



# The Sara Compinsky Master Class

**Performers**

Raya Sadigursky  
(818) 706-0429

**Leaders**

Ornela Ervin  
(805) 241-5186

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Mary A. Hannon  
(626) 354-0786

**Website & Facebook**

Noelle Compinsky Tinturin  
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**Treasurer**

Karen Rae  
(310) 383-0200

**Refreshments**

Toni Sherman  
(818) 342-3401

## MARCH 2018

### Sara Compinsky Master Class features these guest leaders for the 2017- 2018 season:

March 14 - Robert Thies  
Keyboard Concepts

April 11 - Craig Richey  
Keyboard Concepts

May 9 - Rufus Choi  
Studio of Rufus Choi

If you are scheduled to bring refreshments for March call Toni Sherman at (818) 342-3401.

Newsletter announcements should be emailed to:  
[maryhannon123@gmail.com](mailto:maryhannon123@gmail.com).

Visit The Sara Compinsky Master Class Website  
at:[www.saracompinskymasterclass.com](http://www.saracompinskymasterclass.com).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Classical Encounters Foundation is proud to present the **Prima Trio** on Saturday, March 10th at 3:00 p.m. Please go to our updated website at [www.classicalencounters.org](http://www.classicalencounters.org) for complete program information.

Piano Spheres proudly presents pianist **Gloria Cheng** and pianist composer **Terry Riley** in concert on Tuesday, March 6 at Zipper Hall at the Colburn School. For tickets go to [pianospheres.org](http://pianospheres.org).

Pianist **Rufus Choi** will perform the Emperor Concerto on April 14 at 7:30 with the Chamber Orchestra of South Bay. For tickets go to [Palos Verdes Performing Arts.com](http://PalosVerdesPerformingArts.com).

**Please note that the MARCH 14 CLASS WILL BE HELD AT KEYBOARD CONCEPTS**

(See directions and program on pg 3)

### Attention teachers and performers

Raya Sadigursky is in charge of performers and can be reached at (818) 706-0429 or by email at [rayasadigursky@gmail.com](mailto:rayasadigursky@gmail.com). If you are interested in performing please call Raya.

"We all need to train and set our own standards for judging ourselves. How do we do this? 1) By studying the printed page intently in order to arrive at the composer's intentions; 2) By listening to various interpretations by fine artists and arriving at our own standards and personal tastes; 3) By participation in the class, by questioning and voicing our own opinions in relationship to the comments made by the leader and others. In becoming more stimulated we will be able to arrive at a clearer understanding of the music and its performance and develop our own individual thinking. In this way the auditors and performers will benefit even more from the master class." ~ SARA COMPINSKY

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**MARCH 14, 2018**

**Social Time: 9:30 A.M.**

**Class starts at 10:00 A.M. SHARP**

**Keyboard Concepts**

## **Guest leader: Robert Thies**

A pianist of “unerring, warm-toned refinement, revealing judicious glimmers of power,” [Los Angeles Times] Robert Edward Thies (pronounced “Theece”) is an artist renowned for his consummate musicianship and poetic temperament. He first captured worldwide attention in 1995 when he won the Gold Medal at the Second International Prokofiev Competition in St. Petersburg, Russia. With this victory, Thies became the only American pianist to win first prize in a Russian piano competition since Van Cliburn’s famed triumph in Moscow in 1958.

This victory brought accolades from the White House, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Governor Pete Wilson, and Mayor Richard Riordan. The Los Angeles City Council declared February 16, 1996 “Robert Edward Thies Day,” and Robert was featured on the July 1996 cover of Piano and Keyboard magazine. His win was also announced in the International Herald Tribune, and the Los Angeles Times wrote a feature article, “Another American Pianist Invades Russia, Successfully.”

Conductor Jorge Mester hails Robert “a genius”, and Maestra JoAnn Falletta touted after a recent performance, “Conducting the Brahms Second Piano Concerto with Robert Thies was one of the most beautiful and deeply satisfying musical experiences of my life.”

Praised for his “thoughtful and intensely moving interpretations” Thies enjoys a diverse career as an orchestral soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician. He has already performed over 35 concertos with orchestras all over the world. In one season alone he performed thirteen different concertos, garnering consistent critical acclaim. He has appeared with such orchestras as the Saint Petersburg Philharmonic, Liepāja Symphony (Latvia), Mexico City Philharmonic, the National Symphony of Mexico, Auckland Philharmonia (New Zealand), Louisville Orchestra, Fort Worth Symphony, Pasadena Symphony, and the Naples Philharmonic. His concerts have been broadcast throughout the United States, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Bolivia, Hungary, Mexico, and New Zealand.

Mr. Thies is a frequent recitalist in the United States and abroad, and he is known for his genuine interpretations of intriguing and delicately balanced programs. He made his South American debut in Cochabamba, Bolivia in 2002, and followed this with a European tour. Under the sponsorship of Community Concerts, he completed a forty-city tour of the United States in 2001. In May 1999, he was honored with a special invitation to perform in the Hermitage Theater in St. Petersburg, Russia, built for Empress Catherine the Great.

A dedicated chamber musician, Thies continues to expand an already impressive repertoire and collaborates with many esteemed musicians. He has appeared with established ensembles such as the Angeles, Calder, and New Hollywood String Quartets, and has also performed on the chamber series of Camerata Pacifica, Mladi, Dilijan and Jacaranda. He is founder and artistic director of The Thies Consort which performs a wide range of works of varying instrumentation and size, thus allowing for innovative and unique programming with musical continuity based on a style, composer, or other concept.

Thies’s “grace and unsurpassed lyricism” are in high demand at festivals and special celebrations. In 2002, in conjunction with the Hollywood premiere of Roman Polanski’s film *The Pianist*, he performed Wladislaw Szpilman’s *Concertino for Piano and Orchestra* with the Los Angeles Jewish Symphony. That same year Thies earned national recognition for his collaboration with noted cultural historian and author, Joseph Horowitz, in the Pacific Symphony’s *Dvořák in America* festival. To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of Arnold Schoenberg’s death, Thies was invited to Mexico City’s Palacio de Bellas Artes in 2001 to perform the composer’s seldom-heard *Piano Concerto* with the National Symphony of Mexico. During the fall of 1997 Mr. Thies worked alongside distinguished Polish composer Henryk Górecki in the United States premiere of his *Sonata for Piano*. Thies has performed at the music festivals of Ravinia, Aspen, Sedona, Cape May, Music Academy of the West, as well as the San Luis Obispo Mozart Festival.

In Los Angeles, Thies has worked and recorded with many of the top studio musicians, and has also worked with film composers James Newton Howard, James Horner, Danny Elfman, and Lalo Schiffrin. Thies’s recordings can be found on the Centaur, Albany, and Golden Tone labels. Recently, a chamber music recording *Common Ground*, was released, which features works by LA composer, Gernot Wolfgang. In February 2006 Robert released his debut solo recording *Live in Recital*. In June 2006, he recorded a crossover improvisational CD *Difference* with the Croatian flutist, Damjan Krajacic.

Mr. Thies is also sought after as a master class teacher, chamber music coach, lecturer, and adjudicator across the globe. From 2003-07, he joined the faculty of the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria, to work beside his former teacher, Harold Heiberg, an authority on German art song. There Thies coached singers and pianists, and focused primarily on the works of Brahms, Wolf, Strauss, Schubert, and Schumann.

Born in New Jersey, Thies makes a home in Los Angeles. His teachers have included Robert Turner and Daniel Pollack, both protégés of the legendary Russian pedagogue Madame Rosina Lhevinne, and the great pianist Josef Lhevinne. Mr. Thies is a Steinway artist. For more information, visit Robert Edward Thies at: [www.robertthies.org](http://www.robertthies.org).

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# PROGRAM

March 14  
Guest Leader  
Robert Thies  
Keyboard Concepts

**Irina Brener**

Chopin

Ballade no. 2

**Raya Sadigursky**

Bach

Beethoven

Three-Part Inventions. nos. 2, 7, 15

Sonata in c minor, no. 8, Pathetique, 1st movement

**Yue-Fun Chuang**

Liszt

Three Petrarch Sonnets, nos. 47, 104, 123

from his second collection of *Années de pèlerinage*. Italy.

## ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

**IRINA BRENER**, a concert pianist, has received her Bachelor of Music, Master of Music and Artist's Diploma at *Manhattan School of Music, NY* majoring in Piano Performance and Pedagogy. As an instructor Ms. Brener has taught a vast number of students of various ages, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. Ms. Brener's students were accepted to the World's famous Music Schools including *Manhattan School of Music, NY, Mannes College of Music, NY and Academy of Jewish Religion, Los Angeles* where they pursue their Music degrees. As active solo- and chamber music performer, Irina Brener has had recitals in such renowned venues as *Carnegie Hall, NY, Steinway Hall, NY, Steinway Piano Gallery, Beverly Hills, Suolahti Saal, Finland* and others. After teaching at *University of Redlands, CA* Irina Brener has moved to Woodland Hills and had opened her piano studio where she is sharing her comprehensive teaching experience in Piano, Music Theory, Music History and Chamber Music.

Successful educator and promoter of Music education, Irina Brener became a member of *MTAC* in 2008 where her input can be measured by over 20 students annually passing CM test with highest scores and a number of students selected for performance at *MTAC Annual Convention, San Jose 2015, 2017*.

As a competition judge Ms. Brener has been invited to *The Gold Star Piano Competition, Los Angeles (2014), CA* and the California State Judge for *America's Fine Arts Festival, Los Angeles, CA (2011-2017)*.

Ms. Brener is very proud of her latest students' achievements which include prestigious performances at Carnegie Hall, New York in September, 2017.

**RAYA SADIGURSKY** studied piano at Kishinev Conservatory in the former Soviet Union. In addition to solo performing, she enjoys instrumental and vocal accompaniment and chamber music. Raya also performs piano duo with Ornela Ervin. She teaches at her private studio in Westlake Village.

*(continued on next page)*

## LOCATION AND DIRECTIONS

**KEYBOARD CONCEPTS Piano Store**  
5539 Van Nuys Blvd., Sherman Oaks, CA  
(corner of Van Nuys and Burbank Blvds.)

**DR. YUE-FUN CHUANG** was one of the few children to be accepted into the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna at age 15. With a scholarship from the Austrian government, she continued her study thereafter at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, then the Universities of Music and Performing Arts in Hannover and Folkwangschule in Essen, Germany where she completed her undergraduate study in piano performance. During her study in Hannover, she also collaborated with the legendary Russian violinist, Boris Goldstein, and performed with him a duo recital at the Great Music Hall in Bad Kissingen, Germany.

In the US, she obtained a Master degree with distinction from the famed Indiana University School of Music in Bloomington, and later a Ph.D. degree from New York University, where she also served as a member of the adjunct faculty for many years. Her dissertation—"The Piano Preludes and Fugues of Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy: A Study of their Inter-Movement Unity" was one of the few dissertations to pass with four unanimous votes, and has been the only large scale study on Mendelssohn's piano works in the English speaking world. Dr. Chuang was also inducted into the honorary societies of Pi Kappa Lambda at Indiana University, and Kappa Delta Pi at New York University.

Among her major teachers were Hans Leygraf, Einar Steen-Nøkleberg, Paul Badura-Skoda, and György Sebok. In addition, she also acquired the injury-prevention Dorothy Taubman approach from Edna Golansky in New York City. Currently, she maintains a private piano teaching studio in Granada Hills,

### **SCMC Fees**

\$20 at the door to audit  
\$40 at the door to play solo  
\$120 for a Season Pass to 10 classes  
\$30 for solo players with a Season Pass  
\$50 for ensembles of 2 or more persons  
\$40 for ensembles with a Season Pass  
First time guests are FREE

### **SCMC Board of Directors**

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Mary Hannon - Newsletter - (626) 354-0786 - [maryhannon123@gmail.com](mailto:maryhannon123@gmail.com)  
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Raya Sadigursky - Performers - (818) 706-0429 - [rayasadigursky@gmail.com](mailto:rayasadigursky@gmail.com)  
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