



Pueblo Keyboard Arts Festival

Dates: November 4-6, 2021

11th Edition

Dr. Zahari Metchkov, director

Activities:

- **Masterclass** for CSU-Pueblo Students with guest artist Dr. Dror Biran, (November 4, 10:00a.m., Hoag Hall)
- **CSU-Pueblo Piano Studio Recital** (November 4, 6:00p.m.)
- **Masterclass for High and Middle School students** (Nov. 5, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Hoag Hall, room 205) with festival guest artist Dr. Dror Biran and festival director Dr. Zahari Metchkov
- **Young Artist Competition** (Nov. 6, 9:00- 1:00 p.m., Hoag Hall): Junior Solo, Senior Solo, Piano Ensemble (One piano 4, 6, 8 hands or Two Pianos 4, 8 hands, open division) Winner of Piano Ensemble division has unique opportunity to perform in the Piano Monster Concert the same evening!
- **Piano Monster Concert** (Nov. 6, 7:00 p.m., Hoag Hall)

For more information on all events and easy online registration please visit:

www.zaharimetchkov.org

Guest Artist: Dr. Dror Biran, Associate Professor, Cincinnati Conservatory of Music



Winner of top prizes at the M.K Čiurlionis International Piano Competition, the Cleveland International Piano among others, Israeli-American Pianist Dror Biran has been described by The Cleveland Plain Dealer as “his fortissimos crashed and roared, but next to them came pianissimos that whispered seductively...he has technique to burn and uses it effectively.” Biran’s superb tonal control combined with interesting phrasing and voicing has won him consistent critical acclaim and enthusiastic audiences.

Biran has performed widely as a soloist with major orchestras including the Lithuanian Philharmonic Orchestra, RTVE Symphony Orchestra of Spain, Johannesburg Philharmonic

Orchestra, Louisville Orchestra and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. He has played under the batons of Etinger, Rodan, Gueller, Gacia Asensio, Mester, Lane and others. His concert tours have taken him to the United States, Israel and South Africa, South Korea and China along with Eastern and Western Europe. As an avid chamber musician, Biran has appeared on a regular basis with different music ensembles such as Carmel, Amernet and Aviv String Quartets. He premiered works by Grawemyer and Rome Award winners such as York Höler and Sebastian Currier. His concerts have been broadcasted by WUOL, WCLV, WQXR, The Voice of Music – Israel and Classic FM South Africa, among others. Biran can be heard on the JMC (Jerusalem Music Centre) labels featuring ballades by Brahms and Chopin. A recipient of multiple scholarships from the America-Israel Cultural Foundation for distinguished musicians, Biran began his piano studies with Ms. Lily Dorfman, and mentored by Arie Vardi, Paul Schenly, Daniel Shapiro and Lee Luvisi. He graduated from Rubin Academy of Music at Tel-Aviv University and the Cleveland Institute of Music where he received his doctorate degree in piano performance. Biran taught at the University of Louisville, Youngstown State University and Case Western Reserve University. Currently, he serves as an Associate Professor of Piano at the College-Conservatory of Music University of Cincinnati.

PKAF Director: Dr. Zahari Metchkov, Professor, Colorado State University-Pueblo

Both a pianist and an organist, Dr. Zahari Metchkov has performed at such venues as New York’s Avery Fisher Hall and Washington’s Kennedy Center. He has concertized in China, Israel, Bulgaria, and the United States. Dr. Metchkov released his first CD in 2008 - a recording of works for piano and orchestra by Franz Liszt and Cesar Franck and a second recording project featuring solo works for



piano and organ completed in the Spring of 2014. Native of Sofia, Bulgaria, Dr. Metchkov holds DMA in piano performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, Ohio. He is an Associate Professor of Music at Colorado State University-Pueblo, teaching applied piano. He was the 2013 recipient of the CSU-Pueblo's Outstanding Service and Transformative Leadership Award and the 2014 recipient of CHASS Outstanding Faculty of the Year. In 2018, he received the Steinway & Sons Top Teacher Award. Dr. Metchkov has also taught at the Cleveland Institute of Music as well as Youngstown State University. Currently Dr. Metchkov is the Artistic Director of the Pueblo Keyboard Arts Festival and Piano Conversations Concert Series, Co-Directing the Southern Colorado Adventure Music Camp, Pueblo, as well as Rocky

Mountain Music Alliance Concert Series, Colorado Springs. Placing high priority over the education of young pianists in Southern Colorado, Dr. Metchkov is the Immediate Past President of the Colorado State Music Teachers Association, a chapter of the Music Teachers National Association. He is a founding member of the Southern Colorado Music Adventure Camp. Dr. Metchkov has been enjoying an active artistic life as a soloist, chamber artist, as well as church musician.



Piano Monster Concert Mission:

- Celebrate Piano Music and Generations of Pianists (Young Students and their Private Teachers, CSU-Pueblo students and Faculty, CSU-Pueblo Alumni and colleagues).
- Present a balanced program that can engage all listeners from the seasoned music lover in the audience to the beginner music student.
- Share the stage with pianist of all ages.
- Bring friends, colleagues, and families together.

How to get involved in the Piano Monster Concert:

- Come to the concert and invite your students to this celebration of piano music
- Support us: volunteer time or donate funds to support this expensive event
- Tell a friend, introduce them to PKAF and the Monster Concert
- Opportunities for private teachers:
 - ☐ Prepare a team of students to perform in a multi piano piece-trio, quartet, or more (ex. Jamaican Rumba, Triple Dip, Schubert March).
 - Opportunities for CSU-Pueblo Piano Alumni:
 - ☐ Prepare a student/teacher duet and participate in the joint CSU-Pueblo students' and Alumni's Teacher/Student side by side performance.
- Rehearsals: Saturday, November 6 from 4.30-6.00 p.m. at Hoag Hall. Additional rehearsal opportunities possible upon request.

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