



Dr. Diego Caetano

Guest Artist, piano

Hailed by the Italian newspaper, La Stampa, as a “gifted pianist with a brilliant technique and musicality, Brazilian-American pianist Diego Caetano has performed as a soloist and a chamber musician throughout the USA, Brazil, Chile, Europe, Asia, and Africa. Caetano has received top prizes in more than fifty national and international piano competitions, most notably from Citta di Massa Concorso per Giovani Musicisti, Bonn Prize International Music Competition, Bucharest Pro Piano International Piano Competition, International Piano Competition HR Princess Lalla Meryem, MTNA Young Artist-Steinway & Sons, and “Arnaldo Estrella” Piano Competition.

He has also won special awards, including Best Interpreter of Brazilian Composers, Best Interpreter of Spanish Composers, and Prix d'Excellence in Performance. Diago Caetano maintains an active schedule as an educator. He has served as both a masterclass clinician and a competition adjudicator in educational institutions around the globe. He was awarded 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 Goias (Brazil). He is a co-founder and Artistic Director at Avila International Music Festival in Avila (Spain). Currently, he is an Assistant Professor of Piano at Sam Houston State University, and is a Shigeru Kawai Artist.



Dr. Charles Johnson

Guest Conductor

Charles Johnson received his M.A. in composition and his Ph.D. in musicology from the University of California at Los Angeles. As a student he played violin and viola in the Stockton Symphony, University of Pacific and UCLA orchestras, and was Assistant Conductor of the UCLA Orchestra.

From 1967 until 1978, Dr. Johnson was on the faculty of Sam Houston State University where he taught music history and theory and conducted the orchestra. While there, he also established and was a member of the faculty string quartet, and from 1974 to 1978 was conductor of the Bryan-College Station Chamber Orchestra. Dr. Johnson was a violist with the Houston Ballet Orchestra from 1973 to 2013. He was the Conductor and Music Director of the Houston Civic Symphony for 6 years, and Conductor and Musical Director of the Clear Lake Symphony for 45 years until his retirement in 2024.