



James Giles

James Giles regularly performs in important musical centers in America, Europe, and Asia. Recent tours have taken him to the Nancy Music Festival in France, the Accademia Cristofori in Florence, [the Gijon Piano Festival in Spain](#), [the Amalfi Coast Music Festival in Italy](#), and the [Beijing International Music Festival](#). Last season featured a recording with the [St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic in Russia](#); recitals in Florida, California, North Carolina, and France; and master classes in Hong Kong and at the Shanghai Conservatory.

In an eclectic repertoire encompassing the solo and chamber music literatures, Giles is equally at home in the standard repertoire as in the music of our time. He has commissioned and premiered works by William Bolcom, C. Curtis-Smith, Stephen Hough, Lowell Liebermann, Ned Rorem, Augusta Read Thomas, Earl Wild, and James Wintle.

Most of these new works are featured on Giles's [Albany Records release entitled "American Virtuoso."](#) His recording of works by Schumann and Prokofiev is available on England's Master Musicians label and a new Schubert CD is due for imminent release.

His Paris recital at the Salle Cortot in 2004 was hailed as "a true revelation, due equally to the pianist's artistry as to his choice of program." After a recital at the Sibelius Academy, the critic for Helsinki's main newspaper wrote that "Giles is a technically polished, elegant pianist."

And a London critic called his 2003 Wigmore Hall recital "one of the most sheerly inspired piano recitals I can remember hearing for some time" and added that "with a riveting intelligence given to everything he played, it was the kind of recital you never really forget."

He has performed with New York's Jupiter Symphony (Alkan and Czerny); the London Soloists Chamber Orchestra in Queen Elizabeth Hall (Mozart and Beethoven); the Kharkiv Philharmonic in Ukraine (Prokofiev and Rachmaninoff); and with the Opera Orchestra of New York in Alice Tully Hall (Chopin).

After his Tully Hall solo recital debut, critic Harris Goldsmith wrote: "Giles has a truly distinctive interpretive persona. This was beautiful pianism – direct and unmannered."

Other tours have included concerts in the Shanghai International Piano Festival; Warsaw's Chopin Academy of Music; Chicago's Dame Myra Hess Series, Salt Lake City's Assembly Hall Concert Series, and in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, the Musikhalle in Hamburg, and the Purcell Room at London's South Bank Centre.

He has given live recitals over the public radio stations of New York, Boston, Chicago, and Indianapolis. As a chamber musician he has collaborated with members of the National and Chicago Symphonies and with members of the Pacifica, Cassatt, Chicago, Ying, Chester, St. Lawrence, Essex, Lincoln, and Miami Quartets, as well as singers Aprile Millo and Anthony Dean Griffey.

A native of North Carolina, Dr. Giles studied with Byron Janis at the Manhattan School of Music, Jerome Lowenthal at the Juilliard School, Nelita True at the Eastman School of Music, and Robert Shannon at Oberlin College. He received early career assistance from the Clarisse B. Kampel Foundation and was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Italy with the legendary pianist Lazar Berman.

The pianist was the recipient of a fellowship grant and the Christel Award from the American Pianists Association. He won first prizes at the New Orleans International Piano Competition, the Joanna Hodges International Piano Competition, and the Music Teachers National Association Competition.

As a student he was awarded the prestigious William Petschek Scholarship at the Juilliard School and the Rudolf Serkin Award for outstanding graduate at the Oberlin College Conservatory.

He has written for *Piano and Keyboard* magazine and has presented lecture-recitals at the national conventions of the Music Teachers National Association, the College Music Society, and Pi Kappa Lambda. He regularly serves on competition jury panels and has been conference artist for several state music teachers associations.

Dr. Giles is coordinator of the piano program and director of graduate studies at Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music. He gives master classes and lectures at universities nationwide and has taught during the summers at the Eastern Music Festival, Bowdoin, Brevard, Colburn, Interlochen, ARIA, Pianofest in the Hamptons, and the Schlern Festival in Italy.

He has been a guest professor at the Sibelius Academy, the Shanghai Conservatory, and at Indiana University and has taught classes at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester and the Royal College of Music in London.



Kevin Olson

Kevin Olson is an active pianist, composer, and member of the piano faculty at Utah State University, where he teaches piano literature, pedagogy, and accompanying courses. In addition to his collegiate teaching responsibilities, Kevin directs the Utah State University Youth Conservatory, which provides weekly group and private piano instruction to more than 200 pre-college community students. The National Association of Schools of Music has recently recognized the Conservatory as a model for pre-college piano instruction programs. Before teaching at Utah State, he was on the faculty at Elmhurst College near Chicago and Humboldt State University in northern California.

A native of Utah, Kevin began composing at age five. When he was twelve, his composition, *An American Trainride*, received the Overall First Prize at the 1983 National PTA Convention at Albuquerque, New Mexico. Since then he has been a Composer in Residence at the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy, and has written music commissioned and performed by groups such as the American Piano Quartet, Chicago a cappella, the Rich Matteson Jazz Festival, Music Teachers National Association, and several piano teacher associations around the country. Kevin maintains a large piano studio, teaching students of a variety of ages and abilities. Many of the needs of his own piano students have inspired more than 100 books and solos published by the FJH Music Company, which he joined as a writer in 1994.



Paul Dickinson

The music of Paul Dickinson is characterized by a dramatic contrast of musical ideas integrated into organic formal structures. Art, literature, and music of all eras influence his diverse musical output. Dickinson began his musical studies on piano at age eleven, and composition at age twelve. His teachers include Tomas Svoboda, Joseph Schwanter, Warren Benson, Samuel Adler, and Alan Stout, and he received degrees from the Eastman School of Music and Northwestern University. Among his honors and awards are grants from the Fromm Music Foundation, the Arkansas Arts Council, the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service), a BMI Award, and numerous commissions. His music has been performed throughout North and South America, Europe and Asia and has been recorded on Capstone Records. Dickinson is Associate Professor of Music Theory and Composition at the University of Central Arkansas.

May Tsao-Lim



May Tsao-Lim, Associate Professor of Piano, coordinates the group piano curriculum as well as teaches applied piano and piano pedagogy at Henderson State University. She is currently the Assistant Chair of the department of music.

Prior to joining Henderson State University, Dr. Tsao-Lim taught at Iowa State University and University College Sedaya International (Malaysia.) Besides college-level instruction, Dr. Tsao-Lim enjoys teaching children of all ages. Her students have been winners of state competitions.

In addition to teaching, Dr. Tsao-Lim has presented pedagogy workshops at state conferences, Music Teachers' National Association national conventions, and in Malaysia. Among her interests in pedagogy research include elementary- and intermediate-level teaching techniques, keyboard performance techniques, and instruction with music technology. She is currently the President for the Arkansas State Music Teachers' Association (ASMTA), a state affiliation of MTNA.

As a pianist, Dr. Tsao-Lim has frequently performed as a duo pianist and a chamber musician. She often collaborates with members of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra; the most recent performances were Brahms' Trio Op.40 and Vaughan Williams' Quintet in D Major at the ASO *River Rhapsodies* chamber series 2014 and 2015 respectively.

Dr. Tsao-Lim earned her B.M. in piano performance with highest honor 'Bronze Tablet' and two Master's degrees (Piano Performance, Piano Pedagogy) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She completed her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance and Piano Pedagogy at the University of Oklahoma with Jane Magrath.