



Piano Lab Lecture Series

"Our Brain as Pianist":

How our knowledge of the human brain can affect our approach to piano playing and pedagogy.

Eitan Globerson

Professional pianist and conductor; PhD in neurosciences

Visiting professor at the Schulich School of Music, McGill University

Piano playing is considered one of the most complex actions accomplished by the human brain. The pianist employs simultaneously hundreds of muscles working together to achieve an optimal musical goal. Piano performance demands a profound musical knowledge, excellent motor skills, and complex emotional insights. The lecture will present a novel approach, demonstrating how the knowledge we possess about the human brain can promote our approach to music performance, as well as other highly complex human activities. The cognitive and motor processes involved in piano playing will be discussed in detail, incorporating live musical examples.

The topics covered in the presentation will include:

- Time scales in brain activity and piano playing.
- Motor skill learning in piano playing- how can we make it more efficient?
- Bimanual coordination- brain correlates and practical insights.
- Attention and eye movement in piano playing.
- Brain hierarchies in piano playing (or: what should we think about while playing?)

FRIDAY OCTOBER 14

1:30 – 3:30 PM

MUSIC SCHOOL, ROOM 208



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Laboratoire de recherche en pédagogie du piano
Piano Pedagogy Research Laboratory



Biography



Eitan Globerson is Professor of Piano and Conducting at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance. He currently serves as Music Director of the Jerusalem Academy of Music Symphony Orchestra (The Mendi Rodan Symphony Orchestra), which he founded in 2010.

Received his B.Mus. degree (Summa Cum Laude) and Artist Diploma in Piano and Conducting from the Jerusalem Academy of Music. Continued his studies at the Hannover Musikhochschule, where he received a Soloist Diploma in Piano and the Künstlerische Ausbildung diploma in Conducting.

Studied piano with Prof. Boris Berman, Prof. Irina Edelstein, Prof. Michael Boguslavsky and Prof. Arie Vardi, and conducting with Prof. Mendi Rodan, Hans Herbert Joeris and Prof. Lutz Koehler.

Won many prizes, including the Francois Shapira Prize (considered the most prestigious national prize for performers) in 1987 and prizes in international competitions in Italy (Dino Ciani Competition, Teatro alla Scala, Milan) and in South Africa (UNISA Piano Competition, Pretoria).

Performed as soloist with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, Jerusalem Camerata Orchestra, South Africa National Orchestra, Brno Symphony Orchestra, Symphonette Orchestra, the Hannover Musikhochschule Orchestra and others. Played recitals and chamber music concerts in Israel, Europe, the USA and the Far East. Recorded for the Israeli Broadcasting Authority.

Conducted the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Jerusalem Camerata Orchestra, Israel Chamber Orchestra, Israel Symphony Orchestra, Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, Israel Sinfonietta Beer-Sheva, Concerto Grosso Orchestra Frankfurt, Penn's Woods Festival Orchestra, Pennsylvania, the Kibbutz Chamber Orchestra, the Young Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, the Symphonette Orchestra and many more. Served as Conductor-In-Residence of the Northern Israel Symphony Orchestra, as well as Conductor-In-Residence at the New Israeli Opera, where he conducted a variety of operas, including *Norma*, *La Cenerentola*, *Katja Kabanova*, *Andrea Chenier*, *Peter Grimes*, *Simon Boccanegra*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Attila*, *Rusalka* and *La Fanciulla del west*. Served as assistant to the Music Director at Teatro San Carlo in Naples.

Since 1991, has been Faculty Member of the Jerusalem Academy of Music. Served as Head of the Piano Department and Dean of the Performing Arts.

Was invited as a guest lecturer to Chicago University, Columbus Ohio University, McGill University, Stony Brook University, Freiburg Musikhochschule, Beijing Central Conservatory, Yale University Graduate School of Music, Liszt Academy in Budapest, Washington Catholic University, Penn State University, Montclair University in NJ, Buchmann-Mehta School of Music at Tel Aviv University and the Perugia Music Festival.

During the previous academic year, served as Visiting Professor at the Yale University Graduate School of Music. Currently serves as Visiting Professor at the McGill University Schulich School of Music.

Many of his students have been prize winners in national and international competitions, performing in concerts in Israel and abroad with renowned orchestras.

In addition to his musical activities, Eitan Globerson is also active in scientific research. He holds a Ph.D. in Brain Sciences from the Gonda Multidisciplinary Brain Research Center, Bar Ilan University. He is currently affiliated with the Magnetoencephalogram (MEG) laboratory at the Gonda Brain Research Center and with the bird song laboratory at New York City University. His fields of research include music perception, prosody in the general population and the autistic spectrum, psychoacoustics and bird song. His papers on these topics have been published in various peer-reviewed scientific journals. The Scientific American journal dedicated a review article to one of his papers (on piano playing and the brain).

He is frequently invited as a guest lecturer to scientific conferences in Israel and abroad.