



I WPTA PORTUGAL INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION

2021 ONLINE EDITION

COMPETITION JURY

MATTIA OMETTO | Italy

President of the Jury



The winner of a vast array of awards both in Europe and the United States, Ometto quickly established himself as an artist whose gifts hark back to the Golden Age of classical piano performance, gifts that reflect an artistry that is formed in equal parts by his Venetian background, the influence of his studies in Paris with the legendary Aldo Ciccolini, and in Palm Springs with the American virtuoso Earl Wild.

Ometto performs regularly in Europe and the United States. Following his recital debut in Paris at the Théâtre du Rond Point des Champs Elysées and in New York City at Carnegie Hall, he appeared both in recital and as soloist with orchestra in New York (Carnegie Hall, Bargemusic), New Jersey, Des Moines (Sheslow Auditorium), Boston (Bradley Hall), Venice (Gran Teatro la Fenice), Berlin, in Los Angeles with the Lyric Symphony orchestra, in Ankara (Turkey) with Academic Baskent Orchestra, in Vidin (Bulgaria) with the Vidin State Philharmonic Orchestra, and in Padua (Italy) with the Orchestra di Padova e del Veneto. Ometto has also worked with renowned conductors such as Luigi Piovano, Maurizio Dini Ciacci, Charles Gambetta and Ertug Korkmaz, just to name a few.

Broadcasts of Ometto's performances and interviews have been featured on numerous radio stations, such as BBC London, Kulturradio Berlin, France Musique, Rai International, Radiotre, Raitrade, Radio della Svizzera Italiana, Radioclassica, Radio Romania, Iowa State Radio, Kanal B Ankara, and WGBH Boston.

His discography comprises the critically acclaimed live recording of Poulenc's Concerto for two pianos and Orchestra (Leonora Armellini, OPV, Luigi Piovano - Brilliant Classics), Johannes Brahms' complete music for two pianos again with Leonora Armellini (Da Vinci) and the World Premiere Recording of the complete music for two pianos and piano four-hands by Reynaldo Hahn with the legendary pianist and Liszt scholar Leslie Howard (Melba Recordings, 2 CDs). Ometto and Howard are currently working on the recording of the Complete Music for two pianos by Franz Liszt (9CDs), the first part of which (The Symphon-ic Poems, 3 CDs) has been released to critical acclaim in September 2018. Upcoming releases will include the second part of the Liszt project (The Symphonies, 3 CDs) and a double CD featuring piano solo music by Nikolai Medtner.

Born in Padua in 1982, Ometto graduated summa cum laude from the Venice Conservatory of music where he studied with Anna Barutti. Very active also as a teacher, he's regularly invited to give master classes as a visiting artist in Europe and the United States.

Currently residing in Italy, Ometto is Professor of Piano at the "C. Pollini" Conservatory in Padua.

Bernardo Santos | Portugal

WPTA Portugal President and Artistic Director



Bernardo Santos is a Portuguese pianist and President of the World Piano Teachers Association (WPTA) Portugal. With performances ranging over four continents, Bernardo has played in venues such as the Casa da Música, Convento de São Francisco, Teatro Rivoli in Portugal, Sala Cecília Meireles, Amazon Theatre and Palácio das Artes in Brazil, Fairfield Halls, Royal Albert Hall and St. James Piccadilly Church in London, National Concert Hall and the Tonhalle Düsseldorf, among many others. Santos has been invited to several piano and chamber music festivals all over Europe, South America and Asia.

As an invited soloist with orchestra, Bernardo had the opportunity to play with the Minas Gerais Symphony Orchestra, Amazon Chamber Orchestra, Vidin State Philharmonic Orchestra, Orquestra Clássica do Centro, Orquestra Filarmonia das Beiras, among others. He has played under the baton of conductors such as Antonio Vassalo Lourenco, Bruno Martins, Charles Gambetta, Hilo Carriel, Kira Omelchenko, Marcelo de Jesus, and Silvio Viegas.

Bernardo complements his artistic career with research on famed Portuguese composers Berta Alves de Sousa and Frederico de Freitas, being responsible for the critical edition and publishing of works by both composers. His main object of research now incides on the music for piano by Portuguese composer Ruy Coelho. Bernardo gave masterclasses in several universities and music schools in Portugal and Brazil.

Bernardo Santos is an avid chamber musician, having studied with Antonio Chagas Rosa, Eugene Asti and Martino Tirimo. Bernardo collaborated with artists such as André Lacerda, David Wyn Lloyd, Diana Rodriguez Vivas, Diego Caetano, Liana Branscome, Olga Argo, Svetlana Rudenko and Belem Quartet from Brazil. Bernardo has also participated in the project “Curtas” of the composer and guitarist Israel Costa Pereira, having recorded a CD for this project. During the summer of 2020, Bernardo Santos recorded, alongside David Lloyd, the complete works for violin and piano of Edvard Grieg for Da Vinci Publishing, based in Japan.

Bernardo Santos is currently taking part of the Doctoral Programme in Music Performance (PhD) at the University of Aveiro. Bernardo graduated from Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London, Conservatori del Liceu in Barcelona and from the University of Aveiro (Aveiro City Prize), having studied with Deniz Gelenbe, Josep Colom, Álvaro Teixeira Lopes and Klara Dolynay. During his studies, Bernardo Santos was a Trinity College London Scholar and recipient of scholarships from Fundação GDA and Fundação Dionísio Pinheiro e Alice Cardoso Pinheiro.

Carla Seixas | Portugal



Carla Seixas was born in Luanda, Angola.

She began her piano studies in the School of Music at the Portuguese National Conservatory, and graduated in 1977 with maximum honors.

After that she continued her studies at the University of Kansas with a scholarship from the prestigious Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

After many masterclasses with amazing Teachers, like Leon Fleischer and Tania Achot, she found Jean Fassina, her big reference as a human being and piano teacher, and moved to Paris.

Carla works as a soloist, and in chamber music, and has played in the most important Concert Halls around the world. Also, Carla has recorded the complete works by Francisco de Lacerda in a CD entitled *Saudades da Terra*.

She has been a Piano Teacher in the National Conservatory of Lisbon, and other schools. Made Masterclasses in Portugal, Australia, Colombia, Macau, Italy, and still loves to teach, as she considers education one of the most important things in life.

Diego Caetano | Brazil/US



Brazilian pianist Diego Caetano was considered by the Italian newspaper La Stampa "a gifted pianist with a brilliant technique and musicality." He has been performing widely as soloist and chamber musician throughout the USA, Brazil, Chile, Europe, Asia, and Africa, including performances at New York's Carnegie Hall, Yokohama's Philia Hall, Lisbon's Palácio da Foz, Rio de Janeiro's Sala Cecília Meireles, and London's Royal Albert Hall.

He has worked with conductors such as Michael Palmer, Paul Hostetter, Neil Thomson, Rodrigo de Carvalho, Guilherme Bernstein, Joaquim Jayme, Daniel Guedes, and others. He has been featured in recitals and concerto appearances at the Grand Teton Music Festival, Louisiana International Piano Series, Durango's Conservatory Music of the Mountains, Bangkok's Asia Pacific Saxophone Academy, and Brasília's International Music Festival. An advocate for contemporary music, he has premiered works by composers Robert Spillman, Anne Guzzo, Marlos Nobre, Roger Goeb, and Guilherme Bernstein.

Caetano has frequently served as a masterclass clinician and competition adjudicator in various universities and conservatories around the globe and has presented at various national and international conferences about pedagogical works by Brazilian composers, effective practicing techniques, and performance anxiety. His students have received prizes at national and international piano competitions. He is a member of Duo Lispector with Russian violinist Evgeny Zvonnikov and a member of Resch - Caetano Duo with German tenor Richard Resch.

Dr. Caetano received the top prizes in more than fifty national and international piano competitions, including Concorso Internazionale per Giovani Musicisti "Città di Massa" (2021), Bonn Prize International Music Competition (2020), Bucharest Pro Piano International Piano Competition (2018), London's Grand Prix Virtuoso (2016), Carnegie Hall Debut International Concerto Competition (2014), MTNA Young Artist - Steinway & Sons (2011), "Arnaldo Estrella" Piano Competition (2008), and many more. He has also won special awards including Best Interpreter of Brazilian Composers, Best Interpreter of Spanish Composers, and Prix d'Excellence in Performance.

Dr. Caetano graduated with a Doctorate of Musical Arts degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder, a Master of Music degree from the University of Wyoming, and a Bachelor of Music degree from Universidade Federal de Goiás (Brazil). Caetano has studied under the guidance of Dr. David Korevaar, Bob Spillman, Dr. Theresa Bogard, Dr. Maria Helena Jayme, and Lílian Carneiro de Mendonça. Dr. Caetano also studied with Dr. Nadezhda Eysmont at the Saint Petersburg Conservatory, in Russia.

Diego Caetano maintains an active schedule as an educator. He was the founder and the Artistic Director of Amarillo College Piano Series from 2016 -2020. He is the co-founder and the Director of Keyboard Studies at Ávila International Music Festival in Ávila (Spain) and is the President of the World Piano Teachers Association - Texas Chapter. He has held previous faculty positions at Casper College and Amarillo College.

Dr. Caetano is a Professor of Piano at Sam Houston State University, and a Shigeru Kawai Artist.

Jacqueline Leung | Hong Kong



Hong Kong born pianist Jacqueline Leung is a laureate of the Antena 2 prize, awarded by the national classical music radio station in Portugal which culminated in a live solo recital broadcast on national radio. Described as a player who possesses ‘musicality, intelligence and technical finesse’, she has performed in festivals and concerts all over the world and worked with many distinguished musicians such as Robert Aitken, Trey Lee, Iestyn Davies and Jasmine Choi.

She is frequently engaged to serve as a jury member at competitions, such as the Steinway & Sons International Youth Piano Competition, International Liszt Ferenc Competition, 2nd Thailand International Mozart Competition and the Japan Piara International Piano Competition (Hong Kong), China Artists Association competition, Hong Kong Open Piano Competition, 7th Borneo Performing Arts Festival, the World Piano Teachers Association International Piano Competition, the 2018 China International Music and Arts Festival and the GMC Music Festival in Hong Kong. As a lecturer she has represented Hong Kong at the 2014 World Piano Conference and given masterclasses and lectures Brunei, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong and Mainland China.

Jacqueline studied at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts as a child and moved to the UK and attended Wells Cathedral School, one of the four specialist music schools in England. Upon graduation she trained as a scholar at the Royal Academy of Music in London, obtaining the LRAM piano teaching diploma and BMus degree. She completed her Masters degree with Dr. Tamas Ungar, one of the best known pedagogues in the USA at Texas Christian University. Jacqueline served as the chairperson of the Royal Academy of Music HK Alumni Association for many years and in 2013, she was elected as an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music (ARAM), in recognition of her significant contribution in the musical field. She released her debut solo album ‘In Sunshine or in Shadow’ with the Vienna based Hello Stage label in 2017 and her second solo album named That’s the Berries, New York Nights in 2020.

She taught piano and chamber music at BNU-HKBU United International College in Zhuhai, China as Senior Lecturer of Music from 2017-2020 and she is currently a music diploma examiner for Trinity College London.