

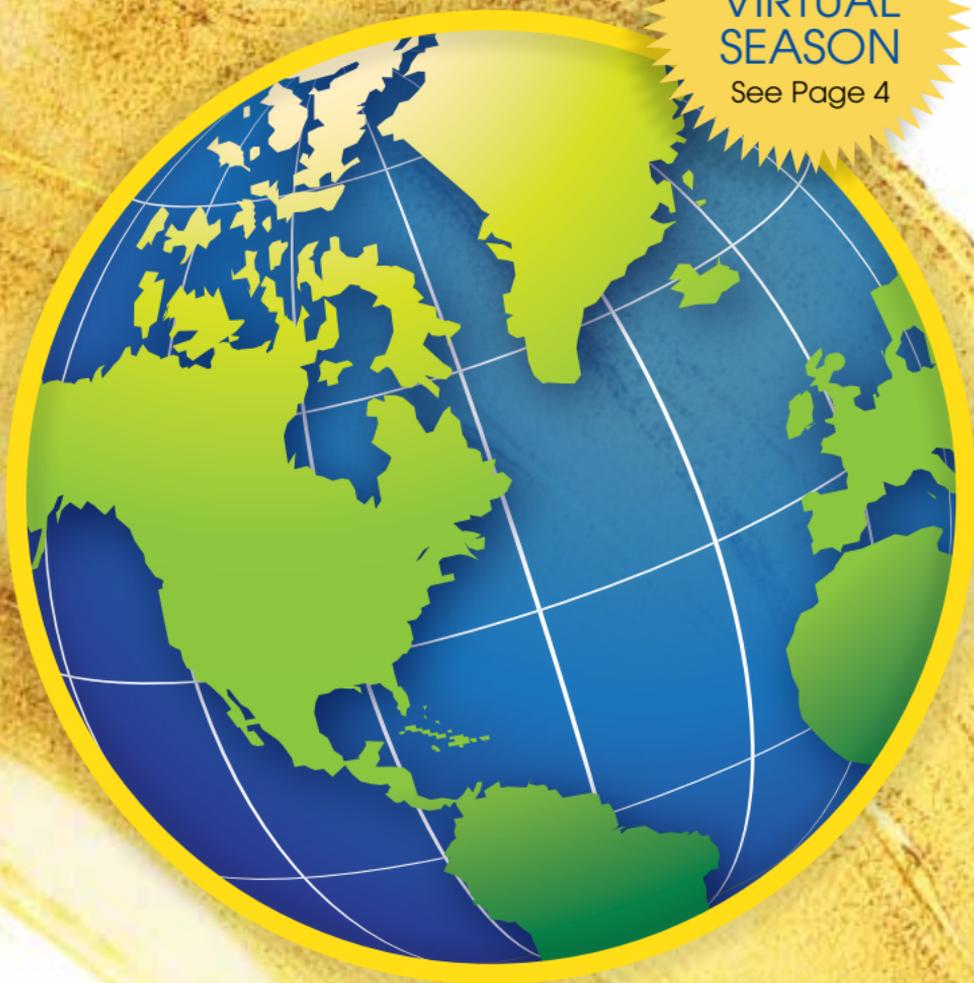
SARASOTA INSTITUTE OF LIFETIME LEARNING



## Global Issues

AN INSIDER'S VIEW OF TODAY'S WORLD

**FREE**  
VIRTUAL  
SEASON  
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2021

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Welcome to the 50th season of SILL!

From a small startup operation years ago, SILL now operates five venues (in normal times) and last year attracted more than 45,000 attendees.

*Due to the coronavirus, our 2021 season will be conducted virtually. It will be offered free to everyone, our way of saying thank you for 50 years of wonderful subscriber participation.*



We suffered a big loss, over the summer, with the death of our beloved Edward Alley. Ed had taken over the music program from his wife, June LeBell and had done a fantastic job of recruiting and interviewing our wonderful musicians. Our 2021 season is dedicated to Ed who will be greatly missed by all of us. The music program will now be led by the very talented Joseph Holt who will continue the work of June and Ed.

Our SILL Music Monday program in 2021 will feature some truly remarkable musicians. Olga Kern, widely viewed as the best pianist in the world, will be joined by her son Vladislav Kern and together they will perform some wonderful music. Legendary jazz pianist Dick Hyman will team up with tenor Robert White in what I think will be a very exciting offering. Other performers include saxophone player Steven Banks, pianist Tetiana Shafran and soprano Adelaide Boedecker.

Our Global Issues program committee, chaired by Jeff Olesen, has booked some impressive speakers for 2021. Ambassador Dennis Ross will return to explore the current state of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Admiral Gary Roughhead will discuss our evolving military. Jeremi Suri will address presidential leadership in crisis while Susan Spaulding, former Undersecretary for Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure at the Department of Homeland Security, will discuss the US under electronic siege. Rosemary Gibson, author of *China Rx*, will explore lessons from the global pandemic. Ambassador Robert Ford will be talking about Syria and the Kurds. Our very popular SILL speakers Martin Walker, Baroness Margaret Jay, Dr. Moshen Milani, and Dr. Bob Barylski will return to illuminate their areas of expertise.

We hope you will join us for our 2021 season. Please invite your friends even if they don't live in Sarasota. We are looking forward to our season and hope you will join us to expand your horizons in both Music and Global Issues. Above all, please stay safe and healthy.

Beth Cotner  
President



## WELCOME! TO OUR 50th SEASON

Global Issues and Music Mondays programs will both be live-streamed. From the comfort of home, on the go, using a cell phone or tablet, or sitting in a coffee shop, viewing the world-class content from SILL is as simple as pushing a button.

As a special treat, all programs are FREE this year. As in previous years, presentations will run from early January through the end of March. Music Mondays presentations will be on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. Global issues lectures will be presented on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Each presentation will be an hour in length. Also, as with previous seasons, you will be able to ask questions of the presenter by sending your questions, in real-time, to the session moderator.

Should you miss any presentations, you will be able to access them for a couple of weeks via a link on SILL's website:

[www.SILLSarasota.org](http://www.SILLSarasota.org)

To participate in our 2021 virtual program this year, you will need to sign up with your name and email address. Go to the SILL website and click on Virtual Season - How to View. To keep you engaged with the 2021 Season, we will send out notices via Constant Contact to remind you of each presentation.

Enjoy our Golden Anniversary Season...a season like no other!

**FREE SEASON**

**SIGN UP FOR YOUR  
VIRTUAL SEASON TICKET  
TODAY!**

### **BONUS LECTURE**

### **GLOBAL ISSUES TUESDAY**

10:30 am

– **MARCH 30** –

#### ***The Politicization of the Department of Justice***

Throughout most of our history, the U.S. Department of Justice has been an apolitical defender and protector of the rule of law. **Robert Gary** will examine what has occurred in recent years at the DOJ and policies and practices that have strayed from that respected and valued tradition.



## – JANUARY 5 –

***U.S. Military as an Agent for Democracy***

**Adm. Gary Roughead** will discuss the evolving role of the U.S. military as an agent for the promotion of Democracy around the globe. His discussion will explore how the military is playing a more active role in Diplomacy and exporting American values to the world.

## – JANUARY 12 –

***Iran's Foreign Policy: Continuity and Change***

The Iranian Revolution of 1979 shocked Americans when it demolished the Shah's pro-American regime and survived through multiple crises for 42 years. From Carter to Trump, seven American presidents failed to end the confrontation. **Dr. Mohsen Milani** will discuss the impact of our 2020 presidential election on relations between Washington and Tehran.

## – JANUARY 19 –

***Is the Middle East Turning a Page?***

As the new administration begins, it is faced with a plethora of challenges, from the pandemic's health and economic dimensions to regional great power rivalries. **Amb. Dennis Ross** will explain how one might navigate this evolving landscape and some of the decisions facing our new administration.

## – JANUARY 26 –

***The U.S. and Russia: Paradoxes of Conflict and Collaboration***

Despite the tensions between the United States and Russia, there is a peculiar strain of pragmatism that tempers Moscow's dealings with Washington. **Amb. John Beyrle** suggests that this pragmatic framework is not new but has defined the relationship from Catherine the Great through Stalin to Putin.

## – FEBRUARY 2 –

***Diplomacy in the Time of COVID-19***

The pandemic has shown the extent of Latin America's globalization, threatened its economies, laid bare its social inequalities, and upended regional cooperation. **Amb. Thomas Shannon** will discuss what comes next for our Hemisphere, and how can the United States help our partners in the Americas rebuild their economies and strengthen their democracies?

## – FEBRUARY 9 –

***Turkey's Return to the Middle East in an Age of Global Turmoil***

Turkey's return to the Middle East after decades avoiding external engagements is fundamental. Turkey now controls part of Syria along its southern border and has military in Qatar and Libya. **Ms. Asli Aydintasbas** will help understand whether this is a temporary mindset or shows Turkey as a regional actor and possible hegemon.

## – FEBRUARY 16 –

***The New Normal***

The current view is that the Coronavirus pandemic has transformed the way our economies will work. In the U.K. the BREXIT problem has been replaced by new concern about how business can be successful in a much more regulated global world. **Baroness Margaret Jay** will discuss whether the 'New Normal' will really be permanent or will we all slip back into the old ways more quickly than we think?

## – FEBRUARY 23 –

***Lessons from the Global Pandemic:******The U.S. Can't Make Its Own Generic Medicines***

The global pandemic has exposed U.S. and global dependence on China for essential ingredients to make thousands of generic drugs. The U.S. can no longer make aspirin, penicillin or other generic antibiotics. **Rosemary Gibson** will discuss how we got here, the risks, and mitigating measures.

## – MARCH 2 –

***The United States under Electronic Siege: Are We Losing the War?***

Our democratic institutions and elections are under siege - not by military might, but by modern day electronics. **Suzanne Spaulding**, former Undersecretary for Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure at the Department of Homeland Security, will describe this threat to our democracy and analyze our response.

## – MARCH 9 –

***Pandemics, Privatization, and Political Power Plays***

Public education is a birthright in the United States. That's a constant, but what it means, and how it looks, is always changing, sometimes dramatically. **Thomas J. Gentzel** examines the trends, and the often unexpected forces, that are altering American basic education.

## – MARCH 16 –

***The Centaur's Dilemma: National Security Law for the Coming Artificial Intelligence Revolution***

What is artificial intelligence? How does it work? What are its security applications, implications, and challenges? Are we ready for the coming AI revolution? Experts refer to a Centaur Model of AI as part machine, part human. **Judge James Baker** answers these questions and asks where AI takes us and the consequences.

## – MARCH 23 –

***Japan's Global Moment***

Japan today is better placed to expand its global role than at any time in history. COVID-19 has sharpened the competition between America, Japan's closest ally, and China, its largest economic market. **Dr. Joshua Walker** will discuss the consequential decisions Japan must make for the future.

## – MARCH 30 –

***BONUS LECTURE***

See page G5 for details



## – JANUARY 7 –

***The President's Inbox***

The last year has been like no other in recent memory. As the new Administration takes office, it will face the challenge of redefining a changed U.S. role in the world. **Amb. Christopher Hill** will discuss the most urgent challenges brewing, their underlying causes and the President's options for protecting U.S. national interest.

## – JANUARY 14 –

***America's Strategic Future  
in a World of Rival Authoritarian Great Powers***

We live in an era of great-power competition. Rivals in China and Russia want to undermine American alliances and make the world safe for autocracy. How should the U.S. navigate this new world? **Dr. Daniel Twining** will discuss what is the right strategy for managing rivals who want to upset the world America built.

## – JANUARY 21 –

***The Impact of the Coronavirus on the Conduct of U.S. Diplomacy  
and Historical Perspectives from Africa***

The United States Government was inadequately prepared for the 2020 Coronavirus pandemic. **Amb. Jimmy Kolker** discusses this, the implications for America's standing, and the world's capacity to prevent and respond to epidemics and health challenges. What lessons can we draw from AIDS, polio, Ebola and other health experiences in Africa.

## – JANUARY 28 –

***Drones and Drone Warfare***

Drones are emerging as the new weapon of choice in modern warfare. Naval War College **Prof. John E. Jackson** will discuss the past, present, and future uses of robotic and unmanned systems, both in the military services and in private use. Jackson will discuss the systems involved, the operational challenge they address, and the legal and ethical ramifications of their use.

## – FEBRUARY 4 –

***The European Union: What's Next?***

Covid-19 unleashed a horrendous health crisis leading to a severe economic downturn. The rift between northern and southern EU countries has deepened and borders have hardened. **Martin Walker** examines these issues and others that threaten cooperation and solidarity of the member countries.

## – FEBRUARY 11 –

***Neglected Crises: Casandras***

News outlets besiege followers of global news with reports, analyses and opinions on the big events of the day. But what happens after the media move on to the next big story? **Amb. Wendy Chamberlin's** presentation looks at crises that are still threatening but have faded from the front pages.

## – FEBRUARY 18 –

***Presidential Leadership in Crises***

The United States has endured many crises in its history, wars, pandemics, and severe economic contractions. Leaders helped citizens to survive these crises and improve American society. **Dr. Jeremi Suri** will discuss the lessons for our leaders to manage our current crises and help us to build a better country.

## – FEBRUARY 25 –

***Food Security: Bringing Science and Politics to the Table***

Is food a commodity or human right? **Dr. Aron Troen** will discuss that securing a sustainable supply of abundant, safe, nutritious, and affordable food for this and future generations is one of the great challenges of our time. To feed our families and planet, we will have to invite both science and politics to the table.

## – MARCH 4 –

***Indispensable Nation? The U.S. Role in World Order***

For nearly seven decades America created and sustained international institutions, economic order, and regional stability. It served as leader and defender of the liberal democracies and market economies. **Dr. Robert Lieber** discusses if that role is still possible or even desirable? And what are the implications for America's security, prosperity, and even its values?

## – MARCH 11 –

***China's Economic Challenges and U.S.- China Competition***

China will be the world's largest economy by 2035 if current trends continue. **Dr. David Dollar** will focus on challenges that may alter that scenario – population aging, environmental degradation, financial instability, and the uncomfortable co-existence of private and state enterprises. Trade tensions with the U.S. are more a reflection than a cause of China's difficulties.

## – MARCH 18 –

***Syria and the Kurds***

Syria and its allies have largely won the civil war. 500 American soldiers have been guarding oilfields in eastern Syria for 2 years. Can they help fix Syria, but at what cost and purpose? What about our Kurdish allies against ISIS? **Amb. Robert Ford** will look at a bitter war's end.

## – MARCH 25 –

***Russia-American Relations after our Presidential Election***

While Americans wrestled with social, medical, and political turmoil, Russian society was unusually calm. But events in Belarus and Ukraine prove younger generations want to live according to European norms. Is Russia inherently different? **Dr. Robert Barylski** will discuss prospects for ending the new Cold War given the outcome of America's 2020 elections.

## ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS



**Asli Aydintasbas** is a senior policy fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations and a Global Opinions columnist for *The Washington Post*. She covers Turkish foreign policy, domestic politics, and the regional order in an age of turmoil in the Middle East. She hosted the daily television show “Türk” on CNN from 2013 to 2015.

Ms. Aydintasbas joined ECFR after a lengthy career in journalism which included tenure as a columnist at *Cumhuriyet* (2016-2018) and *Milliyet* (2008-2015). In her columns for leading international publications, she examines Turkey’s relations with the West, its global positioning, and its domestic evolution.

Ms. Aydintasbas served as a Washington correspondent and later the Ankara bureau chief for *Sabah*, one of Turkey’s leading newspapers, from 2001 to 2007. She covered the Clinton and Bush Administrations, the United Nations, and the Iraq War from 1997 to 2004 as a Washington and New York correspondent. Ms. Aydintasbas is a graduate of Bates College and holds an M.A. in Journalism and Middle East Studies from New York University. She lives in Istanbul.



**Judge James E. Baker** is a Professor at the Syracuse University College of Law and the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, where he is also Director of the Institute for National Security and Counterterrorism. He previously served as the Chief Judge, and earlier as an Associate Judge, on the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces (2000-2015) and as Legal Adviser and Deputy Legal Adviser to the National Security

Council (1994-2000).

Judge Baker has also served as Counsel to the President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, a State Department lawyer, an aide to Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, and as a Marine Corps infantry officer. He is the author of *In the Common Defense: National Security Law for Perilous Times* (Cambridge 2007) and co-author of *Regulating Covert Action* (Yale 1992), along with numerous chapters and articles on security, law, government process, and ethics. In addition to Syracuse, he has taught at Yale, Iowa, Pittsburgh, Washington University (St. Louis), and Georgetown

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## ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS



**Dr. Robert V. Barylski** is a retired associate professor in the Department of Government and International Relations at USF Sarasota and, prior to his retirement, former Dean of the University. An expert on civil-military relations in Russia, he published *The Soldier in Russian Politics 1988-1996: Duty, Dictatorship and Democracy under Gorbachev and Yeltsin* (1998; Kindle edition, 2018).

He travels to Russia frequently and speaks and writes on political and economic reconstruction in the former Soviet Union. He is particularly interested in the development of oil resources in Russia and the newly independent nations on its borders. In recent years he has become one of the leading experts on Russian policy towards states and peoples of Islamic heritage.

Dr. Barylski has also spoken to SILL audiences on the rise of tycoons in the Russian economy and the relationships between Russia, China, and Iran. He has made occasional expert contributions to the Voice of America for broadcast to the greater Caspian region and participated in U.S. policy symposia at the U.S. Central Command.

Dr. Barylski has an undergraduate degree in political science from Brown University and graduate degrees in Russian area studies and political science from Harvard University.



**Amb. John Beyrle** was elected Chairman of the U.S. Russia Foundation in October 2018. Prior to this, he served as an American diplomat for three decades in a career focused on the Soviet Union and Russia, and Central and Eastern Europe. He served as ambassador to Bulgaria (2005-08), and to Russia (2008-12). During the latter assignment, Amb. Beyrle helped foster improved U.S.-Russian relations, highlighted by the signing of the New START nuclear arms reduction treaty.

Amb. Beyrle received the Presidential Distinguished Service Award from President Obama, and the Presidential Meritorious Service Award during the administration of George W. Bush. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton presented him with the Distinguished Service Award, the State Department’s highest honor. He retired from the Foreign Service in 2012 as a Career Minister.

## ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS



**Amb. Wendy J. Chamberlin** was President of The Middle East Institute based in Washington DC from 2007 to 2019. Under her leadership, the Institute tripled its endowment, added an Arts and Cultural Center, and was ranked among the top Middle East focused U.S. think tanks. Her legacy achievement, however, was the total renovation of its historic building.

Amb. Chamberlin served as U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan in 2001-02 where she played a key role in securing Pakistan's cooperation for the US-led campaign against al Qaeda terrorists in Afghanistan. Her other leadership positions at the State Department over her 29-year career has included Ambassador to Laos, Charge' d'Affaires in Malaysia, and senior positions in the Near East and Counter Narcotics Bureaus. She served abroad in Morocco, Pakistan, Malaysia, Laos, and Zaire. She was Director for Global Affairs at the National Security Council.

Amb Chamberlin retired in 2004 to serve as Deputy High Commissioner for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva where she supervised the administration of the multi-billion dollar UN humanitarian organization.



**Dr. David Dollar** is a senior fellow in the China Center at the Brookings Institution and host of the Dollar & Sense podcast on international trade. He is a leading expert on China's economy and U.S.-China economic relations.

From 2009 to 2013 he was the U.S. Treasury's economic and financial emissary to China. Before his time at Treasury, Dr. Dollar worked at the World Bank for 20 years, and from 2004 to 2009 was country director for China and Mongolia. His other World Bank assignments primarily focused on Asian economies, especially Vietnam. From 1995 to 2004, Dr. Dollar worked in the World Bank's research department and published articles on trade and growth, economic reform in the developing world, and aid effectiveness.

Prior to his World Bank career, Dr. Dollar was an assistant professor of economics at UCLA, during which time he spent a semester teaching in Beijing. He has a Ph.D. in economics from New York University and a B.A. in Chinese history and language from Dartmouth College.

## ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS



**Amb. Robert S. Ford** is a scholar at the Middle East Institute in Washington, D.C. and a fellow at Yale University's Jackson Institute for Global Affairs where since 2016 he has taught about U.S. foreign policy. A career diplomat until 2014, Amb. Ford was the U.S. Ambassador to Syria from 2011 to 2014, the Political Affairs Chief and Deputy Ambassador at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad 2008 – 2010, and the U.S. Ambassador in Algeria 2006 – 2008. He also served in Bahrain, Cameroon, Egypt, Turkey and Washington. Before joining the diplomatic service Amb. Ford was a teacher with the Peace Corps in Morocco 1980 – 1982.

In 2013 Amb. Ford received the John F Kennedy Profile in Courage award and in 2014 the Secretary's Distinguished Service award, the State Department's highest award. Amb. Ford speaks English, Arabic, and French and appears regularly in US, European, and Arabic media. He has published articles in The New York Times, the Washington Post, The Atlantic, and Foreign Affairs.



**Robert D. Gary** was a former trial attorney in the Organized Crime Section of the U.S. Department of Justice. He was the Deputy Chief and Acting Chief of the USDOJ Cleveland Strike Force. He was a Special Assistant United States Attorney. In Ohio he was responsible for the supervision of major federal investigations into Teamster corruption conducting federal grand juries and the trial and prosecution of criminal cases in the United States Federal Courts.

Mr. Gary has a B.A. and a JD from Case Western Reserve and an LLM in Criminal Justice from the New York University School of Law. Most recently he has been lecturing across the world on Crystal Cruise Lines as well as locally at the Ringling College of Lifetime Learning Institute and the Longboat Education Center on the Quran, Middle Eastern Politics, and the various investigations by the Special Counsel and the House Committees. His particular interest is why people believe what they believe. Mr. Gary and his wife Karen reside on Longboat Key.

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## ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS



**Thomas J. Gentzel** is Executive Director & CEO Emeritus of the National School Boards Association. An unabashed yet pragmatic advocate for public education and the community leadership essential to its success, he worked on behalf of, and advocated for, school boards and effective local governance for 40 years. Prior to leading NSBA for more than seven years, he spent over 32 years with the Pennsylvania School Boards

Association, including 11 years as its executive director.

In 2017, Mr. Gentzel was named one of 20 National Education Thought Leaders by TrustEd, and was recipient of the 2014 Edward Donley Award by the Education Policy and Leadership Center. He is a former chair of the Learning First Alliance, a coalition of 13 of the country's leading education organizations.

Mr. Gentzel earned a bachelor degree in community development and a Master of Public Administration degree from The Pennsylvania State University, where he delivered the 2017 College of Education commencement address and received the college's 2018 Service to Penn State Award.



**Rosemary Gibson** is author of *China Rx: Exposing the Risks of America's Dependence on China for Medicine*. It highlights the centralization of the global supply of medicines in a single country and implications in the event of a global pandemic, natural disaster, or geopolitical event. Ms. Gibson testified before the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee in October 2019 and to the U.S.-China Economic and Security

Review Commission in July 2019. She has briefed senior leaders on the national security threats from U.S. dependence on China for medicines and proposes solutions to mitigate the risk.

At the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation she architected its national strategy to bring palliative care into the nation's hospitals. As a result, today nearly 2,000 acute care hospitals have a palliative care program. She worked with Bill Moyers on the PBS documentary, "On Our Own Terms." She is recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. Ms. Gibson is Senior Advisor at the Hastings Center.

## ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS



**Amb. Christopher Robert Hill** has been named George Ball Professor at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. Until July 2020 he was Head of Global Engagement at the University of Denver where he also served as Dean of the Josef Korbel School of International Studies from September 2010 to December 2017. Amb. Hill is author of *Outpost: Life on the Frontlines of American Diplomacy: A*

*Memoir* and a frequent columnist for Project Syndicate.

Amb. Hill is a former career diplomat and a four-time ambassador. His last post was as Ambassador to Iraq, April 2009 until August 2010. Prior to Iraq, Amb. Hill served as Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs from 2005 until 2009 during which he was also the head of the U.S. delegation to the Six Party Talks on the North Korean nuclear issue. Earlier he was the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, U.S. Ambassador to Poland (2000-2004), Ambassador to the Republic of Macedonia (1996-1999), and Special Envoy to Kosovo (1998-1999).



**Professor John Jackson**, sometimes referred to as "The Duke of Drones", has served at The Naval War College for more than 20 years, teaching in the areas of national security decision-making, logistics, and unmanned and robotic systems. He holds the E.A. Sperry Chair of Unmanned and Robotic Systems and lectures frequently.

His latest book *One Nation, Under Drones*, was published by the U.S. Naval Institute in December 2018. A retired Navy Captain, he served in supply and logistics assignments both afloat and ashore, retiring in 1998 after 27 years of active service.

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## ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS



**Baroness Margaret Jay's** career has combined government service, the media, and business. She graduated from Oxford University with a degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics and began a twenty year career in broadcasting. Baroness Jay was appointed a life peer in July 1992 and acted as an opposition Whip in the House of Lords. She was also appointed as the first director of the National Aids Trust. Following the Labor Party elec-

tion victory in 1997, she was appointed to Tony Blair's government first as a Minister of State in the Department of Health and later to the Cabinet as Leader of the House of Lords, Lord Privy Seal, and Minister for Women.

Baroness Jay played a pivotal role in the major reform that led to the removal of more than 660 hereditary peers (most of its hereditary members) in the House of Lords. She left government in 2001 and serves on the board of British Telecom and the Independent News and Media Company. In 2007 she served as co-chair of the Iraq Commission.



**Amb. Jimmy Kolker** served as Assistant Secretary for Global Affairs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2014–2017). In this role Amb. Kolker was the Department's Chief Health diplomat, representing the United States at World Health Organization and Global Fund meetings.

Amb. Kolker had a 30-year diplomatic career with the U.S. Department of State where he served as the U.S. Amb. to Burkina Faso (1999-2002) and to Uganda (2002-2005). From 2005 to 2007 he was Deputy U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, leading the implementation of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). From 2007 to 2011 Amb. Kolker was Chief of the AIDS Section at UNICEF's New York headquarters.

Now retired, Amb. Kolker is a non-resident senior associate with the CSIS Global Health Policy Center and a fellow of Georgetown's Center for Global Health Science and Security. He serves on the boards of the ABInBev Foundation, Building Tomorrow, Firelight Foundation and the G4 (Surgery) Alliance and on advisory councils for Last Mile Health, Global HOPE and One Health Workforce – Next Generation.

## ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS



**Dr. Robert J. Lieber** is Emeritus Professor of Government and International Affairs at Georgetown University, where he has previously served as Chair of the Government Department.

He is author or editor of 17 books on international relations and U.S. foreign policy, and has served as an advisor to several presidential campaigns, to the State Department, and to the drafters of U.S. National Intelligence Estimates. He is now

completing *The Indispensable Nation: American Foreign Policy in a Turbulent World* to be published in 2021.

Dr. Lieber has also taught at Harvard, Oxford and the University of California, Davis, and has been a Visiting Fellow at The Fondation Nationale Des Sciences Politiques in Paris, the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., and Fudan University in Shanghai. His articles and op-eds have appeared in The New York Times and The Washington Post. His media appearances have included the NewsHour on PBS, ABC TV's Good Morning America, NBC and CBS network news.

Dr. Lieber received his undergraduate education at the University of Wisconsin and his Ph.D. at Harvard University.



**Dr. Mohsen Milani** is the Executive Director of the Center for Strategic & Diplomatic Studies and Professor of Politics at the University of South Florida. He served as a department chair from 1998 to 2012.

Dr. Milani has written more than sixty academic articles and book chapters. His book, *The Making of Iran's Islamic Revolution*, has been used as required reading in many universities in the U.S., Europe, Japan, Canada, and Iran. His recent publications include "The Ayatollah's Game Plan" (Foreign Affairs), "Rouhani's Foreign Policy" (Foreign Affairs), "The Rise and Fall of Rafsanjani" (The Atlantic), "Meet Me in Baghdad" (Foreign Affairs), "Iran's U.S. Policy" (Foreign Affairs), "Iran's policy toward Iraq" (book chapter), and "Iran's Policy Toward Afghanistan" (Middle East Journal).

At USF World, he has been conducting a new "Conversation Series on Global Security." Prominent experts have been invited to the program for in-depth conversations with him.

Born in Tehran, Dr. Milani completed his high school and higher education in the U.S. and received his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Southern California.

## ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS



**Amb. Dennis Ross** is counselor and William Davidson Distinguished Fellow at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy. For more than twelve years, Amb. Ross played a leading role in shaping U.S. involvement in the Middle East peace process, dealing directly with the parties as the U.S. point man on the peace process in both the George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton administrations. He served two years as special assistant to President Obama

and National Security Council senior director for the Central Region, and a year as special advisor to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Amb. Ross' most recent book, *Be Strong and of Good Courage: How Israel's Most Important Leaders Shaped Its Destiny*, written with his colleague David Makovsky, profiles four Israeli prime ministers who made historic choices. It explores lessons decisions provide on dealing with the fateful choice that Israel's leaders must soon confront or by default become a binational state.

A graduate of UCLA, Amb. Ross received UCLA's highest medal and has been named UCLA alumnus of the year.



**Adm. Gary Roughead**, U.S.N. (Ret.), the Robert and Marion Oster Distinguished Military Fellow at the Hoover Institution, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1973. In September 2007, he became the twenty-ninth chief of naval operations after holding six operational commands. He is one of only two officers in the navy's history to have commanded both the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets.

Ashore he served as commandant of the U.S. Naval Academy. He was also the navy's chief of legislative affairs, responsible for the Department of the Navy's interaction with Congress, and the deputy commander of the U.S. Pacific Command during the massive relief effort following the 2004 tsunami in the Indian Ocean.

In retirement, Adm. Roughead serves on the boards of directors of the Northrop Grumman Corporation, Maersk Line, Limited, and the Marinette Marine Corporation. He is a Trustee of Dodge and Cox Funds and of the Johns Hopkins University, and serves on the Board of Managers of the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. He advises companies in the national security and medical sectors.

## ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS



**Amb. Thomas A. Shannon, Jr.** brings more than three decades of government service and diplomatic experience to his practice, providing strategic counsel to clients across a range of legislative, foreign policy, and national security issues. Most recently, Amb. Shannon served as Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, the third highest ranking position at the State Department. Holding the personal rank of Career

Ambassador, he was the highest ranking member of the United States Foreign Service, the country's professional diplomatic corps.

During his tenure as Under Secretary, Amb. Shannon was in charge of bilateral and multilateral foreign policymaking and implementation, and oversaw diplomatic activity globally and in our missions to international organizations. He managed the State Department during the presidential transition, led bilateral and strategic stability talks with the Russian Federation, worked with our allies to oversee Iranian compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, and expanded US engagement in Central Asia.



**Suzanne Spaulding** is currently Senior Advisor for Homeland Security at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. She is also a US Senate-appointed commissioner on the Cyberspace Solarium Commission

Ms. Spaulding served as Undersecretary for Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure at the Department of Homeland Security. In that capacity she managed a three billion dollar budget and a work force of 18,000 people. She has served in both Republican and Democratic administrations and for both sides of the aisle in Congress. She was General Counsel for the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

Following the attack of 9/11 Ms. Spaulding worked with key critical infrastructure sectors as they reviewed their security postures. At DHS from 2011 to 2017 she lead the development and implementation of national policies to strengthen security and protection of critical infrastructure against cyber and physical risk. She chaired the federal government's Aviation Cybersecurity Initiative to identify and address key cyber vulnerabilities.

Ms. Spaulding holds a B.A. and a J.D. from the University of Virginia.

## ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS



**Dr. Jeremi Suri** holds the Mack Brown Distinguished Chair for Leadership in Global Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin. He is a professor in the University's Department of History and the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs.

Dr. Suri is the author and editor of nine books on contemporary politics and foreign policy, most recently: *The Impossible Presidency: The Rise and Fall of America's Highest Office*. Dr. Suri's research and teaching have received numerous prizes. In 2007 *Smithsonian Magazine* named him one of America's "Top Young Innovators" in the Arts and Sciences. In 2018 he received the Pro Bene Meritis Award for the Promotion of the Humanities. His writings appear widely in blogs and print media, including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *Wired*, and *Fortune*. Dr. Suri is also a frequent public lecturer and guest on radio and television programs.

Prof. Suri holds an A.B. in history from Stanford University, an M.A. in history from Ohio University, and a Ph.D. in history from Yale University.



**Prof. Aron Troen** is a member of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where he directs the Nutrition and Brain Health Laboratory and teaches in the School of Nutritional Sciences. He was previously on the faculty at Tufts University.

While much of his research is concerned with clarifying the biological connection between the quality of diet and brain health, putting such insights into practice is not simply a matter of life-style choices, but rather, for many people, one of life-circumstances. Prevalent food insecurity is a key driver of ill health, deprivation, and economic harm worldwide. Evidence-based policy changes will be essential to improve the food security of individuals and nations, and to enhance the quality, safety, and sustainability of the food supply.

Dr. Troen's evolving research and public service examine micronutrient fortification, food policy reform, and public health nutrition, including in recent responses to the COVID pandemic. He serves on various Ministry of Health committees on nutrition, health and food security.

Amb. Troen received his doctorate from Oxford University and B.Sc. from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

## ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS



**Dr. Daniel Twining** joined International Republican Institute as president in September 2017. He leads the Institute's mission to advance democracy and freedom around the world. Previously, he served as counselor and director of the Asia Program at The German Marshall Fund of the United States.

Prior to GMF, Dr. Twining served as a member of the U.S. Secretary of State's Policy Planning Staff, as foreign policy advisor to U.S. Senator John McCain, and as a staff member of the U.S. Trade Representative.

Dr. Twining holds a B.A. with highest distinction from the University of Virginia and MPhil & DPhil degrees from Oxford University. He has been a columnist for *Foreign Policy* and *Nikkei* and has served as an advisor to six presidential campaigns.



**Dr. Joshua W. Walker** became President of Japan Society in 2019. Before his current position, he was a senior staff member at the Eurasia Group and the head of the USA Pavilion of the 2017 World Expo in Astana, Kazakhstan.

Before joining the private sector, he worked in numerous roles in the State Department and the Defense Department. He is a Transatlantic Fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States, Senior Fellow at the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress, and professor of Leadership and the American presidency at George Mason University.

Dr. Walker earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Richmond, a master's degree from Yale University, and a doctorate from Princeton University. Dr. Walker grew up in Japan and is bicultural and bilingual.

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## ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS



**Martin Walker** has now retired after 30 years in journalism for the Guardian and UPI, and a second career with another ten years in think-tanks, including the World Policy Council, the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars and as Director of the Global Business Policy Council.

He is now enjoying his third career as a mystery novelist, and his 'Bruno, chief of police' novels have now sold more than three million copies in 17 languages. The *Bruno Cookbook*, written with his wife, Julia, was awarded the Gourmand International prize as the world's best French cookbook, and they are now working on a second, *Bruno's Garden Cookbook*. Mr. Walker is also a Grand Consul of the wines of Bergerac, and was awarded a gold medal by the French government for his services to tourism.

Mr. Walker is a graduate of Balliol College at Oxford, England.

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Although space constraints only allow acknowledgement of contributions at and above the \$50 level in this booklet, all contributions are gratefully appreciated.

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Volunteer support is paramount to SILL being in a position to continue offering the Global Issues and Music Series that audiences have enjoyed over the past 48 years.

For every lecture a full complement of volunteers is required to ensure everything runs smoothly. They include the parking facilitators, ushers, greeters, ticket sales and/or logistics administrators, as well as others. While the Global Issues and Music Series run January through March, the SILL Board works throughout the year in preparation for the next season. In many instances volunteers work directly with the SILL Board members in the areas of marketing, public relations, technical support, programming, recruitment, community outreach, and special events.

If you have the interest and desire to join the many volunteers who are already involved, and wish to learn more, please contact:

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Mondays, 10:30 am

JANUARY

**4**  
*Adelaide Boedecker, Soprano*

**11**  
*Joshua Horne, French Horn*

**18**  
*Jonathan Gentry, Oboe*

**25**  
*Kevin Short, Bass-Baritone*

FEBRUARY

**1**  
*Steven Banks, Saxophone  
and Xak Bjerken, Piano*

**8**  
*Olga Kern, Piano  
with Vladislav Kern, Piano*

**15**  
*Lisa Chavez, Mezzo-Soprano*

**22**  
*Jennifer and Christopher  
Takeda, Violins*

MARCH

**1**  
*Dick Hyman, Piano  
and Bobby White, Tenor*

**8**  
*Peter and Kara Dugan,  
Piano and Mezzo-Soprano*

**15**  
*Tetiana Shafran, Piano*

**22**  
*Maria Wirries, Singer*



**Edward Alley**  
1935 - 2020

*Ed Alley brought to SILL Music Mondays a wealth of musical knowledge, experience and perspective to go along with his gentle and gregarious style.*

*At age 22, Ed was selected as one of the conductors of the legendary 7th U.S. Army Symphony. Ed and two other conductors from that group were reunited in a memorable Music Monday presentation in February, 2016.*

*His career included serving as the manager of the New York Philharmonic and conducting more than 800 performances of the Goldovsky Opera Theater throughout the United States and Canada. He served as executive director of the Martha Baird Rockefeller Fund for Music. He later served as associate director of the Opera Center of The Juilliard School, director of the Exxon/Arts Endowment Conductors Program.*

*After retiring to Sarasota, he was a generous volunteer of his time and talents to a number of musical organizations, serving as a Trustee of the Sarasota Opera and Board Chair of both the Choral Artists of Sarasota and the Artist Series Concerts of Sarasota, among other volunteer positions. He was also head of the search committee at the Sarasota Orchestra that brought Artistic Director Anu Tali to the Orchestra.*

*In addition to all of this, Ed was a prominent financial contributor to many music organizations, particularly the Sarasota Opera and Orchestra.*



– JANUARY 4 –

**Adelaide Boedecker, Soprano**

A rising star in the opera world, Adelaide Boedecker has appeared with the Santa Fe, Pittsburgh, Columbus, and Sarasota Opera companies. A native of Sarasota, she frequently performs concerts with leading orchestras around the country.

– JANUARY 11 –

**Joshua Horne, French Horn**

Joshua is co-principal horn with the Sarasota Orchestra and principal horn of the Charlottesville Opera Orchestra in Charlottesville, Virginia. A native of Texas, Joshua has also performed with the San Antonio Symphony, Houston Symphony, and Charlotte Symphony.

– JANUARY 18 –

**Jonathan Gentry, Oboe**

Jonathan Gentry joined the Sarasota Orchestra as principal oboe in the fall of 2019. Previously, he was principal oboe of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra and has also performed with the Fort Worth, San Diego, and San Antonio Symphonies.

– JANUARY 25 –

**Kevin Short, Bass-Baritone**

Versatile American bass-baritone Kevin Short is thrilling audiences around the globe, including major roles at the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera, Los Angeles Opera, Washington Opera, Sarasota Opera Company, Spoleto Opera Festival, and Santa Fe Opera. He is also featured soloist with major orchestras around the world.

– FEBRUARY 1 –

**Steven Banks, Saxophone**

Steven Banks is recognized for his “glowing mahogany tone” and “breathtaking” performances. He is the first saxophonist to earn a place on the Young Concert Artists roster in its 60-year history. He is joined by Xak Bjerken, pianist and Professor of Music at Cornell University.

– FEBRUARY 8 –

**Olga Kern and Vladislav Kern, Piano**

Russian-American pianist Olga Kern is now recognized as one of her generation’s great pianists. She jumpstarted her U.S. career with her historic Gold Medal win at the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in Fort Worth, Texas as the first woman to do so in more than thirty years. Her son, Vladislav, also a pianist, joins her for this Music Monday appearance.

– FEBRUARY 15 –

**Lisa Chavez, Mezzo-Soprano**

“Lisa Chavez was born to play Carmen, equipped with the classic Carmen look, vocal power and attitude.” She is also hailed for “her buttery, richly colored Mezzo” by Opera News. She has appeared throughout the country and is a Sarasota Opera favorite, most recently appearing in Catalani’s La Wally.

– FEBRUARY 22 –

**Jennifer and Christopher Takeda, Violin**

One of the musical power couples in the Sarasota area. A native of North Carolina, violinist Jennifer Best Takeda currently serves as the Assistant Concertmaster of the Sarasota Orchestra, as well as violinist of the resident Sarasota Piano Quartet. Prior to joining the Sarasota Orchestra in 2005, Jennifer served as a Concertmaster of the New World Symphony, under the direction of Michael Tilson Thomas. Christopher Takeda, a native of Albuquerque, NM was appointed to the position of Associate Concertmaster of the Sarasota Orchestra in the 2002-03 season. Since 2005, he has also held a position performing with the Santa Fe Opera. Both are avid chamber music performers.

– MARCH 1 –

**Dick Hyman, Piano and Robert White, Tenor**

Legendary pianist Dick Hyman was named a Jazz Master by the National Endowment for the Arts in 2017. Over many decades, he has enjoyed a busy musical career that got underway in the early '50s, functioning as pianist, organist, arranger, music director, and composer. In his lifelong singing career, the American tenor Robert White has sung for five U.S. Presidents, Britain’s Queen Mother and Prince Charles, Monaco’s Royal Family, and Pope John Paul II. He is a member of the vocal faculty at the Juilliard School of Music in New York.

– MARCH 8 –

**Peter and Kara Dugan, Pianist and Mezzo-Soprano**

Peter is the newly named host of NPR’s From the Top and his wife, Kara, has been praised by the NY Times as an exciting singer with ‘vocal warmth and rich character.’

– MARCH 15 –

**Tetiana Shafran, Piano**

Born in Kiev, Ukraine, in 1989, Tetiana Shafran started playing piano at the age of three. She is the 2019 winner of the Second Triennial Olga Kern International Piano Competition and prizewinner of approximately 18 other international piano competitions. She has also performed in some of the most prestigious concert halls of Europe, North and South America, Africa, and Asia.

– MARCH 22 –

**Maria Wirries, Singer**

Maria Wirries is a graduate from the Musical Theatre program at Penn State University and has spent the last two years, after a summer in the Broadway company, on the First National Tour of Dear Evan Hansen. She was born in Haiti and raised in southwest Florida. She has performed with the Sarasota Orchestra in their Masterworks and Pops Concert Series, the Sarasota Orchestra Jazz Ensemble, at the Players Theater, and at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall.

## ABOUT OUR ARTISTS



**Steven Banks**, *Classical Saxophone*  
and **Xak Bjerken**, *Pianist*

Recognized for his “glowing mahogany tone” (*Seen and Heard International*) and “breathtaking” (*Classical Voice of NC*) performances, American classical saxophonist Steven Banks “is at the forefront of musicians of his generation.” (Taimur Sullivan, Professor of Saxophone, Northwestern University)

Mr. Banks has an ongoing relationship with The Cleveland Orchestra. He is the baritone saxophonist of the award-winning Kenari Quartet. Mr. Banks also serves proudly as Assistant Professor of Saxophone at Ithaca College. He has a Master of Music degree from the Northwestern University Bienen School of Music and a B.A. in Saxophone Performance from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music.



Xak Bjerken is an accomplished pianist who has performed worldwide. He is Professor of Music at Cornell University where he co-directs Mayfest, an international chamber music festival with his wife, pianist Miri Yampolsky. He studied with Aube Tzerko at UCLA and received his master's and doctoral degrees from the Peabody Conservatory as a student of and teaching assistant to Leon Fleisher.



**Adelaide Boedecker**, *Soprano*

In 2020 Soprano Adelaide Boedecker made her role debut with the Sarasota Opera as Adina in *The Elixir of Love*. In the previous season she debuted as Pamina in *The Magic Flute*. She will star as Pamina with the Pittsburgh Opera in the fall of 2021.

Ms. Boedecker, has been described as “emotionally transparent and beguiling of tone” (*The San Francisco Chronicle*). In the fall of 2021, Ms. Boedecker will return to Pittsburgh Opera to perform *Pamina*, and in the spring will perform the role of Norina in *Don Pasquale* with Opera Las Vegas.

During the 2019-2020 season, Ms. Boedecker joined the Steamboat Symphony Orchestra as the soprano soloist in Mozart's *Mass in C minor*, the Wichita Symphony Orchestra and Capriccio Columbus as the soprano soloist in *Carmina Burana*, the Naples Philharmonic as the soprano soloist in Handel's *Messiah*, and the Lensic Performing Arts Center in Santa Fe where she performed Mozart's *Exsultate, Jubilate*. Ms. Boedecker is a former resident artist with the Pittsburgh Opera.

## ABOUT OUR ARTISTS



**Lisa Chavez**, *Mezzo Soprano*

Lisa Chavez, mezzo soprano, has been described by her “plush storm of a voice” and “graceful stage presence.” She ended the 2018-2019 season originating the role of Maggie in the world premiere of Iain Bell's *Stonewall* with the New York City Opera. She began this season with a role debut as Rosina in Sarasota Opera's production of *The Barber of Seville*. She returned to Sarasota to portray Fenena in Verdi's *Nabucco*. In 2018 she performed *Carmen* at the Sarasota Opera for 11 sold-out performances. *Carmen* is looking to become a signature role for her. Ms. Chavez made her debut with the Sarasota Opera in the iconic role of Madame de Croissy in Poulenc's *Dialogues of the Carmelites* as part of their 2017 winter season.

Ms. Chavez was born in Oakland, CA. She is a graduate of the Master's Degree Program at the Manhattan School of Music and was a founding member of Opera Collective, an independent opera company making Operatic repertoire accessible to all of the New York City metro area.



**Peter Dugan**, *Piano*  
and **Kara Dugan**, *Mezzo-Soprano*

Pianist Peter Dugan is the newly announced host of NPR's beloved program *From the Top*. He has appeared as a soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician across North America and abroad. Mr. Dugan has performed in duos and trios with artists ranging from Itzhak Perlman and Renee Fleming to Jesse Colin Young and Glenn Close. He last appeared on SILL's Music Mondays with baritone John Brancy.



His wife, mezzo-soprano Kara Dugan, has been praised by *The New York Times* for her “vocal warmth and rich character.” Ms. Dugan has sung with the San Francisco Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, Buffalo Philharmonic, New World Symphony, Marlboro Music Festival, Ravinia Steans Institute, Boston Early Music Festival, Wolf Trap Opera, Alice Tully Hall, and Aspen Music Festival.

The husband and wife duo perform together at festivals throughout the United States and both hold bachelor's and master's degrees from the Juilliard School. of Music.

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## ABOUT OUR ARTISTS

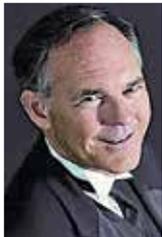


### **Jonathan Gentry**, *Principal Oboe*

Jonathan Gentry joined the Sarasota Orchestra as principal oboe in the fall of 2019. Previously he was principal oboe of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra. He has also performed with the Fort Worth, San Diego, and San Antonio symphonies.

As a soloist, he most recently performed the Haydn *Sinfonia Concertante* with the National Repertory Orchestra. Other concerto appearances include the Vaughan Williams *Oboe Concerto* with the East Texas Symphony, Pasculli's *La Favorita Concerto* with the Brazos Valley Symphony, and the Mozart *Oboe Concerto* with the Plano Symphony and the Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. As a chamber musician, he was a founding member of Tangent Winds, an award-winning wind quintet based in New York City.

Mr. Gentry holds degrees from the New England Conservatory and The Juilliard School. While classical music will always be his first passion, Jonathan maintains other interests in amateur photography, watching/playing basketball, and the lifelong pursuit of the perfect cup of coffee.



### **Joseph Holt**, *Host*

Now in his 12th season as Artistic Director of the Choral Artists of Sarasota, Dr. Joseph Holt enjoys a wide-ranging career as conductor, pianist, chamber musician, arts administrator, educator, arranger, and interviewer.

Before coming to Sarasota, he served for 20 years as principal pianist with the U.S. Army Chorus in Washington, D.C., performing for U.S. Presidents and other dignitaries. He was Associate Conductor for the Choral Arts Society of Washington for 15 years and led them in the annual Family Christmas Concerts at the Kennedy Center.

In addition, Holt is Director of Artist Programs for Artist Series Concerts of Sarasota, engaging performers for their various series. Artist Series and Music Mondays continue their collaboration by occasionally sharing artists for full recitals as well as guest appearances on Music Mondays.

In addition to his duties as host, Holt also serves as pianist for many of our guests on Music Mondays.

## ABOUT OUR ARTISTS



### **Dick Hyman**, *Pianist*, and **Bobby White**, *Tenor*

Legendary pianist Dick Hyman was named a Jazz Master by the National Endowment for the Arts in 2017. Since the early '50s he has enjoyed a busy musical career as a pianist, organist, arranger, music director, and composer. He has recorded well over 100 albums recorded under his own name. In 2017, Mr. Hyman received an honorary doctorate from the Juilliard School of Music.

Mr. Hyman has composed concert compositions for piano and orchestra and a variety of chamber music pieces. In addition to his activities in the jazz and concert worlds, Mr. Hyman has had a prolific career in New York as a studio musician and won seven Most Valuable Player awards from the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. He has served as composer/arranger/conductor/pianist for 12 Woody Allen films.



In his lifelong singing career, the American tenor Robert White has sung for five U.S. Presidents, Britain's Queen Mother and Prince Charles, Monaco's Royal Family, and Pope John Paul II. He is a member of the vocal faculty at the Juilliard School of Music.



### **Joshua Horne**, *Co-Principal Horn*

Joshua Horne is proud to serve as co-principal horn of the Sarasota Orchestra in Sarasota, Florida and principal horn of the Charlottesville Opera Orchestra in Charlottesville, Virginia. He has also had the privilege of performing with professional orchestras such as the San Antonio Symphony, the Houston Symphony, and the Charlotte Symphony.

Born and raised in San Antonio, TX, Mr. Horne received his undergraduate degree at the University of Texas at Austin where he studied horn performance under Patrick Hughes. He received his master's degree in horn performance at Rice University in Houston, TX under the tutelage of William VerMeulen.

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## ABOUT OUR ARTISTS



**Olga Kern**, *Pianist*  
with **Vladislav Kern**, *Piano*

Russian-American pianist Olga Kern is recognized as one of her generation's great pianists. She jumpstarted her U.S. career with her historic Gold Medal win at the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in Fort Worth, TX as the first woman to do so in more than thirty years.

First prize winner of the Rachmaninoff International Piano Competition at seventeen, Ms. Kern is a laureate of many international competitions. In 2016 she served as Jury Chairman of both the Seventh Cliburn International Amateur Piano Competition and the first Olga Kern International Piano Competition, where she also holds the title of Artistic Director. In 2019 she hosted her Second Olga Kern International Piano Competition.

Ms. Kern has been chosen as the Virginia Arts Festival's new Connie & Marc Jacobson Director of Chamber Music, beginning with the 2019 season.

Joining Olga is her son Vladislav Kern, Russian-American pianist. He was born in Moscow into a family of musicians and recently completed studies at the Juilliard School of Music.



**Tetiana Shafran**, *Piano*

Born in Kiev, Ukraine, in 1989, Tetiana Shafran started playing piano at the age of three. She graduated from the Lysenko Special Music School and the Tchaikovsky National Music Academy of Ukraine. From 2015 to 2017 she studied in Spain and Israel.

Ms. Shafran is the 2019 winner of the Second Triennial Olga Kern International Piano Competition and prizewinner of approximately 18 other international piano competitions. Among the most recent are the Concours International de Piano France-Amériques (Paris, France, 2019); the Concorso Pianistico Internazionale "Città di San Donà di Piave" (Italy, 2019); the VII Parnassos International Piano Competition (Monterey, Mexico, 2018); and the Antonio Napolitano International Piano Competition (Salerno, Italy, 2017).

Ms. Shafran has performed with many orchestras and conductors in some of the most prestigious concert halls of Europe, North and South America, Africa, and Asia. She has also recorded for radio and TV productions for Italian, Israeli, Spanish, and Ukrainian broadcasts.

## ABOUT OUR ARTISTS



**Kevin Short**, *Bass-Baritone*

Versatile American bass-baritone Kevin Short is thrilling audiences around the globe in repertoire ranging from the depths of Mozart's *The Abduction from the Seraglio* and Monteverdi's *The Coronation of Poppea* to Verdi's *Attila*, Bizet's *Escamillo*, and Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman*.

His North America appearances include performances with the Metropolitan Opera, the Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Houston Grand Opera, the Los Angeles Opera, the Washington Opera, and the Sarasota Opera Company. He has also performed in Europe, Japan, China, and Vietnam. He enjoys an active concert and recital schedule as well.

Mr. Short received his training at Morgan State University, the Curtis Institute of Music, and the Juilliard School of Music's American Opera Center. While attending these institutions he was a prize winner in numerous competitions including the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. He can be heard on his acclaimed solo CD from Pentatone records *Mephistopheles and Other Bad Guys* which was listed by New York City's WQXR radio station as one of the outstanding classical recordings of 2018.



**Jennifer Best Takeda**, *Violinist*  
and *Assistant Concertmaster*  
and **Christopher Takeda**, *Violinist*  
and *Associate Concertmaster*

Christopher Takeda, a native of Albuquerque, NM was appointed to the position of Associate Concertmaster of the Sarasota Orchestra in the 2002-03 season. Mr. Takeda joined the orchestra during the 2001-02 season as Concertmaster fulfilling a one-year position. Mr. Takeda has also performed with the Santa Fe Opera since 2005.

Mr. Takeda received both his Bachelor of Music and Master's of Music degrees from the Juilliard School.

Violinist Jennifer Best Takeda, a native of North Carolina, currently serves as the Assistant Concertmaster of the Sarasota Orchestra as well as violinist of the resident Sarasota Piano Quartet. In 2019 she won a section violin position in the Santa Fe Opera orchestra. She is an active chamber musician and has vast orchestral experience.

Ms. Takeda received a Bachelor of Music degree from the North Carolina School of the Arts and a Master of Music degree from the Manhattan School of Music.

## ABOUT OUR ARTISTS



### **Maria Wirries, Singer**

Born in Haiti and raised in the United States, Maria Wirries is a graduate of the Musical Theatre program at Penn State University and has spent the last two years, after a summer in the Broadway company, on the First National Tour of *Dear Evan Hansen*.

In Sarasota, her home, she has performed with the Sarasota Orchestra in their Masterworks and Pops Concert Series, the Sarasota Orchestra Jazz Ensemble, at the Players Theater, and at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall. She received rave reviews for her featured solos with Gloria Musicae, Sarasota's professional chorus. Ms. Wirries has premiered original works from jazz pianist and composer Dick Hyman and Canadian-based composer James Grant, as well as her own original music.

## MUSIC MONDAYS CO-HOSTS



### **Phillip Gainsley, Co-Host**

Phillip Gainsley has been speaking about music for over 40 years. For 30 years he was a regular panelist on the "Opera Quiz" heard during the intermissions of the Metropolitan Opera radio broadcasts. He currently writes performance reviews for Opera News magazine, and he is a speaker for the Metropolitan Opera Guild.

Gainsley has hosted orchestra and opera panel discussions with composers, soloists and conductors. His program notes have been published in Minnesota Orchestra's Showcase magazine and in programs for the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Washington National Opera and the Aspen Music Festival. He has hosted Minnesota Orchestra pre-concert discussions since 2004, and he currently records interviews for the oral history project of the Orchestra's archives.

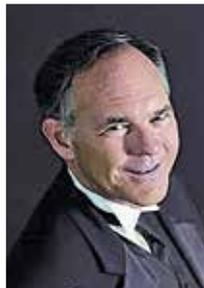


### **Robert Sherman, Co-Host**

Broadcaster, writer, teacher and radio personality Robert Sherman has been with WQXR in New York City for over 60 years, where he has been host and producer of The McGraw Family's Young Artist Showcase since 1978. For many years he hosted the annual broadcasts of the Avery Fisher Career Grant Awards and his popular folk series,

"Woody's Children," now heard on NPR's WFUV, celebrated its 50th year in 2019. For more than 40 years he was a music critic for The New York Times, and was on the faculty of The Juilliard School for nearly 20 years. A sought-after commentator, lecturer and narrator, he has given seminars at Yale, the Eastman School, NYU and Oberlin, and has been a concert narrator for countless orchestras in the United States.

## OVERVIEW



### **Welcome to the 2021 virtual season of Music Mondays**

We have designated this season as the Edward Alley Memorial Season, honoring the producer and host of Music Mondays who unexpectedly passed away in July, 2020. Ed Alley brought to SILL Music Mondays a wealth of musical knowledge, experience and perspective to go along with his gentle and gregarious style. Following the death of

his beloved wife June LeBell in 2017, Ed seamlessly moved to be the host and producer of the popular Music Mondays program for three years. He led and guided it to continuing success as an important voice of musical education and entertainment in Sarasota. His breadth of experience and many contacts in the music world enabled him to bring a diversity of talented and interesting people to SILL audiences. Ed will be sorely missed by his many friends and admirers, particularly the audience for these Music Monday programs.

Ed had created quite a lineup for 2021 and we honor his design for the season. The format will remain the same – conversation with interesting and personable musicians with musical performances interspersed. Each one-hour program will also feature a live Q & A portion, and the overall concept for these virtual presentations is explained elsewhere in this brochure. Though we have made the decision to offer these presentations virtually for health and safety reasons, we are committed to maintaining the high quality of these Music Monday programs. We hope to return to live and in-person events as of the 2022 season.

Ed chose a wide variety of artists for this season, including members of the Sarasota Orchestra, singers of notable reputation, world-class pianists including Olga Kern and Dick Hyman, a rising star saxophone player from Young Concert Artists, a couple of local vocal artists who have made a splash for themselves in the greater world and the newly announced host for NPR's From the Top. All in all, I think you will enjoy these artists, delighting in their scintillating discourse and marvel at their extraordinary performances.

With all these great performers, this season of Music Mondays promises to be just as fascinating and enjoyable as always. Each performance is offered as a gift to the Sarasota audience and we hope that you will support the organization with a generous contribution in appreciation. We look forward to coming together in the coming year, albeit a tad unusual as an online experience, as we present

**SILL's Music Mondays:**  
*Musical Conversations with Great Performers*