

# **SNC Piano Festival**

March 2, 2024

Birder Hall

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 9:00- 10:30  | Masterclass- Dr. Leslie Spotz   |
| 10:45- 12:15 | <i>Alexander Technique: An Introductory Workshop</i><br>Dr. Leslie Spotz              |
| 12:15- 1:30  | Lunch (Off Campus/on your own)  |
| 1:30         | <i>Elementary and Intermediate Piano Works By Composers of Color</i><br>Tricia Marton |
| 2: 30        | <i>The Brazilian Pianism of Ernesto Nazareth</i><br>Dr. João Paulo Casarotti          |
| 4:00         | <i>Taubman Technique: Basic Principles</i><br>Dr. João Paulo Casarotti                |
| 5:00         | Participants Recital  |
| 6:00         | Dinner (Off Campus/on your own)   |
| 7:00         | Guest Recital: Dr. Leslie Spotz, Birder Hall, concert                                 |

## Descriptions

### **The Alexander Technique: An Introductory Workshop**

The Alexander Technique is a discipline that was developed by F. Mathias Alexander (1869-1955), that can be applied effectively to a wide range of human activity. Through practice of four main principles of this work, a better functioning of the body and mind enhances potential for creative expression. Dr. Leslie Spatz, through an intense training, in 1984 became a certified Teacher of the Alexander Technique from the Wielopolska School for the Alexander Work. For four decades she has used it in her work as a music educator.

NOTE: please wear comfortable, warm clothing, socks. If desired bring a small blanket or yoga mat.

### **Elementary and Intermediate Piano Works by Composers of Color**

Works by composers of color are coming into the mainstream of the classical realm. Typically, larger works by African American composers are presented on the concert stage. Studio teachers who want to expose their students to composers from various demographics at the elementary and intermediate level, this is the workshop for you. Works by Henry Thacker Burleigh, Valerie Capers, Robert Nathaniel Dett, Florence Price, William Grant Still, and Samuel Coleridge Taylor will be presented along with a bit of history of each composer. Also included are references to order music by these composers for your students. Enjoy delightful, pedagogical pieces and expand your repertoire from Bach, Beethoven and the boys

### **Taubman Technique: Basic Principles**

The purpose of this session is to offer the basic principles of Dorothy Taubman's technique associated with the study of movements, alignments and coordination. It will be discussed: forearm rotations (single and double); in and out movements; walking hands and arms; shapings; groupings; How to play octaves, chords, repeated notes, scale, arpeggios, etc. There will also be demonstrations on how to map the movements on the score as well as offer basic strategies of coordination.

### **The Brazilian Pianism of Ernesto Nazareth**

Experience the remarkable legacy of Ernesto Nazareth (1863-1934), a prolific composer and pianist whose 211 piano compositions spanned a diverse array of genres, including 88 tangos, 41 waltzes, 28 polkas, and various other pieces such as sambas, galops, quadrilles, Schottisches, fox-trots, and romances. Despite his classical training, Nazareth's music was deeply imbued with the rich traditions of Brazilian styles like the maxixe, choro, and lundu, alongside influences from Chopin. Join us for a captivating lecture recital featuring performances of selected piano works by Nazareth, complemented by an insightful discussion on his distinctive style and practical and technical insights for interpreting his compositions. Don't miss this opportunity to delve into Nazareth's musical heritage and his pivotal role in bridging classical and popular music traditions.

**SNC Piano Fest 2024**  
**Guest Artist Piano Recital**

**Dr. Leslie Spatz**

March 2, 2024- 7 pm

Birder Hall

St. Norbert College

Kingdom Hearts  
Hand in Hand

Yoko Shimomura  
(b. 1967)  
arr. Sachiko Miyano

Images Bk. I  
Reflets dans l'eau  
Hommage à Rameau  
Mouvement

Claude Debussy  
(1862-1918)

Final Fantasy X: To Zanarkand

Nobuo Uematsu  
(b. 1959)

Kingdom Hearts  
Roxas  
The Other Promise

Yoko Shimomura  
arr. Sachiko Miyano

**INTERMISSION**

Suite Bergamasque  
Claire de lune

Claude Debussy

Nocturne in C minor, Op. 48 No. 1  
Mazurka in C major, Op. 24 No. 2  
Nocturne in Eb major, Op. 9 No. 2  
Fantaisie-Impromptu, Op. 66

Frédéric Chopin  
(1810-1849)

## Bios

### **João Paulo Casarotti, DMA**

[jpcasarotti.com](http://jpcasarotti.com)

**João Paulo Casarotti**, Brazilian pianist, is the Assistant Professor of Piano at St. Norbert College in De Pere, WI, as well as the Artistic and Pedagogical Director of the Piracicaba International Piano Festival, Encontro Internacional de Pianistas do Vale do Aço and Piracicaba International Piano Concerto Competition. He maintains an active professional career as a pianist, pedagogue, researcher, clinician, and entrepreneur.

Dr. Casarotti earned his DMA in Piano Performance from Louisiana State University, MM in Piano Performance and Piano Pedagogy at Temple University, MM in Piano Pedagogy from the University of North Dakota, a Bachelor's degree in Piano from the Universidade de São Paulo (Brazil), the Piano Diploma of the Escola de Música de Piracicaba "Maestro Ernst Mahle", and the Performance Certificate of the National Academy of Music of Sofia (Bulgaria). Among his teachers were Dorothy Taubman, Maria Del Pico Taylor, Sheila Paige, Michael Gurt, Sergio Gallo, Mauricy Martin, Marisa Lacorte and Victor Tchouckov.

Dr. Casarotti performed as soloist and chamber musician in Brazil, the United States, Portugal, United Kingdom, Thailand, Taiwan, South Korea, Bulgaria, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Panama and Paraguay. He also performed as a soloist for orchestras in Brazil, United States, and Ukraine. His areas of expertise include the Taubman Technique, Alexander Technique, and Piano Wellness. He specializes in the use of technology in piano lessons and is one of the world pioneers of online piano instruction.

Dr. Casarotti is currently a member of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee for Music Teachers National Association, as well as member of the Technology Committee of the National Conference of Keyboard Pedagogy and the Competition Coordinator for the Wisconsin Music Teachers Association.

During this academic year (2023-2024) Dr. Casarotti performed in solo and chamber recitals at The Kimmel Center- Academy of Music (Philadelphia), Woxman Hall (University of Iowa), First United Methodist Church (Miami), Teatro Do Engenho Erotides de Campos (Piracicaba, Brazil), Teatro Anita Villalaz (Panama) and Westin- Lombard (National Conference of keyboard Pedagogy). Some of his upcoming performances engagements include solo performance of two lecture recitals on the works of Brazilian composers Ernesto Nazareth and Ernst Mahle for the Music Teachers National Conference in Atlanta (March) and the world premiere of the Brazilian composer Ronaldo Cadeu Boinot's Concerto for Harpsichord and Guitar Ensemble at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University- Bloomington (April).

This year Dr. Casarotti published articles in Piano Pedagogy-technology and Diversity and Inclusion for the American Music Teacher Magazine and MTNA Business Digest. He recently received a contract to write a chapter for the Cambridge Companion to Piano Pedagogy about the Piano Pedagogy in Central and South America through the Cambridge University Press.

## Tricia Marton

**Tricia Marton**, a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music, began studying piano at age 5 and hasn't stopped. Along the way, she received a Bachelor and Master of Music in Piano Performance from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, completed several Dalcroze workshops at Carnegie Mellon University, and regularly attends conferences and workshops related to teaching piano, notably MTNA conventions. She is currently adjunct faculty at UW Green Bay | Sheboygan Campus and Lakeland University, additionally she teaches private piano in her south side Sheboygan studio. Students from Marton Music Studio have consistently placed in local and state competitions, local and regional composition contests, been featured on the Senior Honor Recital and tested out of many semesters of class piano. The arts are her passion, and she considers herself a music coach for students and their parents, guiding the entire family through the joys of music study. Before moving to Wisconsin she spent 10 years at St. Louis' classical radio station creating and managing an educational program for area youth.

## Leslie Spotz

**Leslie Spotz**, as Professor of Piano at Tarleton State University, received the 2017 Texas Music Teachers Association "Outstanding Collegiate Teaching Achievement" Award. As winner of the 2017 TSU College of Liberal and Fine Arts Faculty Excellence in Research and Creative Activities Award, Spotz enjoys an international performing career that spans four continents and four decades, and has included solo performances in Moscow at Tchaikovsky Hall of Moscow University, South Bank Center of London, Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., the famed Academy of Music in Philadelphia, her highly acclaimed tours of Germany, concerts in Italy at the Lorenzo de'Medici Institute, solo recitals in Taiwan and Brazil, and her performance at the inaugural opening of Philadelphia's magnificent performance venue, the Kimmel Center. She performed remotely throughout the pandemic of 2020-2021, including the MTNA Convention. Recent seasons include solo recitals throughout Texas, Rio de Janeiro and Il Encontro Internacional de Pianistas de Brazil and performances at the Music by Women Festival at Mississippi University for Women. In 2015 she performed solo recitals in New York City's Tenri Cultural Institute, Indiana Wesleyan University, Dallas Public Library, and chamber music concerts in Dallas, TX, Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, and Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA. She returned to New York and the Tenri Cultural Institute for the Leschetizky Association Annual Living Composers Concert May, 2016. She returned to Italy in June 2013 for performances at the Conservatorio di Milano and the Ambrosianum Foundation. Also, in June 2013 she performed in Buenos Aires, Argentina and returned to London in May 2011. February 2010 included an all-Chopin Bicentennial recital in New York City. December 2010 she returned to Germany in a solo recital at the Heilig-Kreuz-Kirche in Berlin. Hailed by the prestigious **Süddeutsche Zeitung** of Munich, Spotz' Beethoven was described thus: "Stripped of veneer, revealing all the edges and corners, Spotz earnestly confronted Beethoven's tempi and dynamic indications, leaving mediocrity and shallow beauty behind and bringing out truth. In all, a concert of the highest critical standard, further proof of the high carat quality of this series." Spotz has performed extensively throughout the U.S. from coast to coast. Concert highlights include her 2007 performance at Tarleton as soloist with the Fort Worth Symphony, her performances of twenty Beethoven Sonatas at Rutgers University and recitals for the Bach Festival of Philadelphia.

Receiving a full scholarship to the Curtis Institute of Music, Spotz studied for five years with the legendary, Mieczyslaw Horszowski, part of the heritage that is only three musicians-students-teachers away from Beethoven. She completed her doctorate at Rutgers University in 2002. Her appearances as soloist include the Mozart Society of Philadelphia, South Jersey Symphony, Curtis Symphony, Kinhaven Symphony in Vermont, the Piedmont Chamber Orchestra in North Carolina, the Old York Road Symphony

in Abington, PA, and the Clear Lake Symphony in Texas. In March 2013 she was soloist with the University of Texas – San Antonio Symphony.

Spotz has become an advocate for women musicians through her performances, collaborating with flutist Adeline Tomasone on the critically acclaimed CD *Fantasias*, and women composers are featured on her solo CD, issued by Leonore Records in 1999. Published recordings also include the three sets of 5 CDs each of solo piano literature, representing the repertoire for 13 graded levels, 2019-2021, 2016-2018 and 2010-2012 for the International Piano Performance Examination Committee (IPPEC) based in Taiwan and Southeast Asia. She has collaborated with violinists: Maria Bachmann, Joseph Genualdi, and Mark Steinberg; flutist Laurel Zucker; David Wetherill, former co-principal horn of the Philadelphia Orchestra; Frank Kaderabek, former principal trumpet of the Philadelphia Orchestra; and Joseph Depasquale, who was longtime principal viola of the Philadelphia Orchestra. Among the notable international singers for whom Spotz has accompanied are sopranos Amanda Squitieri, Julianne Baird, Gwendolyn Bradley and Donna Connolly, and tenors Martin Dillon and Robert Guarino. According to the **The Philadelphia Inquirer**, "Miss Spotz commands the resonant sound and the elegant gesture... playing of great color, boldness, and suavity... most engaging..."