



Sunday, September 28, 2025 | Three o'clock | First Presbyterian Church of Hartford

Tuesday, September 30, 2025 | Twelve noon | Westminster Presbyterian Church
of West Hartford

The Lillibridge Ensemble and pianist colleagues in an
International Music Festival

of piano solos, duets, duo, trio and quintet

Lillibridge Ensemble: Madeleine Forte, Raphael Ryger, David Clampitt,
Krystyana Czeiner, Karen Emery Ryger

Pianist colleagues: Ildikó Bartha, Matthew Bengtson, János Kéry, Anna Kijanowska, Sara Opposits
Special Guest: cellist John Haines-Eitzen

Photographer, Cameraman: Fernando Pastor
Stage manager, Cameraman: Olivier Demory

All donations support the Music Scholars at Westminster Presbyterian Church

Sunday, September 28 at Three o'clock

Spanish Dance No. 1 from <i>La vida breve</i> (1904)	Manuel de Falla (1876–1946)
Madeleine Forte and János Kéry	
In celebration of Madeleine Forte's 87th birthday	Matthew Bengtson (born 1974)
A la manière de Ravel (2025) — <i>World Première</i>	<i>Composer-in-residence, The Lillibridge Ensemble</i>
L'Isle joyeuse (1904)	Claude Debussy (1862–1918)
Madeleine Forte	
Impromptu in G-flat Major, Op. 90, No. 3 (1827)	Franz Schubert (1797–1828)
Ildikó Bartha	
Mazurek (2024) — <i>World Première</i>	Agnieszka Lasko (born 1982)
Mazurka from Opus 50 (1925)	Karol Szymanowski (1882–1937)
Anna Kijanowska	
Dumka in E Minor, Op. 72, No. 2 (1878)	Antonin Dvořák (1841–1904)
Furiante in G Minor, Op. 46, No. 8 (1878)	Ildikó Bartha and János Kéry

INTERMISSION

Sonata for violin and piano in A Major, Op. 13 (1876)	Gabriel Fauré (1845–1924)
I. Allegro molto	
Raphael Ryger and Madeleine Forte	
Variations on an original theme in D Major, Op. 21, No. 1 (1856)	Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)
Sara Opposits	
Two Transcendental Etudes (1852)	Franz Liszt (1811–1886)
No. 3 in F Major – Paysage	
No. 4 in D Major – Mazeppa	
János Kéry	
Piano Quintet in E-flat Major, Op. 44 (1842)	Robert Schumann (1810–1856)
I. Allegro brillante	
II. In modo d'una marcia	
III. Scherzo: Molto vivace	
IV. Allegro ma non troppo	
The Lillibridge Quintet	

Our Pianist Colleagues



Ildikó Bartha Dr. Ildikó Bartha received her degree from the Debrecen Conservatory of the Franz Liszt Academy of Music. In 1993 she received Madeleine Forte's scholarship at Boise State University in Idaho, where she won two Northwest piano competitions. She is a piano teacher and accompanist at the Zoltán Kodály High School of Music in Debrecen. In 2018 she received the DLA from the Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest. She made a record of 8 pieces from Martin Torp's series of 64 miniatures entitled Reflections. She is an adjunct professor at the University of Nyíregyháza from autumn 2025. Her research area is the Hungarian piano works of Robert Volkmann. She performs widely in Europe.



Matthew Bengtson Critically acclaimed as a “musician’s pianist,” Dr. Matthew Bengtson is Associate Professor of Piano Literature at the University of Michigan. He is best known for his Scriabin on the Roméo Records label, which was recommended to him by Madeleine Forte. He is co-author of the Alexander Scriabin Companion and a Massive Open Online Course series on Coursera on piano sonatas. His most recent recording project is Roberto Sierra: Piano Works which has received numerous rave reviews including the Mélomano de Oro prize coveted in Spain. Website: www.mattbengtson.com
Composer-in-Residence, The Lillibridge Ensemble



János Kéry Dr. János Kéry was Madeleine Forte's first scholarship student in her international piano student program in 1992-93 at Boise State University. He later graduated from the Musikhochschule Saarbrücken, Germany and at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music Budapest, Hungary, where he finished his doctorate studies as well, and where he has been professor of piano since 2004. He is an active performer and has given masterclasses in Hungary, Germany, China, Mexico and in the USA. Website: janoskery.com



Anna Kijanowska Hailed by The New York Times as “an excellent young Polish pianist,” Dr. Anna Kijanowska’s performances represent the diversity of today’s globalized classical music scene. She has performed, taught and collaborated on six continents. Anna came to the USA as a scholarship student of Dr. Madeleine Forte in 1996. She holds degrees from Boise State University and Manhattan School of Music. She is associate professor at the University of Silesia in Poland and received a travel grant from the Instytut Adama Mickiewicza to appear in this concert. Website: annakijanowska@gmail.com



Sara Oppositis In 1993 Hungarian pianist Sara Oppositis was awarded a scholarship to study with Dr. Madeleine Forte at Boise State University and has remained Madeleine's friend ever since. She began her piano studies at age five in her native town of Debrecen. She has received critical acclaim as a J. S. Bach specialist, and has performed widely in Hungary. She maintains a large class of students.

The Lillibridge Ensemble



Left to right: Raphael Ryger, David Clampitt, Madeleine Forte, Karen Ryger, Krystyana Czeiner



Madeleine Forte, pianist, received the Josef Lhevinne Memorial Award at The Juilliard School. She offered Scholarships to American and Foreign students at Boise State University where she taught for twenty-six years. She has toured on five continents. The New Yorker praised “Forte’s gorgeous tone and sensuous line (evoke) classic French pianism...chaste simplicity of the Sonatine to the virtuosic ‘Gaspard de la Nuit’, in which no prisoners are taken and no notes are dropped.” Website: <https://madeleineforte.github.io>



Raphael Ryger, violinist, was born in Israel and grew up in New York City before returning to Israel and later returning to the U.S. for graduate study in Philosophy at Yale. His violin training included some of the greatest pedagogues in both countries. He has been soloist and concertmaster with many orchestras in Israel and in Connecticut, and has been in those capacities with New Haven-based Orchestra New England since 1988.



David Clampitt, violinist, is Professor Emeritus at Ohio State University, formerly Associate Professor in the Music Department of Yale University. Following violin studies at Manhattan School of Music, he played with Orchestra of New York, the Algonquin String Quartet, the Morningside Piano Trio, Prometheus, and many other ensembles. He is a member of the Miles Road String Quartet, and lectures on and coaches chamber music in many cities in the US and in Europe.



Krystiana Czeiner, violinist and violist, has made her mark in the music world with dual degrees from Juilliard, a Grammy award, and contributions to platinum and gold records. She was a student of Dorothy Delay, Robert Mann, Felix Galimir and Louise Behrend and she has made notable appearances at The Aspen Music Festival, Sarasota Music Festival, Carnegie Hall and was featured in the Delay Starling Symposium. Beyond performing, Krystiana is dedicated to music education, classical music accessibility, and serves on the board of trustees for several non-profit arts organizations.



Karen Ryger, cellist, grew up on Long Island. She studied music at the Juilliard School, at S.U.N.Y. at Stony Brook--with Bernard Greenhouse of the Beaux Arts Trio--and in Tel Aviv. While living in Israel she was a member of the Israel Chamber Orchestra, the Jerusalem Symphony and the Jerusalem String Quartet. She appears with Orchestra New England and other Connecticut orchestras and chamber groups, and is a founding member of the Lillibridge Ensemble.

Guest Artist



Cellist **John Haines-Eitzen** is a Senior Lecturer and Artist-in-Residence at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. He was a member of The Philadelphia Orchestra from 1995 until 2005 and has also performed in the New York Philharmonic, the Columbus Symphony, and the North Carolina Symphony. A dedicated proponent of new music, Haines-Eitzen has premiered works by many leading composers including Pulitzer Prize winner Julia Wolfe and Latin Grammy winner Roberto Sierra, for whom he recorded complete works for cello and piano with pianist Matthew Bengtson (Albany Records, 2018). He also offers a solo discography including Bach's Six Cello Suites (Aramus Records, 2011). A patented inventor, Haines-Eitzen develops performance enhancing stringed instrument components through the Saddle Rider Research Collective.

Additional Invitations:

You are cordially invited to additional programs affiliated with the International Music Festival:

Program no. 3 @ Mulberry Concert Hall in Hamden on Wednesday October 1, 2025 at seven o'clock.
Dr. János Kéry, Hungarian pianist in a Franz Liszt program

Program no. 4 @ Evergreen Woods Retirement Center in North Branford on October 3, 2025 at three o'clock
The Lillibridge Ensemble: Solos, Piano duets, Faure violin and piano sonata, Tchaikovsky Trio.

The proceeds generated from the festival will go to support the
Music Scholars at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Thank you.