one of several programs like golden-age pianists, his concerts often feature his compositions and virtuoso transcriptions.

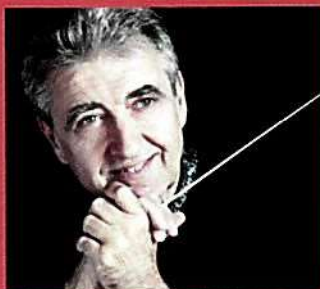
Steven is a prizewinner at all seven international piano competitions he entered and top prizewinner at the Hilton Head International Piano Competition and First Prize, and recipient of the Niekamp Career Grant as a most outstanding pianist in French music at the Paris Conservatory. In 2008, he was awarded the Ivory Classics Foundation Prize, which enabled him to study Liszt with the legendary virtuoso Earl Wild. Following this, Steven underwent a period of serious self-study. He emerged as one of the most comprehensively equipped pianists of our time, embracing a gargantuan repertoire of solo works and concerti by a host of diverse composers.

Steven has released more than 30 recordings on Naxos, A Life of Music, and other record labels, including a monumental project of 16 albums honoring his heroes called Dedications. His latest 10-volume recording project, Aspects of Liszt, exploring the many facets of the Liszt repertoire, will be released in 2022.

Steven Spooner is a Professor of Piano at the Peabody Institute, and he has studied at the Tbilisi Conservatory, Moscow Conservatory, and Indiana University.

Spooner has served on the faculty of many of the most prestigious summer festivals and is increasingly in demand for his insightful masterclasses at leading conservatories across the globe. He is the Artistic Director of the Chicago International Competition and Festival and often serves on juries of international competitions. A dedicated and caring teacher of students from around the world, he has formed winners of multiple prizes at important international competitions.

Steven Spooner is a Steinway Artist.



Gabor Hollereung  
CONDUCTOR

The Hungarian conductor and chorus master, Gábor Hollerung, studied in Liszt Ferenc College of Music, specialized as chorus master (1972–1977) and conductor (1975–1980).

From 1979 to 1981, Gábor Hollerung was second conductor of Miskolc Symphonic Orchestra; from 1981 to 1983, teacher of music theory, music history and choir conducting, leader of a women's choir in Janus Pannonius University of Pécs; from 2001 to 2008, Music Director, then Art Director of Honvéd Ensemble; from 1989 to 2000, master conductor of Dohnányi Ernő Symphonic Orchestra, Budafok. Since 2001, he is Executive Music Director of Dohnányi Ernő Symphonic Orchestra, Budafok. He is also master conductor of Budapest Academic Choral Society; Arts Director of Zemplén Festival; founder and Art Director of Budapest International Choir Competition.

His conducting activities in Hungary include: second conductor of Miskolc Symphonic Orchestra (1979–1981); Master conductor (since 1989), Executive Music Director (since 2001) of Dohnányi Ernő Symphonic Orchestra, Budafok. He has conducted several Hungarian orchestras as a guest conductor. His conducting activities abroad include: first guest conductor of Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra (2002–2005); musical consultant for Philharmonia Singers, Tel Aviv (2002–2007). In addition to holding concerts with a great number of European orchestras, he was a guest conductor for Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Brazilian Symphony Orchestra, Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra and Taiwan National Symphony Orchestra.

Honours include: Meritorious Artist of Hungary (2015); Jerusalem Award (2006); Liszt Ferenc Prize (2004); Knight of Cross from the Order of Merit of the Hungarian Republic (2002).

# Festival events in 2022

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Solo Final

October 5, 8pm

Weill Recital Hall  
at Carnegie Hall

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Gabor Farkas  
solo piano

October 6, 7pm

Consulate General of Hungary

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Grand Final

October 7, 8pm

Carnegie Hall  
Stern Auditorium Perelman Stage

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Peter Toth  
solo piano

October 9, 2pm

Weill Recital Hall  
at Carnegie Hall

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Our Grand Final from Carnegie Hall will be live streamed on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube!

@newyorkliszt

Thank you to our sponsors & partners!

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