



Judges & Clinicians

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Judges

(perennial unless otherwise noted)

JOHN SALMON is the only person to have served as a judge for this festival every year since its founding in 2001. He has distinguished himself on four continents, as both a classical and jazz artist.

In the United States, he has given recitals for the Dame Myra Hess Series in Chicago, the Discovery Series in Indianapolis, the Van Cliburn Foundation in Fort Worth, and a Busoni Gala at Symphony Space in New York. He has also appeared as recitalist at many colleges and universities across the United States, including Tulane, Vanderbilt, Cincinnati College Conservatory, and San Francisco State University.



[Dr. John Salmon](#)

His broad repertoire covers the classics – Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, and Brahms – though his involvement with contemporary music is equally strong. Salmon has championed and been at the forefront of performing new works by such celebrated composers as [Dave Brubeck](#), [Nikolai Kapustin](#), and [Lalo Schifrin](#).

His performances have been heard on many radio stations in the U.S., including National Public Radio, WNYC in New York, WFMT in Chicago, and KUSC in Los Angeles; and on the national radio stations of Australia, Canada, Finland, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the Ukraine.

Dr. Salmon is also a frequent guest performer at other festivals in the U.S. and Europe, having appeared at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival (Charleston, South Carolina), Piano Festival Northwest (Portland, Oregon), Interlochen Piano Festival (Interlochen, Michigan), Festival Internacional de Música del Mediterráneo (Cartagena, Spain), and the International Bartók Festival (Szombathely, Hungary). Other special appearances include an all-Liszt recital in Mexico City for the [American Liszt Society](#) and an all-Brubeck recital in Washington, DC for the [Music Teachers National Association](#).

His versatility often produces striking juxtapositions. In one concert with the Wilmington (North Carolina) Symphony in 2001, Salmon performed Beethoven's Second Piano Concerto in the first half, and then, in the second half, Dave Brubeck's Elementals for orchestra and jazz trio (with Brubeck's sons, bassist Chris and drummer Dan).

He has recorded two compact discs of Dave Brubeck's classical piano music, one released in 1996 on [Phoenix](#) and the other in 2004 on [Naxos](#).

As guest lecturer, Salmon has spoken on a wide array of topics – e.g., "Beethoven's Shadow" (The Juilliard School), "September 1828: Schubert's Last Three Piano Sonatas" (Boston Conservatory), and "Adding Notes to Classical Scores" (Conservatorio de Música, Morelia, Mexico).

As author, he has covered such subjects as "What Brubeck Got From Milhaud" and "[Urtext, que me veux tu?](#)," appearing in American Music Teacher, The Chronicle of Higher Education, Clavier, [College Music Society Newsletter](#), Piano & Keyboard, and Piano Today. His book, [The Piano Sonatas of Carl Loewe](#), was published by Peter Lang Publishing in 1996.

John Salmon has been a member of the faculty of The University of North Carolina at Greensboro School of Music since 1989. He holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from [The University of Texas at Austin](#); the Master of Music degree from [The Juilliard School](#); the Solistendiplom from the [Hochschule für Musik, Freiburg, Germany](#); and the Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Arts (philosophy) degrees from [Texas Christian University](#). His awards include the Premio Jaén (1979), the Gina Bachauer Award from Juilliard, a fellowship from the Beethoven Foundation (known nowadays as the [American Pianists Association](#)), and prizes from the 1979 University of Maryland (William Kapell Competition) and 1984 [Busoni](#) competitions. He was born in Fort Worth, Texas in 1954.

Salmon's educational articles:

<http://www.uncg.edu/~jcsalmon/articles.html>

Publications:

- [Jazz up the Sinfonias \(J. S. Bach\) by John Salmon](#)
- [Jazz Standards arranged for solo piano by John Salmon \[SEE REVIEW IN AMT\]](#)
- [Jazz Up the Inventions: J. S. Bach's Two-Part Inventions with Jazzy Accompaniments \(duet\)](#)
- [Add On Bach: Variants, Lead-ins, and New Lines Added to Selected Inventions \(solo & duet\)](#)
- [Videos](#)
- [Dave Brubeck At the Piano – Edited by John Salmon \(Amazon\)](#) - or see [Sheetmusicplus](#)
- [Seriously Brubeck – Edited by Gail Lew & John Salmon](#)
- [Nocturnes by Dave Brubeck – Edited by John Salmon](#)
- Original music by Salmon recorded on CD: [Salmon Is a Jumpin'](#)
(Write to [Dr. Salmon](#) to inquire if any of his original compositions are available in manuscript.)
- [Recordings on YouTube](#)

A sampling of Dr. Salmon's expressive gestures at the 2017 Festival for Creative Pianists adjudications:



John Salmon & Connor Watz



Maria Evans & John Salmon



John Salmon & Maria Ali



A bemused Maria Ali looks on as Dr. Salmon makes a point in his own inimitable way

KEVIN OLSON is unavailable for the 2018 festival, but will return in 2019. He is an active pianist, composer, and member of the piano faculty at Utah State University, where he teaches piano literature, pedagogy, and accompanying courses. In addition to his collegiate teaching responsibilities, Dr. Olson directs the Utah State University Youth Conservatory, which provides weekly group and private piano instruction to more than 200 pre-college community students. The National Association of Schools of Music has recently recognized the Conservatory as a model for pre-college piano instruction programs. Before teaching at Utah State, he was on the faculty at Elmhurst College near Chicago and Humboldt State University in northern California.

A native of Utah, Olson began composing at age five. When he was twelve, his composition, *An American Trainride*, received the Overall First Prize at the 1983 National PTA Convention at Albuquerque, New Mexico. Since then he has been a Composer in Residence at the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy, and has written music commissioned and performed by groups such as the American Piano Quartet, Chicago a cappella, the Rich Matteson Jazz Festival, Music Teachers National Association, and several piano teacher associations around the country. Olson maintains a large piano studio, teaching students of a variety of ages and abilities. Many of the needs of his own piano students have inspired [more than 100 books and solos published by the FJH Music Company](#), which he joined as a writer in 1994.



[Dr. Kevin Olson](#)
(will return in 2019)

Publications:

- [Complete list of Olson publications with FJH](#)
- [Collections of Dr. Olson's best music](#)
- [NFMC Choice: Impressions on Color](#)
- [Recordings: University of Iowa Piano Pedagogy Video Recording Project](#)

Dr. Olson inspires students at the 2017 Festival for Creative Pianists adjudications:



Kevin Olson and Sophie Brants



Genesse Johannik and Kevin Olson



Kevin Olson and Kira Waite



Wynn-Anne Rossi

WYNN-ANNE ROSSI is a dynamic composer and unique music educator. Her compositions have reached audiences throughout the United States and around the world. She has over [100 publications](#), primarily for piano, that are widely distributed online and in music stores. Her repertoire also includes works for vocal and chamber groups, concert band and orchestra. Various commissions have been sponsored by Minnesota Public Radio, the National Endowment for the Arts, Music Teachers National Association and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra.

Wynn-Anne has a specialty for bringing the art of composition to young musicians. She has been offering composition residencies in Minnesota schools and across the country since 2003, inspiring hundreds of students to write their own music. Partnerships have included the [MUNDI Project \(UT\)](#), the [Linda Luebke Strings Festival \(IN\)](#), the [St. Paul Chamber Orchestra \(MN\)](#), and many more. Rossi has also written two comprehensive series that encourage young pianists to compose: *Music by Me* (FJH, with Kevin Olson) and most recently, *Creative Composition Toolbox* (Alfred).

Active as a presenter, Wynn-Anne is known for her innovative lectures, workshops and master classes. She lectures on a wide variety of subjects, including the importance of "Speaking Music" and "American Music: Jazz meets Latin," inspired by her two popular series, *Música Latina* and *Jazzin' Americana* (Alfred).

Rossi was educated in music theory and composition at the University of Colorado. Further training included choral conducting at Harvard University and jazz pedagogy through the University of Illinois. She has also studied composition under Pulitzer Prize recipient [Aaron Jay Kernis](#).

Still curious? Check out her new YouTube series on creativity called [Wednesdays with Wynn-Anne](#) or visit www.rossi-music.com.

Publications:

- [Rossi website info \(best source\)](#)
- [Onlinesheetmusic](#)
- [Recordings: University of Iowa Piano Pedagogy Video Recording Project](#)
- [NEW: A lesson on Jazzin' Americana \(terrific 4-book series\)](#)

Wynn-Anne Rossi offers constructive feedback to students at the 2017 Festival for Creative Pianists adjudications:



Wynn-Anne Rossi & Desi
Silverman-Joseph



Wynn-Anne Rossi & Heather
Hunt



Wynn-Anne Rossi & Renée Hoyt



Wynn-Anne Rossi & Abby Waite



Evan Mazunik

(judge for 2018; will continue as clinician in
the following years)

EVAN MAZUNIK will step in as a judge and clinician for 2018. He plays contemporary and improvised music as a composer, keyboardist, and musical director in the Denver, CO area. Fluent in [Soundpainting \(52 videos\)](#), a sign language for live composition, Mazunik is composer/director for [ZAHA](#), his NYC-based ensemble. Mazunik has performed with Carla Bley, Anthony Braxton, and Robin Eubanks, and has played at creative music venues such as Roulette, The Stone, and Dazzle.

As an educator, he founded the Sunnyside Piano Academy while in New York, and has collaborated with [Jeffrey Agrell](#) for master classes and workshops at [Colorado Mesa University](#), University of Indiana, University of North Texas, Southern Mississippi University, the Royal Academy of Music in London, and many others. Evan currently serves as Director of Worship, Music & Arts at Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church.

Clinicians



From a young age, **LORI FRAZER** has enjoyed sharing her love of the marvels of digital keyboard instruments with music teachers and students from all over the country. With this passion, she has been able to build and oversee the ever-popular [Yamaha Clavinova Festival](#) since she started as a Marketing Programs Specialist at [Yamaha's](#) Piano Division in 1997. Lori also oversees several other Yamaha marketing programs, including "Say Yes to Music After School."

She is currently also a consultant to [The Yamaha Music & Wellness Institute \(YMWI\)](#), a non-profit organization with a unique purpose – to scientifically explore and share the benefits of creative musical expression as an effective wellness strategy. With her extensive

background in the music field, Lori works closely with YMWI collaborators to ensure successful recreational music making (RMM) projects. Since joining the Clavinova Connection team in 2004, she has enjoyed bringing the amazement and wellness benefits of RMM to many people who never thought it was possible to play a musical instrument.

Lori's creative and informative workshops show teachers fun and exciting ways to keep students motivated. "We lose 78% of students between level 1 and level 2, based on music sales," asserts Lori. "It's up to us to come up with things to help prevent students from quitting so early." Using proven teaching methods, Lori introduces innovative [Yamaha Clavinova series](#) technologies that open new doors for both teaching and learning.



Lori Frazer workshop for 2017 Festival for Creative Pianists

MARTHA HILL DUNCAN is Abundant Silence's Featured Composition Educator. A Texas native, she began piano lessons at the age of eight and later received a diploma in vocal music in the first graduating class of The Houston High School for Performing and Visual Arts. She earned a degree in composition from The University of Texas at Austin studying composition with Donald Grantham and piano with Gregory Allen, Danielle Martin, and Errol Haun. In Ithaca, New York she worked with pianist Trudi Borden and composer Robert Palmer and in 1982, moved to Canada with her husband, astrophysicist Martin Duncan. In Toronto she continued her musical studies at the Royal Conservatory of Music with composer Sam Dolin.



One-on-one session at 2017 Festival for Creative Pianists

In recognition of her adopted country, many of Martha's vocal and choral works are set to Canadian texts. Some of these songs have won awards in both American and Canadian choral and art song competitions. In addition to her vocal writing, Martha is also known for her piano compositions, many of which were inspired by places where she has lived or visited. A piano examiner for The Royal Conservatory of Music, Martha is also a renowned clinician and frequent adjudicator. She lives in Kingston, Ontario with her husband and has two grown children: Alex, a mathematician and Claire, a singer, actress and voice over artist.

Since 1991, **BETHANY COBB** has worked as a [Guild Certified Feldenkrais PractitionerSM](#) in Denver, Colorado. She holds a B.A. in Psychology from York University, Ontario, Canada. Other work experience includes extensive work in vision therapy, assisting in Montessori and Waldorf kindergartens, and working with the elderly.

In addition to her private Feldenkrais* practice, Beth taught Feldenkrais to groups of children and teenagers at *Between the Bones* Dance School for ten years. Her work is nourished by meditation and life-long experience in the fine and performing arts.

**According to [TheFreeDictionary](#), the Feldenkrais Method "is an educational system that allows the body to move and function more efficiently and comfortably. Its goal is to re-educate the nervous system and improve motor ability. The system can accomplish much more, relieving pressure on joints and weak points, and allowing the body to heal repetitive strain injuries. Continued use of the method can relieve pain and lead to higher standards of achievement in sports, the martial arts, dancing and other physical disciplines."*



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