

SEMIFINAL AND FINAL ROUND JURY



Joseph Kalichstein

Aclaimed for the heartfelt intensity and technical mastery of his playing, Joseph Kalichstein wins equal praise as orchestral soloist, recitalist and chamber musician.

With his diverse repertoire of works ranging from Mozart, Beethoven and Brahms to 20th-century works, Mr. Kalichstein performed with the world's greatest orchestras and has collaborated with conductors Daniel Barenboim, Pierre Boulez, James Conlon, Christoph von Dohnányi, Charles Dutoit, Lawrence Foster, Zubin Mehta, Andre Previn, Leonard Slatkin, Edo de Waart, David Zinman and the late George Szell and Erich Leinsdorf. Mr. Kalichstein has appeared in several recitals on Carnegie Hall's "Keyboard Virtuosi" series. His two CD releases include music of Schumann and Brahms (*Koch International*) and Brahms, Mendelssohn and Schubert ("The Romantic Piano", on *Audiofon Records*).

Joseph Kalichstein is a founding member of the famed Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson piano trio, celebrating its 39th anniversary in 2016. The Trio continues to play in major music capitals and on all the great university concert series. Its current recording project is a 4-CD Brahms Cycle. Mr. Kalichstein is also a frequent guest pianist with

the world's most beloved string quartets and serves as the Chamber Music Advisor to the Kennedy Center and is the Artistic Director of the Center's Fortas Chamber Music Concerts while holding the inaugural Chamber Music Chair at the Juilliard School.

Born in Tel Aviv, he came to the United States in 1962. His principal teachers included Joshua Shor in Israel and Edward Steuermann and Ilona Kabos at The Juilliard School. Prior to winning the 1969 Leventritt Award, he had won the Young Concert Artists Auditions, and as a result he gave a heralded New York recital debut, followed by an invitation from Leonard Bernstein to perform Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 with the New York Philharmonic in a nationally televised concert on CBS.



Ursula Oppens

Ursula Oppens has long been recognized as the leading champion of contemporary American piano music. Highlights of Ms. Oppens' 2015/16 season include recitals at The Phillips Collection in Washington, DC, Northwestern University, The University of Maryland, New York's Bargemusic, and at the Ascoli Piceno Festival in Italy. Earlier in the season, she performed with the Cassatt Quartet and was the featured artist along with the International Contemporary Ensemble in a residency celebrating composer Christian Wolff at Dartmouth College.

As soloist, Ms. Oppens has performed with virtually all of the world's major orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, the Boston, Los Angeles, Chicago, Cleveland, San Francisco, and Milwaukee Orchestras. Abroad, she has appeared with such ensembles as the Berlin Symphony, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, the Deutsche Symphonie, the Scottish BBC, and the London Philharmonic Orchestras. Ms. Oppens is also an avid chamber musician and has performed with the Arditti, Cassatt, JACK, Juilliard, and Pacifica quartets, among other chamber ensembles.

Ursula Oppens is a Distinguished Professor of Music at Brooklyn College and the CUNY Graduate Center in New York City. From 1994 through the end of the 2007-08 academic year she served as John Evans Distinguished Professor of Music at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. In addition, Ms. Oppens has served as a juror for many international competitions, such as the Concert Artists Guild, Young Concert Artists, Young Pianists Foundation (Amsterdam), and Cincinnati Piano World Competition. Ms. Oppens lives in New York City.

SEMIFINAL AND FINAL ROUND JURY



Peter Takács

Hailed by the New York Times as “a marvelous pianist,” PETER TAKÁCS has performed widely, receiving critical and audience acclaim for his penetrating and communicative musical interpretations.

Mr. Takács was born in Bucuresti, Romania and started his musical studies before his fourth birthday. When his parents’ requested emigration to the West, his studies and performances were banned. He continued studying clandestinely with his piano teacher until his family was finally allowed to emigrate to France, where, at age fourteen, he was admitted to the Conservatoire National de Paris.

Upon his arrival in the United States, his outstanding musical talents continued to be recognized with full scholarships to Northwestern University and the University of Illinois, and a three-year fellowship for doctoral studies at the Peabody Conservatory, where he completed his artistic training with renowned pianist Leon Fleisher.

Mr. Takács has received numerous prizes and awards for his performances, including First Prize in the William Kapell International Competition, the C.D. Jackson Award for Excellence in Chamber Music at the Tanglewood Music Center, and a Solo Recitalist

Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. His performances have been hailed by audiences and the press for their penetrating intellectual insight as well as for emotional urgency and communicativeness.

Mr. Takács has performed as guest soloist with major orchestras in the U.S. and abroad, as well as at important summer festivals such as Tanglewood, Music Mountain, Chautauqua Institution, ARIA International, Schlern Music Festival in the Italian Alps, Tel Hai International Master Classes in Israel, Sweden’s Helsingborg Festival, and Musicfest Perugia 2014. Since 2008, he has been a member of the faculty at the Montecito Summer Music Festival in Santa Barbara, CA. He has performed and recorded the cycle of thirty-two Beethoven Piano Sonatas, which were released on the CAMBRIA label in July 2011. In fall 2015, he will present a series of three recitals at Carnegie Hall-Weill Recital Hall entitled “The Beethoven Experience.”

Mr. Takács’ success as a teacher is attested to by his students’ accomplishments, who have won top prizes in competitions in the United States, Canada, Europe, and South Africa. He has given master classes in the U.S., Europe and Asia. Mr. Takács is Professor of Piano at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, where he has been teaching since 1976.