

MMTA Conference Recital

The Lomazov/Rackers Piano Duo

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The 2025 MMTA Composer Commission

Missouri State University - Ellis Hall - C. Minor Hall

November 5th, 2025 - 7pm



Ibi

Yotam Haber (b. 1976)

Terri Sánchez, flute

Sonata in C major, K. 521

W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)

I. Allegro

II. Andante

III. Allegretto

Fantasie in F Minor, D. 940

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Intermission

Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2

Franz Liszt (1811-1886)

Three Movements from Petrushka

Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971)

I. Russian Dance

II. Petrushka's Room

III. The Shrovetide Fair

Lomazov/Rackers Duo

The Lomazov/Rackers Piano Duo

Praised by critics as “a diva of the piano” (The Salt Lake City Tribune), “a mesmerizing risk-taker” (The Plain Dealer, Cleveland), and “simply spectacular” (Chicago International Music Foundation) Ukrainian-American pianist **Marina Lomazov** has established herself as one of the most passionate and charismatic performers on the concert scene today. Following major wins in the Cleveland International Piano Competition, William Kapell International Piano Competition, Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition, and Hilton Head International Piano Competition, Ms. Lomazov has given major debuts in New York (Weill-Carnegie Hall) Boston (Symphony Hall), Chicago (Dame Myra Hess Concert Series), Los Angeles (Museum of Art), Shanghai (City Theater) and Kiev (Kiev International Music Festival).

She has performed as soloist with the Boston Pops, Rochester Philharmonic, Eastman Philharmonia, Chernigov Philharmonic (Ukraine), KUG Orchester Graz (Austria), Bollington Festival Orchestra (England), Piccolo Spoleto Festival Orchestra, Brevard Festival Orchestra and South Carolina Philharmonic, to name a few. New York Times chief music critic Anthony Tommasini describes a recent New York performance as “dazzling” and Talk Magazine Shanghai describes her performances as “a dramatic blend of boldness and wit”.

In recent seasons, Lomazov has performed extensively in China, South Africa, Italy, Spain, and in the United States. She is a frequent guest at music festivals in the U.S. and abroad, including Hamamatsu, Chautauqua, Brevard, Miami, Perugia (Italy), Burgos (Spain), Sulzbach-Rosenberg (Germany) and Varna (Bulgaria), among others. She has recorded for the Albany, Centaur and Innova labels and American Record Guide praised her recent recording of piano works by Rodion Shchedrin for its “breathtaking virtuosity”.

Before immigrating to the United States in 1990, Marina studied at the Kiev Conservatory where she became the youngest First Prize Winner at the all-Kiev Piano Competition. Ms. Lomazov holds degrees from the Juilliard School and the Eastman School of Music, the latter bestowing upon her the highly coveted Artist’s Certificate – an honor the institution had not given a pianist for nearly two decades. Her primary teachers were Leonid Fundiler and Valery Sagaidachny in Ukraine, Barry Snyder, Jerome Lowenthal, and Natalya Antonova in the United States. Also active as a chamber musician, Lomazov has performed widely as a member of the Lomazov/Rackers Piano Duo. Praised for “demon precision and complete dedication” (Audio Society), the duo garnered significant attention as Second Prize winners at the Sixth Biennial Ellis Competition for Duo Pianists (2005), the only national duo piano competition in the United States at that time.

Ms. Lomazov is a Professor of Piano at the Eastman School of Music. She has served as jury member for the Cleveland International Piano Competition, Hilton Head International Piano Competition, Eastman International Piano Competition, Minnesota International Piano e-Competition, National Federation Biennial Young Artist Auditions and was the longest serving chair of the National Panel for YoungArts, the only organization in the United States that nominates Presidential Scholars in the arts.

For 17 years she served on the faculty of the University of South Carolina School of Music, where she held the chair of Ira McKissick Koger Professor of Fine Arts Music. Together with her husband and piano duo partner Joseph Rackers, she co-founded and served as Artistic Director of the Southeastern Piano Festival in Columbia, SC for 20 years, and they now serve as Artistic Directors of the Vivace Music Foundation.

Ms. Lomazov is a Steinway Artist.

Hailed as an “American Virtuoso” (Audiophile Audition), “enormous power and intelligent, instinctive interpretation” (Spoleto Today), and “simply dazzling” (The State), pianist **Joseph Rackers** has performed for enthusiastic audiences in New York, Boston, Chicago, Kiev, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Paris, Rome, Shanghai, Seoul and Washington D.C., at venues across Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy, South Korea, Spain, Bulgaria, Ukraine and extensively throughout the United States. His performances around the world include the Shanghai and Sichuan Conservatories of Music, Kiev International Music Festival, Gina Bachauer International Piano Festival, Seoul International Piano Festival, Seattle Chamber Music Society, Dame Myra Hess Concert Series and Banff Centre for the Arts, in addition to recitals in most of the fifty states in the U.S. Gramophone writes, “the results are consistently compelling... if Rackers response were primarily to his relationship with the composer as some sort of kindred spirit.”

Joseph Rackers is an International Steinway Artist. His recordings as soloist, collaborative pianist and producer are available on MSR Classics, Navona, Centaur, Equilibrium, Beauport Classics and Steinway Spirio and his performances have been broadcast on radio and television across the United States and Europe. His recent solo release with MSR Classics was widely recognized by the press; “unflappable virtuosity...highly expressive...committed to letting the composer’s voice—as he hears it—come through” (American Record Guide), “compelling power, rhythmic persuasiveness...consummate style...complete mastery” (Audio Society).

Rackers is Professor of Piano at the Eastman School of Music, Co-Founder of the Southeastern Piano Festival and Artistic Director of the Vivace Music Foundation. A devoted teacher, Rackers’ students have earned awards in dozens of national and international piano competitions, including the Bonn Beethoven International Piano Competition (First Prize, Audience Prize, Contemporary Music Prize, Chamber Music Prize and Bärenreiter-Urtext Prize), Leipzig Bach International Piano Competition, Concours International de Piano d’Orléans, National Winner of the MTNA National Competition, Minnesota International, Seattle International, Yamaha Young Performing Artists, National Society of Arts and Letters, Steinway, Shenzhen, YoungArts, Eastman Concerto Competition, Blount-Slawson, Liszt-Garrison, Dubois, and numerous others. His students have performed for venues including Carnegie Hall, Merkin Hall, Symphony Space and the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Minnesota Orchestra, Aspen and Cliburn music festivals, From the Top on NPR and Kodak Hall at the Eastman Theater.

Rackers has given performances and masterclasses at Indiana University, University of Michigan, Boston University, Cincinnati, UCLA, UNLV, Vanderbilt, and at conservatories and music festivals across Europe and Asia. He has recently served as Schwartz Artist in Residence at Emory University and as faculty or guest artist at the Amalfi Coast Music and Arts Festival, Atlantic Music Festival, Chicago International Music Institute, Seoul International Piano Festival, Perugia International Music Festival, Southeastern Piano Festival, Texas State International Piano Festival, American Liszt Society Festival, Yantai International Music Festival, Varna International Piano Festival and as a National Reviewer for the National YoungArts Foundation. He has given presentations and performances for conferences of the Music Teachers National Association and College Music Society and has been honored by the South Carolina House of Representatives and South Carolina State Senate for his personal contribution to the arts and leadership of the Southeastern Piano Festival.

Also active as a chamber musician, Rackers has performed widely as a member of the Lomazov/Rackers Piano Duo. Praised for “demon precision and complete dedication” (Audio Society), the duo garnered significant attention as the Second Prize winners of the Sixth Ellis Competition for Duo Pianists, the only national duo piano competition in the United States at that time. Gramophone praises the duo for “assured and centered pianism” and American Record Guide writes “the ensemble between Lomazov and Rackers is dead-on”. Rackers earned the Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music degrees at the Eastman School of Music, where he was also awarded the Performer’s Certificate. His principal teachers were Raymond Herbert and Natalya Antonova.



MMTA 2025 Commissioned Composer: About the Composer and Performer

Hailed by New Yorker critic Alex Ross as “deeply haunting,” Yotam Haber was born in Holland and grew up in Israel, Nigeria, and the American Midwest. He is a recipient of a 2022 commission from Chamber Music America, the winner of the 2022 Third Annual Henri Lazarof International Commission Prize, the winner of the 2021 Benjamin Hadley Danks Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the 2020 Azrieli Music Prize, a 2017 Koussevitzky Commission for the Library of Congress, a 2013 Fromm Music Foundation commission, a 2013 NYFA award, the 2008 Rome Prize and a 2005 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship.

After an undergraduate degree in composition from Indiana University, he completed a DMA at Cornell, as well as completing the year-long course on live electronics with Alvis Vidolin and Adriano Guarneri at the Milan Conservatory.

He has received grants and fellowships from Civitella Ranieri, the MAP Fund, New Music USA, the New York Foundation for the Arts, the Jerome Foundation, the Bellagio Rockefeller Foundation, Yaddo, Bogliasco, MacDowell, the Hermitage, ASCAP, the Copland House, Aspen Music Festival and Tanglewood.

In 2015, Haber’s first monographic album of chamber music, *Torus* (Naxos), was hailed by New York’s WQXR as “a snapshot of a soul in flux – moving from life to the afterlife, from Israel to New Orleans – a composer looking for a sound and finding something powerful along the way.” His second album featuring Talea Ensemble, *Bloodsnow*, was released on Sideband Records in fall of 2023.

Recent commissions include a percussion concerto for SANDBOX Percussion (for 2026), *Commotio Cordis* for PRISM Quartet and David Krakauer, works for Talea Ensemble, Le Nouvel Ensemble Moderne, Argento New Music Project, Kronos Quartet and Carnegie Hall, Pritzker Prize-winning architect Peter Zumthor; an evening-length oratorio for the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, CalARTS@REDCAT/Disney Hall (Los Angeles); New York-based Contemporaneous, Gabriel Kahane, and Alarm Will Sound; the New York Philharmonic CONTACT! Series; the Venice Biennale (2012 & 2014); Bang on a Can Summer Festival; Neuvocalsolisten Stuttgart and ensemble l’arsenale; FLUX Quartet, JACK Quartet, Cantori New York, the Tel Aviv-based Meitar Ensemble, the Israeli Chamber Players, and the Berlin-based Quartet New Generation. Major projects include *New Water Music*, an interactive work (2017) for the Louisiana Philharmonic and community musicians performed from boats and barges along the waterways of New Orleans; *They Say You Are My Disaster* (Koussevitzky Commission for the Library of Congress, 2019) for voice and ensemble premiered by Argento Ensemble in 2021; and *Estro Poetico-armonico III* (2020) for mezzo-soprano, electronics, and sinfonietta for Le Nouvel Ensemble Moderne.

Before joining the BU faculty in 2025, Haber is Associate Professor of Composition at UMKC Conservatory where he also co-directed and founded a music education program at Lansing Correctional Facility. He was a 2023-2024 Fulbright Distinguished Senior at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance. He is Artistic Director Emeritus of MATA, the non-profit organization founded by Philip Glass that has, since 1996, been dedicated to commissioning and presenting new works by young composers from around the world. His music is published by RAI Trade.

About *Ibi*:

Ibi means "there" or "in that place" in Latin. That's the name my wife and daughters named our particularly fierce, handsome, ornery and bullyish rooster, a Rhode Island Red. We were all fond of this magnificent, blustery bird, but he was just too much for all our poor hens, and so we decided to give him away to a farmer in Maine. All this chicken drama was happening while we were starting new jobs, finding a new home, entering a new school, and entrenched in a period of intense family sorrow.

This work has arisen from a difficult time in our lives. There is joy, swagger and humor, but also a fierce, plaintive sadness.



Terri Sánchez is a Miyazawa Performing Artist, a top prizewinning flutist, author of The Aspiring Flutist's Practice Book Series and a newly published composer. Legendary flutist Paula Robison writes, "Sánchez has a beautiful presence as a player, and her sparkling clear sound spins out and fills the air with poetry." After she premiered his new work for flute and piano, Archetypes, composer George Chave wrote, "her ability to pull the audience in and take them along for the ride is a true joy. Terri is a musician's musician."

Sánchez is a laureate of many national competitions: 1st Prize, National Flute Association Orchestral Audition Competition, 2nd Prize, NFA Young Artist Competition (along with "Best Performance of the Newly Commissioned Work"), 1st Prize, San Diego Flute Guild Artist Gold Competition, 2nd Prize, Myrna W. Brown Artist Competition, 2nd Prize, Upper Midwest Flute Society Young Artist Competition and Finalist, Walfrid Kujala International Piccolo Competition. Additionally, she performed with the Southern Methodist University Meadows Symphony and the University of North Texas Symphony Orchestra as a winner of both university concerto competitions. Sánchez's high school and university students have also won many top prizes and awards for Young Artist, Collegiate Soloist, Masterclass, Concerto and other competitions throughout the United States.

The first three books in The Aspiring Flutist's Practice Book Series are sold internationally and have received high praise. Review from the publisher of The Aspiring Flutist's Practice Companion: "It is a ridiculously comprehensive guide to music, practice (of course), and everything you encounter in daily musical life ... it is something you will want to keep on your stand. It's that useful." Review for The Aspiring Flutist's Sound & Scale Book in Flute View Online Magazine: "It is a MUST for all flutists ... this book belongs on every flutist's music stand!"

Review for The Aspiring Flutist's Sing-along Surrender Etude Book in the Flutist Quarterly: "This collection of studies takes flutists on an emotional journey toward relaxed enjoyment in playing the flute, a place we all started when playing was still new, shiny and full of possibilities." Dedicated to helping musicians release practice anxiety and achieve their full potential in the practice room, Sánchez also enjoys providing the worldwide flute community with warm-ups, exercises and other free resources. To find more information on her online courses and downloadable PDFS, visit her website. For performances and tutorials, visit her YouTube channel.

Sánchez has had many wonderful teachers, including Leticia Ledesma, Helen Blackburn, Jean Larson Garver, Alexa Still, Debbie Baron, Kara Kirkendoll Welch, Terri Sundberg and Elizabeth McNutt. She is especially grateful to her two lifelong teachers and mentors, Gabriel Sánchez and Claire Johnson, and for the friendship and long-time support of her primary publisher, Carolyn Nussbaum Music Co. She performs on a Miyazawa Classic Rose Silver Flute with a Geoghegan headjoint and a rose gold-plated silver LeFreque as well as a Burkart Professional piccolo. She earned a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder, a Master of Music degree from Southern Methodist University and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of North Texas

