



**Baruch Meir**, Israel/USA  
Chairman of the Jury

**“...Baruch Meir is an exceptional artist. He did a beautiful performance of my piano work entitled *A Little Suite for Christmas*, which was distinguished by deep musical insights and consummate technical skill. It was certainly one of the very finest performances this work of mine has ever received.”**

**– George Crumb, composer; 1968 Pulitzer Prize in Music;  
2001 Grammy award; 2004 Musical America Composer of the Year.**

Pianist Baruch Meir is one of only 65 artists worldwide named Bösendorfer Concert Artist since the founding of the company in 1828.

Meir has performed extensively in Austria, Canada, China, England, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Portugal, Serbia and the United States. Meir has presented recitals at the Bösendorfer Saal, Vienna; Bauman Auditorium, Oregon; Murphy Hall, Popper Theater and Nixon Library in Los Angeles; Dixon Hall, New Orleans; Wise Auditorium, Jerusalem; Bates Recital Hall, Austin; and at the Toujours Mozart Festival in Salzburg, Austria.

An associate professor of piano and coordinator of the piano area at the Arizona State University School of Music in the Herberger Institute, Meir maintains a busy teaching schedule in addition to his international concert career. Meir toured China's Shanghai Conservatory (2005, 2007, 2014), the Sichuan Conservatory, and Wenzhou University, where he was awarded a guest professorship. He also taught at Seoul National University, Yonsei, Kookmin, Hanyang, Sunhwa, Kyoungbook and Seoul Arts High School in South Korea. Meir has given master classes at the Music Academy in Vienna, the Rubin Academy of Music in Jerusalem, the Manhattan School of Music and various conservatories and universities in the United States.

A native of Israel, Meir is a summa cum laude graduate of the Rubin Academy of Music at Tel Aviv University, where he earned his master's degree in piano performance. He holds the Artist Diploma from the Royal College of Music in London and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from ASU. His teachers include Rachel Gordon, Valter Aufheuser, Pnina Salzman, Michael Bugoslavsky, Irina Zaritskaya and Robert Hamilton. Meir's distinctions include the American-Israel Cultural Foundation Awards, the British Council Fellowship, first place at the Klatzkin Competition for Contemporary Piano Music and the ASU Concerto Competition.

At Arizona State University, Meir maintains a class of outstanding pianists from all over the world. His students have been awarded top prizes in various competitions, including first prizes at the Schmindbauer International Competition, Yamaha USASU International Junior and Senior Competition for Young Pianists, Young Concert Artist International Competition, Washington International Piano Artists Competition, as well as winners at the ASU Concert of Soloists Concerto Competition. Meir also frequently adjudicates in various competitions including the Isidor Bajic Piano Memorial in Serbia, Los Angeles Young Musicians International Competition, the Russian Music Competition in Vancouver, Psanter Letamid National Piano Competition in Israel (2009-2014). Meir taught at Music Fest Perugia (2009-2012), and is currently on the piano faculty of the Semper Music (Schlern) International Festival in the Italian Alps.

Meir is the founder, president and artistic director of the Bösendorfer and Yamaha USASU International Piano Competition, distinguished by its reputable jury, which has included such renowned pianists as Sergei Babayan, Ricardo Castro, Aleksandar Serdar, Alexander Korsantia and Martha Argerich.



**Robert Hamilton**, USA

Internationally respected pianist and recording artist Robert Hamilton has been enthusiastically reviewed by two chief music critics for *The New York Times*. Harold C. Schonberg (who also authored *The Great Pianists*) wrote: “He is a very fine artist. All of Hamilton's playing has color and sensitivity...one of the best of the million or so around.” And Donal J. Henahan reported: “It was an enthralling listening experience. We must hear this major piano talent again, and soon!”

Robert Hamilton studied at Indiana University with the first winner of the coveted Levintritt award, Sidney Foster, graduating summa cum laude. A move to New York City brought studies with Dora Zaslavsky of the Manhattan School, coaching from legendary pianist Vladimir Horowitz, and a host of monetary awards from the Rockefeller Fund and U.S. State Department, launching a strong career and the winning of five major international competitions.

Hamilton has made countless tours of four continents, appearing in most music capitals. His orchestral engagements have included the Chicago, National, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Phoenix, Indianapolis, Grant Park, Chautauqua and S.O.D.R.E symphony orchestras. Hamilton has been heard over the national and international networks NPR, ABC, BBC London, Voice of America, Armed Forces Network, DRS Zurich and Radio Warsaw. He has also recorded for Phillips, Orion, Summit and Soundset Records. Reviewing a recent release in 2011, the *All Music Guide* wrote: “Magnificent virtuosity in combination with effortless control and hair-raising bravura make his performances absolutely irresistible. Each piece moves inevitably and ineluctably to the next, and the aesthetic whole is much more than the sum of its brilliant parts. A flat-out fabulous record.” Regarding his recent Mozart CD, *The American Record Guide* reviewer stated: “I never expected to hear anyone play Mozart so sensitively in this day and age. Almost unbelievable beauty...the perfect recording of Mozart's piano music.”

Professor Hamilton's students have also won many prizes and awards, appearing with the Indianapolis Symphony, Wichita Symphony, Phoenix Symphony, Hudson Valley Symphony, London Westminster Philharmonic, Orchestre Philharmonie d'Avignon, Kammerorchester Dusseldorf, Pazardjik National Orchestra, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Nagoya Gakuen Philharmonic and Korea Symphony.

Featured in the book *The Most Wanted Piano Teachers* in the USA, Hamilton served as Artistic Director for the London Piano Festival during the 1990s. Since the year 2000, he has joined forces with Vladimir Feltsman and a distinguished group of prominent international pianists each July for PianoSummer in New York.



**Stanislav Ioudenitch**, USA

Stanislav Ioudenitch has garnered notable successes in music competitions including the Gold Medal at the XI Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in 2001. The Van Cliburn Competition launched a career that has taken Ioudenitch around the world for appearances with major orchestras in many of the world's important musical venues, including Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Fort Worth's Bass Hall, the Gasteig in Munich, the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatoire, Mariinsky Concert Hall, the Great Hall of the St. Petersburg Philharmonic, the Conservatorio Giuseppe Verdi in Milan, the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris, the Oriental Art Center in Shanghai and the “Forbidden City” Concert Hall in Beijing. He has appeared at major festivals

including the International Piano Festival of La Roque d'Anthéron in France, the Aspen Music Festival in the United States and the Ruhr Music Festival in Germany.

Ioudenitch has collaborated with a wide range of international conductors including James Conlon, Valery Gergiev, Mikhail Pletnev, Asher Fisch, Vladimir Spivakov, Günther Herbig, Pavel Kogan, James DePreist, Michael Stern, Stefan Sanderling, Carl St. Clair and Justus Frantz, and with such orchestras as the National Symphony in Washington D.C., the Munich Philharmonic, Mariinsky Orchestra, the Rochester

Philharmonic, the National Philharmonic of Russia, the Fort Worth Symphony and the Kansas City Symphony. He has also performed with the Takács, Prazák and Borromeo String Quartets, and is a founding member of the Park Piano Trio.

Ioudenitch has recorded with the Harmonia Mundi and Academy labels and has collaborated with the imminent producer Thomas Frost on a recording of Stravinsky's *Trois Mouvements de Pétrouchka*. He also appeared in *Playing on the Edge*, Peter Rosen's Peabody Award-winning documentary for PBS about the 2001 Van Cliburn Competition, and in Rosen's historical documentary, *The Cliburn: 50 Years of Gold*.

In addition to concert performances, Ioudenitch has held a lifelong passion for teaching. He is a founding member of the International Center for Music at Park University, where he is the artistic director and piano professor. Ioudenitch also serves as vice president and faculty member of the International Piano Academy Lake Como and director of the Lake Como Summer Piano School.

Ioudenitch is continually invited to teach masterclasses around the world. Among his former and current students and class participants are winners of major international competitions and artists with outstanding careers, such as Behzod Abduraimov, Andrey Gugin, François Dumont, Benjamin Moser and Severin von Eckardstein.

Born in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Ioudenitch studied at the Uspensky School of Music in Tashkent, the Escuela Superior de Música Reina Sofía in Madrid, the International Piano Foundation Theo Lieven (Lake Como, Italy), the Cleveland Institute of Music and the UMKC Conservatory of Music. A former student of Natalia Vasinkina and Dmitri Bashkirov, he also studied with Karl Ulrich Schnabel, William Grant Naboré, Leon Fleisher, Fou Ts'ong and Rosalyn Tureck, among others.



### **Zhe Tang**, People's Republic of China

Born in China, Zhe Tang entered the Shanghai Conservatory of Music at the age of twelve. Following graduation, he continued his studies in the United States and earned a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the Eastman School of Music, where he served as teaching assistant to Professor Barry Snyder. In 2003, Zhe Tang became one of the youngest piano professors in the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. In addition to his teaching tenure, he was appointed Vice Dean of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Director of Teaching and Research of the Piano Department, Chair of the Piano Department for the Middle School Affiliated to the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Chair of The Shanghai Professional Pianists Society, Artistic Director of the Shanghai

International Piano Festival & Institute, and Artistic Director of the Shanghai Spring International Piano E-Competition.

Tang has been the recipient of numerous awards and prizes, among them the silver medal in the Edvard Grieg International Piano Competition in Norway and first prize in the Kosciuszko Chopin Piano Competition. He was chosen as the winner of the Adele Marcus Foundation Grant, which enabled him to perform extensively in the United States. At the Eastman School of Music, he was awarded a grant from the Liberace Foundation and the coveted Performer's Certificate.

He has appeared as soloist with numerous orchestras and has collaborated with conductors Jahja Ling, Mitchell Arnold, and Fusao Kajima, among others. Mr. Tang's performances with the China Philharmonic Orchestra and the Shanghai Symphony were broadcast by the Chinese National Television and Radio, reaching approximately 900 million people. He also gave the American premiere performance of the Concerto No. 2 for Piano and Viola by Alexander Tchaikowsky. He has presented many solo recitals in the United States, Europe and the Far East. His performances have been heard on radio and television including BBC, NBC, Chinese National TV and Radio, Polish National Television, Oriental TV, WQXR of New York, and WFMT of Chicago, among others.

As one of the leading pedagogues in China, Zhe Tang has taught masterclasses and presented lectures at many universities, conservatories, music schools and festivals throughout China, Europe and the United States, including Cleveland Institute of Music, Eastman School of Music, Manhattan School of Music, NYU, Northwestern University, Peabody Conservatory of Music and Sibelius Academy of Music. Many of his students have won top prizes at national and international competitions. He is a frequent adjudicator of piano competitions, and has served on the jury of Gina Bachauer, Bösendorfer USASU, Cleveland, Hilton Head, Mozart International Competitions and all the major Chinese national competitions. He has also organized and directed competitions and festivals, and has contributed as an advisor for over thirty universities and musical organizations in China. Recently, he was given numerous awards including "Grand Award for Excellence in Teaching" by the Chinese government and was featured on the cover of "Piano Artistry"— the most important piano magazine in China.



### **Oxana Yablonskaya**, USA

Oxana Yablonskaya's charismatic piano playing and profound interpretations have brought her wide acclaim. Known for her powerhouse virtuosity, exquisite sensitivity, and deep emotional drive, Ms. Yablonskaya has enchanted audiences world-wide.

Oxana Yablonskaya was born in Moscow. As an adolescent she attended The Moscow Central School for the Gifted under the tutelage of the great Anaida Sumbatyan, with whom she worked until the age of 16. She later studied at the Conservatory of Moscow with the legendary Aleksandre Goldenweiser. At 22, she began a professional relationship with Tatiana Nikolayeva in the Doctorate

Program, later acting as her assistant at the Moscow Conservatory. Following graduation with high honors, she was introduced to the Western World in Paris at the Jacques Long-Thibaud Competition in 1963, the Rio de Janeiro Competition in 1965, and the Vienna Beethoven Competition in 1969. She won top prizes in all three competitions, and received numerous invitations for return engagements, but because of the Cold War, she was not allowed to play outside the Eastern Bloc. Yet, she recorded for the Melodya label and earned the prestigious title of Soloist of the Moscow Philharmonic. The title put her in the company of such elite artists as Gilels, Richter, Rostropovich, Oistrakh and Kogan.

In 1975, distressed over constant restraints on her personal and artistic freedom, she applied for a U.S. visa. Her actions resulted in a loss of her position as a professor in the Moscow Conservatory. She inherently was deprived of all concert engagements. She waited more than two years for a visa and finally, she was allowed to leave the country with her father and young son due to the diligent petitioning by Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim, Richard Rodgers, Katherine Hepburn, Bar Ilan, and over 45 famous writers, musicians, senators and actors.

Ms. Yablonskaya arrived in New York in 1977, unknown, unheralded, and not having touched a piano in more than two years. She made her first New York appearance in a recital at the Alice Tully Hall in Lincoln Center only four months later, and received laudatory acclaim from the press. Her Carnegie Hall debut recital the following October was attended by a capacity crowd, and she has since taken her place among the major pianists of the world.

Once considered 'The best kept secret of the Soviet Union,' Ms. Yablonskaya has now performed in more than 40 countries. In addition to Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, she has performed in the Royal Albert Hall in London, Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires, Suntory Hall in Tokyo, Orchestra Hall in Chicago, Royal Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Great Hall of Moscow Conservatory, Great Hall of St. Petersburg Philharmonic, Queen Elizabeth Hall in London, Sheldonian Theatre and Holywell Music Room in Oxford, England, and many more.

Ms. Yablonskaya has collaborated in performances with such celebrated conductors as Alexander Dmitriev, Alexander Anissimov, Yury Aronovitch, Rudolf Barshai, Herbert Bloomstaadt, Boris Brott, Abraham Chavez, Sergiu Comissiona, Franz Paul Decke, Alexander Dmitriev, Lawrence Foster, Youosh Forst, Pierro Gamba,

Fedor Gluschenko Inbal, Arnold Katz, Anton Kersies, Dmitry Kitaenko, Eric Klaas, Kirill Kondrashin, Uri Maier, Fuat Mansurov, Nathan Rakhlin, Mstislav Rostropovitch, Gennady Rozhdestvensky, Stanislaw Skrowachevsky, Pavel Sorokin, Yevgeny Svetlanov, Yuly Turowsky, and Victor Yampolsky.

In addition to her success as a concert pianist and recording artist, Ms. Yablonskaya has held the position of Professor of Piano at The Julliard School in New York City. She has lectured in numerous masterclasses at many distinguished music schools, academies, conservatories and festivals throughout the world, such as Newport and Bowdoin in the U.S., Flaïne and Tours in France, Lago Maggiore in Switzerland, Oxford Philomusica in England. Dr.Yablonskaya is a Co-Founder of Puigcerda Musica Clasica International Festival in Spain since 1998.

Ms. Yablonskaya also serves on the jury of many international piano competitions including Leeds, Franz Liszt (Netherlands), Hamamatsu, Vladimir Horowitz International Piano Competition, Piano E-Competition, Jose Iturbi, Sendai, and Beethoven Competition in Bonn.

Oxana Yablonskaya is a Yamaha Artist and Artistic Advisor for Yamaha Master Classes in New York City.



### **Asaf Zohar**, Israel

Born in Israel, Asaf Zohar is one of the most active Israeli pianists and pedagogues.

Asaf Zohar is a graduate of the Givatayim Conservatory and The Rubin Academy of Music in Tel Aviv. He received his doctoral degree from the Indiana University School of Music, where he has also been a visiting lecturer.

His teachers include Hana Shalgi, Arie Vardi, Menahem Pressler, Leonard Hokanson and Michele Block. Artists for whom he has performed in masterclasses include Arthur Rubinstein, Alfred Brendel, Christoph Eschenbach,

Eugene Istomin, Leon Fleisher and Claude Frank.

Asaf Zohar has been awarded prizes in Israel and in international competitions in Pretoria, Sydney and Vienna, as well as The Robert Casadesus Competition in Cleveland.

He has performed with all the leading Israeli orchestras including The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra under the batons of Zubin Mehta, Gary Bertini, David Robertson, Mendi Rodan, Noam Sheriff, David Shalon, Jan Pascal Tortelier, Urs Schneider and others.

Asaf Zohar appeared in numerous recitals in Israel as well as on Israeli Radio and TV Abroad, Mr. Zohar has performed concerts and recitals in the United States, Austria, Germany, France, Great Britain, Spain, Italy, Russia, Georgia, India, South Africa, Australia and Japan.

Asaf Zohar teaches as Professor of Piano at the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music at Tel-Aviv University, where he is the chairman of the piano department. He has also taught at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance, where he has served as Chairman of the Keyboard Department and Dean of the Faculty of Performing Arts for ten executive years. In addition, Mr. Zohar teaches at the Givatayim Conservatory, as well as the Jerusalem Music Center.

In recent years, Asaf Zohar has edited, lectured and performed in a series of lectured concerts in Israel, presenting Beethoven's Piano Sonatas, Mozart's Concerti, and the piano works of Chopin, Brahms, Schubert and Schumann, among others.