**SCRIABIN SOCIETY OF AMERICA**

**Newsletter 2024**

President’s Message:

Dear members of the Scriabin Society of America,

We are happy to send greetings with our 2024 newsletter!

This fall, we are gearing up to present a SSA gala performance at **New York’s Steinway Hall** on **Friday, September 27, 2024 at 7:00 PM**. This event will feature the collaborative artistry of two well-known pianists, Marilyn Nonken and Irina Kataeva, in a program featuring two iconic symphonic works of the early twentieth century: Alexander Scriabin’s *Prometheus*, “The Poem of Fire” (1910) and Igor Stravinsky’s The Rite of Spring (1913), the former in the two-piano transcription by Leonid Sabaneyev, and the latter in the original transcription by the composer. Please see the attached poster. The performers’ bios are given below.

We look forward to seeing many of you at that event, especially our members from the New York Metropolitan area!

We are excited to welcome Dr. Lindsey Macchiarella as the newest member of the SSA Executive Board as its Historian. Lindsay’s Scriabin research goes back to her studies at the Moscow State University and research at the Scriabin Memorial Museum a decade ago, which resulted in a dissertation “Skryabin’s Prefatory Action: Libretto, Sketches, and Divine Unity,” analyzing Scriabin’s final unfinished work. Her multifaceted Scriabin-related projects include books’ and articles’ authorships and editorials. Read Lindsay’s news in this newsletter’s Membership News section, and check her website: < <https://lindseymacchiarella.com/>>.

In other news, we are very pleased and honored to announce two iconic musicians: Gary Graffman and Yuja Wang joining the SSA Honorary Board!

The year 2025 will mark the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Scriabin Society of America (1995). Next year will also mark the composer’s 110th memorial anniversary. SSA is planning a special festival devoted to those events, about which more information is soon to come. In the future, we will be hosting events in different geographical areas of the US from the east coast to the Midwest to the west coast, in order to engage as many SSA members residing in different parts of the country who are able to attend and participate in such gatherings of Scriabin devotees.

The SSA has resumed its activities after a decade-long hiatus with forming of the renewed Board of Directors in 2022. That year, featuring the composer’s 150th Anniversary, was celebrated by SSA with the multi-disciplinary online festival: Scriabin @ 150. This would not have been possible without the close cooperation of our friends and colleagues around the world – first and foremost the late Alexander S. Scriabin, the composer’s grandnephew and the founder-director of the Scriabin Foundation – and numerous others, such as among them Taiwanese pianist Sherry Grant of New Zealand. The festival proved a great success and is now available on the SSA website for the society members to view: <https://scriabinsociety.com/>

In 2023, we were happy to present the first live SSA gala performance in many years, which featured the artistry of legendary pianists Jerome Lowenthal and Mikhail Voskresensky, as well as the participation of members of the SSA Board of Directors.

This year we have relaunched the publication of the yearly SSA Journal with the edition of the Journal No. 16 (2023-24) in the online format, while the archival issues of the past SSA journals are appearing on the Society website one by one for the exclusive perusal of our members. The first three issues (1996-98) have already been posted, while the fourth one (1999) is about to be posted concurrently with this newsletter.

We look forward to interactions with and contributions from you in the months ahead! One of our most relevant and urgent messages is to spread the word about the Scriabin Society of America, to your colleagues and friends, inviting them to join us at <https://scriabinsociety.com/join/>

Please, send your comments and news to us, we look forward to hearing from you!

Dmitry Rachmanov, President

Scriabin Society of America

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**Scriabin Society of America Fall Gala Concert 2024**

**SACRIFICE & TRANSCENDENCE**

**Irina Kataeva & Marilyn Nonken, pianos**

**PROMETHÉE (1910-11)**

Alexander Scriabin

Arr. Leonid Sabaneev

**LE SACRE DU PRINTEMPS (1913)**

Igor Stravinsky

**Performer Biographies**

**Marilyn Nonken**

Upon her recital debut, Marilyn Nonken was heralded as "a determined protector of important music" (New York Times). Since then, she has been recognized as "one of the greatest interpreters of new music" (American Record Guide). Writes Fanfare: “Her voicings are exquisite, her pedaling throughout is a model to be studied, and, when necessary, her virtuosity is equaled only by the insight and passion with which every piece is imbued.” (2015) In 2006, she came to NYU Steinhardt as Director of Piano Studies. In 2022, she was appointed Chair of the Department of Music and Performing Arts Professions, where she continues to teach.

A student of David Burge at the Eastman School, Marilyn Nonken received a Ph.D. in musicology from Columbia University. Her monograph The Spectral Piano (Cambridge University Press, 2015) was received as “a screaming success …. Few books can boast as much, and it is gratifying to encounter an international concert performer who can make so engaging a discourse around her core repertoire." (Bob Gilmore, Tempo). Identity and Diversity in New Music: The New Complexities (Routledge) was published in July 2019. She has written chapters for Perspectives on the Performance of French Piano Music, Messiaen Perspectives, Messiaen in Context, and The Oxford Handbook of Spectral Music; served as a guest editor for Contemporary Music Review; and contributed articles to numerous journals.

As a pianist, she has been presented at venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center,  the Guggenheim Museum, Neue Galerie, and Roulette (New York), IRCAM, Reid Hall, and the Théâtre Bouffe du Nord (Paris), the ABC (Melbourne), Logos (Ghent), Instituto Chileno-Norteamericano (Santiago), Chicago Cultural Center and Symphony Center, Barnes Foundation (Philadelphia), Phillips Collection (Washington DC), Menil Collection and Rothko Chapel (Houston), and conservatories and universities around the world. Festival appearances include Résonances and the Festival d'Automne (Paris), Musica Nova (Helsinki), Aspects des Musiques d'Aujourd-hui (Caën), Rencontres Musicales de Jaugette, ATEMPO (Caracas), New Music Days (Ostrava), Musikhøst (Odense),When Morty Met John, Making Music, Works and Process, and  Composers Now (New York), American Sublime (Philadelphia), Festival of New American Music (Sacramento),  Music on the Edge (Pittsburgh), Puerto Piano (San Juan), Piano Festival Northwest (Portland), NUNC! (Chicago), Unruly Music (Milwaukee), and the William Kapell International Piano Festival and Competition.

A Steinway artist, Marilyn Nonken has recorded for New World, Mode, Lovely Music, Albany, Metier, Hanging Bell, Harrison House, CRI, BMOP Sound, New Focus, Kairos, Tzadik, and Bridge.

**Irina Kataeva-Aimard**

A French pianist of Russian origin, Irina Kataeva-Aimard has made a name for herself with her interpretations of 20th-century music, in which she specializes. Settled in France since 1985, she performs in new music programs both in France (IRCAM, Ensemble Intercontemporain, Radio-France, Centre Acanthes) and around the world, where she takes part in various contemporary music festivals.

She works closely with the great masters of 20th-century music, including Olivier Messian, Pierre Boulez, Karlheinz Stockhausen and György Ligeti. The latter dedicated to her his “Etude pour Irina”, which she previewed at the Donaueschingen Festival in Germany. At the composer's request, she records several of his works for the Sony Classic label. It was also thanks to her that Olivier Messiaen's “Harawi” vocal cycle was heard in Russia for the first time, which she performed and recorded for Melodia with singer Natalia Rozanova. She performed on several occasions at the Messiaen Festival in the Meije region. In the 1980s, she worked to bring the music of Dmitri Shostakovich to France, where it was still rarely performed.

Alongside her teaching career, Irina Kataeva-Aimard has worked at the Conservatoire à Rayonnement Départemental d'Evry since 1985, giving master-classes in Italy, Germany, Finland, England, Spain, China, Russia, Nepal and the USA. She has chaired the jury of the International Contemporary Music Competition for Youth in Fribourg, Switzerland, four times. She is also the initiator of the French culture week in Nizhni-Novgorod (Russia) and a member of the Franco-Russian jury of the Concertino competition. From 2009 to 2019, as part of the Programme pour les Jeunes Chanteurs d'Opéra, a three-year advanced training program for young singers, she directs master classes in French vocal chamber music at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow.

Also Artistic Director of the Rencontres musicales de Pont-Saint-Esprit, she created a program of Russian avant-garde compositions for the Year of Russia in France in 2010, which she also performed in New York, Philadelphia and Mulberry.

In 2012, Irina Kataeva-Aimard created the Rencontres musicales de Jaugette, the only festival of art music in the Indre region, of which she is Artistic Director. She welcomes internationally renowned classical and jazz musicians such as Mikhael Pletnev, Shai Maestro, and musicians from the Le Balcon ensemble. Demonstrating a highly creative and committed approach to programming, she also invites traditional music groups from the Central African Republic, Georgia and the Pyrenees. In association with the region's listed sites, it stages operas, creates partnerships with free musical events in the Haute-Touche Zoological Reserve and offers increasingly original concerts presented by specialists in astrophotography, ornithology or prestidigitation. In 2022, to mark the festival's 10th anniversary, it invited the Orchestre national d'Auvergne, conducted by Thomas Zehetmair, to perform a grand opening concert in the open air. In 2023, the festival won the Heavent Festival Awards for “Best Content Device”.

**Membership News**

**Dmitry Rachmanov**

In the spring of 2024 Dmitry conducted research on the Russian and Ukrainian women composers of the 20th-21st centuries for an upcoming recording project. On January 4&5 he held Scriabin videography sessions at New York DiMenna Center. He gave a private recital in Paris, France on January 13. In February he participated in the California State University Northridge’s ChamberFest, performing César Franck Piano Quintet as well as Varvara Gaigerova Suite for Viola and Piano, Op. 8. In February he performed a solo recital at San Francisco’s Sequoias Center, followed by the benefit recital for the Thousand Oaks Philharmonic (CA) for its annual spring gala.

On May 2nd Rachmanov performed a duo recital with the cellist Misha Quint at New York’s Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, sponsored by the InterHarmony Music Festival. The program featured sonatas by Boccherini, Brahms and Rachmaninoff.

Rachmanov’s summer 2024 activities included adjudications at UCLA annual Rubinyi Piano Competition, the MTAC State Convention, festivals at Montecito in CA, Lancaster in PA and John Perry Academy in NJ. In August he adjudicated the USIMC Competition in San Jose, CA and gave a presentation at Steinway San Diego, comprising a recital, masterclass and a Q&A session.

**Matthew Bengtson**

Matthew Bengtson is pursuing a second recording of Roberto Sierra's Etudes, this one a collection entitled "Estudios de ejecución trascendental después de una lectura de Liszt." The recording will also include Sierra's Piano Sonatas nos. 13 and 14, of which the 13th is dedicated to him. Bengtson is producing a series of video recordings of Mozart's piano works on fortepiano, which will come out shortly on YouTube (see [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulpX4gjw7Uc](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.youtube.com_watch-3Fv-3DulpX4gjw7Uc&d=DwMFaQ&c=Oo8bPJf7k7r_cPTz1JF7vEiFxvFRfQtp-j14fFwh71U&r=Ly56tcs6pEB0PdIBXOrVXhNLjnGYPLGdb223rsN2uQU&m=_T0zW-VrF8CFUBIUW0m_tQu_26GxSTPLOFy4POnfbXu4TwHLItVcVyYSQUE-cfdi&s=oV9MkUuRHxf05cHFxeLkrFXyhRHnd_dQpjdyk76UEv4&e=) for the Sonata K. 282). He will speak on late music of Scriabin at the American Liszt Society in Athens, GA in October. Finally, Bengtson is the artistic director of the Michigan Recording Project, a collection of video recordings of rare keyboard repertoire that are deserving of greater exposure. Please browse the existing offerings at [https://smtd.umich.edu/michigan-recording-project/](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__smtd.umich.edu_michigan-2Drecording-2Dproject_&d=DwMFaQ&c=Oo8bPJf7k7r_cPTz1JF7vEiFxvFRfQtp-j14fFwh71U&r=Ly56tcs6pEB0PdIBXOrVXhNLjnGYPLGdb223rsN2uQU&m=_T0zW-VrF8CFUBIUW0m_tQu_26GxSTPLOFy4POnfbXu4TwHLItVcVyYSQUE-cfdi&s=uumwq2DfDbpu1x8mFax-xL-yukRndbIedj3C8uUa79s&e=)

**Farhan Malik**

Farhan Malik, treasurer of the SSA, was invited to write a series of articles on historic Soviet pianists for international Piano Magazine. In the past year he has written about Vladimir Sofronitsky, Samuil Feinberg, and Grigory Ginzburg (all great Scriabinists!).  He continues to travel extensively, attending music festivals and presenting lectures at various institutions.

**James Palmer**

SSA Secretary and Social Media Manager James Palmer achieved candidacy in the DMA degree at Rice University in April 2024. During spring 2024, James gave solo performances in Houston as well as at the Piano on the Rocks International Festival in Sedona, Arizona.  His professional duo with violist Molly Wise, Duo Impetuoso, gave a successful series of concerts in the spring season, including at the Steinway Selection Center in downtown Houston.  Find out more at [https://www.duoimpetuoso.com/](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.duoimpetuoso.com_&d=DwMFaQ&c=Oo8bPJf7k7r_cPTz1JF7vEiFxvFRfQtp-j14fFwh71U&r=Ly56tcs6pEB0PdIBXOrVXhNLjnGYPLGdb223rsN2uQU&m=E8zdQnrSyZGR2DW7TOLuFjZ7XG4KT34oOFSdk-s21ymwlC7wEaCTzoIvor-z1FZ4&s=eU1iK4qmDB9Z4UOqfqXgqRMvrMozBXbb_SyfiUMLgrQ&e=)

In the summer of 2024, James was accepted into the Art of Piano Residency at Banff Centre in Alberta, CA, where he had the privilege of working with Marc-André Hamelin, Hung-Kuan Chen, Megumi Masaki, and Tema Blackstone in private lessons and master classes. Before attending Banff, James performed at the American Viola Society Conference in Los Angeles, CA with violist partner Molly Wise in June and taught the Summer Piano Intensive for talented high school pianists at the AFA Texas Summer Festival in Houston, TX.  He additionally performed at the National Flute Association Convention in San Antonio, TX, with flautist Allison Asthana.

James will begin a new season of performances with violist Molly Wise in September, featuring works by Libby Larsen, Paul Hindemith, and a new commission from the young composers of the AFA Texas Festival. James also looks forward to performing Scriabin’s F-sharp Piano Concerto with Symphony North of Houston and maestro Karl Blench in February 2025.

**Lindsey Macchiarella**

SSA Board member Lindsey Macchiarella is an Associate Professor at the University of Texas at El Paso, where she teaches musicology courses and serves as music librarian. This past spring, Lindsey was PI and Project Director for the Early Music Latin America Festival, which was supported by the National Endowment for the Arts. The event included lectures, a workshop, several media appearances, and a concert. More information available at [https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/music/outreach/musicology-area/early-music-latin-america-festival.html](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.utep.edu_liberalarts_music_outreach_musicology-2Darea_early-2Dmusic-2Dlatin-2Damerica-2Dfestival.html&d=DwMGaQ&c=Oo8bPJf7k7r_cPTz1JF7vEiFxvFRfQtp-j14fFwh71U&r=Ly56tcs6pEB0PdIBXOrVXhNLjnGYPLGdb223rsN2uQU&m=OgMfJwAoJBaPfsqVKfK64PFOnJrCBpm651Xx26cSTRUSQ15_jOFQl9GVqhsIj01e&s=8XcMHTadiWVxLdbjjsDobYrPhuqdN7FgU6KHhUEf7Oc&e=).

Lindsey is an avid performer of early music on viola da gamba and recorder, and launched her new trio this past year, the Society of Forgotten Instruments, alongside organetto player, Jieun Newland, and cornetto player, Flora Newberry. More information at [https://sofitrio.com/](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__sofitrio.com_&d=DwMGaQ&c=Oo8bPJf7k7r_cPTz1JF7vEiFxvFRfQtp-j14fFwh71U&r=Ly56tcs6pEB0PdIBXOrVXhNLjnGYPLGdb223rsN2uQU&m=OgMfJwAoJBaPfsqVKfK64PFOnJrCBpm651Xx26cSTRUSQ15_jOFQl9GVqhsIj01e&s=Uc7xK9O2jdGj70OYc6KP089Q8O9bkZnV4UllWCQTmsE&e=). Lindsey has also recently become a fixture of her local NPR station, KTEP, interviewing guest performers as they come through El Paso.

Lindsey's recent research projects include a book contract from Oxford University Press for *Rethinking Scriabin*. She is lead editor of that publication alongside associate editors, Simon Nicholls, Christoph Flamm, and Vasilis Kallis. Her essay, "Scriabin the Wagnerian," will also be included as a chapter in this book. Her monograph biography book proposal, *Fire Bringer: The Life of Aleksandr Skryabin* is currently under review by publishers.

**Sherry Grant**

 Following the successful online 2022 International Scriabin 150 Festival ([https://www.artsinfinitypress.com/scriabin150](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.artsinfinitypress.com_scriabin150&d=DwMFaQ&c=Oo8bPJf7k7r_cPTz1JF7vEiFxvFRfQtp-j14fFwh71U&r=Ly56tcs6pEB0PdIBXOrVXhNLjnGYPLGdb223rsN2uQU&m=GCV-8-xK-T4I9mzj-ZPFv26vPtIFG-_yPD6HAmxVUlHXd4z7K74hO2-oNByPIAtj&s=Zh_VKO-4AOrreHxq9iiENRJ8xh3Vf8z3Y8dIy9DtXtA&e=)) in collaboration with the SSA, its artistic director and SSA International Liaison Sherry Grant (pianist/cellist/poet from New Zealand/Taiwan) is now planning another 3-day online international Scriabin festival for November 2025 where the Scriabin Museum and four Scriabin Societies in America, UK, Croatia and the Netherlands will come together in celebration of Scriabin’s 110th — in memory of A.S. Scriabin (Russia) and Joseph Patrych (USA). Sherry will also be performing a multimedia concert tour of all Scriabin music in North and Central America in September 2025. After returning from her South American “Vio-Latino” concert tour with Dutch violist Emlyn Stam in July 2024, Sherry aims to help establish the Latin American Scriabin Society next. Sherry’s new “Finding Scriabin” interview series will be airing soon on her online radio station “Next Golden Age”. ([https://www.zeno.fm/radio/next-golden-age/](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.zeno.fm_radio_next-2Dgolden-2Dage_&d=DwMFaQ&c=Oo8bPJf7k7r_cPTz1JF7vEiFxvFRfQtp-j14fFwh71U&r=Ly56tcs6pEB0PdIBXOrVXhNLjnGYPLGdb223rsN2uQU&m=GCV-8-xK-T4I9mzj-ZPFv26vPtIFG-_yPD6HAmxVUlHXd4z7K74hO2-oNByPIAtj&s=FEJXu4WWqWLUoaDMGanQ0ntw5-QvucTPgOYfZIyuvIs&e=) and

[https://www.artsinfinitypress.com/13point10](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.artsinfinitypress.com_13point10&d=DwMFaQ&c=Oo8bPJf7k7r_cPTz1JF7vEiFxvFRfQtp-j14fFwh71U&r=Ly56tcs6pEB0PdIBXOrVXhNLjnGYPLGdb223rsN2uQU&m=GCV-8-xK-T4I9mzj-ZPFv26vPtIFG-_yPD6HAmxVUlHXd4z7K74hO2-oNByPIAtj&s=jwuZB5kZsdlH0wjebMLvgxRYX0u6DsrU0DynWwYd_Wg&e=))

For this upcoming 2025 festival Sherry hopes to invite 110 pianists to submit Scriabin video links to be curated online, along with a sister project “Scarlatti 555 Now”. To find out more please email scriabin2025@gmail.com

**Daniel Glover**

﻿Daniel Glover, pianist, has recently performed concertos with several orchestras in California.  Including Muzio Clementi’s only surviving Piano Concerto, Falla’s Nights in the Gardens of Spain, Liszt/Busoni Spanish Rhapsody, Prokofiev‘s Concerto No. 1, and Lyapunov’в Rhapsody on Ukrainian Themes.  In addition, he honored the 150th anniversary of the birth of Rachmaninoff with several recital programs devoted to the master’s solo piano works. He will be performing an all-Spanish solo recital starting in September.

**Zhanglin Hu**

Zhanglin Hu, Chengdu-born pianist played many solo recitals this year. One of them took place on May 18th 2024, when the pianist have been invited by a patron connected with Chengdu’s house of Steinway. It was an honor to perform there and that recital has been reported by a few different media outlets, such as Sichuan culture network (Sichuan Time). This event also attracted a lot of well-known Chinese artists and one of the most famous art critics, Mo Chen, as well as a former Dean of Sichuan Conservatory of music. He made a short speech and offered great comments after the concert in front of the audience and media representatives. The House of Steinway was a significant venue which provided great concert experience, providing an outlet to engage with the audiences there.