

Carol Stone Piano Studio

presents

Peskanov Piano Festival

Please come and participate in the annual Carol Stone Piano Studio Piano Festival featuring Alexander Peskanov. You, your student or child, will have an opportunity to take a private lesson with a world-renowned concert pianist, composer and pedagogue during the week of January 9th, 2017. Mr. Peskanov, with his vast knowledge of repertoire, helps each student to understand his or her pieces from the inside out. He understands the language of music, because he is a successful composer of piano repertoire. Peskanov has the uncanny ability to tune into each student's personal needs and help them to play like an artist at all levels.



In the private lesson, the student's teacher can request that Peskanov share some of his incredible skill in technique, as taught in the great Russian conservatories on the Leschetizky school of virtuosity. These lessons will be in my studio. Peskanov has written six books on this technique, so students at all levels can learn fundamental skills. He will also help to polish the student's piece to be played in the Peskanov Festival Concert on January 14, 2017, in Mathes Hall at ETSU in Johnson City, TN. This activity helps each young musician to play his or her piece with a very personal performance. During the concert, the student will be sharing the stage with a consummate, world famous musical

artist. As is done in famous music festivals, such as the Aspen Music Festival, the student always plays up to a higher level in this environment.

The second aspect of this festival is learning the art of performing from a real professional who has performed throughout the world. Mr. Peskanov recently performed in New York, South America, Moscow and Poland with world-class orchestras. Performing is a separate skill itself. It teaches the student how to focus on the job as an artist and nothing else. The performance begins with the approach to the piano on stage. Sitting and bowing, along with playing beautiful

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music are all a part of the artist's performance. One must never place limits on these young musicians – who knows how far their potential will take them. While only a few young students become professional performers, learning the skills required to learn and perform music certainly carry over into other aspects of the student's life.

The third aspect of the festival is the Piano Olympics. Each student has been working hard this year on their level's requirements. During this event each student plays his or her technical requirements for Mr. Peskanov in a group setting. Mr. Peskanov coaches each student on technique, as well as grading them on their performance. The students in the group encourage each other in a positive and supportive way. This is not a competition, but rather a chance for each student to play their personal best. Each student will receive a certificate signed by Mr. Peskanov recognizing his or her accomplishment.

The festival concert is first and foremost a family event and will be enjoyed by music lovers of all ages. In addition to the students and Mr. Peskanov, this year Dr. Wayne Johnson, retired Emeritus Professor of Music at Seattle Pacific University, will perform several selections. The concert will be an educational experience for all. We, as teachers, acknowledge that none of this could take place without the devotion and support of the family.

A reception follows the concert, and it is a great opportunity for the performers to bask in the joy of their accomplishment. Mr. Peskanov is a great conversationalist, and he enjoys talking with the students, parents and other attendees in this informal setting.

This is a unique event for our area, and it enriches the high level of art appreciation we enjoy here. It is also an opportunity for teachers to invite all of their students to attend the concert. Perhaps seeing all of this fun will entice more participants for next year's event.

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In addition to the students, featured performers at this year's event are profiled here.

Alexander Peskanov



Alexander Peskanov was born in Odessa, Ukraine, where he received his musical education at the Stoliarsky School of Music. He immigrated to the United States from the U.S.S.R. in 1973 and attended the Julliard School in New York City. His solo career debut was with Mstislav Rostropovich and the National Symphony. He has also appeared with the London Symphony Orchestra, the English Chamber Orchestra, the Hong Kong Philharmonic, and he has collaborated with famed cellist Yo-Yo Ma.

As a respected composer, Alexander Peskanov has written over 50 compositions including solo and pedagogical works and film scores, as well as several concertos for piano and orchestra,

some of which have become best sellers on Amazon and other venues. As a recording artist, he has recorded several albums, including recordings for Naxos Records, the Musical Heritage Society, Clarity records, and other labels.

In addition to being a concert artist, Mr. Peskanov is in great demand as a master teacher for aspiring music students. In 1991, he founded the Piano Olympics and also formed the International Piano Exchange to spread the great traditions and techniques of the Russian piano school to students and teachers. Alec and his wife, Lu Ann, currently live in New York and have five children: Rachael, David, Sarah, Nina, and Matthew.

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Wayne Johnson



Wayne Johnson was born and raised in Kingsport. After nearly 40 years of living and working in Seattle, Washington, he and his wife Claire moved from the Pacific Northwest in 2014 to be able to retire closer to family and friends and to enjoy the mountains and gracious southern living. The Johnsons have two sons, Wes and Eric.

As a pianist, Wayne has performed throughout the United States and abroad. In the early 1970's he was a concert pianist for the U.S. Army and in recent years he has performed regularly as recitalist, accompanist, and lecturer in numerous arts events, university concerts, and radio

broadcasts. An Emeritus Professor of Music, Dr. Johnson served as chair of keyboard studies and taught piano, keyboard literature, and music history at Seattle Pacific University from 1977 to 2014. Wayne holds both the Master's and Doctor of Music Arts Degrees in Piano Performance from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

In 1992, Dr. Johnson recorded a compact disc of piano works of composer Alan Hovhaness for Crystal Records. He also premiered several of that composer's works at regional and national venues. In 2002, he recorded a second CD entitled "Salon Classics from the Golden Age of the Piano," a recording which features neglected gems from the Romantic era in music.