



Georgia Musicale Group 2025 The Fifth Spivey Hall Concert



Clayton State University

2000 Clayton State Blvd,
Morrow, GA 30250

September 7th, 2025
3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.



About Georgia Musicale Group

Georgia Musicale Group (GMG) was founded in 2015 by Dr. Utako Tanigawa and formally established as a nonprofit organization in 2016. This year, we are proud to celebrate ten years of building a welcoming community of music enthusiasts and performers.

GMG brings together individuals who share a deep passion for both music and life. Since our beginning, more than 200 instrumentalists and vocalists have taken part in our programs—many of whom have remained committed members over the past decade.

Our membership reflects a broad spectrum of professional and cultural backgrounds, including scientists, physicians, attorneys, educators, and seasoned professional musicians. Many of them began their musical journeys in childhood but set aside their instruments to pursue careers—only to later reconnect with music through GMG. The organization offers a supportive environment for reigniting that passion and pursuing musical development at any age and stage.

Our *musicales* (practice sessions) provide valuable opportunities for members to improve their performance skills, receive encouragement, and share their music in a collaborative setting. These experiences reflect GMG's mission: to recognize, nurture, and inspire musical excellence in a joyful and supportive atmosphere.

Today, GMG's community reaches well beyond Georgia, with participants from across the United States and around the world. Our *Renowned Artist Series* exemplifies our dedication to artistic growth, as we welcome distinguished musicians to lead master classes and perform concerts. As we celebrate our 10th anniversary, we are deeply grateful to all who have been part of this journey—and we look forward to many more years of music-making together.

About the Founder and President



In Japan, Dr. Utako Tanigawa studied Philosophy and then owned and operated a private school and restaurant. In the U.S., she earned additional degrees in Mathematics, Computer Science, and Software Engineering, followed by a Ph.D. in Computer Science and Information Systems and then postdoctoral research in Management Science and Engineering at Stanford University. She has over 30 years of leadership experience in global corporations—including a Fortune 1 company—specializing in systems architecture and information security. She has also served as a visiting lecturer at Stanford and other leading universities. About a decade ago, a serious illness led her to music as a source of healing. Since then, she has participated in international amateur piano competitions—including the Van Cliburn, Chopin (Poland), Piano Bridges (Russia), and PianoLink (Italy)—earning multiple prizes.

*Dr. Utako Tanigawa, GMG Founder and President
Ph.D. in Computer Science & Information Systems, CISM, CISSP, CGEIT, SAPM*

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Program

Hungarian, from 12 Etudes Op. 39 Edward MacDowell (1860 - 1908)

Edward MacDowell, born in New York City, was a composer and pianist of the late Romantic period, considered by many to be the greatest American composer. His compositions often depicted locations and imagery in the United States, but "Hungarian", from "12 Etudes Op. 39", represents a Hungarian Gypsy dance.

Farris Goodrum, Piano

Prelude Op.45 Fryderyk Chopin (1810 – 1849)

I believe, preparing for his inevitable death, Chopin reminisces in this Prelude about the time when he was happily, deeply in love with his fiancée Maria, but how one day he received a letter from her mother: "We cannot allow our daughter to marry someone whose future is so dim."

Carol Andrus Wazlavek, Piano

Di rigori armato il seno Richard Strauss (1864 - 1949)

A German composer composed a German opera. In this opera, he added an Italian aria to have fun. He would have never thought that this aria turned out to be the most beautiful and most difficult song for tenors.

Fuling Chiang, Tenor

Prelude in C minor, BWV 999 J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

First written for the lute; arranged by J.S. Bach.

Gnossienne no. 2 Erik Satie (1866-1925)

Accompanying a pod of humpback whales.

Henri Josserand, Piano

Wedding Day at Troldhaugen Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

Troldhaugen is in Bergen, Norway, and is the former home of Grieg. The piece was written in 1896 as a memorial of the 25th wedding anniversary of Grieg and his wife.

Sam Smith, Piano

The Lark Mikhail Glinka (1804-1857) transcribed by Mily Balakirev (1837-1910)

The Lark was originally composed as a song by Russian composer Mikhail Glinka, often considered the father of Russian classical music. The piece was part of his 1840 song cycle A Farewell to Saint Petersburg. The piano version is arranged by his student Mily Balakirev.

Emily Hilton, Piano

Ave Maria D.839 Franz Schubert (1797 – 1828)

Composed by Schubert to the poem "Ellen's Song" in the epic poem "Beauty on the Lake". Ellen is hunted with her father, the leader of the rebel army, and while on the run, she prays for the Virgin Mary's help out of fear and uncertainty about the future.

Chigusa Morimoto, Soprano & Kimber Kwiatkowski, Piano

Berceuse Op. 57 Fryderyk Chopin (1810 – 1849)

A shimmering lullaby with delicate variation over a steady, rocking rhythm. It offers relaxation & meditation.

Scherzo No.2 Op. 31

Opens with a haunting question and unfolds into a sweeping musical narrative. Fiery, tender, and transcendent by turns, this piece represents the height of Romantic intensity and emotional complexity.

Utako Tanigawa, Piano

Intermission

Program - Continued

Hungarian Dance No.1 & No.5.....Johannes Brahms (1833 - 1897)

A set of 21 dance tunes based mostly on Hungarian themes. Each dance is arranged for a wide variety of instruments. No.1 and 5 burst with fiery passion and folk-inspired flair. It captures the lively spirit of Hungarian gypsy rhythms, alternating slow, expressive melodies with exuberant passages.

Kimber Kwiatkowski & Shoko Tanaka, Four Hands Piano

Song to the Moon from Opera, RusalkaAronin Dvorak (1841 – 1904)

Rusalka is the daughter of a water-goblin who falls in love with a prince who frequents the lake where she lives. Rusalka sings this song to the moon asking the moon to reveal her love to the prince.

Annette Marie Russo, Soprano & Julie Woodall, Piano

Val Venezolano and Contradanz..... Paquito D’Rivera (1948 –)

A Cuban composer, saxophonist, and clarinetist. Known for his fusion style that combines jazz, classical, and Latin American idioms, these two dances showcase his unique style. Vals Venezolano, characterized by a lively and syncopated rhythm, and Contradanza, with its playful catchy melody, showcase the composer’s range.

Laurie Searle, Clarinet & Farris Goodrum, Piano

Trois Gnossiennes.....Erik Satie (1833–1897)

These short pieces reflect Satie's early love of medieval chant. They also mark his departure from music tradition, with no time signatures, measure bars replaced by phrase lines and directions in Italian replaced by whimsical French phrases, such as "very shining", "without pride" and "don't leave."

Paul Zampol, Piano

Chella mi creda Giacomo Puccini (1858 - 1924)

Dick Johnson is to be hung in the morning. He hopes that his beloved girl (Minnie) will never find out and one day he might be able to come back from exile,

O sole mio Di Capua (1865 – 1917)

It's the most beautiful, romantic Neapolitan love song to be known by the world.

Fuling Chiang, Tenor

Sonata Op. 109 Ludwig Van Beethoven (1770 – 1827)

Beethoven’s Piano Sonata No. 30 in E major, Op. 109, the third-to-last of his piano sonatas, is characterized by a free and original approach to the traditional sonata form. Its focus is the third movement, a set of variations that interprets its theme in a wide variety of individual ways.

Asa J. Williams, Piano

Toccata in G majorThéodore Dubois (1875–1937)

Dubois' Toccata in G is a brilliant and virtuosic showpiece, known for its rapid manual figurations, majestic chords, and jubilant character. It effectively utilizes the organ to present a wide range of musical textures, from soft, lyrical passages to powerful, full-organ statements.

Gary Myrthil, Organ

Libesfreud (Love’s Joy) Fritz Kreisler (1875–1962)

Transcribed for piano by Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

Kreisler's beloved "Liebesfreud" captures the intoxicating joy of love through its lilting Viennese waltz style. Rachmaninoff's masterful piano transcription preserves the original's singing quality while exploiting the piano's full harmonic capabilities, creating a work that honors both composers' genius.

Dr. Michelle Yelin Nam, Piano – Professional Category

Performer's Information



Fuling Chiang was born in Taiwan in January 1955. I came to the USA in 1980 and I am a retiree from a sign business. A tenor, I sing for Alpharetta Community Chorus, Atlanta Chinese Christian Church North Choir and Chinese Eastern Choir. I have loved singing since I was a boy, however, I didn't think about improving my voice until I was 57 years old. It's a bit late, but my passion for singing will never die. I love having the opportunity to sing and share my passion with others.



Farris Goodrum was born and raised in Africa, where his parents were mission workers, and he began lessons there at the age of 8. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance from the University of West Georgia, and a Master of Music degree in Piano Pedagogy from Georgia State University. He spent many years in Brazil teaching music courses in seminaries and churches, and he currently teaches private piano lessons and is a church pianist.



Emily Hilton holds an ARCT (Associate of the Royal Conservatory of Toronto) in Piano Performance and began studying piano at a young age. She pursued further musical training in piano performance at Brigham Young University and is currently completing a Master of Arts in Music at Wesleyan College. Based in Bonaire, Georgia, she teaches piano locally while raising her five children. Her passion for music education and performance continues to inspire both her students and community.



Kimber Kwiatkowski began playing for churches in an employee capacity at the age of 15, holding positions as pianist, organist and choirmaster. She earned her B.A. magna cum laude, majoring in music with a concentration in piano performance from Mercer University. She earned a J.D. from Mercer University's Walter F. George School of Law. After working in various private law firms and two Fortune 500 companies as in-house counsel, she now teaches piano. She is an active accompanist for vocalists, instrumentalists, and students.



Dr. Henri Josserand, a native of France, spent his working life in academia and international organizations, focusing on economic development and food security in many parts of the world. Coming to the piano relatively late he made up for lost time after retirement and has been a member of the Georgia Musicale Group since moving to Atlanta. He enjoys playing both classical music and easy jazz.



Chigusa Morimoto earned the degree of Bachelor of Vocal Music, Nagoya University of Arts, Japan, M.M. in Vocal Music, International college of music, Hamburg, Germany. She studied German songs, opera arias, and church music there. After that, she worked as a voice trainer in Japan for 5 years. She is living with her husband and daughter in Georgia since March 2021 due to her husband's work. She became a GMG member in the spring of 2023.



Gary Myrthil is pursuing a graduate program in organ performance and collaborative music at Wesleyan College, GA. His musical journey began at 9, leading him to the National Conservatory of Music in Haiti. He attended classes in Tuba and percussion at the Holy Trinity Music School joining their youth orchestra. Gary's piano talents flourished in church where he started playing at the age of 12. Besides his classical roots, he embraced Jazz, performing with the Georgia Big Band and the Top Hats. Gary is a Nephrologist for 28 years.



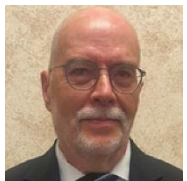
Dr. Michelle Nam has garnered critical acclaim for her "silvery clarity and brilliant talent" (Montreal Gazette), praised for performing "in the manner of the greats" (La Presse). She has performed including the Montreal Symphony London Philharmonic Concert Orchestras, and Edmonton Symphony Notable achievements include premiering Jacques Hétu's Triple Concerto with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra and receiving top prizes from international competitions. Dr. Nam holds degrees from Arizona State University (DMA), Manhattan School of Music, Hartt School, The Juilliard School, and McGill University.



Annette Marie Russo has enjoyed a life-long love of music. She began piano lessons at the age of 8 and studied for about 7 years. She also studied voice for several years as a young adult. She has participated in a variety of vocal experiences including church and community choirs and solos. After graduating from Rutgers College in NJ, she taught 1st and 3rd grades for 35 years. She incorporated music into the classroom whenever possible to enhance learning. Being involved in music has always been a priority her life.



Laurie Searle is a resident of Chattahoochee Hills and a founding member of Peachtree Chamber Players. She was one of the last women to enlist in the Women's Army Corps, playing clarinet in the WAC band stationed at Ft. McClellan, Alabama, and continuing her military band service for 9 years. She studied music at Jacksonville State University, and later received a BA in Journalism and an MS in Technical Communications. She restarted clarinet in 2014, after not playing for more than 30 years, and now plays in the Carrollton Wind Ensemble.



Sam Smith 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 (at age 62) he enrolled in the University of West Georgia, pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance. He graduated in the Spring of 2020.



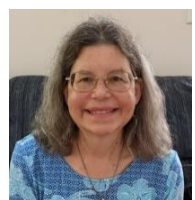
Shoko Tanaka began studying piano at the age of three. She was a student at Yamaha music school in Japan until the age of eight and started taking private lessons with Professor Miyuki Hoshino in Oita, Japan. She won several prizes in local piano competitions including the PTNA, Glanzen competitions. As a thirteen-year-old, she performed with the Poland Krakow Chamber Orchestra in their concert tour in Japan. After several years of the break from performing, she joined the GMG in 2017 and happily returned to playing the piano once again.



Carol Andrus Wazlavek, an Atlanta native, now a resident of Cherokee County, has been playing piano all her life. Classically trained and degreed, she believes harpsichord technique can be utilized on the piano to create an authentic Baroque performance. Carol especially enjoys the collaboration that happens between musicians in chamber music. A self-taught visual artist, her passion is including art, animation, and music to create classical music videos for her new YouTube channel, WazziArts.



Asa Williams formal piano lessons at the age of six. While in high school, he studied composition and theory at the Junior Conservatory Camp of Music, East Burke, VT, the predecessor of the Walden School music camp, Dublin, NH. After studying composition at the New England Conservatory of Music, Asa transferred to the University of Texas at Austin and studied piano performance with the late Danielle Martin. There, he graduated with a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance and Master of Science in Accounting from Liberty University.



Julie Woodall has played the piano for fifty years, earning a Bachelor of Music & Master of Fine Arts from the University of Georgia. She taught elementary school music for 31 years in Lincoln & Clayton Counties, believing that every child should experience the joy of music. She was the choir director & organist of St. Joseph's Episcopal Church in McDonough for 13 years and is currently the choir director/organist at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Episcopal Church in Dahlonega. She has taught children and adults to play the piano for over 35 years.



Paul Zampol took lessons in classical piano for about six years as a teenager but was not especially diligent in his practice. After a 50-year gap in music studies, he bought a used Knabe baby grand piano in 2018 and began studies with Natasha Gilbert in Newnan. When Natasha returned to Russia, Paul began studies with LuAnn Latzanich in Fairburn. passion for piano duos. In retirement, she is now part of a piano duo and a participant in several chamber music groups.

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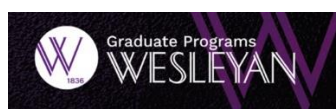
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Our Mission

Increase Music Appreciation by listening and Performing Opportunities

Sharing the joy of music in a welcoming environment in our music community

- Encourage the music involvement of all ages
- Improve quality of musical performance and deepen knowledge

Your Opportunities

Practice Sessions (3 times/month), Concerts, Lectures, Masterclasses, World Renown Artists' Events

If you are interested in experiencing GMG, we warmly invite you to attend one of our Musicales—informal practice sessions where members perform pieces they are currently working., where you will enjoy variety of music and friendship.

<https://www.mygmg.org> -> "Membership"

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