

Dr. Albie Micklich, bassoon



Dr. Albie Micklich is Professor of Bassoon and Woodwind Area Coordinator at Arizona State University. Noted for versatility, he was invited to present solo recitals, concertos, chamber music, and masterclasses on five continents and throughout North America. A dedicated pedagogue, his bassoon students hold orchestral positions throughout the United States, Europe, and New Zealand and have won the prestigious Fulbright Award and the Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst Award (DAAD). A champion of new music, Micklich has frequently performed world premieres, participated in over 30 commissions, and published a number of popular arrangements with TrevCo Music Publishing and Potenza Music. Active in the IDRS, Micklich was Chair of the 2020 & 2022 Gillet-Fox International Bassoon Competitions and was co-host of the 2011 IDRS conference at ASU in Tempe, AZ. He is a Fox artist performing on a custom-built red maple 680 bassoon.

Megan Durham, voice



Megan Durham (she/her), serves on the voice faculty at the University of Louisville and works as a singing voice specialist. Incorporating trauma-informed care into her pedagogy, she is a facilitator of YogaVoice®, LifeForce Yoga®, Transcending Sexual Trauma Through Yoga, and Movement For Trauma (Jane Clapp). Megan serves on the board of directors for the Voice and Trauma Research and Connection Group, co- founded by Dr. Elisa Monti and Heleen Grooten. Megan holds a Master of Music degree in voice pedagogy and performance from Westminster Choir College of Rider University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in music from the University of Richmond. She is a Recognized Vocologist with the Pan American Vocology Association, and completed her certification in singing voice habilitation with Dr. Karen Wicklund at the Chicago Center for Professional Voice.

Dr. Stephanie Sadownik, voice



Stephanie Sadownik (she/her) is a dynamic and versatile director, performer, and producer. She is a Faculty Associate at Arizona State University where she teaches voice and frequently directs for their Music Theatre and Opera program. Recent productions include *We've Got Our Eye on You* by Nkeiru Okoye, *The Infinite Energy of Ada Lovelace* by Kamala Sankaram, Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti*, a double-bill of *Nora at the Alter-Rail & A Hand of Bridge*, and original adaptation of Purcell's *The Fairy Queen*. This season she directed *Albert Herring* for the Maryland Opera Studio and the 2023 National Opera Association Chamber Opera Competition Winner *Sanctuary and Storm* by Tawnie Olsen, composer, and Roberta Baker, librettist. As a performer Ms. Sadownik has been an Apprentice Artist with Sarasota Opera, a Young Artist with PORTopera and a three-time Opera Fellow awardee for the Aspen Music Festival Opera Center. She has earned praise for her portrayals of Marcellina/*Le nozze di Figaro*, Madame Flora /*The Medium*, La Zia Principessa /*Suor Angelica*, Mrs. Lovett / *Sweeney Todd*, Arnalta / *L'incoronazione di Poppea* and Samira/*Ghosts of Versailles*. Passionate about new music and creating collaborative spaces, Ms. Sadownik is the Artistic Director of the Arizona Women's Collaborative, a new-works initiative for marginalized genders. To date the AWC has premiered 28 new pieces with themes centered on climate change, sisterhood, the voiceless, hope, and enduring through challenge. She received her Doctorate in Vocal Performance from Arizona State University, earned a Master's degree in Opera Performance from the Maryland OperaStudio and is a graduate from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music with a Bachelor's in Vocal Performance.

Dr. Ariane Alexander, piano



Dr. Ariane Alexander received her early musical training at the Juilliard School of Music and continued her collegiate studies at Indiana University, the University of California at Santa Barbara and the University of Houston Moores School of Music where she received a Doctorate of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance and Pedagogy studying with renowned pianists Abbey Simon and Horacio Gutierrez. Dr. Alexander has toured throughout the US, British Isles and Europe as soloist, collaborative artist and master-class clinician.

While living in Houston, she maintained a large private studio of piano students, many of whom won top prizes and went on to major in piano performance at prestigious universities with scholarships. Now living in Philadelphia, Dr. Alexander has a private studio and is a faculty member at the Nelly Berman School of Music. Since moving to the east coast her students have performed in Weil Hall at Carnegie Hall and Merkin Hall in New York City, and continue to win local and national awards.

Dr. Josh Wright, piano



Billboard #1 artist **Dr. Josh Wright** has delighted audiences across the United States and in Europe. The Washington Post described him as a pianist possessing “rarer gifts – touch, intelligence and the ability to surprise.” He performed his debut recitals at Carnegie Hall (Zankel Hall) and the Kennedy Center (Terrace Theater) in 2014. His self-titled album “Josh Wright” topped the Billboard Classical Traditional chart just three weeks after its release in April 2011. He also performed at Dolby Theater in Los Angeles as part of America’s Got Talent Season 9. Josh served on the piano faculty at the University of Utah from 2016-2021.

Josh earned a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Michigan. He earned a Master of Music degree and a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Utah. His principal teachers are Dr. Logan Skelton and Dr. Susan Duehlmeier. He has also studied privately with concert pianist, Sergei Babayan. Josh is married to Dr. Lindsey Wright, who earned her Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Utah.

Julia Bushkova, violin



Violinist **Julia Bushkova** is one of the strongest contemporary pedagogues. She is unsurpassed in the art of diagnosing any technical or musical problems and impediments, offering creative ways to understand and overcome them. Bushkova's teaching style is a rare combination of the famous Russian and Franco-Belgian violin schools in the context of the modern American pedagogy. Her younger students have gone on to attend the finest conservatories, including the Curtis Institute of Music, The Juilliard School, Oberlin Conservatory, New England Conservatory, Cleveland Institute of Music, Eastman School of Music, and Moscow Conservatory. Her graduates may be found in the major symphony orchestras in the US and abroad, chamber groups and, as teachers, on faculty in various universities and schools of music. Many have won national and international competitions while studying under Professor Bushkova. She is a sought-after clinician, having presented numerous violin Master Classes on five continents.

As a performer, she has been described possessing "remarkable expressiveness, an unusually large, beautiful tone and extraordinary technical execution" (Ann Arbor News), "a Russian violin tradition of the highest elegance." She has performed as a soloist and recitalist throughout the United States, Europe, Asia, Canada, South America, and South Africa. She has been featured on numerous television and radio stations, including CBS Public Radio (Canada) and NPR's "Performance Today." Julia Bushkova has recorded for Crystal Records and Toccata Classics.

Julia Bushkova holds the position of Professor of Violin at the University of North Texas, USA

Dr. Jeanie Wozencraft-Ornellas, voice



Dr. Jeanie Wozencraft-Ornellas, Head of the Music Department and Associate Professor of Voice at Meredith College, made her professional debut with the Cleveland Opera in the role of Lauretta in Gianni Schicchi. Twice a regional finalist and award winner in the Metropolitan Opera Auditions, lyric-soprano Wozencraft-Ornellas has performed recitals, opera and oratorio throughout the United States and in 16 countries from New Zealand to Great Britain, China to Chile. Reviews have described her voice as “extraordinary” and “sublime” (Jakarta Post). La Estrella of Iquique, Chile labeled Dr. Wozencraft-Ornellas “a soprano with extensive range, with notes lyrical, dramatic and an exceptional agility.” After a performance in Santiago, Chile “the audience in the theatre gave ‘la Wozencraft’ a standing ovation, wanting more.” The El Paso Times applauded her “outstanding versatility” and “unimpeachable artistic instincts.”

In addition to her other professional engagements, Jeanie performed numerous benefit concerts which raised money for schools serving students with disabilities in South America, Hong Kong, and Indonesia.

Dr. WO’s students have won awards in such competitions as the Dallas Opera Competition, the McCammon Voice Competition, AIMS Meistersinger Competition, Opera Ithaca Edward M. Murray International Voice Competition, American International Czech and Slovak Competition and the Bellini International Voice Competition. Her former students are performing on Broadway and in opera companies in the US, Germany, and South America, as well as teaching in the public schools or universities and colleges across the US and in China.

In addition to serving on the board of the North Carolina Opera, Dr. WO is a Distinguished Professor Emerita of Eastern New Mexico University, where she taught voice and directed the opera productions for 32 years. She holds degrees in Vocal Performance from the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music (B.M.), Bowling Green State University in Ohio (M.M.), and Florida State University (D.M.). Dr. Wozencraft-Ornellas has presented clinics and masterclasses and judged choral festivals across New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, North Carolina, Ohio and Colorado. She is a member of the New Mexico Music Educators’ Hall of Fame, and received the Rollie T. Heltman distinguished Service Award from the same organization.

Dr. Natasha Kislenko



Pianist **Natasha Kislenko**, hailed for her “vividly expressive” interpretations and “virtuosity that left the audience exhilarated,” (Santa Barbara Independent) offers unique concert programs and presentations to the worldwide community of music listeners. A prizewinner of several international piano competitions, she has extensively concertized in Russia, Germany, Italy, Spain, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Israel and across the Americas.

Ms. Kislenko made her Carnegie Hall solo recital debut after taking the Grand Prize at the Missouri Southern International Piano Competition in 1996. Recent solo engagements include the Eskişehir Greater Municipality Symphony Orchestra, Turkey and the Varna Chamber Orchestra, Bulgaria. A resident pianist of the Santa Barbara Symphony since 2010, she has been a featured soloist for the Shostakovich, Grieg, Clara Schumann, de Falla, Dohnanyi, Gershwin and Mozart piano concerti, to great critical acclaim. In 2013, Ms. Kislenko was invited as a special guest to present the new Steinway D piano at the Teatro Municipal Ignacio A. Pane in Asunción, Paraguay, performing with the Orquesta Sinfónica del Congreso Nacional.

Ms. Kislenko has shared the stage with many distinguished musicians including Alban Gerhardt, Glenn Dicterow, Frank Huang, Richie Hawley, Joshua Roman, and the Takács Quartet, to name only a few. She, along with the violinist Chavdar Parashkevov, released two CDs for violin and piano, “Russian Sonatas” and “Beethoven, Brahms, Mahler.” The Strad magazine praised her “limpid and beautiful pianism.”

Natasha holds degrees in piano from the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory and Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX. She earned her Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Stony Brook University, NY. Her main teachers include Anatoly Vedernikov, Gilbert Kalish, and Joaquín Achúcarro.

In addition to a successful performing career, Dr. Kislenko has been a dedicated educator and mentor to the younger generations of aspiring musicians. A collaborative faculty member at the Music Academy of the West, CA since 2004, Natasha joined the faculty at University of California, Santa Barbara in 2007 after serving at California State University, Fresno for five years. She has recently appeared with performances and masterclasses at University of Maryland College Park, University of Colorado Boulder, University of Houston Moores School of Music (TX), San Diego State University (CA), Tulane University (LA); Mimar Sinan Fine Art University, Istanbul (Turkey); Scuola Musicale di Sesto Fiorentino (Italy), and Trinity Laban Conservatoire for Music and Dance in London, UK.

Ayrton Pisco



Ayrton Pisco performs “with aplomb, displaying a spirited line, crystalline and deftly defined” (San Diego Story) and has received top prizes in numerous competitions in the U.S. and abroad. Concert engagements have taken him around the world to venues such as Carnegie Hall, Stadthalle Bayreuth in Germany, Suntory Hall in Japan, Koerner Hall in Canada and Sala São Paulo in Brazil.

A seasoned orchestra musician, Mr. Pisco has performed with prestigious ensembles such as The Philadelphia Orchestra, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the San Diego Symphony, the New Haven Symphony Orchestra and the Sphinx Virtuosi, and under the batons of Gustavo Dudamel, Michael Tilson Thomas, Marin Alsop, Stéphane Denève and Carl St. Clair. As a chamber musician, he has collaborated with principals of the New York Philharmonic and been featured on the WQXR and KUSC radio stations.

Mr. Pisco is also a passionate educator. He served as a teaching artist for Yale University’s Music in Schools Initiative, coached strings for the Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles and acted as a teaching assistant for San Diego State University’s Community Music School. Earlier this year he also served as a guest artist at the Ibero-American Philharmonic Academy (Iberacademy) in Medellín, Colombia, where he spent a week teaching and performing alongside local students.

Mr. Pisco is a first prize winner of the La Jolla Symphony & Chorus’ Young Artists Competition, the Giavanna Kersulis Memorial Endowment Scholarship Auditions, the Grossmont Music Scholarship Council Competition and the San Diego University Concerto Competition. He has also received awards at the Musical Merit Foundation Scholarship Auditions, the University of Southern California’s Solo Bach Competition, the Música no Museu Young Musicians Competition, the Francisco Mignone String Competition and the Paulo Bosísio String Competition.

Mr. Pisco also enjoys performing in genres such as jazz, tango, bossa nova, choro, mariachi and others. He has collaborated with groups such as Trio Gadjó and Besos de Coco and participated in shows in spaces such as House of Blues San Diego, Broomfield Auditorium in Colorado and Clube da Bossa Nova in Brasília, Brazil.

A native of Brazil, Mr. Pisco holds a Master of Music degree from Yale University, a Graduate Certificate from the University of Southern California and a Bachelor of Music in Performance degree from San Diego State University. His principal teachers include Ani Kavafian, Margaret Batjer, Pei-Chun Tsai and his father, Ayrton Macedo Pisco.