

*Clear Lake Symphony*  
*Guest Artist - Nancy Weems, piano*



Nancy Weems, pianist and recently retired *Madison Endowed Professor of Piano* at the University of Houston Moores School of Music, has performed extensively as a concert artist in the U.S., Europe, Asia, Mexico, Russia, and Central America. As a *United States Artistic Ambassador*, she represented the United States in three international concert tours in fourteen countries, and presented a solo debut recital at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing arts in Washington, D.C.

She has appeared as guest artist with numerous orchestras and has given master classes in conservatories in the United States, Europe, Asia, and the West Indies, including at the Eastman School of Music, the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Sungshin Women's University of Seoul, Korea, the International Piano Master Class Series of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and the Royal Academy of Music in London. A four-city tour of the People's Republic of China in 2016 included concerts, masterclasses and lectures in Beijing, Nanjing, Shenzhen and Chengdu.

Ms. Weems often serves as an adjudicator of international competitions in the U.S., Asia, and Europe and is a frequent presenter at music teacher conferences worldwide, including the MTNA state and national conventions and the World Piano Pedagogy Conference. Her students have won top awards in numerous national and international piano competitions, including the Music Teachers National Association, the Van Cliburn, Leeds, Bach International, Sydney International, New Orleans International and Tchaikovsky. An impressive number of her former students maintain teaching positions at major universities and music schools in the U.S. and abroad, and many enjoy professional concert careers worldwide. Her outstanding teaching career was recently featured in a cover article in *The Piano Magazine - Clavier Companion* entitled "A Legacy of Excellence - A Conversation with John and Nancy Weems."

Other notable awards include the Texas Music Teachers Association Outstanding Collegiate Teaching Award, University of Houston Faculty Teaching Excellence Award, 1995 Moores School of Music Faculty of the Year Award, and a Grammy Award nomination in 1990.

**Charles-Camille Saint-Saens**  
**(9 October 1835 - 16 December 1921)**

Saint-Saens was a French composer, organist, conductor and pianist of the Romantic era. Among the many destinations of his travels, North Africa was clearly the composer's favorite. In 1890 he traveled to Ceylon, then to Alexandria and Cairo. While in Egypt, he composed *Africa*, a fantasy for piano and orchestra based on genuine North African sources. Saint-Saens collected much of the region's indigenous music, often transcribing themes on the spot. In this manner he absorbed both the materials and techniques of North African music, which he eventually employed in dozens of his own works.

.....by Joseph Stevenson