

# Charles Abramovic, piano

With guest faculty:

Hirono Oka, violin

John Koen, cello

Kathryn Leemhuis, mezzo-soprano

Mimi Stillman, flute

Guest student performers:

Sarah Lee

Margarita Shatilova

Hsin-Wei Tsai

*Part of the 2025 Boyer Keyboard Festival*

Tuesday, February 4, 2025 · 7:30 PM

Rock Hall Auditorium

1715 N. Broad Street

Philadelphia, PA 19122



## Program

Ma mère l'Oye

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

Pavane de la Belle au bois dormant : Lent

Petit Poucet: Très modéré

Laideronnette, impératrice des pagodes: Mouvt de marche

Les entretiens de la belle et de la bête: Mouvt de valse très modéré

Le jardin féerique: Lent et grave

Hsin-Wei Tsai, Margarita Shatilova, Sarah Lee

Shéhérazade

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

Asie

La flûte enchantée\*

L'indifférent

Kathryn Leemhuis, mezzo-soprano

Mimi Stillman, flute

Piano Trio

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

Modéré

Pantoum (Assez vif)

Passacaille (Très large)

Final (Animé)

Hirono Oka, violin

John Koen, cello

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The use of photographic, audio and video recording is not permitted.

Please turn off all electronic devices.

Two hundred-second performance of the 2024-2025 season.

## About the Artists

**CHARLES ABRAMOVIC** is Chair of Keyboard Studies at Temple University's Boyer College of Music in Philadelphia, where he has taught since 1988. Mr. Abramovic has performed often with such stellar artists as Midori, Sarah Chang, Robert McDuffie, Viktoria Mullova, Kim Kashkashian, Mimi Stillman and Jeffrey Khaner. His recording of the solo piano works of Delius for DTR recordings has been widely praised. He has recorded for EMI Classics with violinist Sarah Chang, and Avie Recordings with Philadelphia Orchestra principal flutist Jeffrey Khaner. An active participant in the musical life of Philadelphia, he performs regularly with the Dolce Suono Ensemble, Network for New Music, Orchestra 2001, and has frequently been a substitute orchestral pianist with the Philadelphia Orchestra. In 1997 he received the Career Development Grant from the Philadelphia Musical Fund Society. He has received the Creative Achievement Award and Great Teacher awards from Temple University. Charles Abramovic is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, the Peabody Conservatory, and received his DMA from Temple University. His teachers have included Natalie Phillips, Eleanor Sokoloff, Leon Fleisher, and Harvey Wedeen.

American mezzo-soprano **KATHRYN LEEMHUIS** has performed with international opera companies such as the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Dallas Opera, Cincinnati Opera, Teatro Colón, Fort Worth Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Florentine Opera, Chicago Opera Theater, Ash Lawn Opera, and Annapolis Opera, among others. Her most notable roles include Dorabella in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, Suzuki in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, Dido in Pucell's *Dido and Aeneas*, Zerlina in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, the Mother in Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, Paquette in Bernstein's *Candide*, Hänsel in Humperdinck's *Hänsel und Gretel*, Giulietta in Offenbach's *Les contes d'Hoffmann*, Amaltea in Rossini's *Mosè in Egitto*, and Florence Pike in Britten's *Albert Herring*. As a mezzo-soprano soloist on the concert stage, Leemhuis has performed at the Ravinia Festival, the Grant Park Music Festival, the Boise Philharmonic, with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, and the Boston Symphony Orchestra at the Tanglewood Music Festival. She performed with Chicago's Music of the Baroque in both Haydn's *Missa in Angustiis* and *Mass in the Time of War*, with the Apollo Chorus of Chicago in Händel's *Messiah*, and with *Gloriae Dei Cantores* in Mozart's *Requiem* and Vaughan Williams' *The Pilgrim's Progress*. She has also performed multiple times with the Richmond Symphony, presenting Berlioz's *Les nuits d'été*, Berlioz's *Roméo et Juliette*, and Mendelssohn's *Die erste Walpurgisnacht*.

During her years as a young artist, Leemhuis performed multiple roles in the Lyric Opera of Chicago's Ryan Opera Center, including Giovanna in Verdi's *Ernani*, Glasa in Janáček's *Kát'a Kabanová*, Javotte in Massenet's *Manon*, and the Kunstgewerblerin in Berg's *Lulu*. She understudied Marguerite in Berlioz's *La damnation de Faust*, Siebel in Gounod's *Faust*, Varvara in Janáček's *Kát'a Kabanová*, Kate Pinkerton in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, and Lola in Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana*. Leemhuis was also a young artist with Opera Theatre St. Louis' Gerdine Young Artist Program, the Carmel Bach Festival, Ravinia's Steans Institute, and the Tanglewood Music Center, where she performed *Dorabella* under the baton of Maestro James Levine. As a singer in the competition arena, Leemhuis has won several prizes, most notably with the Shreveport Opera, the New York Lyric Opera, the Opera at Florham, the Bel Canto Competition, the Heida Hermanns Competition, the National Opera Association, the Opera Birmingham, the Florida Grand Opera, the Gerda Lissner Foundation, the Fort Worth McCammon Foundation, the Licia Albanese-Puccini Foundation, the Sullivan Foundation, the George London Foundation, the Giulio Gari Foundation, the Orpheus Vocal Competition, and the Opera Columbus Vocal Competition. She was a National Semi-Finalist in the 2012 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. Leemhuis is a native of Columbus, Ohio.

Flutist **MIMI STILLMAN** is an internationally acclaimed soloist, chamber musician, teacher, recording artist, media host, and founding Artistic Director of *Dolce Suono Ensemble*, her chamber music ensemble which has given 71 world premieres in 20 seasons. Praised by *The New York Times* as "not only a consummate and charismatic performer, but also a scholar whose programs tend to activate ear, heart, and brain," she is renowned for her virtuosity, insightful interpretation, and adventurous programming. She has performed as soloist with *The Philadelphia Orchestra*, *Marine Chamber Orchestra of the "The President's Own" US Marine Band*, *Orquesta Sinfónica de Yucatán*, recitals at *Carnegie Hall*, the *Kennedy Center*, *Verbier Festival (Switzerland)*, and taught masterclasses for the *National Flute Association*, *Eastman School of Music*, *École Normale de Musique de Paris*, universities and conservatories throughout the United States, Europe, and Latin America. Her concerts and recordings are broadcast globally, and she is the host of the popular "Tea with Mimi" livestream show. Ms Stillman is a published author on music and history, a composer and arranger, and a *Yamaha Performing Artist and Clinician*. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the *Curtis Institute of Music*, where she studied with the legendary *Julius Baker* and *Jeffrey Khaner*, and a Master's Degree in history from the *University of Pennsylvania*. She is artist-in-residence on faculty at *Temple University's Boyer College of Music and Dance*.

**HIRONO OKA** is a member of the first violin section of The Philadelphia Orchestra. She made her debut in her native Japan at the age of eleven with the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra. After winning numerous competitions and awards in Japan, she came to The United States to continue her studies at The San Francisco Conservatory and The Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. Ms. Oka has appeared as soloist with The San Francisco Chamber Ensemble, The Utica Symphony Orchestra and numerous other orchestras in the Philadelphia area. As a busy chamber musician she has appeared with The Marlboro Music Festival, "Chamber Music West" in San Francisco, The Theatre Chamber Players of The Kennedy Center, The Philadelphia Orchestra Chamber Music Series, Network for New Music, the Delaware Chamber Music Festival and The Philadelphia Chamber Music Society. She has also toured throughout the United States with The Brandenburg Ensemble and Music from Marlboro. She has performed and collaborated with world-renowned artists such as Jaime Laredo, Alexander Schneider, Leon Fleischer, Yefim Bronfman and Murray Perahia. In addition to her own private teaching studio, Ms. Oka is a faculty member of Rutgers University, Temple University and its Music Preparatory Division. She was the recipient of Temple University music preparatory division's 2019 Inspiration Award.

**JOHN KOEN** has been a member of The Philadelphia Orchestra since 1990. He was promoted to Acting Assistant and then Acting Associate Principal Cello from 2011 to 2016. He graduated from The Curtis Institute of Music where he studied with David Soyer and Peter Wiley of the Guarneri Quartet. He has collaborated in chamber music with Emanuel Ax, Joshua Bell, Christoph Eschenbach, Stephen Hough, Lang Lang, Wolfgang Sawallisch, Jean-Yves Thibaudet and many others. Mr. Koen became the Music Director of The Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble in 2022. He performs as a recitalist, and as a soloist with orchestras across America as well as in Europe. He has given master classes in universities from Seoul to Sofia, and has been artist faculty at Temple University since 2006. His recording of "Seven Mad Gods" by Robert Maggion was nominated for GLAAMA's "Best Instrumental Performance." He received the C. Hartman Kuhn award from The Philadelphia Orchestra for "a musician who has shown both musical ability and enterprise of such character as to enhance the musical standards and reputation of The Philadelphia Orchestra." His interests include reading, languages, traveling, food and health, technology, and playing with his two cats

**HSIN-WEI TSAI** is a Master's student in the Collaborative Piano/Chamber Music degree program. She studies with Lambert Orkis and Charles Abramovic.

**MARGARITA SHATILOVA** is a Master's student in the Collaborative Piano/Keyboard degree program. She studies with Lambert Orkis and Charles Abramovic.

**SARAH LEE** is a student in the DMA Piano Performance program. She studies with Charles Abramovic.

## **Boyer College of Music and Dance**

The Boyer College of Music and Dance offers over 500 events open to the public each year. Students have the unique opportunity to interact with leading performers, composers, conductors, educators, choreographers and guest artists while experiencing a challenging and diverse academic curriculum. The Boyer faculty are recognized globally as leaders in their respective fields. Boyer alumni are ambassadors of artistic leadership and perform with major orchestras, opera and dance companies, teach at schools and colleges and work as professional music therapists, choreographers and composers. Boyer's recording label, BCM&D records, has produced more than thirty recordings, five of which have received Grammy nominations.

[boyer.temple.edu](http://boyer.temple.edu)

## **The Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts**

The Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts consists of the Boyer College of Music and Dance, School of Theater, Film and Media Arts, the George and Joy Abbott Center for Musical Theater and the Temple Performing Arts Center. The School of Theater, Film and Media Arts engages gifted students with nationally and internationally recognized faculty scholars and professionals. A hallmark of the School of Theater, Film and Media Arts is the Los Angeles Study Away program, housed at historic Raleigh Studios. The George and Joy Abbott Center for Musical Theater engages visiting performers, guest artists, set designers, playwrights and other Broadway professionals. The Temple Performing Arts Center (TPAC), a historic landmark on campus, is home to a state-of-the-art 1,200 seat auditorium and 200 seat chapel. More than 500 concerts, classes, lectures and performances take place at TPAC each year.

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## **Temple University**

Temple University's history begins in 1884, when a young working man asked Russell Conwell if he could tutor him at night. It wasn't long before he was teaching several dozen students—working people who could only attend class at night but had a strong desire to make something of themselves. Conwell recruited volunteer faculty to participate in the burgeoning night school, and in 1888 he received a charter of incorporation for "The Temple College." His founding vision for the school was to provide superior educational opportunities for academically talented and highly motivated students, regardless of their backgrounds or means. The fledgling college continued to grow, adding programs and students throughout the following decades. Today, Temple's more than 35,000 students continue to follow the university's official motto—*Perseverantia Vincit*, or "Perseverance Conquers"—with their supreme dedication to excellence in academics, research, athletics, the arts and more.

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