

GMG Online Recital

January 24th, 2024

10:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Program

L: Live Y: YouTube recording

Michael Brounoff	Frederic Chopin	1810-1849	Preludes Op. 28, No's. 1, 2, 15	10	L
Carol Wazlavek	Ottorino Respighi	1879-1936	Siciliana from Ancient Airs	4:30	L
Sam Smith	Felix Mendelssohn	1809-1847	Song Without Words op 30-1	6	L
Loren Williams	Ludwig van Beethoven	1770-1827	Piano Sonata 14 in C-sharp minor "Moonlight", 1st Mvt	5'	L
Mengyun Li	Edvard Grieg	1843-1907	Nocturne Op.54 No.4	5	L
Utako Tangiawa	George Handel	1685-1759	Chaconne in G major HWV 435	6	Y
Utako Tangiawa	Frederic Chopin	1810-1849	Polonaise op 26 no1	6	Y
Jun Zhai	Sergei Rachmaninoff	1873-1943	Rachmaninoff Variation #18 and Toccata E minor	10	Y
Jun Zhai	J.S. Bach	1685 - 1750	Toccata in e minor		
Mia HyeYeon Kim					

Playlist Link [GMG Online Recital - January 18th, 2024 - YouTube](#)

Performer's bio

MICHAEL BROUNOFF

Although he suspended formal piano study after high school, Michael continued to play for personal enjoyment, serving as musical director of the satirical review, "Assault and Flattery" while in law school. As a practicing attorney, he still found time to direct the music for local productions of Broadway musicals, including Brigadoon, The Fantasticks, Anything Goes, The Grass Harp, Fiddler on the Roof, Oklahoma, and Guys & Dolls. He resumed formal piano study at age 53 with Dr. Tamas Ungar of Texas Christian University and—after accepting an appointment as Administrative Law Judge for the Social Security Administration in Syracuse, NY—with Dr. Fred Karpoff of Syracuse University. Transferring back to Dallas, he resumed study with Dr. Ungar. He has competed in the Van Cliburn Foundation's, International Piano Competition for Outstanding Amateurs four times, advancing to the semi-final round three times. He has attended Piano Texas Academy and Festival at TCU every year since 2000 except one and won in competition the privilege of concerto performance with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra five times. Michael recently retired after serving for over 15 years as a federal Administrative Law Judge and is in the process of becoming a qualified mediator. He lives in Plano, TX with his wife of 38 years, Martha Jane, their son, David Franklin, and Michael's piano, a 9-foot Knabe named "Obiwan."

MENGYUN LI

Mengyun is a UX researcher with a PhD in Educational Statistics and a master's in design, but her real passion lies in playing the piano. She started learning in September 2020. Her favorite composers are Chopin, Schubert, and Grieg, who inspired her music journey.

SAM SMITH

Sam had a few years of piano lessons as a kid, but they didn't take! He retired in 2014 from Georgia Tech, where he worked in IT. He started piano lessons again in 2010, only missing six months in 2014 so that he could do a thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail, starting in Maine and walking 2100 miles home to Georgia. In 2016 he enrolled in the University of West Georgia, pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance. With luck, and the help of his friends, he should graduate in the Spring of 2020.

UTAKO TANIGAWA

After owning a private school and a restaurant in Japan, Utako moved to the United States and earned seven degrees including a Ph.D. in Computer Science and Information Systems. She held executive positions in global corporations for thirty years and was a lecturer at multiple universities including Stanford and Boston University. Following a life-threatening diagnosis, she returned to music for solace and therapy. She has since participated in several international amateur piano competitions. Driven to share her experience with others, she created GMG where she found new music repertoire and interpretations, friendships, and inspiring experiences from others.

CAROL WAZLAVEK

Carol Andrus Wazlavek has been a member of the Greater Atlanta Area music scene all of her life, save a chunk of time she spent in corporate life working as a business computer programmer and creative artist in instructional design and presentation work. After her studies at Florida State, Georgia State, and Midwestern State University, she worked as a private piano teacher, as class pianist for Atlanta Ballet, Atlanta School of Ballet, and the Carl Ratcliff Company, as staff accompanist of the Miss T.E.E.N. pageant, and performed in concert and in a number of other environments on piano and harpsichord. Her passion is including visual arts within the music experience, which she includes in her music videos.

LOREN WILLIAM

Loren Williams retired in 2020 and a year later took up the piano lessons that he had set aside 50 years earlier. Trained as an economist, his work had largely been consulting and developing analytic technologies. After working in several small boutique technology companies, he finished his professional career with a seven-year stint at Ernst & Young. In retirement, he splits time between home in Decatur and a restored historic cottage on Ocracoke Island, part of the North Carolina Outer Banks. Loren and Susan have three grown children and five granddaughters.

JUN ZHAI

Jun Zhai graduated from Wesleyan College with B.A. in mathematics and physics. Since then she has been working in technical fields such as applied physics and computer science. She joined Wesleyan's master of arts in piano performance in 2022 because of her passion and determination to advance her piano techniques. Currently she is preparing her recital repertoire for her graduation in summer 2024 under the guidance of Prof. Mia Kim.