

Sacred Music Florida

2022 Judges

Piano - Cecily DeMarco

A native of South Florida, Cecily DeMarco was born and raised in Boca Raton. At the age of 13, Cecily began organ study under the guidance of Mr. Samuel Metzger, and within her very first year became the Organist at The Chapel at Edgewater Pointe in her hometown. For three years, the young organist studied with Dr. Terry Yount at The Saint Andrews Conservatory in Sanford, Florida. She had many opportunities to perform throughout Central and South Florida appearing at The New Presbyterian Church (Ft. Lauderdale), First Presbyterian Church (Pompano Beach) Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church (Ft. Lauderdale) and Saint Andrews Chapel (Sanford).

Since being accepted into The Juilliard School, Miss DeMarco has had numerous opportunities to perform in the New York area appearing in concert at The Juilliard School (NYC), Hitchcock Presbyterian (Scarsdale), Parish of Christ the Redeemer (Pelham), Church of St. Agnes (NYC), St. Vincent Ferrer (NYC), Brick Presbyterian Church (NYC), and also at St. Patrick's Cathedral (NYC). Recently, Miss DeMarco participated in the 2021 Regional Competition for Young Organists (RCYO) winning "First Prize" in both the New York City chapter, as well as the Northeast region.

This summer she will participate in the Oregon Bach Festival and will be a featured Rising Star performer at the American Guild of Organists National Convention in Seattle.

Currently, Cecily is pursuing a degree in Organ Performance at The Juilliard School under the wisdom and instruction of Dr. Paul Jacobs.

Piano - Alexander Pattavina

Alexander Pattavina is Associate Organist and Choirmaster at St. Bartholomew's Church, where he directs the St. Bartholomew's Choristers. A native of Stoughton, Massachusetts, he was first drawn to his vocation as a chorister at St. Paul's Choir School at Harvard Square, the only Catholic choir school for boys in the United States. After graduating, Pattavina became their first ever Organ Scholar. While studying at Juilliard, he served as organ scholar at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Manhattan and later at Christ Church in Bronxville, New York. For three years, he served as Director of Music at the Church of St. Agnes in mid-town Manhattan. Pattavina, who won first prize in the 2019 Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival, has performed with the Juilliard Orchestra and is a frequent organ recitalist throughout the United States. Pattavina earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the Juilliard School, where he studied with Paul Jacobs.

Instrumental - Dr. Gordon Mason

Dr. Gordon Mason is the founder of Masters As Mentors, a community of performers and teachers dedicated to motivating and inspiring artists to be the best that they can be. Mason earned the DMA in instrumental conducting at the University of South Carolina and has also studied at the Conductor's Institute of South Carolina, Westminster Choir College and the Robert Shaw Choral Workshop at Furman University. He is a retired music professor and is currently an adjunct professor with Reformation Bible College and St. Andrews Music

Conservatory in Sanford, FL. His high school choirs placed first in the South Carolina Music Educators Choral Competition for two consecutive years and he has been sought after as an adjudicator, clinician and guest conductor. He has performed with professional symphony orchestras throughout his career and has recently founded the Maitland Symphony Brass Quintet. Dr. Mason celebrates the connections that music brings to all people and energizes those who are willing to “take an imaginative leap into the creative, God-given gift of music making”. He also founded a family with a wife and three children...all lovers of music!

Instrumental - Elise Jimenez

Cellist Elise Jimenez first began her studies at the age of 11 with late cellist, Susan Goldmann. She quickly found herself collaborating with many groups throughout Central Florida as a chamber musician, orchestral player, and in various modern ensembles at her schools of study and as a free-lance musician. Her passion for chamber music led her to found the Apollo Quartet at University of Central FL, the Waldstein Piano trio at Stetson University and allowed her to win a Chamber Music assistantship in the Graduate Piano Trio at University of Florida. Ms. Jimenez received a Masters of Music degree in Cello Performance under the tutelage of Dr. Steven Thomas, completed in May of 2014 and her Bachelor's in Music Performance at Stetson University under the instruction of David Bjella. She currently studies with Professor Emeritus from the Indiana school of music, Helga Winold. Ms. Jimenez has taught for the past ten years in various schools and free-lance at local Community schools, as a guest clinician in Seminole County public schools and most recently at Saint Andrew's Conservatory of Music as Cello faculty and Seminole State College as Adjunct professor. She currently performs with a variety of groups and companies in Florida, including Orlando Philharmonic, Brevard Symphony Orchestra, Nova Era at Disney Springs, Beautiful Music Inc., and as a free-lance musician. Some of her more notable performances include artists Yo-yo Ma, Celtic Thunder, Johnny Mathis and Andrea Bocelli's Valentine's Day weekend tour in Miami and Orlando, FL.

John Cavazos - Vocal

John Cavazos made his Broadway debut in “My Fair Lady”. In addition he co-starred and worked with Stephen Sondheim in “Pacific Overtures” and with the great Marilyn Horne in a concert performance of the Opera, “Tancredi” at Carnegie Hall.

One of the most in demand voice teachers in Orlando, his students are represented at **DISNEY** in “**The Festival of the Lion King**”, “**Nemo the Musical**”, “**Dapper Dans**”, “**Beauty and the Beast**”, “**Hoop Dee Doo Revue**”, and “**The Voices of Liberty**”, at **UNIVERSAL STUDIOS** in “**Celestina Warbeck & The Banshees**” & “**Frog Choir.**” John's students are also represented in the National tours & Broadway shows: “**The Lion King**” “**Hairspray**”, “**Wicked**”, “**The Little Mermaid**” “**The Addams Family**”, “**Rock of Ages**”, “**Book of Mormon**” and “**The Prom.**”

For 15 years, John served as rehearsal director for **Disney's Candlelight Cast Choir** at EPCOT and as a Workshop Director with **Disney Performing Arts**. John was a member of Disney's premier singing group, **The Voices of Liberty** and **The Dapper Dans of Main Street** for 13 years!

He attended Brooklyn College, Conservatory of Music and holds a B.A. in Music from Rollins College where he is an Adjunct Professor of Voice. John has been married for 33 years to his lovely wife Annie and they have two beautiful grown daughters, Ariel and Jerusha. He has a private vocal studio: www.voicebyjohn.com