



**Conservatorio  
del Tolima**  
Institución Universitaria



**BLANCA URIBE** | PIANO  
COLOMBIAN INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION | DEPARTMENT


# Piano Masterclasses 2026

COMPLETE **32 PIANO SONATAS** BY **LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN**  
1770 - 1827



# Open Call

 SALÓN ALBERTO CASTILLA | IBAGUÉ, TOLIMA - COLOMBIA

 INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR APPLICATIONS



**CERTIFIED PARTICIPATION**

CONSERVATORIO DEL TOLIMA | FACULTY OF ARTS, SCIENCES AND EDUCATION

FAZIOLI

## CONSERVATORIO DEL TOLIMA

Public Higher Education University Institution<sup>1</sup>

Faculty of Arts, Sciences, and Education<sup>2</sup>

Blanca Uribe Piano Program

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS NO. 01-2026

# Piano Masterclasses 2026

The 32 Piano Sonatas

Composer: Ludwig van Beethoven

Blanca Uribe Colombian International Piano Competition<sup>3</sup>

The **Conservatorio del Tolima** is a public higher education university institution located in the city of Ibagué, department of Tolima (Colombia). Currently, the institution offers five (5) academic programs in music: four (4) undergraduate programs (Bachelor of Music Education, Bachelor of Music Performance, Associate Degree in Audio and Music Production, and Associate Degree in Construction and Repair of String Instruments) and one (1) postgraduate program: the Specialization in Music Education.

The **Blanca Uribe Colombian International Piano Competition** held its inaugural edition in 2024 and will host its second edition from October 8 to 15, 2027, in Ibagué, the Musical Capital of Colombia. This competition is an initiative of the Conservatorio del Tolima, the Faculty of Arts, Sciences, and Education, and the Bachelor of Music Performance program, as a tribute to Maestra Blanca Uribe, a Colombian pianist widely recognized for her international career in the academic and musical fields. The event was established with two fundamental purposes: first, to honor the artistic

and pedagogical legacy of Maestra Blanca Uribe; and second, to promote excellence in piano performance according to international standards.

As part of the academic activities of the piano department, the Blanca Uribe Piano Program, dedicated to strengthening the Colombian piano school through high-level training processes, will offer the **Pedagogical-Didactic Sessions: Piano Masterclasses 2026** between August and October of the current year. This program focuses on the complete cycle of the 32 Piano Sonatas by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827). This initiative represents a valuable preparatory opportunity for the second edition of the Blanca Uribe Colombian International Piano Competition, to be held in 2027.

The call for applications is open to the Colombian piano community and foreign pianists residing in Colombia, who may participate actively in the program. Participation will be certified by the organizing institution, and also by the internationally renowned expert pianists who will be present at the Salón Alberto Castilla of the Conservatorio del Tolima.

<sup>1</sup> Accredited in High Quality by Resolution: No. 015157 of August 02, 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Agreement No. 001 of 2024.

<sup>3</sup> Created by Agreement No. 12 of 2023 of the Honorable Board of Directors of the Conservatorio del Tolima.

Furthermore, the **Blanca Uribe Piano Program** reaffirms its status as an academic program for advanced piano training, developed through masterclasses taught by expert professors with recognized national and international careers within the field of classical music. These masterclasses constitute specialized pedagogical instances aimed at the technical, interpretative, and conceptual refinement of musicians in training, through direct work on repertoire, artistic performance, and specialized feedback. In this sense, the Program contributes significantly to the comprehensive training of musicians by promoting interpretative excellence in stylistic and formal terms, strengthening critical listening, and fostering the exchange of knowledge and piano traditions, thus establishing itself as a strategic component of internationalization in higher education processes.

Regarding the composer **Ludwig van Beethoven** (1770–1827), one of the most influential musicians in the history of the Western tradition, his work was key to the transition from Classicism to Romanticism. Considered the last great representative of Viennese Classicism, his legacy transformed the music of his time and opened new expressive and instrumental possibilities. Although his symphonies brought him worldwide acclaim, his piano works, specifically his 32 sonatas, constitute one of the most profound and visionary contributions to piano literature, setting the course for musical creation in the 19th century and for subsequent generations.




Now, the program proposes a pedagogical-didactic framework centered on Beethoven's 32 piano sonatas. These works represent a 27-year journey of artistic and instrumental evolution, profoundly influenced by the revolutionary spirit of his time. These sonatas are typically grouped into three major cycles. **The first cycle (1795)** reflects the heritage of Haydn and Mozart: sonatas conceived for the fortepiano or harpsichord, maintaining a classical language. **In the second cycle (1800)**, the composer explores new sonorities and structures, as seen in the "Pathétique" or the "Moonlight" sonatas, anticipating features of his late period. **Finally, the third cycle (1816)** marks a turning point with monumental works such as the Hammerklavier (Op. 106) and the introspective Sonata Op. 111, in which Beethoven redefines the limits of the piano and achieves unprecedented technical and expressive depth.

The masterclasses will be led by musicologist **Giovanni Bietti** (Italy) and pianists **John O'Connor** (Ireland), **David Allen Wehr** (USA), **Andrea Lucchesini** (Italy), **Michael Houstoun** (New Zealand), **Mariangela Vacatello** (Italy), **Julius Asal** (Germany), and **Blanca Uribe** (Colombia). These are internationally renowned artists, several of whom have performed the complete cycle of Beethoven's 32 sonatas, ensuring a high-level specialized pedagogical approach. The sessions will take place at the facilities of the Conservatorio del Tolima in Ibagué (Tolima).

## SESSION SCHEDULE




### CYCLE I

Salón Alberto Castilla Ibagué - Tolima, Colombia

📅 DATES	👤 PROFESSORS	🎵 PROGRAM
Friday, August 14, 2026. Saturday, August 15, 2026. Sunday, August 16, 2026. Monday, August 17, 2026.	<b>John O'Connor</b>  Ireland <b>David Allen Wehr</b>  United States <b>Blanca Uribe</b>  Colombia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sonata No. 1 Op. 2 No.1</li> <li>- Sonata No. 2 Op. 2 No.2</li> <li>- Sonata No. 3 Op. 2 No.3</li> <li>- Sonata No. 4 Op. 7</li> <li>- Sonata No. 5 Op. 10 No.1</li> <li>- Sonata No. 6 Op. 10 No.2</li> <li>- Sonata No. 7 Op. 10 No.3</li> <li>- Sonata No. 8 Op. 13</li> <li>- Sonata No. 9 Op. 14 No.1</li> <li>- Sonata No. 10 Op. 14 No.2</li> <li>- Sonata No. 11 Op. 22</li> </ul>




### CYCLE II

Salón Alberto Castilla Ibagué - Tolima, Colombia

📅 DATES	👤 PROFESSORS	🎵 PROGRAM
Friday, October 9, 2026. Saturday, October 10, 2026. Sunday, October 11, 2026. Monday, October 12, 2026.	<b>Andrea Lucchesini</b>  Italy <b>Julius Asal</b>  Germany <b>Blanca Uribe</b>  Colombia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sonata No. 12 Op. 26</li> <li>- Sonata No. 13 Op. 27 No.1</li> <li>- Sonata No. 14 Op. 27 No.2</li> <li>- Sonata No. 15 Op. 28</li> <li>- Sonata No. 16 Op. 31 No.1</li> <li>- Sonata No. 17 Op. 31 No.2</li> <li>- Sonata No. 18 Op. 31 No.3</li> <li>- Sonata No. 19 Op. 49 No.1</li> <li>- Sonata No. 20 Op. 49</li> <li>- Sonata No. 21 Op. 53</li> <li>- Sonata No. 22 Op. 54</li> <li>- Sonata No. 23 Op. 57</li> <li>- Sonata No. 24 Op. 78</li> <li>- Sonata No. 25 Op. 79</li> <li>- Sonata No. 26 Op. 81a</li> <li>- Sonata No. 27 Op. 90</li> </ul>

### CYCLE III

Salón Alberto Castilla Ibagué - Tolima, Colombia

📅 DATES	👤 PROFESSORS	🎵 PROGRAM
Friday, October 30, 2026. Saturday, October 31, 2026. Sunday, November 1, 2026. Monday, November 2, 2026.	<b>Michael Houstoun</b>  New Zealand <b>Blanca Uribe</b>  Colombia <b>Mariangela Vacatello</b>  Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sonata No. 28 Op. 101</li> <li>- Sonata No. 29 Op. 106</li> <li>- Sonata No. 30 Op. 109</li> <li>- Sonata No. 31 Op. 110</li> <li>- Sonata No. 32 Op. 111</li> </ul>

## OPEN CALL FOR:

*Colombian citizens or foreign nationals residing in Colombia; international applicants residing abroad may be considered under exceptional circumstances.*

- ✓ Pianists in training (current students).
- ✓ Professionals (degree holders).
- ✓ Expert musicians (non-degree holders).
- ✓ Applicants of all nationalities.
- ✓ No age restriction. Minors must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

## BENEFITS FOR SELECTED PARTICIPANTS:

*The Conservatorio del Tolima, through the Faculty of Arts, Sciences, and Education and in coordination with the Center for Extension and Social Outreach, will provide:*

- ★ Accommodation (including breakfast) for the duration of the masterclasses.
- ★ Active participation in the masterclasses.
- ★ Eligibility for the:

### **I International Chamber Music Festival 2027**

Ludwig van Beethoven: 200th Anniversary Tribute of the Conservatorio del Tolima.  
To be held from May 10 to 16, 2027, in Ibagué, Colombia. (Terms and conditions apply).

- ★ **Official Certification:** Masterclasses are certified by the Faculty of Arts, Sciences, and Education | Conservatorio del Tolima.

## SCHEDULE

ACTIVITY	DATES
Application Period	<b>From: February 12, 2025</b> <b>Until: April 24, 2026</b> at 11:00 PM (Colombia Time)
Selection Process Conducted by an academic committee chaired by Blanca Uribe.	<b>From: April 27, 2026</b> <b>To: May 27, 2026</b>
Announcement of Selected Pianists To be published on the official website and social media channels of the Conservatorio del Tolima and the Blanca Uribe International Piano Competition.	<b>May 29, 2026</b>
Deadline for Confirmations and Changes	<b>June 19, 2026</b>

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND DOCUMENTATION

Applicants interested in this call for applications must complete the registration form and upload the required documents in the corresponding fields.

 Link to the registration form:

<https://forms.gle/47RSxuJEDynN9B8q9>



**Identification Document:** A copy of a national ID card (cédula de ciudadanía), identity card, or passport in **PDF** format.



**Artistic Biography:** An updated summary of the applicant's artistic career (maximum 250 words).



**Minors:** Must be accompanied by a responsible adult and submit an Informed Consent form signed by their parents or legal guardians, including copies of their respective identification documents.




**Photographic Record:** One recent professional artistic headshot in **JPG** format (minimum resolution: 1080p).



**Audition Video:**

- > Each applicant must submit one (1) video of excellent image and sound quality, unedited (no cuts), performing the selected repertoire in its entirety.
- > The video should preferably show the performer in a full-body frame, with a clear and unobstructed view of the hands.
- > **Required Repertoire:** One or two movements from any of the 32 sonatas by Ludwig van Beethoven, selected from those listed in the application form.


### Video Instructions

 The video must be uploaded to YouTube and labeled as follows:

**Title:** Call for Applications: Pedagogical-Musical Sessions Blanca Uribe Program 2026 - [Applicant's Name].

**Description:** The full title of the performed work(s).

 The video must have been recorded within **six (6) months prior** to the application deadline.







 The video must be set to **"Public"** for the entire duration of the call for applications and must not be deleted until the final list of selected participants is published.

## **REPertoire**




For the masterclass(es), each participant may apply with one or several complete sonatas. There is no age limit for participants.

# TERMS OF THE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS







## **INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENTS**

-  To select between three (3) and up to thirty-two (32) participants, based on the criteria established by the selection committee.
-  To publish the official results through the institutional channels of the Conservatorio del Tolima.
-  To communicate the results exclusively via the email address provided by the applicants in the registration form.
-  To cover the accommodation expenses for selected participants during their stay for the pedagogical-musical sessions.
-  To issue a certificate of participation to those who attend their assigned masterclass and at least 70% of the scheduled academic activities during their stay.
-  To cover the accommodation expenses for one (1) accompanying adult for participating minors.




## **PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS**

-  To fully complete the registration form within the dates established in this call for applications.
-  To comply with all the requirements described in the "Application Requirements and Documentation" section.
-  In the case of minors, to attach all required documents as established for such status.

## COMMITMENTS OF SELECTED PARTICIPANTS

-  To ensure availability to attend the masterclass in person in the city of Ibagué, Tolima, Colombia.
-  To attend all masterclasses and academic activities punctually on the dates assigned by the organizing committee.
-  To cover all personal transportation costs to and from the city of Ibagué.
-  To notify the organization in advance in the event of declining the provided accommodation.
-  To ensure that all granted benefits, such as lodging, are for personal use only and are non-transferable.
-  To maintain respectful behavior and comply with all institutional rules and regulations during their stay at the facilities of the Conservatorio del Tolima.

## BENEFITS FOR SELECTED PARTICIPANTS

-  To participate in person in all activities scheduled within the timeline of the call for applications.
-  To receive the official certificate of participation for the Pedagogical-Musical Sessions Blanca Uribe Program 2026.
-  To access the lodging services provided by the organization during the established dates.

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[WWW.BLANCAURIBEPIANOCOMPETITION.CO](http://WWW.BLANCAURIBEPIANOCOMPETITION.CO)

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## PROFESSORS BY CYCLE



*In addition to the professors mentioned below, all three cycles will feature the participation of Maestra **Blanca Uribe** (Colombia).*



### Blanca Uribe

 Colombia Pianista

CICLOS I, II Y III

-  Third prize at the International Beethoven Piano Competition in Vienna (1961).
-  Held the George Sherman Dickinson Chair at Vassar College (NY).

Originally from Bogotá, Blanca Uribe moved to Medellín, where she grew up in a family of musicians. She began her studies with her maternal grandmother and continued under the tutelage of the Italian professor Luisa Manighetti. Later, she moved to Europe to study at the Vienna Academy of Music and Performing Arts, where she graduated magna cum laude under Richard Hauser. She pursued her postgraduate studies at The Juilliard School in New York with Rosina Lhevinne and Martin Canin.

She has performed on the world's most prestigious stages, including the Brahms Hall and the Golden Hall of the Musikverein in Vienna. As a soloist, she has performed with the symphony orchestras of Berlin, Prague, Vienna, and the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington D.C., as well as the leading symphonic ensembles of Colombia. Her chamber music career is highlighted by collaborations with the Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble, and national groups such as the Q-Arte Quartet and the Biava-Uribe Trio, among others.

Maestra Uribe has been a laureate of numerous international competitions, including: Finalist and Silver Medalist at the Geneva International Music Competition (Switzerland); Third Prize at the International Beethoven

Piano Competition in Vienna in 1961; and Third Prize (with a special mention for the best performance of a Romantic work) at the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in Texas, among others.

In 1977 and 1986, she performed the complete cycle of Beethoven's piano sonatas in Bogotá and Medellín -an unprecedented feat in the Colombian musical landscape-. She repeated this cycle at Vassar College, New York, in 1999. Furthermore, she has performed the complete cycle of Beethoven's five Piano Concertos with both the Bogotá Philharmonic Orchestra and the Colombia National Symphony Orchestra. Her pedagogical legacy is extensive. From 1969 to 2005, she was a professor at Vassar College, where she was honored with the "George Sherman Dickinson Chair".

She has also taught at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester and New York University, extending her influence to conservatories in South Korea, Spain, Canada, and throughout Latin America. She has received prestigious decorations such as: the Order of San Carlos, conferred by the President of the Republic, Dr. Belisario Betancur; the Star of Antioquia (Silver and Gold); an Honorary Doctorate in Music from the Universidad del Valle. On March 27, 2022, she received the first "Luis Biava Musical Merit Distinction" granted by the National Symphony Orchestra of Colombia in recognition of her exceptional international career.

## PROFESSORS BY CYCLE


### INTRODUCTION TO THE 32 SONATAS BY LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN




## Giovanni Bietti

*Pianist, composer, and musicologist*

 Italy

 Renowned broadcaster for **RAI-RadioTre** (Lezioni di Musica).

 Author of books on **Mozart, Beethoven**, and the **Viennese Classical Symphony**.

 Considered one of the best **musical lecturers in Italy**.

Composer, pianist, and musicologist, Giovanni Bietti is widely recognized as one of Italy's best musical lecturers, with a primary focus on musical outreach. He is a well-known voice on Italian Radio, hosting the program "Lezioni di Musica" (Music Lessons) on the RAI-RadioTre network, and has frequently appeared as a music expert on various television broadcasts.

Additionally, he has published reference books on Mozart (2015), Beethoven (2013), and the Viennese Classical Symphony (2012). His latest book, *Lo spartito del mondo* (2018), deals with multiculturalism through music and the importance of music's power in uniting different cultures.

Bietti regularly performs lecture-concerts held at the most prestigious international institutions, combining musicological analysis with live performance to bring audiences closer to the essence of masterpieces.

## PROFESSORS BY CYCLE

CYCLE I AUGUST 14–17, 2026



JOHN O'CONNOR  
IS A STEINWAY ARTIST

### John O'Connor

 Ireland, Pianist

*"A pianist of boundless sensitivity"* — Gramophone

*"Impeccable technique and extraordinary musicality"* —  
Sunday Times

John O'Connor is recognized as the heir to a piano tradition that privileges expressive depth over outer virtuosity (Chicago Tribune). The Washington Post praised him for "a touch so perfect it takes the audience's breath away".

Born in Dublin, he studied in his native city and in Vienna with Dieter Weber, also receiving guidance from Wilhelm Kempff. His unanimous First Prize at the **International Beethoven Competition in Vienna (1973)** marked the beginning of an international career spanning more than five decades.

He has performed as a soloist with orchestras such as the London Symphony, Royal Philharmonic, Czech Philharmonic, Vienna Symphony, Orchestre National de France, NHK Symphony, as well as with distinguished orchestras in the United States and Canada. He has performed in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, Wigmore Hall, Vienna's Musikverein, Dvořák Hall, and the Bunka Kaikan in Tokyo. His chamber music activities include collaborations with quartets such as the Cleveland, Tokyo, Takács, and Vermeer.

His recordings for Telarc, including the complete Beethoven Sonatas and Bagatelles, have been widely celebrated, establishing him as one of the most respected interpreters of this repertoire. He has also recorded works by Mozart, Haydn, and John Field.

He is among the most influential pedagogues today. He is a professor at Shenandoah Conservatory, the Glenn Gould School in Toronto, and institutions in Ireland and Japan. O'Connor has received numerous distinctions from the governments and institutions of Austria, France, Japan, Ireland, and the United States.

## PROFESSORS BY CYCLE

CYCLE I AUGUST 14–17, 2026



### David Allen Wehr

🇺🇸 United States, Pianist

🎓 Dean of the **Mary Pappert School of Music** (Duquesne University).

🏆 Gold Medal at the **Santander International Piano Competition (1987)**.

David Allen Wehr, American pianist, also holds the prestigious *Jack W. Geltz Distinguished Piano Chair*. His international career took off after winning the Gold Medal at the Santander International Piano Competition (1987), leading to over 120 concerts worldwide. Since then, he has performed in over 30 countries in Europe, North and South America, and New Zealand, including 13 seasons as a soloist and member of the Sartory Trio for Community Concerts.

Wehr possesses an extensive discography with Connoisseur Society, notably his complete cycle of Beethoven Sonatas. He is a highly sought-after pedagogue, giving masterclasses and serving as a juror in national and international competitions. At Duquesne, he directs the renowned chamber music series “Music on the Bluff”.

Born in Princeton, New Jersey, into a family of professional musicians, he began his studies at age four with his mother. He continued his training with Peggy Neighbors Erwin, Edward Zolas, and later at the University of Kansas, where he earned his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees under the guidance of Sequeira Costa. He also participated in over forty masterclasses with figures such as Leon Fleisher, Misha Dichter, Gary Graffman, and Byron Janis, and coached with John Browning and Jorge Bolet.

Before his triumph in Santander, he won numerous awards, including prizes in the Chopin-Kosciuszko, Naumburg, and Kapell competitions, and the Young Artist auditions of the National Federation of Music Clubs.

## PROFESSORS BY CYCLE

CYCLE II OCTOBER 9–12, 2026



### Andrea Lucchesini

🇮🇹 Italy, Pianist

- 🏆 Winner of the “Dino Ciani” Competition (Teatro alla Scala, 1983).
- ★ Named **Accademico di Santa Cecilia** in 2008.
- 🏛️ Artistic Director of the **Amici della Musica di Firenze**.

Andrea Lucchesini (Massa e Cozzile, 1965) is an Italian pianist trained under Maria Tipo. He gained international recognition after winning the “Dino Ciani” Competition at the Teatro alla Scala in Milan in 1983. Since then, he has maintained a sustained concert career in Europe, the Americas, and Asia, collaborating with orchestras and conductors such as Claudio Abbado, Semyon Bychkov, Roberto Abbado, Riccardo Chailly, Dennis Russell Davies, Charles Dutoit, Daniele Gatti, Daniel Harding, Gianandrea Noseda, and Giuseppe Sinopoli.

His repertoire ranges from the classical canon to contemporary music. He has made numerous recordings for labels such as EMI International, Teldec, BMG, Stradivarius, AVIE Records, and Audite. His work with Luciano Berio led to several premieres and recordings, including the Piano Sonata, which he world premiered in 2001. He has also recorded the piano works of Arnold Schönberg and the **complete cycle of Beethoven's 32 sonatas**.

Since the 1990s, he has also been active in chamber music and maintains a close collaboration with cellist Mario Brunello. He has been the Artistic Director of the Florence Chamber Music Festival, the Scuola di Musica di Fiesole (where he currently teaches), and the Accademia Filarmonica Romana. In 2022, he assumed the artistic direction of the Amici della Musica di Firenze.

Lucchesini is regularly invited as a professor at European institutions such as the Musikhochschule Hannover, the Sommer Wasserburger Festspiele, and the Universität Mozarteum Salzburg. He also serves as a juror in international piano competitions.

## PROFESSORS BY CYCLE

CYCLE II OCTOBER 9–12, 2026



### Julius Asal

🇩🇪 Germany, Pianist

- 🎧 Exclusive artist for **Deutsche Grammophon** since 2023.
- 👤 Mentors: **Sir Andrés Schiff** and **Eldar Nebolsin**.
- ” Praised by *Le Monde* for his "captivating strangeness".

German pianist **Julius Asal** grew up as the eldest son of a family of musicians in the Taunus mountains, near Frankfurt. His first encounters with the piano occurred before he began to speak, and even as a child he improvised fluently and learned to play by ear. Only years later did he receive formal lessons, studying at the Hochschule für Musik "Hanns Eisler" in Berlin and the Kronberg Academy. Today, a laureate of numerous competitions, he is a regular guest at international festivals and prestigious venues such as Wigmore Hall in London, the Musikverein in Vienna, the Laeiszhalle in Hamburg, and Suntory Hall in Tokyo.

In recent years, his art has been significantly influenced by his mentors **Eldar Nebolsin** and **Sir Andrés Schiff**, also drawing inspiration from musicians such as Alfred Brendel, Gidon Kremer, and Menahem Pressler.

In the spring of 2022, his debut album featuring works by Prokofiev and his own arrangements of the ballet *Romeo and Juliet* was released to great acclaim by IBS Classical. In 2023, Asal signed an exclusive contract with **Deutsche Grammophon**. His debut album with the yellow label, *Scriabin – Scarlatti*, was released on May 3, 2024, presenting an innovative selection that includes Scriabin's Sonata No. 1 and sonatas by Domenico Scarlatti.

His talent for improvisation accompanies him to this day. In October 2023, he performed at a **DG Yellow Lounge** event combining classical pieces with improvisations. Following his debut in France, *Le Monde* praised the "captivating strangeness" of his performance and program selection in a review titled "The hidden and beautiful alliances of Julius Asal".


## PROFESSORS BY CYCLE


CYCLE III OCTOBER 30–NOVEMBER 2, 2026




### Michael Houston

 New Zealand, Pianist

 Laureate of the **Van Cliburn (3rd), Leeds (4th), and Tchaikovsky (6th)** Competitions.

 He has performed the **complete cycle of Beethoven Sonatas** on two occasions.

 Distinguished as a **Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit**.

New Zealand pianist born in Timaru in 1952, he began his studies at the age of five with Sister Mary Eulalie and subsequently with Maurice Till. During his training, he advanced with high distinctions in the Trinity College London examination system and won all relevant awards and competitions in New Zealand, thus beginning his first performances with orchestras.

His international career was consolidated by winning third place in the Van Cliburn International Competition (1973), followed by fourth place in the Leeds Competition (1975) and sixth place in the Tchaikovsky Competition (1982). These recognitions led him to study with Rudolf Serkin at the Curtis Institute of Music and later to perfect his skills in London with Brigitte Wild.

After six years abroad, he returned to New Zealand in 1981, where he has developed an active career as a recitalist, soloist, and chamber musician. He has performed a wide repertoire ranging from Bach to contemporary works, including commissions and premieres by New Zealand composers. In addition to his renowned interpretation of Beethoven, he has performed the 48 preludes and fugues of *The Well-Tempered Clavier*.

Since 1999, he has recorded for Rattle Records, winning several awards such as *Classical Record of the Year*. Houston has received *honorary* doctorates from Massey and Victoria universities. Furthermore, he is a leading figure in the country's musical institutions, such as Chamber Music New Zealand and the Kerikeri International Piano Competition.

## PROFESSORS BY CYCLE

CYCLE III OCTOBER 30–NOVEMBER 2, 2026



FAZIOLI ARTIST

### Mariangela Vacatello

Italy

- 🏆 Laureate of the **Franz Liszt, Busoni, Van Cliburn, and Queen Elisabeth** competitions.
- 🎧 Recorded the complete audiovisual cycle of the **10 Scriabin sonatas** (RAI5).
- 🏛️ Artistic Director of the **Cantiere Internazionale d'Arte di Montepulciano**.

Mariangela Vacatello is an Italian pianist originally from Castellammare di Stabia, internationally recognized from a very young age. She debuted at age 14 with Liszt's Concerto No. 1 in Milan and at 17 won second prize at the Franz Liszt Competition in Utrecht. She has been a laureate in prestigious world-class competitions such as the Ferruccio Busoni, Van Cliburn, Top of the World, Queen Elisabeth, Isang Yun in Memoriam, and Paloma O'Shea, in addition to receiving the Premio Venezia.

For more than two decades, she has developed an extensive career in recitals, chamber music, and symphonic repertoire, performing in venues such as Teatro alla Scala, Wigmore Hall, Carnegie Weill Hall, Walt Disney Hall, and Konzerthaus Berlin. She has collaborated with orchestras such as the Santa Cecilia, RAI Torino, Filarmonica della Scala, and WDR Köln, under the baton of conductors such as Krzysztof Penderecki, Andris Nelsons, and Xian Zhang.

Her discography includes recordings for Brilliant Classics and Stradivarius. In 2024, RAI5 broadcast the premiere of the complete audiovisual recording of the Scriabin sonatas, filmed at the Fazioli Concert Hall, a project that distinguishes her as a **FAZIOLI Artist**.

She has collaborated on contemporary projects with IRCAM-Centre Pompidou and serves as a juror in international competitions. Trained at the Accademia Pianistica di Imola, the Conservatorio di Milano, and the Royal Academy of Music, she currently resides in Perugia, where she teaches at the Conservatorio "Francesco Morlacchi".

# Piano Masterclasses 2026

INTEGRAL **32 PIANO SONATAS** BY **LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN**  
1770 - 1827



DIRECT LINE

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WEBSITE

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