



PIANO PLAY MUSIC FOUNDATION  
presents

*Young Performers Series*

MUSIC THROUGH  
THE AGES

**SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2025 | 3:30 PM**  
**LA VALLEY COLLEGE AUDITORIUM**

PIANO PLAY MUSIC FOUNDATION

presents

# *Young Performers Series*

## MUSIC THROUGH THE AGES

**Thank-you for being part of this incredible event!**

To our talented young performers, your dedication and artistry truly amazed us. Your energy lit up the stage, and it was a joy to witness.

To everyone who supported us, your cheers and enthusiasm made all the difference. This event wouldn't have been the same without you.

Together, we created something special, and we can't wait to do it again. Thank you for this unforgettable experience! With gratitude,



# ABOUT PIANO PLAY MUSIC FOUNDATION

## *Mission Statement*

The Piano Play Music Foundation is dedicated to transforming lives through the power of music by expanding access to high-quality, research-based music education.

We empower children of all backgrounds, especially those in underserved communities, by fostering creativity, cognitive growth, and socially empowering life skills through inclusive, technology-enhanced programs.

Our mission is to eliminate barriers, build lasting community partnerships, and create sustainable opportunities for every child to thrive musically, personally, and socially.







PIANO PLAY MUSIC FOUNDATION'S

# *Young Performer's Concert Series*

## "MUSIC THROUGH THE AGES"

### *Program Notes*

"Music Through the Ages" serves as the captivating title for today's concert, embodying the rich and diverse theme we will explore together. Music is not just a form of entertainment; it is a universal language that transcends boundaries and speaks to the human experience. As an art form, music is in constant flux, shaped by technological innovations, cultural exchanges, evolving societal values, and the enduring desire of individuals to express their innermost emotions and ideas.

Throughout history, musical genres have emerged, transformed, and often intertwined, reflecting societies' identities and the trajectory of human development. From the intricacies of classical compositions to the vibrant rhythms of contemporary sounds, music continuously adapts and morphs, showcasing the creativity and resilience of the human spirit.



PIANO PLAY MUSIC FOUNDATION'S

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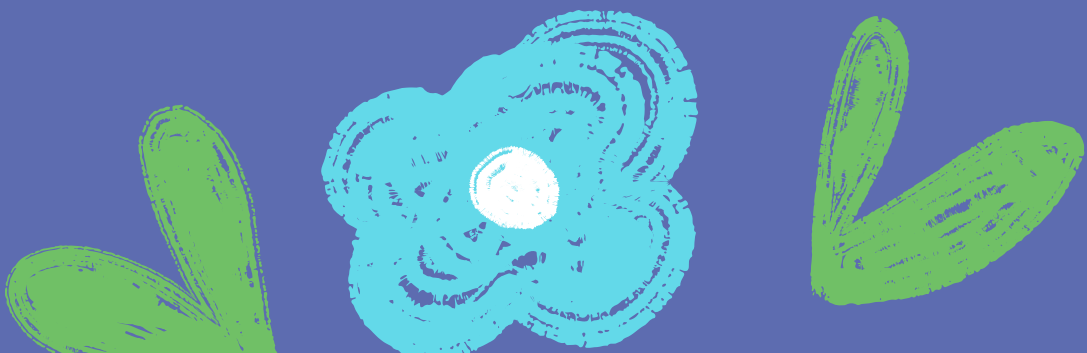
## "MUSIC THROUGH THE AGES"

### *Program Notes (continued)*

Today, you will have the opportunity to witness this evolution through the performances of our talented young musicians.

They will take you on a journey that spans from the elegant melodies of the Baroque period to the dynamic and eclectic sounds of the 21st century.

This concert aims not only to entertain but also to invite you to engage with the history of music, highlighting how it has persisted and flourished over time, remaining a profound and timeless reflection of what it means to be human. Join us as we celebrate the remarkable journey of music across the ages!





# PIANO PLAY MUSIC FOUNDATION'S *Young Performer's Concert Series*

## "MUSIC THROUGH THE AGES"

### *The Celebrated Composers*



From timeless masters to groundbreaking innovators, each featured composer has left a lasting legacy that continues to inspire new generations. We invite you to explore their stories and celebrate the musical eras they represent as you enjoy today's performances.

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**JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685–1750)** A MASTER OF THE BAROQUE ERA, STILL CELEBRATED FOR HIS INTRICATE COUNTERPOINT AND DEEP MUSICAL EXPRESSION.

**PHILIPP EMANUEL BACH (1714–1788)**, THE SON OF J.S. BACH, A KEY FIGURE IN THE TRANSITION FROM THE BAROQUE TO THE CLASSICAL PERIOD.

**WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART (1756–1791)** A CHILD PRODIGY AND PIONEER OF THE CLASSICAL ERA. MOZART COMPOSED OVER 600 WORKS ACROSS NEARLY EVERY GENRE.

**FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN (1810–1849)** A ROMANTIC-ERA COMPOSER AND VIRTUOSO PIANIST BEST KNOWN FOR HIS POETIC AND EXPRESSIVE PIANO WORKS.



PIANO PLAY MUSIC FOUNDATION'S  
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"MUSIC THROUGH THE AGES"



*The Celebrated Composers  
(continued)*

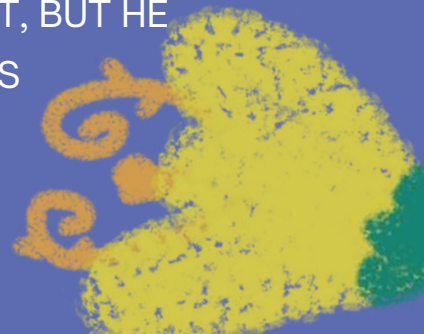
**PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY (1840–1893)** A ROMANTIC RUSSIAN COMPOSER WHOSE EMOTIONALLY CHARGED MUSIC INCLUDES SWAN LAKE AND THE NUTCRACKER.

**SERGEI RACHMANINOFF (1873–1943)** A RUSSIAN COMPOSER, PIANIST, AND CONDUCTOR, WIDELY REGARDED AS ONE OF THE GREATEST MUSICIANS OF THE LATE ROMANTIC PERIOD.

**FRIEDRICH "FRITZ" KREISLER (1875 – 1962)** AN AUSTRIAN-BORN AMERICAN VIOLINIST AND COMPOSER. ONE OF THE MOST NOTED VIOLIN MASTERS OF HIS DAY, HE WAS KNOWN FOR HIS SWEET TONE AND EXPRESSIVE PHRASING, WITH MARKED PORTAMENTO AND RUBATOS.

**MANUEL DE FALLA (1876–1946)** A LEADING SPANISH COMPOSER OF THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY. DE FALLA INFUSED CLASSICAL MUSIC WITH SPAIN'S RICH FOLK TRADITIONS.

**WILHELM KEMPF (1895–1991)** PRIMARILY KNOWN AS A PIANIST, BUT HE WAS ALSO A COMPOSER WHO BROUGHT POETIC DEPTH TO HIS INTERPRETATIONS OF BEETHOVEN AND SCHUBERT.





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"MUSIC THROUGH THE AGES"

*The Celebrated Composers  
( continued )*

**DMITRI SHOSTAKOVICH (1906–1975)** A TOWERING FIGURE IN 20TH-CENTURY SOVIET MUSIC WHOSE WORKS REFLECT PERSONAL STRUGGLE AND POLITICAL TENSION.

**GEORGE GERSHWIN (1898–1937)** CREATED A UNIQUELY AMERICAN SOUND BY BLENDING CLASSICAL MUSIC WITH JAZZ AND POPULAR STYLES.

**EARL WILD (1915–2010)** BOTH A VIRTUOSO PIANIST AND COMPOSER. WILD WAS KNOWN FOR HIS DAZZLING TECHNIQUE AND TRANSCRIPTIONS OF JAZZ AND CLASSICAL WORKS.

**SAMUEL OSMOND BARBER II (1910 –1981)** AN AMERICAN COMPOSER, PIANIST, CONDUCTOR, BARITONE, AND MUSIC EDUCATOR, AND ONE OF THE MOST CELEBRATED COMPOSERS OF THE MID-20TH CENTURY.

**KEITH JARRETT (B. 1945)** AN INNOVATIVE JAZZ AND CLASSICAL PIANIST, RENOWNED FOR HIS IMPROVISATIONAL GENIUS.

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PIANO PLAY MUSIC FOUNDATION'S

# *Young Performer's Concert Series*

"MUSIC THROUGH THE AGES"

## *Program 1*

Isabella Barlis

1. Prelude and Fugue in C Minor, BWV 847

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685–1750)

Benjamin Owen

2. Siciliano in G Minor, BWV 1031

Johann S. Bach, arr.  
Wilhelm Kempff  
(1895–1991)

Graysen Carlsen

3. Sonata in F Minor, Wq. 63/6, H. 75  
*I. Allegro de molto*

Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach  
(1714–1788)

Maxx Krickler

4. Sonata In C Minor, K.457  
*I. Molto Allegro*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
(1756–1791)

Hope Roth

5. Dumka, Opus, 59

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky  
(1840–1893)

Ethan Lee

6. Excursion, Opus 20, No. 1  
*I. Un poco allegro*

Samuel Barber  
(1910–1981)

Tristan Gaertner

7. Liebesleid "Love's Sorrow"

Friedrich "Fritz" Kreisler, arr.  
Rachmaninoff  
(1875–1962)

*\*Intermission (15 minutes)\**

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## *Program II*

**Maxx Krickler**

8. Toccata and Fugue in D Minor, BWV 913

Johann Sebastian Bach  
1685 – 1750

**Isabella Barlis**

9. The Millers Dance

Manuel de Falla  
1876-1946

**Graysen Carlsen**

10. Etude in C# Minor, Op. 25, No. 7

Frédéric Chopin  
1810-1849

**Hope Roth**

11. Polka from the Ballet Golden Age

Dmitri Shostakovich  
1906-1975

**Tristan Gaertner**

12. Prelude No. 1 in Bb Major

George Gershwin  
1898-1937

**Ethan Lee**

13. Etude No. 2, "Somebody Loves Me"

George Gershwin, arr. Earl Wild  
1915-2010

**Benjamin Owen**

14. Danny Boy

Traditional, arr. Keith Jarret  
1945 - Current



*Join us for a brief "Backstage Chat" immediately following the recital for a short Q & A with the artists!*



# MEET THE YOUNG PERFORMERS 2025



## ISABELLA BARLIS (AGE 15)

Isabella Barlis is 15 years old and recently finished the advanced level of the Piano Certificate of Merit with State Honors. She has been a part of the Piano Play family for about 12 years and studied privately with Nicole Nale. In addition to piano, she is an advanced violinist and dancer.

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## GRAYSEN CARLSEN (AGE 17)

Graysen is a senior at Oaks Christian School in the "Performing and Visual Arts" program. Her music journey began at age 2 with Ms. Sharon and grew to gain recognition at Juilliard's music program. Graysen debuted at Carnegie Hall in 2024 and completed the Certificate of Merit with state honors in 2023.

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## TRISTAN GAERTNER (AGE 16)

Tristan Gaertner began group lessons at Piano Play at age 4 and soon moved to private lessons with Mr. Greg. While he loves classical music, he's recently started exploring other genres. Despite his interest in various activities, the piano remains his top priority.

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# THE YOUNG PERFORMERS 2025



## MAXX R. KRICKLER (AGE 16)

Maxx R. Krickler has been with Piano Play for 12 years, earning the Certificate of Merit and competing in various piano competitions under the guidance of Ms. Nicole. He has been a regional finalist in the Southern California Junior Bach Festival for the last six years. Maxx also had the privilege of performing with his Middle School choir at Carnegie Hall.

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## ETHAN LEE (AGE 17)

Ethan Lee is a senior at Loyola High School. Since the tender age of two, he has been a student of Piano Play. With the help of his teacher, Ms. Sharon, Ethan advanced to Level 10 and earned State Honors for the Certificate of Merit.

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## BENJAMIN OWEN (AGE 15)

Benjamin has been a student of Piano Play since he was four years old. He is not only a passionate pianist but also an accomplished soccer player. Under the guidance of Ms. Sharon, he has earned honors in the Certificate of Merit and Certified SFEV Juries program

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## HOPE ROTH (AGE 16)

Hope Roth is a sophomore at Agoura High School, where she plays piano in the top jazz band and bassoon in the honors wind ensemble. Hope will be traveling to New York City as a finalist in the Essentially Ellington's Jazz at Lincoln Center and is the principal bassoonist at Colburn's Sinfonietta Youth Orchestra.

# MUSIC FACULTY REPRESENTED TODAY



**NICOLE NALE**

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Nicole Nale is a classically trained pianist and former student of Piano Play, studying under CEO Sharon Shaheed. She earned her BFA in Instrumental Studies/Piano Performance and a minor in Biology at Loyola Marymount University under Dr. Tania Fleischer. Nicole completed the Certificate of Merit program in high school and began her teaching career while pursuing her degree. She now teaches group and private lessons at Piano Play and serves as President of the Music Teachers' Association of California, San Fernando East Valley Branch. Nicole specializes in sight reading, theory, performance, and ensemble coaching, inspiring students to develop a lifelong love of music.



**GREG RAYMOND**

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Greg Raymond, a graduate of Boston College, is a renowned jazz pianist who has collaborated with Citizen Cope, Charlie Hunter, Chali 2na, Stanton Moore, Ani DiFranco, and others. After moving from Denver to Los Angeles, he has dedicated his career to teaching, working with students as young as two years old through group classes and solfege methods. Greg teaches over 40 private students weekly and is highly experienced in all levels of the Certificate of Merit program. He joined the Music Teachers' Association of California in 2011 and has maintained a high success rate with CM students. Greg inspires students of all ages with his professional performance background and passion for music education.



**SHARON SHAHEED, MM**

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Sharon Shaheed is the CEO and founder of Piano Play Music Systems and the winner of VSEDC's 2025 HerStory: A Women's History Month Pitch Competition. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Education with a minor in voice from Xavier University and a Master's in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from Southeastern University. Sharon developed Piano Play's original theory-based curriculum, authoring 22 classroom books and song CDs used in weekly lessons. She is an active member of the Music Teachers' Association of California and serves as the Certificate of Merit Chair for the San Fernando East Valley Branch. Her work has been featured on Oprah & Friends radio, OWN's Raising Whitley, and she is a past winner of the Stevie® Award for Best Entrepreneurs.



PIANO PLAY MUSIC FOUNDATION

# *Young Performer's Concert Series*



**Piano Play**  
MUSIC FOUNDATION

**Piano Play Music Foundation Board Members**

**Meet the dedicated Board of Directors**

**of Piano Play Music Foundation. They are a passionate team,  
committed to fostering and inspiring the next generation of creators**

- Irma Espinoza Bonnie
- Ruth Janofsky
- Chelo Jones
- Annette Ortiz Mata
- Colby Marshall
- Phoebe Stanciell
- Sharon Shaheed
- Stacy Wadlington

[info@pianoplaymusicfoundation.com](mailto:info@pianoplaymusicfoundation.com)



Zelle

**GIVE WITH ZELLE**

[info@pianoplaymusicfoundation.com](mailto:info@pianoplaymusicfoundation.com)

**HELP US KEEP THE SPARK OF MUSIC ALIVE!**

**PIANO PLAY MUSIC FOUNDATION'S "MUSIC THROUGH THE AGES" EVENT**

**SPOTLIGHTS TALENTED YOUNG MUSICIANS FROM PIANO PLAY MUSIC.**

**FOUNDATIONN. YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT CAN HELP IMPACT AND**

**LIFT THE NEXT GENERATION OF PERFORMERS!**

# DONATE NOW!



# Spotlight Sign-offs

***"I play the notes as they are written,  
but it is God who makes the music."  
- Johann Sebastian Bach***



**PIANO PLAY MUSIC FOUNDATION | INSPIRING  
YOUTH THROUGH MUSIC**

[info@pianoplaymusicfoundation.com](mailto:info@pianoplaymusicfoundation.com)

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