



YAMAHA CORPORATION OF AMERICA
P.O. BOX 6600, BUENA PARK, CA 90622-6600 • TELEPHONE (714) 522-9011

Las Vegas and D.C. Students To Take Part In ‘Remote’ Piano Lesson Over The Internet With Classical Artist in Manhattan

NEW YORK (May 21, 2014)—The piano is no longer an island unto itself.

High school students in Las Vegas and Washington D.C. will participate in the first ever three-site “remote” master class with a college professor located in New York, illustrating the powerful distance learning capabilities and Internet connectivity of Yamaha’s reproducing piano, the Disklavier, and the emerging Disklavier Education Network.

This “town hall” style event is scheduled for Thursday, May 22, beginning at 3pm EDT. Select students attending the Las Vegas Academy of the Arts, on site at The Smith Center for the Performing Arts in Las Vegas, along with students at the Duke Ellington School for the Arts in Washington, DC, will participate in personalized piano master classes with Dr. Magdalena Baczewska (Professor of Piano at Montclair State University, Adjunct Piano Faculty, Mannes College Of Music), who will be at the Yamaha Artist Services Piano Salon in midtown Manhattan.

Each participating location is equipped with a monitor and a Yamaha Disklavier linked together over the Internet, enabling all the participants to collaborate with one another in real time.

First introduced 25 years ago, the Disklavier has earned a formidable reputation at colleges and most recently at an increasing number of K-12 school districts around the world both for its artistic qualities and its ability to reproduce accurate, note-for-note performances—ideal in the sharing of lesson and performance content.

Now in its fifth generation of refinements, the Disklavier has been imbued with powerful networking capability that enables two or more instruments to be connected over the Internet via Yamaha’s proprietary *RemoteLive*™ technology, which makes the Disklavier Education Network (DEN) possible.

In simple terms, this enables pianists to perform live in one location, while their exact keystrokes and pedal movements are transmitted in real time to other instruments located anywhere else in the world, along with synchronized video. The pianists’ keystrokes are then faithfully reproduced, note for note, in real time on the remote instrument, as if they were there in person, while they can be seen and heard on an adjacent monitor in perfect sync with the remote piano performance.

At Thursday’s presentation, students at The Smith Center and Ellington School will play musical selections on the Yamaha Disklavier piano, while Dr. Baczewska sits at the Yamaha Artist Services Piano Salon in Manhattan, listening, watching and coaching that same piece as it is recreated “live” on a third Disklavier seamlessly synched to a live Skype broadcast. Dr. Baczewska can then respond, playing her instrument, while the keys and pedals come alive on the instruments at the remote school locations.

Yamaha believes the full education potential of its “remote lesson” technology is extremely high, considering that it offers top tier artists and college professors the flexibility and travel cost savings provided by live master classes with students at distant educational institutions conducted over the Internet.

The technology has been quickly welcomed by institutions such as the Berklee College of Music, The Juilliard School, University of California, Los Angeles, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and the Washington, D.C. Public Schools, to name a few. In addition, it has been enthusiastically embraced by many of the world's foremost performing artists and leading educators, including jazz pianists Gerald Clayton, Danilo Pérez (Berklee College of Music), Edward Simon (SF Jazz Collective) and Jeremy Siskind (Western Michigan University); classical pianists Frederic Chiu, Simone Dinnerstein, Dr. Inna Faliks (UCLA), Byron Janis, Alexander Kobrin (The Schwob School and NYU) Anne-Marie McDermott, and Dr. Lisa Yui (Mannes).

"The piano no longer needs to be an island in the classroom. Just as with personal computers before it, our new technology makes it possible to connect multiple pianos, students and teachers across the country or around the world via the Internet," said Walt Straiton, Institutional Solutions Group manager, northeast region, Yamaha Corporation of America. This represents unprecedented distance learning, performance and evaluation possibilities for teachers and students, and defines the benefits of this instrument and associated opportunities for education-minded audiences."

For more information, please visit http://4wrd.it/YAMAHA_DEN

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About Yamaha

Yamaha Corporation of America (YCA) is one of the largest subsidiaries of Yamaha Corporation, Japan and offers a full line of award-winning musical instruments, sound reinforcement and home entertainment products to the U.S. market. Products include: Yamaha acoustic, digital and hybrid pianos, portable keyboards, guitars, acoustic and electronic drums, band and orchestral instruments, marching percussion products, synthesizers, professional digital and analog audio equipment, Steinberg recording products and Nexo commercial audio products, as well as AV receivers, amplifiers, Blu-ray/CD players, iPod docking systems, earphones, headphones, home-theater-in-a-box systems, sound bars and its exclusive line of Digital Sound Projectors. YCA markets innovative, finely crafted technology and entertainment products and musical instruments targeted to the hobbyist, education, worship, professional music, installation and consumer markets.

About Magdalena Baczewska

Recipient of the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Polish Minister of Culture, and laureate of the Award for Outstanding Polish Citizen Abroad, pianist and harpsichordist **Magdalena Baczewska** [pronounced BaCHEVska] has been praised for her "world class playing" (The American Record Guide). Growing up in a family of musicians, Magdalena started piano instruction at the age of five, and at twelve made her orchestra debut. As a winner of international piano competitions, she has appeared worldwide as a solo artist and in orchestral performances. Hailed as "imaginative and instructive, a player of taste, purity of tone, and clarity of line," Magdalena appeared on major radio shows across America and Europe, including NPR, WQXR, and Voice of America.

Magdalena is currently a piano faculty member at the Mannes College New School for Music, and John J. Cali School of Music at Montclair State University in New Jersey. She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Manhattan School of Music (C. Keene), along with Bachelor and Master's Degree from the Mannes College, New School for Music (J. Rose).

About Las Vegas Academy of the Arts

Las Vegas Academy (LVA) is the “Outstanding Arts School” in the nation for 2013-2014. It is a nationally recognized, award-winning CCSD magnet public high school, dedicated to education in performing and visual arts and serving approximately 1,700 students in Clark County, Nevada. LVA is part of the Clark County School District, and all students must audition and meet specific criteria for admission. The Las Vegas Academy of the Arts (LVA) is a (5) five-star, high achieving, exemplary academic school of distinction offering major courses of study in the performing arts along with rigorous academic courses.

Contact: Peter Giles/Giles Communications
(914) 318-2680 (pgiles@giles.com)

Anita Ward/Las Vegas Academy of the Arts
(702) 332-7961