

New York Dance & Arts Innovations Inc
a non-for-profit organization



XXVII

**International
Chopin & Friends
Festival**

November 4th - November 24th, 2025

Honorary patronage



1

Programs of the events

NOVEMBER 4TH, 2025 OPENING EVENT:

POLISH COMPOSERS' UNION: JUBILEE

NOVEMBER 14TH, 2025 MIDDLE EVENT:

OSCAR PETERSON'S 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

NOVEMBER 24TH, 2025 CLOSING EVENT:

BETWEEN CLASSICAL AND JAZZ - BLACK AND WHITE FANTASY

2

Bios of the Artists

ANNA PARKITA

MACIEJ PARKITA

CATHERINE CARSON

SAMUEL DECAPRIO

RADOSŁAWA JASIK

JOHN HASSELBACH III

PETER WASHINGTON

ULYSSES OWENS JR.

ANDREA DOMENICI

LUCA FILASTRO

3

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4

Special Thanks
and Closing Remarks

CONTENTS

Programs of the events

OPENING EVENT:

POLISH COMPOSERS' UNION: JUBILEE

Consulate General
of the Republic of Poland
in New York
November 4th 2025, 7pm

F. Chopin
S. Moniuszko

"Precz z moich oczu"
"Modlitwa"

G. Fitelberg
R. Twardowski

Trio in F minor op.10, I: Allegro moderato
Tango for violin, cello and piano

I.J. Paderewski
I. Friedman

"Polały się łzy"
"Trzy łodzie"

H.M. Górecki
T. Paciorekiewicz
G. Bacewicz

Sonata in One Movement Op. 8
Sonata in F Major, I: Allegro moderato
Polish Dance
Oberek

M. Karłowicz

"Skąd pierwsze gwiazdy"
"Śpi w blaskach nocy"
"Pamiętam ciche, jasne, złote dni"

L. Różycki

Rhapsodie for Piano Trio Op. 33

Maciej Parkita, bas baryton

Anna Parkita, piano

Catherine Carson, violin

Samuel DeCaprio, cello

Radosława Jasik, piano

Programs of the events

MIDDLE EVENT:

OSCAR PETERSON'S 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Klavierhaus
November 14th 2025, 7:30pm

As the world celebrates the 100th birthday of Oscar Peterson, the Chopin & Friends Festival proudly pays tribute to the piano giant widely regarded as one of the greatest jazz pianists of all time.

Peterson's extraordinary musical journey was deeply rooted in classical training and a lifelong dedication to excellence. The influence of Chopin was particularly significant in shaping Peterson's sophisticated harmonic vocabulary, a connection passed down through his teacher, Paul de Marcy – himself a student of the great Romantic tradition.

To honor Peterson's centennial, the Quartet will present a special program featuring music he frequently performed, alongside some of his own original compositions.

The specific repertoire will be announced during the performance.

John Hasselback III, trumpet

Peter Washington, bass

Ulysses Owens Jr., drums

Andrea Domenici, piano

Programs of the events

CLOSING EVENT: BETWEEN CLASSICAL AND JAZZ- BLACK AND WHITE FANTASY

Consulate General
of the Republic of Poland
in New York
November 24th 2025, 7pm

Pianist Luca Filastro, originally rooted in classical music before transitioning to jazz, will perform works by one of the greatest American composers of the 20th century—an artist who masterfully bridges the worlds of classical and jazz: George Gershwin.

The audience will have a unique opportunity to hear classically written compositions: Three Preludes and Rhapsody in Blue, typically performed by classical pianists, alongside pieces and songs that will be improvised live.

Luca Filastro, piano

BIOS OF THE ARTISTS



ANNA PARKITA

Pianist, teacher, Doctor of Musical Arts. Graduate of the Feliks Nowowiejski Academy of Music in Bydgoszcz, where she studied piano under Prof. Jerzy Sulikowski and Prof. Jarosław Drzewiecki. She honed her skills under the guidance of the outstanding pianist Eugen Indjic during her postgraduate studies at La Schola Cantorum in Paris. She has also been collaborating with Prof. Marek Mizera for many years. The pianist has participated in numerous festivals, competitions and masterclasses. As a soloist and chamber musician, she has performed in Poland, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, Lithuania and Latvia. She is a scholarship holder of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage as part of the 'Young Poland' programme (2025) and the Minister of Education and Science - Scholarship for Young Scientists (2022). She has collaborated with the National Institute of Music and Dance in Warsaw. The pianist has released five CDs featuring works by Polish composers of the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries, published by the renowned labels DUX and Requiem Records. Professionally associated with the Institute of Music at the Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce and with the Ludomir Różycki State Music School Complex in Kielce. Since 2022, she has been the Vice-President of the Space of Culture Association.



MACIEJ PARKITA

Polish bass-baritone and graduate of the Krzysztof Penderecki Academy of Music in Kraków, where he studied under Prof. Zdzisław Madej and Dr. Marcin Wolak. Through the Erasmus program, he continued his training at the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Stuttgart with Prof. Teru Yoshihara. He made his stage debut at the Wilhelma Theater in Stuttgart in Johann Strauss's operetta Die Fledermaus, directed by Victoria Stevens - a milestone that marked the beginning of his stage career. His concert experience includes performing the solo part in Anton Bruckner's Te Deum with the Symphony Orchestra and Choir conducted by Rafał Delekta, at the Krakow Philharmonic and the Krzysztof Penderecki European Centre for Music in Lusławice. He also portrayed Elviro in Handel's Xerxes in a production directed by Błażej Peszek and appeared as soloist in Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 conducted by Maestro Antoni Wit during the "Wawel at Dusk" Festival (2024). He is a prize winner of several prestigious competitions, including the International Competition ArtSong OPUS (2021), the 24th Imrich Godin International Vocal Competition IUVENTUS CANTI in Slovakia (2023), and the National Soloist Competition in Kaźna Dolna (2022). He is currently perfecting his vocal skills at the Karol Lipiński Academy of Music in Wrocław under Prof. Bogdan Makal.



CATHERINE CARSON

Violinist from Northfield, MN, is currently pursuing her Master's Degree at The Juilliard School. A graduate of the Eastman School of Music, where she studied with Renée Jolles, Catherine served as concertmaster of both the Eastman School Symphony Orchestra and the Eastman Philharmonia, and won the position for a performance of Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade. Catherine has also won prizes in numerous competitions, including the Young Arts, Schubert Club Scholarship, Thursday Musical, Young People's Symphony Concert Association (YPSCA), Rochester Music Guild and Mary West Solo Competitions, and as a result of the YPSCA competition, at which Catherine won the grand prize, she performed the Sibelius Violin Concerto with the Minnesota Orchestra. Catherine is currently in the Honors Chamber Program at Juilliard with her string quartet DragonBoot, and has worked with Merry Peckham, members of the Ying Quartet, David Bowlin, Gwen Krosnick, Natasha Brofsky, Laurie Smukler, Raman Ramakrishnan, Samuel Rhodes, and Joel Krosnick. Catherine has attended prestigious summer festivals such as Bowdoin International Music Festival, California Summer Music, Bravo Summer Music, Pienza Music Festival, The Perlman Music Program, and Kneisel Hall Chamber Music School and Festival.



SAMUEL DECAPRIO

Cellist Samuel DeCaprio is an active performer and teacher based in the Tri-State area. His New York debut featured the North American premiere of Grażyna Bacewicz's Cello Concerto No. 2 with the Juilliard Orchestra and conductor David Robertson in Alice Tully Hall. Appearing across the globe as a soloist and chamber musician, he has been featured on prominent radio programs including WQXR New York, WFMT Chicago, NPR, and WCNI, and has recorded for Delos, ECM Records, MSR Classics, and Nonesuch Records.

A passionate chamber musician, DeCaprio's festival appearances include Ravinia Steans Music Institute, IMS Prussia Cove Open Chamber Music, Les Rencontres Musicales de Noyers-sur-Serein, Domaine Forget, Kneisel Hall, Lake George, and Orford Musique, among others. In 2022, DeCaprio founded the Arazzo Music Festival—an annual chamber music festival focused on bringing free high-caliber concerts and educational events to his home state of Connecticut. DeCaprio holds degrees from UConn, Eastman, Mannes, Yale, and Juilliard.



RADOSLAWA JASIK

Polish pianist, Radoslawa Jasik is the first prize winner of numerous competitions and a recipient of scholarships from the Prime Minister of Poland, the Mount Royal University (Canada), The Maestro Foundation and The Fontainebleau School of Music and Fine Arts in France. She had her debut at Carnegie Hall in December 2015 performing Virko Baley's Partita no. 3 with the flutist Denis Savelyev in the world premiere arrangement for flute and piano. She returned to perform at this prestigious venue multiple times: as a soloist and with her duo partner Denis Savelyev. Savelyev and Jasik (UP Duo) released an album entitled "Two Cultures, One Sound" in 2024. In November 2022, Mrs. Jasik curated her own project at the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland collaborating with composer Mikołaj Piotr Górecki. Jasik performed Górecki's solo and chamber pieces as well as the Trio Concerto with the Avalanche Orchestra. She also led a panel discussion with the composer. Mrs. Jasik received grants from the Polish Government in Warsaw to lead series of workshops at Polish Schools in NY in 2022 and 2023. In April 2024, she was appointed President of the non-profit organization NYDAI and also assumed the role of Executive Director of the International Chopin & Friends Festival.



JOHN HASSELBACK III

He is an award-winning trumpet soloist, composer, and educator from Buffalo, NY. Praised for his lyrical sound and creative vision, he has performed with renowned artists including Joe Lovano, Jimmy Heath, Steve Davis, and Wayne Escoffery at venues such as The Blue Note, Jazz at Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center, and The Apollo Music Café.

His debut album Entrance (2021) reached the top 20 on U.S. and European jazz radio charts and features an all-star lineup of contemporary jazz musicians. A recipient of honors including the Betty Carter Jazz Ahead Program and the Pathways to Jazz Grant, Hasselback continues to develop a voice that bridges tradition and innovation.

He has taught at Syracuse University, Eastman School of Music, and Oberlin Conservatory, and is currently Assistant Professor of Jazz Studies at SUNY Purchase College. Hasselback proudly performs as a Schilke trumpet artist.



PETER WASHINGTON

Jazz double bassist, born in Los Angeles, California. He played with the Westchester Community Symphony at the age of 14. Later he played electric bass in rock bands. He attended the University of California, Berkeley, where he majored in English Literature, and performed with the San Francisco Youth Symphony and the UC Symphony Orchestra. His growing interest in jazz led him to play with John Handy, Bobby Hutcherson, Harold Land, Frank Morgan, Ernestine Anderson, Chris Connor and other Bay Area luminaries. In 1986 he joined Art Blakey and The Jazz Messengers and moved to New York City. Beginning in the 1990s, he toured with the Tommy Flanagan trio until Flanagan's death in 2001, and has played with the Bill Charlap trio since 1997. He was a founding member of the collective hard bop sextet One for All and is a visiting artist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. In 2008, Washington played with the Blue Note 7, an all-star septet formed in honor of the 70th anniversary of Blue Note Records. His extensive discography numbers more than 400 recordings, and speaks to a constant demand for his services as a versatile side man.



ULYSSES OWENS JR.

Three-time GRAMMY® Award-winning drummer, composer, producer, author, and educator. He has performed on GRAMMY-winning albums with Kurt Elling, the Christian McBride Big Band, and most recently the Generation Gap Jazz Orchestra. As a bandleader, Owens has released eight acclaimed albums and was named among the year's best by DownBeat and Jazziz. His ensembles tour internationally, with recent appearances at the Monterey Jazz Festival, Canadian jazz festivals, and Tokyo's Cotton Club. Owens is also a respected educator and author, serving on Juilliard's jazz faculty for seven years and publishing three books. He co-directs the nonprofit Don't Miss a Beat in Jacksonville, FL, and teaches globally through Drumeo and Open Studio. Among his many honors, Owens was named Jazz Drummer of the Year by both Modern Drummer and Drumeo in 2024, inducted into the Jacksonville Music Hall of Fame in 2025, and made his Broadway debut in A Wonderful World: The Louis Armstrong Musical at Studio 54.



ANDREA DOMENICI

A finalist in the 2023 Jacksonville Jazz Piano Competition and a Juilliard graduate, pianist Andrea Domenici has performed with some of the most renowned contemporary jazz artists, including Wynton Marsalis, Roy Hargrove, Kenny Washington, and Peter Bernstein.

Originally from Italy, Domenici moved to New York in 2012 and has since appeared at premier venues such as Jazz at Lincoln Center, Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola, Smalls, Mezzrow, Smoke Jazz Club, and the Peter Jay Sharp Theater. His international credits include the Festival Internacional de Música in Cancún, Mexico, and a week-long residency at Marian's Jazzroom in Bern, Switzerland, with the David Adewumi Quartet.

In 2018, Domenici released his debut album, *Playing Who I Am*, featuring Peter Washington and Billy Drummond. His 2023 release, *A Sound in Common*—featuring Francesco Patti, Giuseppe Cucchiara, and Andrea Niccolai—highlights Domenici's inventive compositions and expressive piano style. The album has been praised for its swinging contemporary jazz and cohesive ensemble sound, with his original piece "My Mountains" standing out as a signature work.

Since April 2024, Andrea Domenici has served as Vice President of New York Dance & Arts Innovations (NYDAI) and as Artistic Director of the Chopin & Friends Festival.



LUCA FILASTRO

Pianist, arranger, and one of the most accomplished jazz musicians on the Italian and international scene. He began playing piano at the age of five, approaching music with a light and playful spirit that soon evolved into a natural affinity for jazz.

At thirteen, his passion led him to study with Maestro Paolo Pollice, eventually earning a classical piano diploma from the conservatory. While grounded in classical tradition, his instinct for jazz and improvisation pushed him to develop his voice independently, culminating in a move to Rome. There, he became a recognized figure among leading jazz professionals, with whom he cultivated rich artistic and intellectual collaborations.

Filastro has performed worldwide as a soloist, with his trio and quartet, and as arranger and conductor of larger ensembles. His frequent performances in the United States—the birthplace of jazz—have earned him the respect of many top-tier American musicians.

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The Board of NYDAI extends its deepest gratitude to our generous sponsors, without whom this festival would not be possible. We are truly thankful to everyone who has supported the preparation of this year's edition – your time, talent, and commitment are invaluable. And to our cherished audience: thank you for being with us, for your continued presence, and for believing in what we do. We look forward to welcoming you again at our future events.

**SPECIAL THANKS
AND CLOSING
REMARKS**

"Past means tradition, future - originality, presence - building originality through tradition."

M. P. Górecki

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