

COACHES' BIOGRAPHIES—SPRING 2012

ACCOMPANYING DEPT STUDENTS: [CURRENT & ALUMNI]

Pianist **NOBUKO AMEMIYA** has built a reputation as a dynamic and versatile collaborator. Equally committed to operatic and song repertoires, she traveled three continents to give recitals and concerts with renowned conductors and soloists such as Seiji Ozawa, James Conlon, Brian Priestman, Lucy Shelton, Judith Kellock, and Janna Batty. An enthusiastic advocate of new music, she has worked with and performed music by many of today's leading composers, including John Harbison, George Crumb, Bright Sheng, Oliver Knussen, and George Benjamin. Ms. Amemiya's engagements include various music festivals throughout the world, including Festival de Música da Figueira da Foz in Portugal, Britten-Pears Institute at Aldeburgh Music Festival, Franz Schubert Institute in Austria, Festival de Musique Lausanne in Switzerland, Aspen Music Festival, and Tanglewood Music Center where she was awarded Tanglewood Hooton Prize, acknowledging the "extraordinary commitment of talent and energy." She worked for Aspen Music School, International Institute of Vocal Arts, Opera North and Opera Mirai Project as a principle/staff coach, and currently works for Manhattan School of Music, American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, and Bronx Opera.

Accompanist/vocal coach, **KARINA AZATYAN**, extensively collaborates with leading figures of vocal art in United States, Europe and Israel. She has developed original method of coaching singers in Russian language based on knowledge of Italian, German, French and English IPA. On a stage Ms. Azatyan was heard in concerts with soloists from New York City Opera, New Israeli Opera, Kirov Opera House, Bolshoj Theater, Vienna State Opera House and many others. Among many distinguished artists Ms. Azatyan worked with and for are Oksana Krovvytska, Dimitri Kavrakos, Arthur Levy, Angela Brown, Dona Vaughn, Rita Shane, Maria Cleva (UK), Dan Ettinger (Israel), Robert Cowart, Nico Castel, James M. DeBlasis, Ljuba Kazarnovskaya (Russia), Charlie Ricker, Paolo Montarsolo (Italy), Bruno Rigacci (Italy), Svetlana Sandler (Israel), John Norris and Marc Verzatt. Ms. Azatyan has accompanied master classes with such artists as Vera Rozsa, Sherrill Milnes, Diana Soviero, Fedora Barbieri, Licia Albanese, Anna Moffo, Lucine Amara, Lauren Flanigan, Rashed Shulova, Michael Cordovana, Mignon Dunn, Martin Isepp, Martin Katz, Brian Zeger and John Wustman. She has served as accompanist and language coach for Opera Lyra in Ottawa, Dell'Arte Opera Ensemble, Virginia Opera, New Jersey Association of Verismo Opera, Israel Vocal Arts Institute, Brooklyn Youth Chorus Academy, Brooklyn College Opera Theater, "Oratorio" Chorus in Jerusalem, "Cantus" Chorus of Jerusalem Theater and "Chamber Chorus" of Jerusalem Academy of Music in Jerusalem. Ms. Azatyan holds a Professional Studies Certificate from the Manhattan School of Music in Accompanying, a master's from the Brooklyn College and Artists Diploma from the Jerusalem Rubin Academy of Music and Dance in Piano Solo Performance where she also studied church organ and harpsichord. Her mentors include musicians such as Warren Jones, Yelena Kurdina, Yevgeny Shenderovitch, Alexander Tamir, Yelena Galustova, Yelena Kaminskaya and Rashed Shulova.

Originally from São Paulo, Brazil, **FÁBIO BEZUTI** holds a master degree in piano accompanying from Westminster Choir College and a Professional Studies Certificate also in Piano Accompanying from Manhattan School of Music. While in Brazil, Mr. Bezuti played for the productions of Les Contes d'Hoffmann by J. Offenbach, Das Rheingold and Die Walküre by R. Wagner, Il Matrimonio Segreto by D. Cimarosa, Il Barbiere di Siviglia by G. Rossini, Rigoletto by G. Verdi, Pagliacci by R. Leoncavallo and Oedipus Rex by I. Stravinsky. Mr. Bezuti was also the pianist for the production of the opera Haroun and the Sea of Stories (songbook) by C. Wuorinen, and conductor for the productions of A Dinner Engagement by L. Berkeley and Maroquinhas Fru-Fru by E. Mahle.

A seasoned recitalist and orchestra soloist, pianist, **CHRISTOPHER CANO** has performed with the Tucson Symphony Orchestra, the Tucson Civic Orchestra, the Southern Arizona Symphony Orchestra, the Catalina Chamber Orchestra, and the University of Arizona Symphony Orchestra. Recital appearances have been in Europe, across the US, Mexico and the Far East. Mr. Cano has participated as a pianist at the International Vocal Arts Institute and has been on the faculties of the Intermezzo Foundation Festival and VOICE Experience summer programs. Currently, Mr. Cano is a staff coach at the Manhattan School of Music. Mr. Cano has also served on the music staff of Toledo Opera, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, San Diego Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Utah Festival Opera and The Opera Company of North Carolina. He is a graduate of The University of Arizona and the Manhattan School of Music where he was a student of Warren Jones.

KE COCO CHEN is in great demand as a vocal coach and collaborative pianist due to her first hand experience as a vocalist. She debuted at Carnegie Hall's Weill Hall as a collaborative pianist in 2008 and won the Bronze prize in the Chinese International Voice Competition in the same year. In addition to her Bachelor's degree from Eastman School of Music in voice and piano, she also received the Master's degree in Piano Accompanying from Manhattan School of Music, under the tutelage of John Forconi. Ms. Chen has worked with Lauren Flanigan, Frank Corsaro, Robert McDonald, Cristina Stanesco, Gait Sirguy, Kwangchul Youn, Kathryn Cowdrick, Tony Caramia, Joan Patenaude-Yamell. As a singer, her vocal appearances include solo soprano roles in *Messiah*, *Magnificat*, *Christams Oratorio*, *Troi Chansons de Charles d'Orleans*, as well as roles in *The Secret Garden* (Lily) and *Cosi Fan tutte* (Despina). Most recently she was on the cover page of Trinidad national magazine. She established a reputation by accompanying herself singing virtuosic French, Italian and Chinese art songs on the stage of National Performing Arts in Trinidad.

South African native **JEANNE-MINETTE CILLIERS** is equally in demand as vocal collaborator (both opera and song) and award-winning soloist. She has performed with prominent artists such as Frans Helmerson, Carlos Montané, Håkan Hagegård, Lester Lynch and David Daniels. Her recording of Dominick Argento's *Andrée Expedition* with Mr. Hagegård will be released this fall. She is the musical director for the Martina Arroyo Foundation, as well as American Opera Projects' Composer and the Voice program. As principal coach and pianist, she has worked at Glimmerglass Opera, as well as at the Santa Fe Opera. She has served as music staff at Si Parla Si Canta, and Centro Studi Lirica in Italy, The German for Singers Program at Middlebury College, VT, The Curtis Institute of Music, as well as the International Vocal Arts Institute in Tel Aviv. An expert on Scandinavian art song, she is the creator of www.SwedishSong.com, and in addition, specializes in staged, multi-art performances. She remains the only recipient of an Artist Diploma in vocal accompaniment from the Manhattan School of Music.

MOZART DE OLIVEIRA has performed at Avery Fisher Hall, Boston Symphony Hall, Carnegie Hall, Europe and South America. Mr. de Oliveira currently works as a vocal coach at Manhattan School of Music and as a pianist for the studio of Patricia McCaffrey. Mr. de Oliveira was also the conductor/vocal coach for the production of "The Rise and Fall of the First World", which premiered in New York City in April, 2010. He also worked as an assistant chorus master at New York City Opera and as a vocal coach at The Boston Conservatory. His students sing in major opera houses, including the Metropolitan Opera House, Vienna Staatsoper, Berlin Staatsoper, San Jose Opera, Houston Grand Opera and Santa Fe Opera. Mr. de Oliveira holds a master's in collaborative piano and a professional studies certificate from Manhattan School of Music. In addition to his formal education, he studied under the baton of Frank Corliss of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. In 1994, Mr. de Oliveira was awarded first place in Brazil's Bage National Piano Competition. He also worked at Guaira Opera Theater in Curitiba-Brazil, where he was the rehearsal pianist for five consecutive seasons. In 2002, the renowned violinist Charles Castleman invited Mr. de Oliveira to be a pianist at the Quartet Program at Bucknell University where he coached and performed with a series of chamber music groups. He has also participated in master-classes for legends such as Marilyn Horne, Ken Noda, Martin Katz, Charles Reiner, Daniel Ferro, Mignon Dunn, Ubaldo Fabbri, Maria Spacagna, Irma Vallecillo, Charles Castleman, Eleonore Schonfeld, Karen Richter, and James Lyon.

PAUL JARSKI has just returned from Newfoundland where he worked as a répétiteur for opera scenes at Opera on the Avalon. Before coming to New York he worked for Celestial Opera, Opera Gang, and Riverside Opera, and in 2010 as a répétiteur and French diction coach for a production of *Les Contes d'Hoffman* at California State University, Long Beach. He has accompanied masterclasses of Thomas Hampson, Marilyn Horne, Cheryl Studer, Maitland Peters, Diana Soviero, Robin Follman, and Bernard Uzan. While completing an undergraduate degree in piano from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, he has also been privileged to receive the guidance and instruction of Marcie Stapp who helped fuel his passion for languages. He is fluent in French, and experienced in English, French, German, and Italian diction. In 2006 he conducted a production of *Gianni Schicchi* at the Orange County High School of the Arts, where he also worked from 2005-2006 as a vocal coach. He is now finishing his master's in accompanying at the Manhattan School of Music where he studies with Warren Jones.

DURA JUN Coach and Collaborative Pianist : Born in Seoul, Korea, Dura Jun began her musical studies at the age of 5 where she was exposed to a wide spectrum of musical education upon entering Seoul Art High School. During that time she won numerous piano competitions in Korea. She received her Bachelor of Music Degree from the prestigious Seoul National University in Korea, where she studied with Icjoo Moon and she began to establish her career as a collaborative pianist. In 2010 she earned her Master's degrees at Manhattan school of Music and recently she has earned her Professional Studies degrees at Manhattan School of Music. Ms. Jun has studied with Thomas Muraco and John Forconi at Manhattan school of Music. Dura has performed with an impressive list of talented singers and instrumentalists at well known venues such as Weil Concert Hall in Carnegie Hall, Steinway Concert Hall and Yamaha Concert Hall. In the field Opera her non-stop schedule has resulted in performances promoted by Martina Arroyo Foundation of *La Boheme* and *Die Fledermaus* in their Summer Festival. She also performed two piano versions of *Rigoletto* and *Falstaff* under Mr. Thomas Muraco's conducting and she has played in the Opera Scenes Performances in Borden auditorium at Manhattan school of Music. Dura also has played for several seasoned artists' master classes such as Marilyn Horne, Thomas Hampson, Stephaen Blythe and Craig Rutenberg.

Pianist **SOYEON KIM** has appeared as a solo and collaborative pianist with an extensive range of vocal and instrumental repertoire throughout the United States, Europe and Korea. Last year Ms Kim performed in Water for Haiti Benefit Concert at Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center presented by The World Water Organization. She made her debut at the age of 14 with Mozart piano concerto with Taejeon Chamber Orchestra in Seoul. Soyeon Kim's performance venues include Alice Tully Hall, Metropolitan Museum of Arts, Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall, Weill Recital Hall, Merkin Concert Hall, Cami Hall, Yamaha Hall, German House in New York City, Steinway Piano Gallery in Westport, Notre Dame college in Baltimore, Sejong Center and ArKo Arts Theater in Seoul, Korea, the Croatian Music Institution in Zagreb, Croatia, Konzerthaus in Berlin and Gasteig in Munich, Germany and St. Leonhard Kirche in Graz, Austria. Ms Kim has performed at chamber series such as Princeton Symphony Orchestra Chamber Series, Cathedral Saint John Divine Concert Series, Trinity at One, and Music at Penn Alps. Soyeon Kim won awards for her artistry in several competitions, such as First Prize and Best interpretation in the Liszt in William Garrison Piano Competition, Second Prize in the Artur Balsam Competition for Duos, Music Academy of the West Fellowship in Santa Barbara, New Triad Foundation Fellowship in New York City, Laureate in Korea Festival Ensemble Chamber Music Competition, First Prize in Seoul National Teacher's College Piano Competition. Soyeon Kim has frequently participated in master classes with such artists as Marilyn Horne, Thomas Hampson, Daniel Ferro, Anna Moffo, Dalton Baldwin, Martin Katz, Brian Zeger, Bo Skovhus, Lauren Flanigan, Betty Allen, Glenn Dicterow, Edgar Meyer, Bonnie Hampton, John Graham, Keith Underwood, Choong-Jin Chang, Elenore Schoenfeld, Joaquin Valdepeñas, Anne Epperson, Jonathan Feldman, Robert McDonald and Daniel Pollack. She has been working as a staff pianist and a coach for Quartet Program, New York Vocal Institute, AIMS in Graz, and Manhattan School of Music Summer Voice Festival. She currently serves on the faculty at Montclair State University in New Jersey and Manhattan School of Music as a vocal coach. She has received B.M. and M.M. degrees in piano performance from Seoul National University, and a M.M. degree and D.M.A. degree in accompanying from Manhattan School with Dr. Heasook Rhee.

Pianist/Coach **MING KWONG** is actively involved in the opera industry. He is regularly engaged to play NYC auditions for many programs including Portland Opera. He was engaged as a faculty coach at the New Jersey CoOPERative program this past summer where colleagues included Anthony Manoli, Thomas Bagwell and William Hobbs. Ming is regularly engaged by the Metropolitan Opera Guild to accompany their master class series. His past credits include an assistant coach position at Glimmerglass Opera, Tanglewood Music Center (assisting Maestro James Levine on Don Giovanni), and an apprenticeship with Florida Grand Opera for their 2008-2009 season. He held a fellowship coach position at the Aspen Summer Music Festival and was a vocal pianist at the prestigious Music Academy of the West, where Marilyn Horne chairs the program. Mr. Kwong was the Music Director of the Undergraduate Opera Theater at Manhattan School of Music and has also worked with Maestro George Manahan on *Così fan tutte*. Equally at home in operatic repertoire and recital, Ming Kwong made his Kennedy Center (D.C) debut with Metropolitan Opera Competition Grand Winner Lori Guilbeau. He also collaborates regularly with his wife, soprano Jessica Stavros, who is currently engaged with Deutsche Oper am Rhein in Düsseldorf, Germany. He was chosen to work with Martin Katz and Craig Rutenberg in the renowned Cleveland Art Songs Festival in 2010. Other credits include performing on the Stephanie Blythe master class at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and the Joey Reynolds show – WOR news talk radio 710HD in October 2009. Mr. Kwong has been a prizewinner of numerous competitions, including First Prize in the Advanced Improvisation and Second Prize in the Advanced Bach Session in the 12th Hong Kong (Asia) Piano Open Competition. Ming Kwong holds a Masters degree in Piano Accompanying from Manhattan School of Music under the tutelage of Warren Jones, and a Masters degree in Vocal Performance from New England Conservatory.

EUNJUNG LEE has actively performed in Europe, US and Korea including Marilyn Horne Recital Series, BBC Radio and Live Broadcast in Chicago. She has appeared in music festivals such as Centro Studi Lirica (Italy), Mozarteum Sommer Akademie (Austria), and Aspen Music Festival. In 2009 she was appointed as Guildhall Artist Fellow at Guildhall School of Music and Drama (GSMD) in London, where she served as a répétiteur, coach for the opera department and an assistant music director for the Opera Ensemble classes. While in London, she worked with Opera Holland Park (*Fidelio*, *La Wally*), British Youth Opera (*Rake's Progress*), Riverside Opera (*Aida*) and Hampstead Garden Opera (*La Clemenza di Tito*, *Die Zauberflöte*). In addition, she was a staff pianist and continuo player at Cadogan Hall for Chelsea Opera Group and last year she involved in Minotaur Music Theater (London) as a Music Director. Born in Seoul, Korea, Eunjung received her BM from Ewha Womans University, and then MM in Piano Accompanying at MSM with Dr. Heasook Rhee. She then completed a 'Specialist in Collaborative Pianist' program with Martin Katz at University of Michigan. Currently she is an official pianist and coach at Project Opera of Manhattan.

JI YOUNG LEE is an accomplished musician with extend experience as both a solo pianist and a vocal coach. During the summer of 2007 and 2008, Ms. Lee was the coach of Chautauqua Institute voice program and 2005-2006 faculty of Hawaii Performing Arts festival, where she coached opera scenes and performed numerous concerts. Her performances include concerts at Carnegie Hall, Steinway Hall, Merkin Hall and Alice Tully Hall, Peter Jay Sharp Theater at Lincoln Center, where she performed the gala concert "Sing for Hope." Ms. Lee spent the summer of 2003 and 2004 as a coach for the San Francisco Opera Merola Program, coaching the casts of *Don Pasquale*, *The Rape of Lucretia*, *The Medium*, *Angelique*, and playing harpsichord in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. Ms. Lee has been the pianist for numerous Master Classes, including those of Marilyn Horne, Graham Johnson, Fedora Barbieri, Lauren Flanigan, Jane Eaglen, Tom Krause, Steven Blier, Licia Albanese, Robert Lloyd, Shirley Verrett and Stephen Lord. In 1999 and 2000, she received a fellowship to attend the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, CA, there, she played *Rodelinda*, and *Ariadne auf Naxos* and was the pianist winner for The 2000 Marilyn Horne Foundation Competition. Recently, she holds the position as a vocal coach at Manhattan School of Music and an adjunct faculty at NYU. Ms. Lee received M.M. degree from The Juilliard School and also received Professional Studies from both The Juilliard School and Manhattan School of Music.

An exceptional artist **Ü LEE** has engaged with opera productions as a conductor, a répétiteur, and a mezzo soprano. As a music director, Ms. Lee conducted *La bohème*, *Prima la musica poi le parole* (Salieri), *Impresario*, *La chute de la maison usher* (Debussy), *L'enfant et les sortilèges*. In 2011, Ms. Lee attended the rehearsal series of *Attila* at the Metropolitan Opera House as one of the conductors from the new generation invited by Riccardo Muti. The repertoire Ms. Lee worked on as a répétiteur has covered, *Gianni Schicchi*, *Il tabarro*, *Turandot*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Cendrillon* (Massenet), *Dialogues des carmélites*, *Les contes d'Hoffmann*, *Idomeneo*, *Così fan tutte*, *La clemenza di Tito*, *Don Giovanni*, *La voix humaine*, *Griffelkin*, *Too many sopranos*, *Rigoletto*, *La traviata*, *Dido and Aeneas*, *Il segreto di Susanna*, *Tosca*, and etc. In a singer, Ms. Lee has performed *Giulietta*, *Flora*, *La voix humaine*, *Glenda*, *Idamante*, *Dorabella*, *Mère Marie*, *Suzuki* (debut in Canada 2011), and etc. Ms. Lee has served in *Sarasota Opera* (Apprentice), *TriCities Opera* (Resident Artist), *Institute for Young Dramatic Voices*, *Yard Opera*, *Connecticut Grand Opera*, *Mercury Opera*, *Taipei Opera*, *Experimental Theater*, *PONY*, *Classical Singing and New York City*, *Binghamton University* (Adjunct Lecturer), and etc. Ms. Lee has studied with *Ron Raines*, *Dolora Zajick*, *Thomas Muraco*, *Margo Garrett*, *Scott Rednour*, *Catherine Mazzone*, *Giovanni Reggioli*, and has worked with conductors, *Victor DeRenzi*, *John Di Costanzo*, *Steven Osgood*, *David Neely*, *Andreas Ligeti* from classical to contemporary repertoire. Currently, Ms. Lee is conducting *L'occasione fa il ladro* with *Gotham Bel Canto*. In late Dec 2011, Ms. Lee will premier *Judith from Bluebeard's Castle* by *Bartók* in Taiwan with *Taipei Opera*.

French-Canadian pianist **EVE LEGAULT** is proud to take her place among the leading collaborative artists of her generation, having worked with such companies as the *Royal Opera House*, *Seattle Opera* and *Wolf Trap Opera*, in productions of *Les Pêcheurs de perles*, *Werther*, *Manon* and *L'Étoile*, among others. She is an active opera rehearsal pianist and French diction coach currently established in *New York City*. Ms. Legault's area of expertise is French opera, such as *Maurice Ravel's opera L'Enfant et les sortilèges*, for which she has written a new performance guide and never before published word-for-word and *International Phonetic Alphabet* translation. She has recently presented a masterclass on French diction and repertoire at the *Washington University*. Ms. Legault was a finalist in the "*Sylva Gelber Music Foundation*" Canadian competition "Musician of the Year 2009." As a duo member with baritone *David Kelleher-Flight*, she has been working closely with legendary pianist *Dalton Baldwin*. She is a *Doctoral candidate* at the *Manhattan School of Music*, where she studies with master collaborative pianist *Warren Jones*. Most recent engagements include this past Summer 2011 at *The Glimmerglass Festival* in their production of *Carmen*.

REBECCA MORDO, a native of Northern Virginia, is an engaging and moving musician in demand for her dynamic collaboration. She is equally committed both to the operatic and the song repertoire. Last season, Ms. Mordo was selected to observe and work in private coachings, orchestra and staging rehearsals with *Ricardo Muti* during his debut at the *Metropolitan Opera* performance of *Attila* by *Giuseppe Verdi*. Since 2005, Ms. Mordo has performed as a collaborative pianist at the *International Vocal Arts Institute (IVAI)* in *Tel Aviv, Israel* and *Puerto Rico* working closely with *Joan Dornemann*, assistant conductor at the *Metropolitan Opera*. Ms. Mordo has also attended the *Music Academy of the West* serving as a vocal coach for its production of *Mignon* by *Ambroise Thomas* in 2009 under the baton of *George Manahan*. In recent seasons, Ms. Mordo has been invited as a guest artist to *North Carolina School of the Arts*, *Orange County Pavilion in California*, *Mondavi Performing Arts Center in Davis, California* and the *Vanderbilt Mansion in Delray, FL*. Enjoying a flourishing career on the stage, she has also been asked to perform with signed artists from the *William Morris Agency in Los Angeles, CA* and has appeared as a solo and collaborative pianist in numerous concerts in *Brazil* and across the *United States*. Ms. Mordo continues to work closely with such prominent artists as *Ramón Vargas*, *Sherrill Milnes*, and *Marilyn Horne*. In addition, she is faculty at *Curtis Institute of Music*. Ms. Mordo received her *Bachelor of Music degree* from *Brigham Young University* and completed her *Master of Music degree* from *Manhattan School of Music* under the direction of renowned pianist, *Warren Jones*.

Pianist, **KAREN KYUNG-EUN NA** has established an active career not only as a pianist, but also as an opera coach, educator, and radio program director. Ms. Na has appeared as both soloist and collaborative artist at such distinguished venues as *Carnegie Hall*, *Lincoln Center*, *Steinway Hall* and *Town Hall* in the *New York Metropolitan area*, as well as throughout the other venues in *United States* and *Asia*. She recently finished her turn as an *Adjunct Faculty* at *Seoul Arts High School* and *Sungshin Women's University* in *Korea*. Prior to her teaching career in *Korea*, she served as a *Spectrum Resident Artist Coach* and an *Education Outreach Tour Manager* at the *Virginia Opera* for the season, 2008-2009. As a winner of the *Marilyn Horne Foundation* competition 2007, Ms. Na has participated in recital tour projects and master classes with young artist singers under the auspices of the *Marilyn Horne Foundation*. Ms. Na has participated as a coach and a pianist in the productions of *Puccini's La Bohème*, *Mozart's Idomeneo*, *Rossini's Il viaggio a Reims*, and *La Cenerentola* at *The Juilliard School*, *Music Academy of the West*, and *Aspen Opera Theater Center*. Her chamber music credits include performances with members of the *New York Philharmonic*, the *Metropolitan Opera Orchestra*, *Los Angeles Opera Orchestra*, and the *Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra*. Ms. Na's collaboration with composer *John Corigliano* and her solo appearance in the *New Juilliard Ensemble's New York premiere of Mary Finsterer's Concerto Grosso "NYX"* demonstrate her great commitment to contemporary music. In addition to her performing career she also had served as an assistant program director for *The Classical Collection* at *TBS English FM* in *Korea*. Born in *Seoul, Korea*, Ms. Na is currently pursuing her doctoral studies at *Manhattan School of Music* under the tutelage of *Warren Jones*. She holds her bachelor's degree in *Piano Performance* from *Yonsei University*, *Artist Diploma* from *Oberlin Conservatory*, and master's degree in *collaborative piano* from *The Juilliard School*, where she was a recipient of the prestigious *Samuel Sanders Collaborative Pianists Scholarship*. Her previous teachers include *Jonathan Feldman*, *Margo Garrett*, *Brian Zeger*, and *Haewon Song*.

A native Russian speaker, pianist **TAISIYA PUSHKAR** has performed in Italy, Serbia, Finland, Israel, Canada and the United States as part of her collaborations with singers and instrumentalists. As a winner of the Oberlin Concerto Competition, Taisiya performed Prokofiev's 1st piano concerto with the Oberlin Orchestra, and the recording was later featured on the WQXR radio station in New York. Ms. Pushkar made her Carnegie Hall debut this winter with the cellist Amber Docters Van Leeuwen at Weill Recital Hall. The duo has just recorded their debut program, and a CD will be released later this year. Through the generous sponsorship of the Sorel Organization, this summer Taisiya was invited as a vocal coach to the renowned Daniel Ferro vocal program in Greve in Chianti, Italy. Always striving for a complete artistic presentation, Taisiya has been a New Triad artist for several of their workshops, which focus on integrating drama, movement and musical expression of the singer/pianist team for maximum connection with the audience. Since 2009, Taisiya has been the pianist of the Melodia Women's Choir of NYC, a group dedicated to exploring rarely heard music written for women's voices, as well as nurturing emerging women composers through commissions and performances. An experienced educator, Taisiya is currently on the faculty of the Lucy Moses School in New York, and the Waterville Valley Music Center in New Hampshire (summer) and has been on the faculty at the Positano International Chamber Music Festival in Italy, and the Performing Arts Institute of Wyoming Seminary in Pennsylvania. Taisiya holds a Bachelor's Degree from Oberlin College, and a Master's Degree from the Manhattan School of Music, where she is currently working on her Doctor of Musical Arts Degree.

Ohio native **SHANE SCHAG** has performed in recital both as soloist and ensemble performer throughout the United States and Europe, including a concerto performance with the Ashland Symphony Orchestra. He has won several awards and scholarships among them the "Gwendolyn Koldofsky Award." He has worked in the capacity of vocal coach for Centro Studi Italiani Opera Festival, and as an assistant conductor for the Gotham Chamber Opera. In 2007, Mr. Schag made his debut at Weill Recital Hall (Carnegie Hall), and now he serves as staff pianist for Carnegie Hall's Musical Explorers concert series, which reaches out to public schools across the tri-state area, and the Lotte Lenya Competition in Rochester, New York. Recently, Mr. Schag appeared on PBS *SundayArts* in a showcase for rising, young opera singers. Also, Mr. Schag is a member of the vocal coaching faculty and resident Music Director for the American Musical Theater Ensemble at the Manhattan School of Music, and is thrilled to be presenting "Ragtime" this spring. During the summer, he is on the faculty of Operaworks in Los Angeles. Also refer to MSM faculty bios at → <http://www.msmnyc.edu/FacultyBio>

GORDON SCHERMER is an extremely versatile musician equally at home in opera, art song, musical theater and chamber music. Mr. Schermer is recognized for his thorough knowledge of the vocal repertoire and innate skill for languages, Italian being a particular specialty. He regularly plays in the studios of acclaimed voice teachers such as Joan Patenaude-Yarnell, Mignon Dunn and Edith Bers (chair, The Juilliard School) and coaches their students as well as accompanying them in recital. Mr. Schermer most recently acted as music director for *All Caught Up*, a new musical comedy, playing performances at the Broadway Comedy Club for six weeks. In 2009, Mr. Schermer was invited to attend the Aspen Music Festival and School as a fellowship coach. There he served as the children's chorus master for Puccini's *La bohème* and rehearsal pianist/coach for Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia*. In addition to his operatic duties, he was also chosen to play the Verdi Requiem for renowned conductor Leonard Slatkin. Mr. Schermer has worked as an assistant coach for Opera New Jersey where he prepared Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette* and Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*. At the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, he prepared productions of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea* and Bernstein's *Candide* with the late Jerry Hadley. He was selected as the official accompanist of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in the Central Illinois district in both 2006 and 2007. He has served on the music staff of the Austrian-American Mozart Academy in Salzburg, Austria, and the Scuola Italia Corso Estivo per Giovani Cantanti Lirici in Urbana, Italy and has appeared in master classes given by Marilyn Horne, Sherrill Milnes, Thomas Hampson, Ben Heppner, Catherine Malfitano, Nathan Gunn, Lauren Flanigan, Eric Halfvarson, William Matteuzzi and Sharon Sweet. Mr. Schermer is also a gifted conductor and has appeared in concert with the University of Illinois Symphony Orchestra in a 250th anniversary celebration of the birth of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. A native of Pittsburgh, PA, Mr. Schermer now resides in Manhattan. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Piano Performance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Master's Degree in Accompanying from Manhattan School of Music. His teachers have included Ian Hobson, Kenneth Merrill and John Wustman.

Conductor and pianist **DAVID ŠTECH** is a sought-after coach and accompanist in New York City and Chicago. He was awarded the Leonard Bernstein fellowship to conduct at Tanglewood and worked closely with renowned conductors Kurt Masur, Robert Spano, Christoph von Dohnányi and Raphael Frübeck de Burgos. While music director of the American Opera Group, he conducted *I Barbiere di Siviglia*, *La Bohème*, *Carmen*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Rigoletto*, *The Threepenny Opera*, and "in authentic 18th-century style, he both conducted the orchestra and accompanied the recitatives himself at the harpsichord" of *Così fan Tutte*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, and *Don Giovanni*. Mr. Štech was an assistant conductor and vocal coach at Opera in the Ozarks, and the Opera Theater and Festival of Lucca, Italy. Recognized for his versatility and musical insight, he was also on the faculty of DePaul University and Roosevelt University. In addition to recital collaboration, vocal coaching and studio accompanying, he offers the service of pianist rehearsal, in which a soloist can run through a work several times, in preparation for auditions, recitals or to become familiar with the accompaniment prior to a lesson or class. Known for his versatility, musicality and diction skills, he works closely with voice teachers to tailor coachings to support the student's progress at each stage of learning. Mr. Štech studied with each of the diction faculty at the Manhattan School of Music when he was a Professional Studies student of vocal accompanying in the studio of Ken Merrill. In addition to the four standard languages, Mr. Štech also coaches Czech and Castilian Spanish.

For the past ten years **KATE STEVENS** has been working and performing in New York City as a coach and collaborator. She began coaching at Manhattan School of Music while a student in the doctoral program, studying with John Forconi. Since that time Ms. Stevens has had the opportunity to collaborate with Dawn Upshaw and Peter Sellars on Kaija Saariaho's "La Passion de Simone;" she has also performed with Ms. Upshaw and John Harbison at the premiere of his "Milosz Songs" at Avery Fisher Hall. Ms. Stevens has worked with Margaret Lattimore, with conductors Esa-Pekka Salonen and Robert Spano, and most recently with John Adams, playing for the rehearsals of "A Flowering Tree" at the Los Angeles Philharmonic. She has played in the studios of Patricia Misslin, David Soyer, and Midori, and recently completed a concert tour in Australia with soprano Ji-Young Yang.

Born in Riga Latvia, **YEVGENIA TRUKSA** has received her Bachelor in Piano Performance in 2004 and completed her Master's Degree in Piano Performance from Texas Christian University in 2006. She has performed extensively in Europe and the United States both as a solo and collaborative artist. While still in high school, Yevgenia has worked as an accompanist and a vocal coach at the Latvian National Opera in Riga, Latvia (1996-2001), rehearsing with opera singers and performing vocal recitals as a collaborative artist. Since then, she has worked with a vast number of student and professional instrumentalists, singers, orchestras, chamber music groups, theatre and opera productions, as well as being an active teacher and solo performer. Yevgenia worked as an accompanist for both instrumental and vocal studios at Texas Christian University in 2004-2007. Her repertoire includes both Lieder and operatic repertoire. She has worked as an accompanist at San Diego University (2009-2010), as well as a private accompanist/coach.

Pianist **MAUREEN ZOLTEK** is in high demand as a collaborative artist and coach. She has been full-time keyboardist with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago and has performed as an orchestral pianist with both the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Elgin Symphony Orchestra under the batons of Pierre Boulez, Gustavo Dudamel, James Conlon, Valery Gergiev, Alan Gilbert, and Charles Dutoit. Ms. Zoltek enjoys both traditional and contemporary chamber music; most recently she participated in the 2010 Fischoff competition with her piano trio, Trio Sfacciato, as well as the Latino Music Festival in Chicago, Illinois. She has premiered works by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's composers in residence, Augusta Read Thomas and Marc Anthony Turnage, and has been heard live on WFMT, Chicago's classical radio station. In the summer of 2010 Ms. Zoltek attended the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, California as a Vocal Piano Fellow, and in 2009 was a Vocal Piano Fellow at the Aspen Music Festival and School in Aspen, Colorado. Ms. Zoltek holds a master's degree in Piano Performance and Musicology from Roosevelt University, a bachelor's degree in Piano Performance from DePaul University, and is currently pursuing her D.M.A. in Vocal Accompanying at the Manhattan School of Music. Her teachers have included Mary Sauer, celebrated principal pianist for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and Warren Jones, recently named the 2010 "Collaborative Pianist of the Year" by the publication Musical America. Ms. Zoltek has been the recipient of several awards and scholarships, including the Union League Civic and Arts Foundation scholarship and merit scholarships at all three college institutions. She has also recently participated in the "The Song Continues," performances and masterclasses held at Carnegie Hall, New York, part of the Marilyn Horne Legacy at Carnegie Hall. In her spare time she enjoys shopping for shoes, watching Law and Order SVU, and reading dry, British humor.

NON-MSM ACCOMPANYING DEPT GRADUATES:

MIRIAM CHARNEY – refer to MSM faculty bios at → <http://www.msmyc.edu/FacultyBio>

JOSU DE SOLAUN (born October 27, 1981) is a Spanish classical music pianist and winner of both the First Prize at the First European Union Piano Competition held in Prague, and the First Grand Prize at the XV Jose Iturbi International Piano Competition. He is the first pianist from Spain to have ever been awarded the coveted prize in the nearly 30 years of its existence. He has resided in New York City since moving there in 1999, at the age of 17, and is a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music, from which he holds a BM, MM, and DMA. Among the orchestras he has performed as a soloist with, are the Moscow Chamber Orchestra, Janacek Philharmonic Orchestra (formerly known as the Czech Radio Orchestra), Mexico City Philharmonic Orchestra, Spanish National Radio and Television Orchestra (RTVE Symphony), Orquesta de Valencia, Orchestra Sinfonica della Provincia di Bari in Italy, and the Monterey Symphony Orchestra of California, and under conductors such as Constantine Orbelian, Theodore Kuchar, Yaron Traub, Francesco Angelico, Miguel Angel Gomez Martinez, Ramon Tebar, Bruno Aprea, Max Bragado-Darman and Yuri Krasnapolsky. He performed recitals in such halls as Paris' Salle Cortot, Washington's Kennedy Center, New York's Carnegie Hall, Leipzig's Schumann Haus, Taipei's Novel Hall, and Mexico City's Sala Silvestre Revueltas, aside from all the main halls in Spain. He studies conducting with Bruno Aprea, principal conductor at the Palm Beach Opera in Florida, and has conducted orchestras in Spain. As a vocal coach, he has worked for many years as the pianist for Dona Vaughn's Graduate Opera Workshop and for Catherine Malfitano's voice studio. Future performances include solo recitals in Chicago, New York, Rome, Madrid, and orchestral performances in California and New York.

A versatile musician, **RIKO HIGUMA** is a highly sought-after pianist collaborator performing with the world's leading artists throughout the United States, Europe and Asia. As a soloist, she was a top-prize winner at the Jacob Flier International Piano Competition and the Santa Fe International Piano Competition. Ms. Higuma has participated in numerous music festivals around the world, including the Nagano-Aspen Music Festival and the LaJolla Music Society Summerfest in California, where her live solo performance was broadcast on NPR's Performance Today. Notably, she was one of the Young Artists for the Van Cliburn Piano Institute in Fort Worth, where she appeared with the Fort Worth Symphony. Ms. Higuma's collaborations on the recital and concert stage have included distinguished artists such as Albert Markov, Neil Rosenshein, Jeffrey Solow, Aaron Rosand, Cho-Liang Lin, Alan Gilbert, Steven Tanenbom, Dora Schwarzberg, Timothy Eddy, Yovan Markovitch, and Suren Bagratuni among others. As a vocal accompanist, she has worked for such festivals as Lidal North in Norway, Intermezzo in Belgium and Summer Voice Program in New York. She is also a regular pianist of the International Academy of Music in Italy and the Summit Music Festival in New York, where she performed a gala recital with the legendary violinist Aaron Rosand. With her acclaimed ensemble group, The Zodiac Trio, she has been claiming top prizes at international competitions which include the International Peninsula Young Artist Festival, Yellow Spring Chamber Music Competition, Joyce Dutka Arts Foundation, and the Cziffra Foundation audition. Their concert at the Festival Radio France in Montpellier was broadcast on France 3 television. Ms. Higuma studied with Phillip Kawin at the Manhattan School of Music and chamber music with the Ysaye String Quartet in their Superior Chamber Music Program in Paris.

CHUN-WEI KANG, pianist, is a native of Taiwan. She has performed in concerts both as soloist and ensemble performer throughout the United States, Canada and East Asia, including concerto performances with the Kingston Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Kang has appeared on national Taiwanese television in recitals with her brother, Long-Long Kang, a violinist, and was broadcast in Japan with soprano Monique McDonald. She has won several awards and scholarships including the Gwendolyn Koldofsky Memorial Award, which was given to "a musician who demonstrated outstanding professionalism in collaborative piano." She has served as staff pianist in the National Music Competition in Taiwan, Canadian Provincial Festival, the Centro Studi Italiani Opera Festival, and International Vocal Arts Institute in Puerto Rico. A graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music with a Master's degree, Ms. Kang is a vocal coach and pianist at Manhattan School of Music, and a faculty member of Long Island University, and OperaWorks in Los Angeles. She has also been the Assistant Music Director for the New Choral Society since 2007. Most recently, she appeared on PBS SundayArts in a showcase for rising young opera singers, and was the Assistant Music Director for *The Tailor of Gloucester* at MSM.

DUK KYU KIM received a Bachelor of Music degree and a Post Graduate Diploma in Classical Piano Performance at the Royal Academy of Music, in London where he was very actively involved in concerts and festivals as soloist, chamber musician and accompanist. He moved to the USA and received a Master of Music degree and a Professional Studies Certificate in Classical piano performance at Manhattan School of Music where he began to extend his musical career as a fine accompanist. His past four years at MSM were spent mainly working in vocal studios where he was described as a sensitive, enthusiastic and passionate pianist. His musical ability also displays a great deal of making the right sound quality with the voice to create drama and character; and his sensitive approach with singers led him to become a vocal coach at MSM.

ROBERT KOPELSON has appeared as piano soloist, collaborator, chamber musician and conductor on four continents for as many decades. He has worked with such distinguished musicians as Itzhak Perlman, Dorothy DeLay, Janos Starker, Cho-liang Lin, Robert McDuffie, Joel Smirnoff, Paul Doktor, Felix Galimir, Renata Scotto, Christa Ludwig, Anna Moffo, Roberta Peters, John Aler, Heidi Grant Murphy, Hugues Cuénod, Evelyn Lear, Jan de Gaetani, Alexander Kipnis, Lotte Lenya, Eleanor Steber, Jennie Tourel, Pierre Bernac and Tito Gobbi. He has been an assisting artist with the Martina Arroyo Foundation, the Opera Theatre and Music Festival of Lucca, the Daniel Ferro Vocal Program (Greve in Chianti, Italy), Carnegie Hall Presentations, the Spoleto Vocal Institute, and festivals such as Aspen and Tanglewood. He has taught at the Yale and Syracuse University Schools of Music, Loyola-New Orleans, New York, Seoul City, Sook-Myung Women's and Seoul National Universities, the Mannes College of Music and the Sweelinck Conservatorium Amsterdam. Since 2001 he has been on the Related Vocal Studies faculty of MSM. . Also refer to MSM faculty bios at → <http://www.msmnyc.edu/FacultyBio>

ANN LEWIN is a native New Yorker and a graduate of the High School of Music and Art, Barnard College and U.C.L.A. (Master of Arts in Music). She has studied coaching with Alberta Masiello, Felix Popper, Joan Dornemann and Natalie Limonick; advanced piano with Alan Marks and Elizabeth Moschetti; composition and orchestration with Roy Harris; conducting and score reading with Rudolf Thomas; and voice with Edith Gordon Ainsberg. She has been assistant conductor and coach/pianist for over 50 opera productions in the United States for New Orleans Opera, Florentine Opera of Milwaukee, Opera Colorado, Michigan Opera Theater, Mississippi Opera, Opera Carolina and Vancouver Opera. She has been on staff at Opera Music Theater International (OMTI), Opera Colorado Young Artists Training Center and the University of Texas at Austin, where she was principal coach and lecturer. Since 2000, she has been on the faculty of Mannes College. In addition, Ms. Lewin has performed many recitals throughout the U.S., including 20 with Metropolitan Opera tenor and diction specialist, Nico Castel. Since 2003, Ms. Lewin has been on the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music. Also refer to MSM faculty bios at → <http://www.msmnyc.edu/FacultyBio>

MATTHEW LOBAUGH is a freelance vocal coach/accompanist currently living in New York City. He began training at Southern Methodist University (Dallas, TX) and graduated with B.M. degrees in both Piano and Vocal Performance. Matthew holds the M.M. in collaborative piano from Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (Cincinnati, OH) and also was a participant in the Artist Diploma program in opera coaching. A graduate of the Domingo-Thorton Young Artist Program at the Los Angeles Opera (2008-10), his professional operatic credits include the Cincinnati Opera (2007-10), Virginia Opera (2010), Amore Opera and Pacific Opera. He has worked in various positions in the opera house ranging from coach/accompanist to assistant-conductor and chorusmaster. Matthew is also featured on the companion CD to the Menotti Arias for Soprano Anthology, published by Hal Leonard (2008).

DAVID MAYFIELD Received a Bachelor's in Performing Arts with an emphasis in Musical Directing for the Theater; after winning a scholarship to the Cleveland Orchestra's Blossom Music Festival School, he received the M.M. from University of North Texas, where he played master classes with Dominick Argento and Horst Guenter, and spent summers in classes with famed accompanist John Wustman. In this period he worked at Dallas Opera, Virginia Opera and the touring company of New York City Opera, and conducted companies in Dallas and the Slovak Republic spending three summers with Utah Festival Opera as conductor and chorus master. He has prepared numerous operas as assistant conductor as well as playing recitatives for productions of Il Barbiere di Siviglia and Don Giovanni. His repertoire includes Le Nozze di Figaro, Aida, The Student Prince, Die Fledermaus, Madama Butterfly, Carmen, Giulio Cesare, Les Contes d'Hoffmann, The Face on the Barroom Floor, Coyote Tales, The Medium, Il Trovatore, Cavalleria Rusticana/Pagliacci, La Fanciulla del West, Il Trittico, La Traviata, L'Elisir d'Amore, Don Pasquale, Falstaff, Ariadne auf Naxos, The Impresario, The Magic Flute, and Hansel und Gretel. In New York since 1997, Mr. Mayfield was vocal coach at the New School, playing for Liza Minnelli's master classes; at New Jersey City University (since 2005) he coaches, teaches Vocal Literature, Diction, and works with the Baroque ensemble, and prepared Dido and Aeneas with period instruments; he recently conducted The Magic Flute, directed by Met artist Anthony Laciura. Recent recitals have taken him to Key West; Dover, Delaware; the island of Grenada, and Bloomington, Indiana; since 2004 he has conducted master classes at the Midwest Festival of Song/Academy, on campus of U Minnesota in 2011; he has also been with State Repertory Opera in New Jersey. In January of 2009 performed a new song cycle at the International Conference on the Arts and Humanities in Honolulu; he has performed in Austria, Hungary, Paris, Mexico and the Slovak Republic. Summer 2011 he was assistant conductor/continuo for the Phoenicia Festival of the Voice, with a Met Opera cast and conductor; he returns to UM/Duluth in the spring of 2012 to perform on their Ovation recital series.

BEATA NAVRATIL has worked as a piano teacher, accompanist, vocal and ensemble coach in private studios for more than 15 years. Her engagements include music department of the Hunter College (piano), the Kingsbridge Church (choir director/organist), the Khrimian Lyceum (choir director), the Centro Studi Italiani in Italy, the Brooklyn Opera Company, the Vertical Players, and various public and private schools as an accompanist, coach, and director. Beata Navratil is a Candidate DMA at CUNY Graduate Center in Piano Performance, currently working on her dissertation exploring the relationship of poetry in music and music manifestations in poetry. She holds MM and BM in Piano Performance from MSM. Mrs. Navratil has performed in numerous venues throughout the US and Europe as a soloist, chamber musician, and accompanist. She is a recipient of the Gulbekian Foundation Award, the All-American scholar, and the US Academy Achievement Award. She is fluent in Russian, Armenian, and English and has a good knowledge of Czech, French, and Italian. Mrs. Navratil has a strong belief that a vocal coach can greatly enhance and accelerate the learning process in all musical aspects such as rhythm, style, ensemble work, memorization, diction etc. She had the great privilege of working as an accompanist for almost all vocal teachers at MSM and many others in New York City over the past 15 years.

ERIC SEDGWICK is an accompanist and coach at the Manhattan School of Music. He serves as accompanist for the Riverdale Choral Society and Stonewall Chorale in New York City, as a coach for the OperaWorks summer program in southern California, and performs regularly with Broadway Concerts Direct alongside such artists as Marni Nixon, Leona Mitchell and Sarah Rice. Mr. Sedgwick holds a Masters degree in piano performance from Manhattan School of Music where he studied with Marc Silverman, as well as a B.A. in English Literature from Brown University. He has won numerous awards as a solo pianist, including the Buxtehude premium for excellence in music, the Brown University Concerto competition (Brahms 2nd) and the Steinway Competition of Boston. An advocate of new music, Mr. Sedgwick has premiered works by contemporary composers including Seymour Barab, Joelle Wallach and Louis Hardin. He has also appeared in cabaret shows at the Duplex, Birdland and the Metropolitan Room in New York.

GAIT SIRGUEY – refer to MSM faculty bios at → <http://www.msmnyc.edu/FacultyBio>