

MOUNTAINSIDE BAROQUE 2023 SUMMER ACADEMY FACULTY

MARC BELLASSAI (harpsichord)

Towson University, Baltimore

Marc Bellassai (harpsichord, continuo organ) has studied at the Oberlin conservatory [BMus '85, Harpsichord], Indiana University [MMus '89 and Artist Diploma] and, as a Fulbright IIE scholar from 1994-6, at the Civica Scuola di Musica and Castello Sforzesco in Milan, Italy. He currently performs with several Baltimore groups including Vivicantando, Charm City Baroque, Tazzina Dramatica, and as well as Mountainside Baroque. His interests include early keyboard performance practice, basso continuo, organology, art history, and the music and literature of the Italian seicento/settecento. He currently teaches Harpsichord, Art History, and directs the Early Music Ensemble at Towson University. His opening lecture on the relationship with Baroque Art and Music is one of the highlights of the Academy.

BRANDI BERRY BENSON (strings)

DePaul University, Chicago

Violinist and 3Arts awardee Brandi Berry Benson, whose “four-string acrobatics” and “indispensable skill” (TimeOut Chicago) have been praised as “alert [and] outstanding” (Chicago Classical Review), as her “riffs...powered by a flashing blur of bow arm, [as they] rolled out with irresistible glee” (Washington Post). She has appeared with numerous ensembles including but not limited to Newberry Consort, Kings Noyse, Ars Lyrica Houston, Ensemble Phoenix Munich, Apollo’s Fire, Indianapolis Baroque Orchestra; and as soloist/concertmaster Chicago Arts Orchestra, Soli Deo Gloria Orchestra (viola d’amore), Mountainside Baroque, Bloomington Early Music Festival Opera Orchestra, and St. Louis’s Kingsbury Ensemble. Mrs. Berry Benson has also performed throughout North America including at the Library of Congress, Festival de Musica Virreinal de Durango, Mexico City’s UNAM, the Boston, Berkeley, Indianapolis, and Madison Early Music Festivals, Early Music Now, and others. On air, she has appeared on WFMT, WGN-AM, WNUR, and Wisconsin Public Radio. Brandi serves on the faculty of DePaul University where she teaches Baroque Ensembles and Ornamentation, as faculty for the Madison Early Music Festival, and as a guest coach for Baroque Music Ensemble at Northwestern University. Brandi is Artistic Director of the Bach & Beethoven Experience (bbexperience.org).

KATIE HENDRIX (voice)

Maryland

Newcomer to the Academy faculty and vocal specialist, Hendrix is a graduate of Frostburg State University and as a Freshman joined Mountainside Baroque, where she was a frequently featured soloist. She currently teaches music in the Allegany County Schools but has maintained her interest in early music singing style. Her enthusiasm and teaching skills are a welcome addition to the Academy faculty.

LYLE NORDSTROM (classes, lute, director)

(University of North Texas)

Mountainside Baroque artistic co-director, lutenist and conductor Dr. Lyle Nordstrom has been a strong influence in the early music field for the past several decades, particularly in the area of early music education at the collegiate level. In 2000 he was given the Thomas Binkley Award by Early Music America for his work on the collegiate level and in 2009 the Paul Riedo Award by Dallas Bach Society for his contributions to early music in the Dallas-Fort Worth Area.

Nordstrom was also chosen by the national early music organization, Early Music America, to receive the prestigious Howard Mayer Brown Award for lifetime achievement in the field of early music, in recognition of his ability to inspire and mentor students, musicians and ensembles throughout his fifty-year career. He is co-founder of The Musicians of Swanee Alley, a group he directed with lutenist Paul O'Dette from 1976 to 1996, performing with them at nearly every major early music festival in North America and Europe, and contributing his performing and editing talents to recordings of the group on Focus, Harmonia Mundi and Virgin Classics, many of which can be still accessed on Spotify and other streaming sites. In 1997, Lyle also founded the Atlanta Baroque Orchestra and is now the Director Emeritus. He has also toured with "Armonia Celeste" for 10 years. Some of his arrangements are heard in the movie "Rob Roy."

SARAH LYNN (flute, recorder, fiddle)

Texas

Sarah Lynn is a multi-instrumentalist and composer hailing from Austin, TX. She is the current US National Scottish Fiddle Champion and mentee of 10-time champion Dr. John Turner. Lynn graduated with two baroque flute performance degrees from the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University and was the recipient of the "Excellency in Early Music" award. During her time in college, she was the Musician in Residence for a local retirement home, while also performing with orchestras around the midwest and east coast, including Mountainside Baroque, The Washington Bach Consort, and The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. As well as playing the violin and Baroque flute, Lynn also plays Baroque and Renaissance recorders and the Renaissance flute, and enjoys singing in choirs. Currently in Austin, TX, Lynn teaches lessons, composes music for art events and shows, and performs with her ensemble, Northfolk.

ARNIE TANIMOTO (cello, viola da gamba)

New York City

Gold medalist of the 7th International Bach-Abel Competition, Arnie Tanimoto is equally at home on the viola da gamba and Baroque cello. He was the first-ever viola da gamba major at The Juilliard School, where he soloed on both instruments, a first a Juilliard Described by The New York Times as a "fine instrumental soloist," Arnie performs in venues across the United States, Europe, and Japan. The recipient of a 2017 Frank Huntington Beebe Fund Fellowship he has also performed and recorded with Barthold Kuijken, the Boston Early Music Festival

Ensemble, and the Smithsonian Consort of Viols. Arnie is an advocate for the viola da gamba, and can be found giving lecture demonstrations and premieres of new works for the instrument around the country. As a teacher, he serves on faculty at the Mountainside Baroque Summer Academy as well as maintaining a private studio. He holds degrees and certificates from Oberlin Conservatory, the Eastman School of Music, The Juilliard School, and the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis. Outside the realm of historical performance, Arnie has collaborated with artists ranging from Stevie Wonder to Joyce DiDonato, with whom he has recorded an NPR Music Field Recording.