

Ithaca College

Digital Commons @ IC

[All Concert & Recital Programs](#)

[Concert & Recital Programs](#)

9-14-2019

Concert: Memorial Concert honoring Mary Ann Covert

Diane Birr

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.ithaca.edu/music_programs

 Part of the [Music Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Birr, Diane, "Concert: Memorial Concert honoring Mary Ann Covert" (2019). *All Concert & Recital Programs*. 6380.

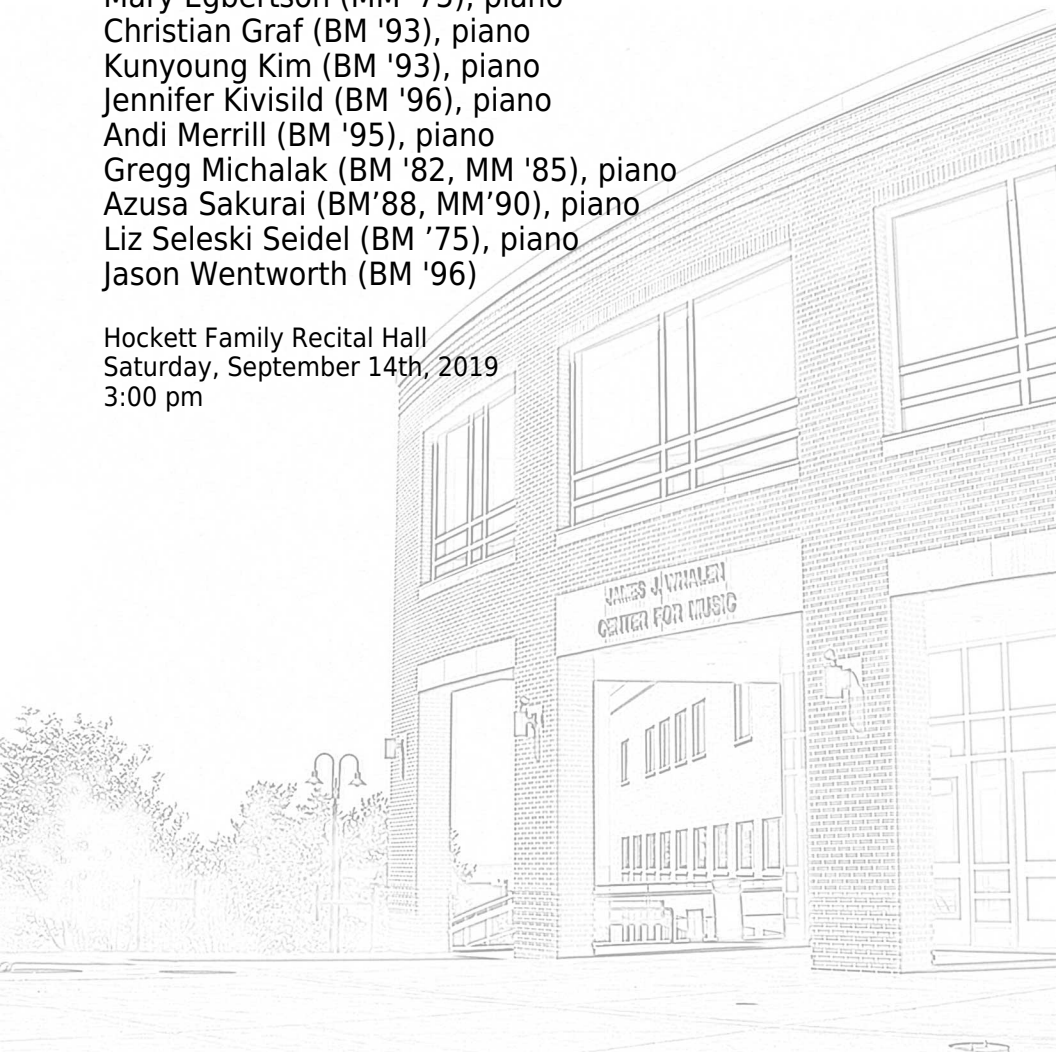
https://digitalcommons.ithaca.edu/music_programs/6380

This Program is brought to you for free and open access by the Concert & Recital Programs at Digital Commons @ IC. It has been accepted for inclusion in All Concert & Recital Programs by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ IC.

Memorial Concert honoring
MARY ANN COVERT
Professor of piano, 1967-1995

Michael Deall (BM '95), piano
Augusto Diemecke, violin
Mary Egbertson (MM '75), piano
Christian Graf (BM '93), piano
Kunyoung Kim (BM '93), piano
Jennifer Kivisild (BM '96), piano
Andi Merrill (BM '95), piano
Gregg Michalak (BM '82, MM '85), piano
Azusa Sakurai (BM'88, MM'90), piano
Liz Seleski Seidel (BM '75), piano
Jason Wentworth (BM '96)

Hockett Family Recital Hall
Saturday, September 14th, 2019
3:00 pm



ITHACA COLLEGE

School of Music

Program

Intro & Welcome — Diane Birr

Widmung
Robert Schumann
arr. Franz Liszt
(1810-1856/1811-1886)
Gregg Michalak (BM '82, MM '85)

Intermezzo in A Major, op. 118, no. 2
Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)
Mary Egbertson (MM '75)

Sonata for Four Hands
Francis Poulenc
(1899-1963)
Andrea Flick Merrill (BM '95)
Jennifer Kivisild (BM '96)

Tribute — Karl Paulnack, School of Music Dean

from Images I (1905)
I. Reflets dans l'eau
Claude Debussy
(1895-1918)
Azusa Tsumura Sakarai (BM '88, MM '90)

Adagio, in memory of my teacher, Mary Ann Covert
Michael Deall
Michael Deall (BM '95)

Tribute — Steven Mauk, Professor of Saxophone, 1975-2019

Sonata in D Minor, op. 108
II. Adagio
Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)
Jason Wentworth (BM '96), piano
Augusto Diemecke, violin

Embraceable You
George Gershwin
arr. Earl Wild
(1898-1937/1915-2010)
Liz Seleski Seidel (BM '75)

Tribute — Mary Arlin, Professor of Music Theory, 1966-2006

Prelude in B-flat Major, op. 23, no. 2

Sergei Rachmaninoff
(1873-1943)

Kunyoung Kim (BM '93)

Fantasie Impromptu in C-sharp Minor, op. 66

Frédéric Chopin
(1810-1849)

Christian Graf (BM '93)

Mary Ann Covert

Long-time Ithaca College piano faculty (1967-1995), Mary Ann (Hunter) Covert, (81) passed away on September 11, 2018. Her legacy as a teacher and performer was immense and continues to impact the lives of her former students and countless others. A native of Memphis, she was an accomplished musician and beloved educator. She earned degrees in piano performance from Oklahoma Baptist University and the University of Memphis.

Mrs. Covert served as Professor of Piano at Ithaca College. During her 29-year tenure, she served as faculty chairperson and was honored for her excellence in teaching, twice receiving a Dana Teaching Fellow. She was active internationally as a teacher and as a performer with renowned instrumentalists and vocalists. Widely recognized as an outstanding pedagogue, many of her students have realized successful careers as piano performers and teachers.

An active recitalist and collaborative pianist from a very early age, Mary Ann gave performances on campus and around the world and made numerous recordings with renowned artists, including her husband John Covert (French horn), James Ode (Trumpet), Steve Mauk (Saxophone), and with Gail Williams, former Associate Principal Horn of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Also at the request of the composer, Mary Ann recorded the keyboard works of Karel Husa.

After retirement, Mary Ann and Jack returned to the Memphis area where she remained active in coaching, adjudication, master classes, and select private lessons.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Mary Hunter. Mary Ann is survived by her husband, John M. Covert; her children, Bobby and Donna Lewis, Mark Lewis, Tracye and Harry Griffin, Jeff Lewis, and Todd Covert; her sister, Carole Smith; five grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Performers' Biographies

Michael Deall, BM from Ithaca, MM New York University, Ph.D The University of Florida. Michael's compositions have been performed all over the world including, Italy, Germany, Romania and Poland and throughout the US. His most recent project is compiling many short original piano works from various levels of easy to difficult into one publication. "Adagio", written immediately hearing the news of Mary Ann's passing is from a larger work "Emotions for Piano" He currently teaches at Florida Eastern College and has a private piano studio in Gainesville, Florida where he lives with his wife Jib Tapanat.

Augusto Diemecke started his violin studies at age 11 with his father Emilio Diemecke. Mr. Diemecke continued his violin training with Joanna Maikovska, Enrique Espin Yepes, Jorge Risi, Manuel Suarez, Fredell Lack, and Kenneth Goldsmith. Augusto has participated in master classes with Itzhak Perlman, Henryk Szeryng, and Sergui Luca. Mr. Diemecke is a very active performer, having played with orchestras such as the Mexico City Philharmonic, OFUNAM, Guanajuato Symphony, Houston Symphony, Houston Ballet Orchestra, Cayuga Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra do Norte do Portugal, and as concertmaster with Orquesta Philharmonique du Tuornon in France. He is currently the concertmaster with the Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes (OSFL). As a soloist he has performed with the Guanajuato Symphony, Morelia Symphony, Orquesta Ollin Yolistly, Orquesta de Camara de Bellas Artes, Corning Youth Orchestra, North Houston Symphony, Orquesta do Norte do Portugal, and Colgate Symphony. He has performed chamber music recitals in France, Portugal, Peru, Mexico, and the United States.

Upon graduation, **Mary Nieber Egbertson (MM '75)** began her career as a piano instructor at the Community School of Music and Arts at the Cinton House in Ithaca and continued a very rewarding and successful career teaching privately for more than 35 years. While maintaining a private piano studio, Mary also taught in the public schools, directed music and worship for church, and performed at benefit concerts. After living in New York and Texas, Mary has been a resident of Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN since 1985. Retiring from teaching in 2012, she now winters in Venice, FL and is actively involved in the music community there as a member of the SunCoast Duo Pianists, The Venice Chorale, as well as piano soloist, accompanist and president of Venice Musicale, an organization whose mission is to promote and encourage music in the next generation by awarding substantial scholarships to deserving and talented young musicians in the Venice community. Mary has always been so very grateful for the many, many ways Mary Ann Covert mentored, encouraged, and opened up the world of piano to her so many years ago.

Christian Graf (BM '93) studied Music Education (major) and French (outside field) at Ithaca College and at the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich. Christian Graf performed with the IC orchestra as well as in masterclasses with Vladimir Feltzman (New York) and György Cziffra (Paris, France). Currently, Christian teaches music/piano/piano ensemble in the Munich area of Germany. Personally, he enjoys searching for rare scores of 2- and 4-hand piano literature and performing selected pieces in recitals.

Dr. Kunyoung Kim (BM '93) has extensive experience both as a pianist and as a teacher. She was invited to perform the Rachmaninoff Second Concerto at the Great Hall in Moscow and has performed at Carnegie Hall, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Kennedy Center, as well as in concert halls in Austria, Korea, Thailand, Russia, and the United States. Dr. Kim has studied with many notable teachers, including Mary Ann Covert, Kyong-eui Chang, Santiago Rodriguez, Nelita True, and Fernando Laires. Besides her studies at the Moscow Conservatory, she holds a BM from Ithaca College, a MM from the University of Maryland, and a DMA from the Eastman School of Music. Dr. Kim has over 10 years of collegiate teaching experience as a piano faculty member at Crane school of Music at SUNY Potsdam, Ithaca College, and Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania.

Jennifer Newt Anissi Kivisild (BM '96) originally from Long Island, was in the studio of both Karl Paulnack and Mary Ann Covert, and enjoyed a good deal of time as an accompanist/collaborative pianist during and after her studies at Ithaca College. She received a Master of Arts for Teachers at Indiana University Bloomington in 2004, and is a middle school choral/general music teacher in the Ithaca City School District. In addition to practicing, teaching, and accompanying, she enjoys paddleboarding, hiking and camping, chocolate, cheese, and the discipline of barebow archery, while balancing spending time with her husband, Dara Anissi, also an IC School of Music alumni, and their four-legged family members.

Dr. Andrea Merrill (BM '95) is the Founder and Executive Director of Opus Ithaca School of Music, a non-profit community music school for all ages and abilities in Ithaca, NY. Dr. Merrill earned an MM in Piano Accompanying from Arizona State University studying with Eckart Sellheim, and a DMA in Accompanying and Chamber Music from the Eastman School of Music with Jean Barr. Andi, as she is known, proudly returned to her alma mater and taught in the piano department at the Ithaca College School of Music from 2006-2009. She is an active performer and adjudicator, and has recorded with flutists Elizabeth Shuhan, Juliana May Pepinsky, Jeanne Sperber, and Christine Gustafson; trombonist Hal Reynolds; and saxophonist Nancy Boone Barr.

Gregg Michalak (BM '82, MM '85) presently works at Vassar College as a staff collaborative pianist and vocal coach. He has regularly appeared in the northeast and tri-state areas as a soloist with orchestra, collaborative pianist, chamber musician, and recitalist. Among the artists of which Mr. Michalak has collaborated with include violist Danielle Farina of the Lark Quartet, cellist Yosef Feigelson, sopranos Christine Howlett and Courtenay Budd, Sarah Simon-Levine. Others include violinist Ihor Shablovsky, violist Deirdre DeStefano as well as prominent baritone Robert Osborne and composer David Alpher. Mr. Michalak has appeared with such conductors as Pamela Gearhart, Edward Murray, Angelo Pagano, Woomyung Choe, Hilarie Clark-Moore and Karen Pinoci. Orchestral appearances have included the Ithaca College Orchestra, Ithaca Chamber Orchestra, the Highlands Symphony, the Orange County Community Orchestra, the Bergen Symphony and the New Sussex Symphony.

Mr. Michalak has been invited to many colleges and universities throughout the United States where he has conducted master classes and appeared as a recitalist. Local appearances have included the Croton-On-Hudson Public Library, The Puffin Foundation, Mount Saint Mary College, Sullivan County Community College, Orange County Community College, Ulster Community College as well as Vassar College, Hartwick College and Bruno Walter Hall, NYC among others. Concert series have included the Grand Montgomery Chamber Music Series, the Town of Lumberland Concert Series and the Hudson Valley Bachfest concerts. He has appeared throughout the northeast on television and radio as well as England and Austria. In 2006 Mr. Michalak recorded Beethoven Piano Concertos Nos. 3 and 4 with the Aeolian Symphony for the Archive Classics Label. In addition to his performance career, Mr. Michalak is a master piano technician and piano restorer having owned and operated his own private piano business for over 35 years. He resides in Orange County, NY.

Azusa Sakurai (BM'88, MM'90) began her career as a Class Piano instructor and as a Staff Accompanist at IC, in addition to teaching local children piano using the Suzuki method in a program affiliated with IC on the completion of her Master's Degree. She currently teaches piano in both English and Japanese in Tokyo at her home studio, as well as at an after-school program at a private elementary school. She adopts Eurhythmics in her lessons, a method she first learned about when studying at IC and that she still continues to study even now. Her various activities include giving recitals with the cellist, Jessica Cesana, also an IC graduate, as well as acting as an official interpreter at International Conferences of the Dalcroze Society. In the past she has also performed as a soloist with the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra and the IC Orchestra.

Dr. Liz Seidel (BM '75) has enjoyed a successful career as soloist, chamber musician, adjudicator and teacher. She has performed within the United States and Canada, most notably at the Pacific Rim Summer Music Festival (Uclulet, BC, Canada) and the Jascha Heifetz Violin Symposium (New London, CT). She is Co-Founder of the Carmel Klavier International Piano Competition (Carmel, IN) and is currently on the faculty of the Hartt School of Music Community Division at the University of Hartford (CT).

Jason Wentworth (BM '96) graduated from Ithaca College with a Bachelor's of Music Degree in Piano Performance. He continued as a Staff Accompanist for IC from 1996 - 2003 and also worked closely with students attending ITE's Suzuki Institute during this period. He continued to perform with various young artists up until the birth of his second child in 2013. Currently, he is focusing on his career at Northside Wine & Spirits, where he has helped operate and manage the business for the last 22 years, and raising his two young boys alongside his wife, Tzvetana.

Thank You!

Karl Paulnack, School of Music Dean
Sheila Ossit, School Operations & External Relations Officer
Bradley Whittemore, Director of Music Admissions
Erik Kibelsbeck, Manager of Concerts and Facilities
Melissa Gattinne, College Relations and Communications
Kyle Hornyak, College Relations and Communications
Anna Kimble, Office of Engagement and Constituent Relations
Luke Klingensmith, Webcast Services Coordinator
Leonard Ostrander, Piano Technician