

SNC Piano Fest

March 5, 2023

Birder Hall

9:00	Lecture Recital-Ernst Mahle: Brazilian Piano Music for Children Dr. João Paulo Casarotti (Assisted by Michael Gurt)
10:00- 12:00	Masterclass- Dr. João Paulo Casarotti
12:00- 1:30	Lunch (Off Campus)
1:30	Studio Recital of Dr. Casarotti
2: 30	Lecture Recital- Villa Lobos' Guia Pratico for Piano Dr. Verena Abufaiad
3:15	Lecture: Taubman Technique: Basic Principles Dr. João Paulo Casarotti
4:15	Lecture Recital: Valerie Caper's Portrait in Jazz SNC piano students
5:15	Workshop: The Use of Technology in Piano Lessons Dr. João Paulo Casarotti
6:00	Dinner (Off Campus)
7:00	Guest Recital: Michael Gurt

Descriptions

Ernst Mahle: Brazilian Piano Music for Children

The lecture recital consists of a performance and discussion of the pedagogical features and stylistic recommendations of Ernst Mahle's piano works for children including his four piano concertinos based on Brazilian and European folk themes.

Villa Lobos' Guia Prático for Piano

In this session, the author will unveil this concert and pedagogical repertoire through demonstrations of selected pieces from the *Guia Prático* for piano, highlighting facets of Villa-Lobos as a composer and educator. All musicians are invited to explore this compelling, diverse twentieth-century repertoire that reflects the culture of Brazil.

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.

Valerie Caper's Portrait in Jazz (SNC piano students & guests)

This lecture recital will feature a performance and discussion of the album *Portraits in Jazz* composed by the blind African American composer Dr. Valerie Capers. The album contains twelve charming and contrasting intermediate level jazz pieces. Each one of the pieces is dedicated to a prominent jazz musician and features different jazz styles. During this session, we will provide some background information of each piece, share insights on the styles, and offer technical tools pianists can use to effectively perform the pieces.

The Use of Technology in Piano Lessons

This session will discuss the interdependence of the in-person, online and hybrid instructions and how music teachers and students can benefit from all the tools acquired for the online lessons and also for in person and hybrid piano lessons. It will also offer practical and creative technological tools to the teacher of the future:

- Improving the visual communication of piano lessons with a big screen featuring multiple cameras and screen sharing of the iPad, iPhone or computer
- Recording your lessons, tutorials and performances with the OBS Studio
- Open a whole world of possibilities with the hybrid studio recitals
- How to transform the sound of your online students for your online recital: making your digital piano sound like a concert grand piano.
- Teaching through Games and Creative Activities

Bios

Verena Abufaiad, DMA

Verena Abufaiad maintains a thriving piano studio in Columbia, SC while serving as Director of the Piano Education at Freeway Music. She holds a DMA in Piano Pedagogy from the University of South Carolina, an MM in Piano Performance and an MM in Piano Pedagogy from the University of Missouri, and a BM in Piano Performance from the Pará State University in Brazil.

In latest engagements, Ms. Abufaiad has given lecture-recitals based on her dissertation research on Heitor Villa-Lobos and his *Guia Prático* for solo piano at NCKP: The Piano Conference, the European MTA Conference in Portugal, and the Piracicaba International Piano Festival in Brazil. Her research has also been featured in the column *What's New* by E. L. Lancaster in a recent issue of the American Music Teacher (AMT), and an article published in the MTNA e-Journal and selected as the 2023 MTNA Article of the Year. Other recent commitments have included masterclasses for the Universidad de las Artes in Ecuador and University of Santo Tomas in the Philippines as well as administrative appointments for professional organizations in the field.

Verena is the planning committee chair of the 2023 MTNA Collegiate Chapters Symposium, a member of the MTNA Task Force on Young Professionals, and a board member of the South Carolina MTA.

João Paulo Casarotti, DMA

jpcasarotti.com

Brazilian pianist João Paulo Casarotti is the Assistant Professor of Piano at St. Norbert College in De Pere, WI, as well as Artistic and Pedagogical Director of the Encontro Internacional de Pianistas de Piracicaba, Encontro Internacional de Pianistas do Vale do Aço (Timóteo, MG) and Piracicaba International Piano Concerto Competition. Dr. Casarotti maintains an intense activity as a pianist, pedagogue, researcher, clinician and entrepreneur.

Casarotti earned his Doctoral degree in Piano Performance from Louisiana State University, a Master's degree in Piano Performance and Piano Pedagogy at Temple University, a Master's degree 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).

Dr. Casarotti performed as soloist and chamber musician in Brazil, the United States, Portugal, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Thailand, Taiwan, South Korea, Bulgaria, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay 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; the use of technology in piano lessons and the works of Brazilian composer Ernst Mahle.

Dr. Casarotti is currently member of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee of the 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.

Michael Gurt

Website: <https://www.lsu.edu/cmda/music/people/faculty/gurt.php>

Michael Gurt is Paula Garvey Manship Distinguished Professor of Piano at Louisiana State University. He won First Prize in the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition in 1982, and was a prize winner in international competitions in Pretoria, South Africa, and Sydney, Australia. He has performed as soloist with the Chicago Symphony, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Utah Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony, the Memphis Symphony, the Cape Town Symphony, the China National Symphony Orchestra, and the Natal Philharmonic Orchestra in Durban, South Africa.

He has made solo appearances in Alice Tully Hall and Weill Recital Hall (Carnegie Hall) in New York, Ambassador Auditorium in Los Angeles, Orchestra Hall in Detroit, City Hall in Hong Kong, the Victorian Arts Center in Melbourne, Australia, Baxter Hall in Capetown, South Africa, and the Attaturk Cultural Center in Istanbul, Turkey.

He recently completed a tour of Brazil. Gurt has collaborated with the Takacs String Quartet and the Cassatt String Quartet, and has performed at the Australian Festival of Chamber Music in Townsville, Queensland. He has served on the juries of both the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition and the New Orleans International Piano Competition, and he has recorded on the Naxos, Centaur, and Redwood labels.

Gurt serves as Piano Mentor at the National Music Festival in Chestertown, Maryland, and was the chair of the piano department at the Sewanee Summer Music Festival from 1987 through 2007. He has served as Piano Chair of the Louisiana Music Teachers Association, and has taught at two summer music seminars held at Tunghai University in Taichung, Taiwan. Professor Gurt holds degrees from the University of Michigan and the Juilliard School.