
MEADOW CITY ACADEMY OF MUSIC

812 Highland Drive
Las Vegas, New Mexico 87701
(505) 718-6597
www.meadowcitymusic.org

Ronald Maltais, DMA, President, Artistic Director
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David Ponder, MM, Treasurer

Kevin Zoernig & Ronald Maltais

Two Pianists - 88 Keys

Sunday, March 5, 2023
3:00 P.M.

Ifeld Auditorium at New Mexico Highlands University

Tickets: \$20 Students: Free

Program will include
Zoernig's *Fantastic Garlands*
And the premiere of Maltais's *Tears in Time of War*
In collaboration with MoveWest Dance Ensemble

Presented by Meadow City Academy of Music

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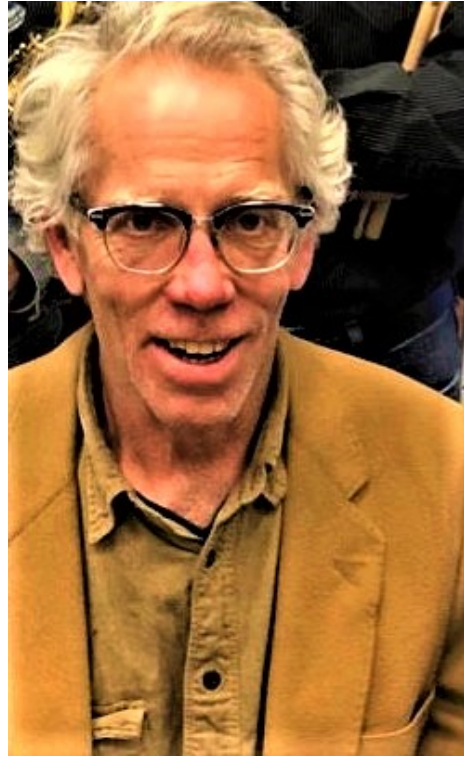
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[Two Pianists - 88 Keys](#)

Two Pianists - 88 Keys
Sunday, March 5, 2023



Ronald Maltais



Kevin Zoernig



MoveWest Dance Ensemble

Update from Meadow City Academy of Music

Looking back on the programs and events presented by the Academy in 2022, I must comment on the spectacular concert on Saturday evening, November 5, at the Plaza Hotel Ballroom. *A Taste of Persia* featured the internationally acclaimed santour virtuoso Sourena Sefati, with Javier Saume Mazzei, percussion, and Janosch Armer, violin. Our large enthusiastic audience welcomed all three musicians who were, in my view, world-class performers. The intense hour of Persian compositions and improvisations which followed, mainly written by Sefati, left the audience stunned. This was Sefati's second appearance in Las Vegas! The concert poster and program are attached.

Looking forward, I am pleased to announce the first concert event of our 2023 season! I approached my long-time friend and colleague Kevin Zoernig several months ago with the idea of developing a recital program featuring solo piano works we both enjoy and admire. On Sunday, March 5 at 3 pm we will each take the stage at Ilfeld Auditorium.

The program will include Zoernig's *Fantastic Garlands*, taken from his incidental music score for a production of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. It is a work Kevin asked me to record years ago, which I will finally perform for a live audience. As I see it, the music evokes the spirit of Ophelia, floating in water.

My own dramatic piano composition/improvisation to be premiered on this program titled *Tears in Time of War* involves collaboration with the *MoveWest* Dance Ensemble of Santa Fe. It is inspired by the difficult struggles and hardships endured by Ukrainians during their ongoing conflict with Putin's Russian forces.

I can only describe this work as an intensely emotional lament for the senseless killing of Ukrainians as a result of Russian bombs and missiles, and the brutal treatment and murder of thousands of innocent civilians over the past year. A recurring chorale, slow and prayer-like, evokes the enduring voices of a Ukrainian choir. This work was composed in memory of my former teacher Lukas Foss. It should be noted that the dancers have chosen not to hear the music until the actual performance, after working only with the literary ideas explored in *Tears in Time of War*. To complete my part of the program, I will also play introspective works by Beethoven, Bach, Brahms, and Chopin.

Kevin Zoernig has offered the following comments. "For my part, I am planning to play 100% covers and 0% Jazz standards – meaning I will be focusing on

interesting and maybe obscure pop songs which are usually performed with vocals. I am thinking about artists such as Leonard Cohen, John Lennon, Joan Baez and Loretta

Lynn.” As Zoernig forged his piano skills through 17 years of classical training, his parallel education was through radio and vinyl records. He was studying Elton John long before he turned to jazz greats such as Thelonious Monk and Herbie Hancock. Although Zoernig is regarded as a great jazz pianist, he later moved into studio and production work. Zoernig comments “I realized that doing the right thing with a song is incredibly rewarding no matter what the style is.” For further details about this event, please view the concert poster on page 1.

I look forward to sharing more information about upcoming 2023 events soon! Special thanks to our generous donors and to you, our wonderful audiences.



Sincerely,

Ronald Maltais

Artistic Director

Meadow City Academy of Music

A Taste of Persia



Sourena Sefati, **santour/award winning Iranian composer**

Javier Saume Mazzei, **percussion**

Janosch Armer, **violin**

Saturday, November 5, 2022 7:30 p.m.

Historic Plaza Hotel Ballroom

Las Vegas, New Mexico

Admission: \$20

Students: Free

Advance ticket sales online at www.meadowcitymusic.org

Presented by Meadow City Academy of Music

Sponsored by the Historic Plaza Hotel Ballroom and generous donors



Janosch Armer, Sourena Sefati, Javier Saume Mazzei
at the Plaza Hotel Ballroom



A Taste of Persia

Sourena Sefati, santour, vocalist, composer Javier Saume Mazzai, percussion; Janosch Armer, violin

Saturday, November 5, 2022
7:30 pm

Historic Plaza Hotel Ballroom
Las Vegas, New Mexico

presented by
Meadow City Academy of Music
Ronald Maltais, Artistic Director

Please silence all cell phones and electronic devices during the performance. Unauthorized video/audio recordings and photographs of this performance are not permitted.

There will be a 15-minute intermission. Music selections will be announced by the performers.

Sourena Sefati, Heir to a Persian musical heritage that stretches back millennia, Iranian santour virtuoso Sourena Sefati carries that tradition into the modern era with stunningly original compositions that reveal the extraordinary breadth of expression concealed in this ancient instrument's small wooden frame. The grandfather of China's yanqin, Eastern Europe's cimbalon, and the United States' hammered dulcimer, the santour is played with delicate felt-tipped mallets, or mezbabs. Its structure has changed little since its first representation in inscriptions in Susa, Iran, dating back to 699 BC. Born in Ramsar, a small, beautiful city in Northern Iran, Sefati fell under the sway of the santour upon his first experience with the instrument at age 11, dedicating his life to mastering this trapezoidal box's 72 metal strings. Sefati earned a bachelor's degree in music in 2002 from the University of Tehran and went on to achieve a master's degree in Iranian music performance in 2009 from Art University in Tehran, where he won the award for Best Composer of Iranian Music. In his native country, Sefati launched a successful career as a performer, a recording artist with appearances on more than 50 albums, and as an in-demand composer with numerous commissions. He has appeared in concerts in Africa, Asia and Europe, both as a member of prestigious ensembles and as a soloist. He has appeared as a featured soloist with the Iran Broadcasting Symphony Orchestra, the Iranian Chamber Orchestra and the Mehrnavazan National Orchestra. In 2016, his album *Az Roozegare Rang Amiz (From Deceitful Ages)* won him the award for Best Composer of Iran. Sefati dedicated himself to teaching at Art University and Elmi-Karbordi University in Tehran from 2008 to 2014. In 2014 he

published Dorrab—117 Etudes for Santour, the first work of its kind for the instrument, offering a structured approach to santour technique. In addition to his accomplishments as an instrumentalist, Sefati is a dedicated vocalist, having devoted significant time to learning the technique of Persian singing called Avaz. In 2014, Sefati moved to the United States, allowing him the opportunity to spread awareness of his beloved motherland's musical heritage and his own classical compositions, which are marked by lyricism, rhythmic complexity and fast tempi requiring highly technical playing. In 2015, Sefati started working with Rahim AlHaj, the Iraqi oud master who settled in Albuquerque. In 2016, they first performed together at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, and Sefati continues to tour the world as a member of the Rahim AlHaj Trio. They released the album One Sky in March 2018 on Smithsonian Folkways. In 2017, Sefati organized the Alborz Trio with Deborah Ungar (clarinet) and Gregory Gutin (percussion), performing Sefati's original works and traditional Persian compositions in regional concerts. In 2018, Sefati established the NuAeen Ensemble with Mojgan Shajarian, Persian singer, Pejman Hadadi, percussionist, and Ali Pajooheshgar, oud player. He released his album Arghavan with Mojgan Shajarian in 2019.

Janosch Armer is a German-American violinist who studied at the Hochschule für Musik “Carl-Maria-von-Weber” in Dresden, Germany under Prof. Jörg Fassman. He is an alumnus of the “Giuseppe-Sinopoli-Academy of the Staatskapelle Dresden and is a regular guest at the Semperoper Dresden. Janosch is an avid chamber and orchestral musician whose concerts have taken him, amongst others, to Czechia, Italy, Japan and Russia.

Javier Saume Mazzei, A native of Caracas, Venezuela, Javier began playing percussion at the age of eight. He holds a B.A. in Music from Roosevelt University where he studied classical percussion with Ed Harrison, drum set with Phil Gateau and Paul Wertico and Latin percussion with Ruben Alvarez. Javier has performed with Rhonda Richmond, Reginald Veal, Herlin Riley, and Cassandra Wilson, and the Symphony Orchestra "Sistema de Orquestas Juveniles de Venezuela". He has performed internationally in concerts, master classes, and residencies in Beijing, China, and at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. and Carnegie Hall in New York with Sones de Mexico Ensemble. He recorded with Sones and nominated for the Latin Grammy and Grammy 2007. Javier also toured with the Ensemble Español and relocated to Albuquerque New Mexico in 2018.

Meadow City Academy of Music was founded by Artistic Director Ronald Maltais in the spring of 2017, with a mission to provide excellent musical/dance training and perfor-

mances for the Las Vegas, New Mexico community. The Academy seeks to present professional New Mexico musicians and dancers in performance venues throughout the city. As we proceed into our fifth season, we are proud to announce that the Academy has featured over 90 performance artists primarily from New Mexico. Due to the generosity of our donors, we are committed to awarding music scholarships for talented Las Vegas youth.

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Acknowledgements

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Meadow City Academy of Music is incorporated in New Mexico and is registered as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Donations may be tax deductible as allowed by law. To become a sponsor or donor of Meadow City Academy of Music please visit us at
www.meadowcitymusic.org

Our Next Event

Piano Recital featuring Kevin Zoernig and Ronald Maltais

The program will include original works by Zoernig and Maltais (premiere of *Tears in Time of War* in collaboration with the MoveWest Dance Ensemble)

Sunday, March 5, 2023: 3:00 pm

Ifeld Auditorium at New Mexico Highlands University