



2021 UMTA/MTNA Piano Performance Competition Judges' Bios

Dr. Spencer Myer

Gold Medalist of the 2008 New Orleans International Piano Competition, **Spencer Myer** has been a soloist with The Cleveland Orchestra, the Indianapolis Symphony, the Johannesburg Philharmonic, and Beijing's China National Symphony. His 2005 tour of South Africa included a performance of Beethoven's five piano concerti with the Chamber Orchestra of South Africa. In December 2014, he gave his second solo recital at London's Wigmore Hall.

In 2004, he captured First Prize in the 10th UNISA International Piano Competition in South Africa, and won the 2006 Christel DeHaan Fellowship from the American Pianists Association. He was a member of Astral Artists' performance roster from 2003 to 2010.

An avid chamber musician, he has collaborated with the Jupiter and Pacifica string quartets, the Dorian Wind Quintet, cellists Lynn Harrell and Ralph Kirshbaum, and clarinetist David Shifrin. His growing reputation as a vocal collaborator since winning the 2000 Marilyn Horne Foundation Competition has led to partnerships with Cardiff Singer of the World winner Nicole Cabell and Wigmore Hall Song Competition winner Martha Guth, among others.

Spencer Myer is a graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory, The Juilliard School, and Stony Brook University, and is currently a member of the Piano and Collaborative Piano faculty of Boston's Longy School of Music of Bard College. Since 2017 he has released four CDs on the Steinway & Sons label — Piano Rags of William Bolcom, and three discs with cellist Brian Thornton, encompassing repertoire of Brahms, Debussy and Schumann. Spencer Myer is a Steinway Artist.

Dr. Minju Choi Witte

Lauded for being "positively mesmerizing at the piano" by The Times-Tribune, Korean-American pianist **Minju Choi Witte** has performed throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, and Asia as a recitalist, soloist, and chamber musician. Minju has been presented in recitals in cities in the U.S. and abroad, including Paris, New York City, Philadelphia, and Myra Hess Memorial Series in Chicago. She has performed solo concerts in prestigious venues such as David Geffen Hall, Chicago Cultural Center, Schola Cantorum in Paris, and Steinway Hall. Her 2018 solo debut album Boundless under Navona Records label garnered her a feature review in the Gramophone Magazine and has been performed on radio stations across North America and Europe.

Until recently, Minju Choi Witte served as an Assistant Professor of Piano at Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri. While at MSU, she created its Young Artists Keyboard Academy, which is a summer program for pre-college keyboardists. She has given masterclasses and pedagogy lectures at universities across the U.S. including at West Virginia University, University of Iowa, Butler University, University of Memphis, and Brigham Young University. She has similarly taught in S. Korea at Gwangju University and at Honam Christian University. In 2021, Minju was appointed to serve on the Research and Diversity Committees of the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy, hosted by the Frances Clark Center for Keyboard Pedagogy. Through the changing world of the pandemic, Minju decided to return home to Indianapolis where she could be closer to family. Her mission as an artist and as an educator is to holistically connect with others through the universal language of music.

Dr. David Berry

A native of Syracuse, NY, **David Berry**'s performances have been featured in venues such as Carnegie Hall, The Kimmel Center, Merkin Hall, as well as live broadcasts of WQXR (New York City). As a performer of new music, he has worked with or premiered works by a number of noted composers, including James Lee III, Adolphus Hailstork, and Jennifer Higdon. Dr. Berry was a featured soloist in the Juilliard School's Focus Festival, All About Elliott, celebrating the 100th birthday of Elliott Carter.

An avid chamber musician, Dr. Berry has collaborated with members of many of the nation's leading orchestras, including the New Jersey, Houston, St. Louis, Dallas, and Seattle symphonies. He is a resident member of the Jacksonville, Florida based Ritz Chamber Players, The Harlem Chamber Players, and the innovative chamber music theater group, the Core Ensemble.

David received his Bachelor of Music with High Distinction from the Eastman School of Music, and Masters and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in piano performance from the Juilliard School. His teachers have included Martin Canin, Douglas Humpherys, and George Skafidas, with chamber music studies under Seymour Lipkin, Jacob Lateiner, and Jonathan Feldman. David is currently Associate Professor and Chair of the Music Department at Eastern Mennonite University.

Dr. Greg Anderson

In pursuit of his mission to make classical music a relevant and powerful force in society, **Greg Anderson** has developed a multi-faceted career as a pianist, composer, and filmmaker. His exploits have attracted the attention of such media outlets as PBS, MTV, the BBC and the *Today Show*; *Gramophone*, *Clavier Companion*, *Listen*, and *Pianist* magazines; and NPR's *A Prairie Home Companion*, *Performance Today*, and *All Things Considered*. He is profiled in Nick Romeo's book, *Driven*.

Greg has toured extensively as a recitalist, orchestral soloist, and chamber musician in most major cities worldwide. For nearly two decades, Greg has performed in collaboration with Elizabeth Joy Roe as the Anderson & Roe Piano Duo, noted as "the most dynamic duo of this generation" (*San Francisco Classical Voice*) and "the very model of complete 21st-century musicians" (*The Washington Post*). Their five critically acclaimed albums have spent dozens of weeks at the top of the Billboard Classical Charts, while their Emmy-nominated, self-produced music videos have been viewed by millions on YouTube and at international film festivals. They have presented at numerous leader symposiums and hosted NPR's *From the Top* and medici.tv's webcast of the Cliburn International Piano Competition.

Greg's compositions and arrangements are featured on the Universal, EMI, Sony, and Steinway record labels and have received premieres at Alice Tully Hall, the Gilmore International Piano Festival, and the Rose Bowl. His works are published by Alfred Music on the "Anderson & Roe Duos & Duets Series" and by Awkward Fermata Press.

Greg received his doctorate from Yale University and his master's and bachelor's degrees from The Juilliard School. He is a Steinway artist.