

Amateur Music Network presents **“Piano Conversations”**  
Exploring Essential Piano Repertoire  
with Master Mentor Paul Hersh  
Wednesdays April 20 – May 11, 2022 · Interactive ZOOM Sessions



Featuring professional artists discussing their craft:  
Christopher Basso, Hye-Yeung Min, Laura Magnani, and Monica Chew  
Moderated by Catherine Angelo

Amateur Music Network (AMN) presents “Piano Conversations” an online interactive exploration and discussion of selected solo piano works, running Wednesdays from April 20 to May 11, 2022. “Piano Conversations” features San Francisco legend Paul Hersh, the eminent pianist, violist, and long-time mentor to generations of noted musicians. In each session, Paul will be paired with a professional pianist-colleague to explore and discuss key repertoire in the piano tradition, with a focus on musical meaning: the “why” of performance as opposed to the technical mechanics of playing that are generally the subject of the traditional master class.

Piano Conversations will be moderated by local pianist Catherine Angelo, and the artists for the four sessions will be Christopher Basso on April 20, Hye-Yeung Min on April 27, Laura Magnani on May 4, and Monica Chew on May 11.

Designed to illuminate music that is familiar to all pianists and most listeners, “Piano Conversations” will provide insight from an artist’s perspective and personal point of view. By intermingling performance, conversation, and Q&A, AMN aims to give attendees a “backstage pass” to learn more about the music and the artists, and discover new paths to their own musical satisfaction in listening. No prior experience is required to fully enjoy these sessions.

“Piano Conversations” takes place online via ZOOM and will be made available On-Demand to registrants. No music knowledge or music ability is required to register. The full package is \$65 with individual sessions at \$20. The four sessions air at 5:30pm PST/8:30pm EST on Wednesdays, April 20, April 27, May 4, and May 11. For more information, visit [AmateurMusic.org](http://AmateurMusic.org).

**“Piano Conversations”** will be led by:

**Paul Hersh**, mentor, has played both the piano and viola since he was six years old. He studied viola with William Primrose and piano with Leonard Shure and Edward Steuermann. From 1961 to 1971 he was violist and pianist with the Lenox Quartet, and he made his piano debut at Carnegie Recital Hall in 1964. Mr. Hersh has performed with many orchestras, including the Boston and San Francisco Symphonies and the New York Philharmonic, as well as in chamber groups and solo recitals. Hersh, who attended Yale University, is a former faculty member of Grinnell College and SUNY at Binghamton and has been artist-in-residence and visiting faculty at numerous universities and festivals, including the University of California at Davis, Temple University, Oregon State University, University of Western Washington, Berkshire (now Tanglewood) Music Festival, Aspen Music Festival and the Spoleto (Italy) Festival.

As a decades-long member of the piano and viola faculty of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, he has inspired many generations of musicians through his unique humanist approach to music-teaching.

**Christopher Basso**, April 20, Christopher Basso’s piano performances have been heralded as “riveting, with a multi-dimensional array of colors and shapes” (San Francisco Classical Voice) and “undeniably extraordinary” (Wilmington News Journal). In 2000, Christopher Basso was named First Place Prizewinner in the Second International Van Cliburn Competition for Outstanding Amateurs in Ft. Worth, Texas.

**Hye-Yeong Min**, April 27, traded her science career in 1997 for the pursuit of her lifelong passion for music. She began piano lessons at age six and continued to study piano with Naomi Sparrow and chamber music with Bonnie Hampton at Stanford University where she majored in biology. Hye Yeong completed her master's degree in Chamber Music at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, studying piano with Paul Hersh, and has performed with Kim Kashkashian, Ian Swensen, and Bonnie Hampton. She currently performs in the Bay Area as a solo pianist and chamber musician and enjoys teaching.

**Laura Magnani**, May 4, has performed since the age of 15, touring Italy, Europe, USA and Canada both as a soloist and in Chamber Ensembles, to the enthusiasm of audiences and acclaim of critics. She has attended Master Classes in Salzburg, Brussels, Rome, and Perugia with many eminent pianists. She performed in the Spoleto Festival of Two Worlds at the personal invitation of Gian Carlo Menotti and has been invited to perform repeatedly at the Spoleto Festival USA in Charleston (SC) as an Ambassador of her hometown. Also skilled as an organizer, she directed the Spoleto Piano Festival for 15 years. Her versatile talent keeps her busy in the fields of Opera, Musical Theatre and Vocal repertoire as well as in Music Education. She has taught Piano, Chamber Music and Vocal training for more than 25 years.

**Monica Chew**, May 11, is an Oakland pianist and composer. In 2017 she released her first solo album, *Tender and Strange*, featuring works by Bartók, Janáček, Messiaen, Takemitsu, and Scriabin. A “gifted player with an affinity for deeply sensitive expression” (Whole Note), she has been featured on radio stations worldwide. She started composing in 2017 and couldn’t be happier about it. Prior to 2015, she worked nearly a decade as a principal software engineer on security and privacy at Mozilla and Google.

**Catherine Angelo**, moderator, studied piano with Scott Foglesong and Peggy Salkind at the San Francisco Conservatory of music. She met her husband and piano duo partner, Anthony at the Music and Arts Institute of San Francisco. The Angelo Piano Duo was developed and refined at SFCM under the direction of the distinguished piano duo, Milton and Peggy Salkind. The duo’s international career includes performances in Australia, England, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Ukraine, and the United States. The Angelos have toured Russia and other Eastern European countries six times and, on several occasions, they were the first American artists to perform for these audiences. Influenced by the artistic and cultural experiences of performing at international piano duo festivals in Europe and Russia, the Angelo Duo founded The San Francisco International Music Festival organization and launched a San Francisco based international festival that would capture the spirit of the Eastern European festivals and highlight the seldom-heard piano duo genre. With critical acclaim from SF Classical Voice, “duos to die for at the Salkind Piano Duo Festival” - the five successful Salkind International Piano Duo Festivals honored the legacy of Milton & Peggy Salkind and featured forty international piano duos and 150 Bay Area young artists. In 2004, Catherine and Anthony were the recipients of the Mill Valley Art Commission’s Milley Award for Achievement in the Musical Arts.

### **About Amateur Music Network**

AMN envisions a world where music is an integral part of life, where all people experience the joy of playing, singing, and listening, and where access to music-making is available, encouraged, and celebrated. We connect musicians with one another to share in active musical experiences, and we create educational and performance opportunities for musicians, both on our own and through partnerships with other arts organizations.

[amateurmusic.org](http://amateurmusic.org)