



## 2024 SILVER STATE COMPETITION

### Adea Badivuku

#### CLASSICAL PIANO ADJUDICATOR



A native of Kosovo, distinguished pianist Adea Badivuku has performed in major concert halls across Europe, the Balkans, and the U.S., including at the prestigious Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. Born in Vushtrri, she is the first pianist from her country to pursue a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at an R1 Institution in the United States. A graduate teaching assistant to Dr. James

Winn at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), Ms. Badivuku has a deep passion for contemporary music. She is the director of the Shadows Contemporary Art Festival in Kosovo and Reno, co-founder and pianist for the ADEDUO ensemble, and serves as president of the UNR Chapter Music Teachers National Association.

Beginning her music studies at the Prenke Jakova Music School in Prishtina, Kosovo, Badivuku continued her piano education at the University of Prishtina before moving to Michigan, where she earned her Master of Music degree from Central Michigan University. A recipient of numerous prestigious awards, Ms. Badivuku most recently won First Prize at the 2021 New York International Piano Competition. A major professional milestone came in October 2024, when she became an MTNA Nationally Certified Teacher of Music in Piano, solidifying her status in the field. In 2023, she also became a certified teacher and educational partner with Steinway & Sons. Recognized as the Most Outstanding International Graduate Student at UNR for 2022/2023, she has performed in master classes with world-renowned pianists such as Alfred Brendel, Giovanni Belluci, Derek Han, and Jon Nakamatsu, among others.

### Deniz Çağlarcan

#### COMPOSITION ADJUDICATOR



Deniz Çağlarcan is a Los Angeles-based composer, violist, conductor, and transdisciplinary artist initially from Istanbul, Turkey. He investigates the sonic quality of "electronic music" by any means and realizes this idealized environment as a model for his musical language. Çağlarcan's works explore the interaction among acoustic instruments, electronic sounds, visuals, and other

art disciplines within their morphological attributes. Besides, he is intrigued to create an environment by utilizing various immersive audio techniques as well as visuals and spatial elements that surround the audience. He performs interdisciplinary works collaborating with painters, media artists, computer graphics developers, and machine learning engineers.

His works include solo instrumental pieces, chamber music, large ensembles, tape/electroacoustic works, live-electronic, mixed works, audio/visual compositions, site-specific sound installations, arrangements as well as

film and video game scores. Besides his composition career as a violist, he performs in solo concerts, chamber music, new music ensembles, and popular music. He is also co-founder of the ADE Duo ensemble. He studied orchestral conducting for over eight years, and the latest at Central Michigan University, he continued very in-depth study with José-Luis Maúrtua. He holds degrees in Master of Music in Viola Performance from Central Michigan University and a Master of Arts in Composition from Bilkent University.

Çağlarcan is currently a Ph.D. student in Composition studying with João Pedro Oliveira and Master of Science in Media Arts and Technology with Curtis Roads at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He has studied with notable composers and performers; Mark Andre, Beat Furrer, Annette Vande Gorne, Tolga Yayalar, Bruno Mantovani, Ken Ueno, Pierluigi Billone, Clara Iannotta, Alberto Posadas, Isabel Mundry, Ulrich Kreppein, Laura San Martin, Jay C. Batzner, Alicia Valoti, Sheila Browne, Scott Woolweaver, Yuri Gandelsman, Tatjana Masurenko, Walter Küssner, Hartmut Rohde, Alexander Zemtsov, Ulrich Mertin, Christine Ruthledge.



## Pierce Kagari Emata

### CLASSICAL PIANO ADJUDICATOR

Pierce Kagari Emata, residing in Las Vegas, is a Bluthner Concert Artist. He received his Bachelors and Master degrees in Piano Performance from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, where he coached with international concert artists Alfonso Montecino, John Ogdon, and Gyorgy Sebok. He has also coached with Hungarian concert artist Istvan Nadas, as well as John Simms. He has appeared in many solo and orchestral concert series, such as the Dame Myra Hess nationally broadcast concerts in Chicago.

Across the United States and abroad, in addition to traditional solo concert and orchestral appearances, Mr. Emata is well known for his innovative and entertaining commentary-concerts, trademarked and titled Concerts & Conversation. These presentations bring audiences closer to the artist, his personal experiences, the music, and the personal lives of various composers by including commentaries at various levels with a solo concert. These performances have also been broadcast on National Public Radio affiliates in various states.

He has been awarded numerous artist grants and fellowships from the Indiana, South Dakota and Nevada arts councils in recognition for his accomplishments in concertizing, recording, advanced teaching, and composition. He has concertized throughout the United States and abroad; in 2017 and 2019 he performed in Pune, India, and will return to India next season for concerts and master classes, as well as in Japan. He is in demand as a juror for various competitions across the country and abroad such as the Music Teachers National Association's Divisional and State competitions, Steinway & Sons piano competitions, and the Musiquest National India Piano Competition. He is also in demand as a presenter and conference artist to state music teacher organizations and conventions, speaking on best practices in teaching and performing, style interpretation, playing technique, and career coaching to enable students to become credible 21st century musicians. In addition, he has served on national grant committees for the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), as well as performance grant committees for the Indiana Arts Commission.

Mr. Emata has been on the summer piano faculty at the internationally renowned Interlochen Center for the Arts, which brings together 2700 students from 50 countries annually, where he taught master classes and private lessons to gifted students.



## Emily Hill

### WOODWIND ADJUDICATOR

Emily Hill, originally from Forsyth, Illinois, completed a Master of Music Performance degree from the University of Nevada Las Vegas in 2022. During her time at UNLV, she participated in many ensembles including the UNLV Symphony Orchestra, UNLV Wind Orchestra, Early Music Ensemble, and Flute Ensemble. In these groups, Emily honed her skills on many of the instruments in the flute family including piccolo, alto flute, bass flute, and Baroque flute. She also worked as a Part Time Instructor of flute lessons. As a passionate educator, Emily's special research interests include teaching music to students with ADHD and Autism as well as Music Wellness, completing research in both topics during her time at UNLV. For her academic success, she was accepted into the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. Emily also holds a Bachelor of Music Performance degree from Millikin University (2019) where she won two Young Artist Concerto Competitions performing in both 2016 and 2017. She participated in many ensembles, but most notably, she held the Flute 2 and Piccolo position in the Millikin Decatur Symphony Orchestra for four years. For her contributions as a musician at Millikin University, Emily won multiple awards which include the Theodore Presser Scholarship Award and Phi Kappa Lambda Award for Outstanding Music Student. Emily has studied with Dr. John McMurtery, Amanda Pond, and Dr. Laurie Glencross.

Currently, Emily has a private studio filled with students of all ages. For three years, she served as Vice President of the Las Vegas Flute Society and is now the Treasurer. She works as a Flute Instructor at several schools in the Las Vegas area including Pinecrest Academy, Bishop-Gorman High School, Valley High School, and Coronado High School. Emily frequently performs with Nevada Chamber Orchestra, Henderson Symphony Orchestra, Desert Winds, and the UNLV Early Music Ensemble.

## Dr. Daniel J Hunter Jr.

### VOCAL ADJUDICATOR



Dr. Daniel J Hunter Jr., Tenor, of Columbus, OH has been singing since the age of ten. His recent operatic performance includes the role of Bacchus in Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Previously, Dr. Hunter has portrayed the roles of Don Alfonso in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, The Big Bad Wolf in Sondheim's *Into the Woods*, and the title role in *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Dr. Hunter was also given the opportunity to portray Vicomte de Cascada in Franz Lehàr's *The Merry Widow* with Savannah Philharmonic and Chorus.

During his studies with the Moores' Opera Center at the University of Houston, Dr. Hunter was able to portray the roles of Don Prudenziò in Rossini's *Il Viaggio a Reims*, Hermann in Offenbach's *Les Contes D'Hoffmann*, Customs Sergeant in Puccini's *La Bohème* and Head Guard in Christopher Theofanides' new opera *The 13 Clocks*.

As a concert performer, Dr. Hunter has performed Handel's *Messiah* and Theodore Dubois's *The Seven Last Words of Christ* at the historic Butler Memorial Presbyterian Church in Savannah, GA.

Dr. Hunter's Choral experience includes the Houston Symphony Chorus where he participated in several tours to Mexico City. Other groups include the Battle Born Chorale, Raymond Wise Spirituals Chorale, Opera Columbus, Cecillian Singers of Columbus, and Tessitura and has been privileged to sing with Andrea Bocelli, Anna Maria Martinez and Metropolitan opera singer, Richard Paul Fink.

Dr. Hunter holds the Doctorate of Musical Arts from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, as well as several affiliations including MENC, ACDA, Black Music Students Association, is the advisor to the Society of Blacks in the Arts at Georgia Southern, Co-founder of the Arts at St. Luke Music Series, and is a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity of America, Inc. Dr. Hunter is also the proud recipient of the Dr. A. Grace Lee Mims Memorial Scholarship which supports the preservation of African-American spirituals. In addition to performing, Dr. Hunter teaches voice, and is a Certified Nutrition Coach, and Personal Trainer.

## Yoonji Park

### SOCIAL PIANO ADJUDICATOR



Yoonji Park is a Korean-born classical pianist who has garnered acclaim for her captivating performances and impressive musicality. Praised as an "exceptionally talented pianist with a natural gift for music" by the revered pianist and musicologist Paul Badura-Skoda, Yoonji has cultivated her artistry under the tutelage of renowned pedagogues Zenon Fishbein, Alexandre Moutouzkine, and Mykola Suk. A graduate of the Manhattan School of Music where she earned both her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees, Yoonji completed Doctoral coursework at the University of Maryland and is currently continuing her Doctorate (DMA) at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas under the guidance of Mykola Suk.

Yoonji's captivating performances have taken her across North America, Asia, and Europe, gracing stages in Italy, France, Germany, and Portugal. Her passion for chamber music has led to engaging recitals at Greenfield Hall, Pforzheimer Hall, and David A. Rahm Hall. Beyond her mastery of the modern piano, Yoonji possesses a deep appreciation for early music, evident in her performances of Handel's "Acis and Galatea" and Bach's "Schweig stille, plaudert nicht" (Coffee Cantata) on the harpsichord with Maestro Kenneth Cooper.

Her commitment to artistic growth is further demonstrated by her participation in numerous masterclasses with distinguished figures like Paul Badura-Skoda, Boris Berman, and Boris Slutsky, Victor Rosenbaum, Jeffrey Swann, Alon Goldstein, Manuela Gouveia, Phillip Kawin and Asaf Zohar, and through her involvement in esteemed music festivals such as IKIF in New York, Forum Musicae in Madrid, Euro Music Festival in Halle, SIPO in Obidos, Music Alp Festival in Tignes and Amici della Musica in Atri. Yoonji's dedication to music education is reflected in her inclusion on the Manhattan School of Music's qualified private teacher directory and her current position as a part-time faculty member in the music department at UNLV.

## Claire Tatman

### STRING & CHAMBER ADJUDICATOR



Currently residing in Reno, Claire Tatman is ABD (All but Dissertation) earning her DMA (Doctorate of Musical Arts) in violin performance at the University of Nevada, Reno. She is a member of the Reno Philharmonic and regularly plays with the Fresno Philharmonic, Reno Chamber Orchestra, Arizona Opera, Tucson Symphony and Phoenix Symphony. With 18 plus years of teaching, she maintains a private studio and is a member of ASTA (American String Teachers Association) and is a Certified Suzuki Teacher through the SAA (Suzuki Association of Americas). She is also the Director of the Sacramento Youth Symphony Chamber Music Workshop and a regular coach for the California Capitol Chamber Music Workshop and Toiyabe Chamber Music Workshop. Ms. Tatman enjoys adjudicating for local and statewide competitions and youth orchestras all across the west including All-State.