

## Jury and Visiting Artists Biography



**Dr. Scott McBride Smith** is a recognized leader in worldwide music education. As the Cordelia Brown Murphy Professor of Piano Pedagogy at the University of Kansas since 2010, he focuses on national issues of teacher training and piano pedagogy. As President and CEO of the International Institute for Young Musicians, he leads a summer program offering specialized training for gifted young performers from around the world. And as co-author of the groundbreaking new series *American Popular Piano*, he has helped create a course of study for today's student – providing tools that inspire the necessary hard work while playing music they love.

Dr. Smith is President of the Music Teachers National Association of the United States. He is Visiting Professor at the Shanghai Conservatory in China, as well as the Sichuan Conservatory and Shanghai Normal University. He is President of the U.S. Music Certification Exams.

Interest in his philosophical and cognitive approach to music teaching has resulted in appearances across the US, Canada, Europe, Asia, Australia, and South America, including workshops and showcases at every Music Teachers National Association Conference since 1999. But he has never lost the ability to see humor in the profession and laugh.

A long-time teacher of prize-winning students in Irvine, California, Dr. Smith's students were the California State Champions for many years between 1988-2009. Former students have been First Prize winners in the Naftsgger Competition, Tchaikovsky Competition, the Bachauer Competition (Juilliard) and in MTNA competitions. A chamber music coach as well as piano teacher, Scott McBride Smith coached the Wakarusa Trio to the 2013 First Place in the MTNA Chamber Music (Strings) national competition. The group went on to win the Coleman-Barstow Prize at the 2014 Coleman Chamber Music Competition. Dr. Smith has also served as Visiting Professor at the Bela Bartok Conservatory in Lima, Peru; at the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts; and in Taiwan, sponsored by the International Piano Teaching Foundation.

Dr. Smith is co-author of the college text *The Well-Tempered Keyboard Teacher* and associate editor of the magazine *Clavier Companion*. He is co-author of Christopher Norton's *Guide to Microjazz*. Dr. Scott McBride Smith received his doctorate from the University of Southern California, where he was co-winner of the Outstanding Graduate in Piano award.



Pianist **Patricia Tao** leads an active life as a performer, teacher and concert organizer. Following studies in Boston, Indiana, and New York, she performed throughout the U.S. and Europe for ten years with the award-winning Guild Trio (Joanne Rile Management), and as a soloist, she toured the U.S. for Columbia Artists' Community Concert series and overseas as an Artistic Ambassador for the USIA. She continues to perform throughout North America with her trio, Trio Voce (Jasmine Lin, violin, Marina Hoover, cello), which has released two critically-acclaimed CDs and performs both community-outreach concerts as well as at well-known venues (Lively Arts Series at Stanford University, Ottawa Chamber Music Festival, Music Guild of Los Angeles). Trio Voce's live performances are broadcast frequently on Chicago's classical music station, WFMT.

Now in her 7th year as Artistic Director of the Edmonton Chamber Music Society's Summer Solstice Festival, she programs innovative concerts and collaborates with some of North America's most distinguished soloists and

chamber musicians. She actively promotes community outreach programs through the “Hear’s to Your Health” Concerts at the U of A medical school, which features both local and international musicians, as well as through arranging performances at local schools and organizing master classes by distinguished artists for young Edmonton musicians.

Dr. Tao is a dedicated and passionate teacher and has given master classes in North America, Europe and Asia and frequently adjudicates festivals in Canada. She was an Artist-in-Resident at the University of Virginia for two years, taught at Western Washington University and has been on the faculty at the University of Alberta since 2002, where she teaches piano and chamber music. Her distinguished teachers include Leonard Shure, Gyorgy Sebok, and Gilbert Kalish in piano, and Leon Fleisher, Bernard Greenhouse and Gilbert Kalish in chamber music.

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An avid solo recitalist and chamber musician, Chinese pianist **Teng Fu** began his musical journey at the age of six. At the Wuhan Conservatory he had the opportunity to study with the late Lazar Berman and after he auditioned at the Central Conservatory with top honors, Mr. Fu has participated and won many national and international competitions. Some of his early accomplishments including winning the Gold medal at the 2004 Chinese National Voice/Instrumental Competition and being the finalist in the 2005 Gina Bachauer International Young Artist Piano Competition. Mr. Fu was invited to perform series of recitals at The Beethoven Music Festival in Bonn, Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium after winning the China-Germany Young Artist Beethoven Music Competition. In 2006, Mr. Fu decided to broaden his horizons and came to the United States by himself at the age of 16. While studying English at the Monsignor Farrell Catholic School and piano at the Manhattan School of Music Pre-College program, he was selected to perform for Pope Benedict XVI when the Holy Father visited New York. During his college years Mr. Fu made numerous recital debuts at Steinway Hall, Carnegie Hall- Weill Recital Hall, Symphony Space, Mannes Concert Hall and Yamaha Salon. Most recently Mr. Fu was the winner of Pittsburg Premier Piano Competition, Bronze Medalist at the 2016 International Keyboard Odysiad Competition and a finalist at the American Prize Piano Solo Competition. Mr. Fu also have many accomplishments with his chamber group Trio Affettuoso. In 2015 the group won second prize at the ENKOR International Chamber Music Competition and was a finalist in the Coleman Chamber Music Association Competition the same year.

Aside from his performance career, Teng Fu is also invested in passing down his musical knowledge to others. He taught private piano lessons to elite/ high-profile clients in New York City and gave numerous lecture recitals both in and out of the United States. He also taught masterclasses to pre-college level students and is presently mentoring piano performance majors at the University of Kansas. Because of his specialization in piano pedagogy and teaching methods, Mr. Fu was asked to be the Associate Editorial Web Content Coordinator for *Clavier Companion Magazine*. He is also the executive artist for United States Music Certification Exams. His recordings of all the levels in the collection are being used as educational models in China and the United States.

Mr. Fu went on to further his own musical studies and received both Bachelors and Masters degree in Piano Performance at the Mannes College the New School for Music. He has also participated in masterclasses with renowned pianists and pedagogues such as Richard Goode, Ann Schein and Ursula Opens. Mr. Fu completed his Doctoral of Musical Arts degree at the University of Kansas under the tutelage of Dr. Scott McBride Smith.

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Exciting, imaginative, genuine, free, risk-taking and dramatic... these are just some words used to express **Rosy Ge's** wonderful playing. Described by many as a pianist with enormous potential, Rosy has won numerous prizes and scholarships both locally and internationally. She was the Grand Prize winner of the *CSU-Stanislaus International Piano Competition* and a laureate of the *Shean Piano Competition*. A multi-prize winner at the Canadian Music Competitions, she made her orchestral debut with the Alberta Philharmonic Orchestra in 2005 and in 2006, Rosy became the only Chinese recipient of the prestigious Developing Artist Grand given by the Raymond Hnatyshyn Foundation.

Rosy is also a dedicated teacher and mentor to young musicians. She taught her first lesson at the age of thirteen, and it continues to be a major part of her career. Rosy held assistant teaching positions in all the universities she attended and was the coordinator of an outreach distance-learning program called *Pianos Without Borders*. Based in Lawrence, Kansas, this unique setup allows kids from high-crime low-income areas to receive piano lessons via the Yamaha Disklavier. She is frequently invited to give lectures and masterclasses throughout China, the United States and Canada. Rosy is also on the board of the United States Music Certificate Examination as the Director of International Relations.

Born in China and raised in Canada, Rosy began piano lessons with her grandmother, a well-respected piano professor at Shandong Normal University. After moving to Edmonton, she studied with Mr. Wolfram Linnebach all the way through high school and also took lessons with Mr. Hung-Kuan Chen while he was still in Calgary. Rosy continued with Dr. Patricia Tao and finished her Bachelor of Music degree at Oberlin Conservatory under the tutelage of Ms. Angela Cheng. For her graduate studies Rosy was guided by Dr. Karen Shaw at Indiana University and she completed a Doctor of Musical Arts degree with Dr. Steven Spooner at the University of Kansas. While she was in Kansas, Rosy also had the privilege of working closely with the president of the Music Teacher National Association Dr. Scott McBride Smith on various projects. Under his mentorship Rosy gained a deeper understanding of piano pedagogy and laid a solid foundation for her teaching career.

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Wolfram Linnebach is a renowned pedagogue with over forty years of teaching experience. With his exceptional teaching style and deep understanding of competition repertoire, Wolfram Linnebach's students have distinguished themselves in local, national and international competitions. Many have gone on to study at prestigious music institutes throughout North America such as Juilliard, Oberlin, Indiana, and Yale.

Born in Karlsruhe, Germany and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Wolfram Linnebach began piano lessons with his father. He later continued his studies at the University of Manitoba. He has taught full-time since his arrival in Edmonton, Alberta in 1981. In 1986 he joined the faculty of Alberta College where he served as head of the piano department. In addition to his pedagogical responsibilities, Mr. Linnebach has examined for the Western Board of Music and conducted masterclasses across Canada and South Korea. For three years, he served on the faculty of the Aria Summer Institute of Music.