

Staff Pianists for 2008

Elizabeth Acker

Elizabeth Acker holds a BFA from York University (1976) and studied piano in Toronto and Montreal with Gladys Angley, Edna Hawkin, Slavka Dimitroff, James Anagnason; harpsichord with Michael Kearns, jazz theory with Jon Gittens and Frank Falco, and vocal coaching with Stella Walker.

In Toronto her engagements span classical music, musical theatre, contemporary music and jazz. She has premiered contemporary works with Esprit Orchestra and Arraymusic, performed with the Niagara Symphony, toured as Assistant Music Director with the Broadway cast of *Those Were the Days*, directed music for Tarrogon Theatres *A Country in Her Throat*, played keyboards for *Phantom of the Opera*, and recorded for TV & Radio drama, film, and commercials here and in Europe.

She has played with local chamber groups and instrumentalists for many years.

Some of her current projects are chamber concerts with the Severn Players for the Elgar Festival, and the upcoming Brahms Festival, accompanist for the East York Choir, recording the CD *Magic Breath* - (soprano & piano by Canadian composer Helen Medeweff Greenburg) retrospective performances at Brock University of Canadian music by Jim Hiscott, and in Toronto - music by David Lidov, and Faculty Series concert at York University - (clarinet, cello, piano).

Her work in Toronto includes performing, teaching, coaching, accompanying and adjudications.

She has recently discovered the joy of playing regularly at the chamber music retreat Heaven.

Elizabeth also enjoys teaching yoga and tai chi.

Peggy DeArmond

A pianist of great versatility, **Peggy DeArmond** is an active accompanist, chamber and orchestral musician and teacher in the state of New Jersey and the greater New York City metropolitan area. Ms. DeArmond has performed as a keyboardist with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra for the past 21 years. Other appearances in our region include performances with the American Symphony Orchestra, Gotham City Orchestra, the New Jersey Chamber Music Society, Westfield and Colonial Symphonies and the Northeastern Pa. Philharmonic. She has appeared in Carnegie, Alice Tully, Avery Fisher and Merkin Halls, and her radio and television performances include broadcasts of chamber and orchestral music on WQXR and PBS stations throughout the country. Ms. DeArmond currently resides in Livingston where she teaches a full studio of piano students of all ages.

James Kidd

Pianist **James Kidd** is Barger Professor of Music at Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia. He was co-founder of the Hampden-Sydney Music Festival in 1982 and has served the festival as executive director and pianist since that time. While teaching at the University of Delaware, he was pianist in the Delaware Trio, the Diachronos Ensemble of Philadelphia, and participated as a member of the Wilmington Friends of Chamber Music. He also became pianist in the Buffet Trio with Charles Holdeman, French-system bassoonist, and the late Stuart Best, clarinetist, an association that lasted more than twenty years. He did his undergraduate work in music and English at Williams College, earned a M.Mus degree in piano from Northwestern University, and the Ph.D. from the University of Chicago where he was pianist for two years in Ralph Shapeys Contemporary Chamber Players. His teachers have included Richard Zgodava in Minneapolis, Louis Moyse in Brattleboro, VT, Gui Mombaerts at Northwestern, and Easley Blackwood at the U. of Chicago. His serious interest in the music of Bela Bartok has led him to Hungary many times, and during his year's sabbatical in Budapest in the late 80s, he studied the Magyar bagpipe and peasant flute. He is also an enthusiastic amateur flutist in chamber music, playing regularly in Farmville, VA, with cellist Francis Church and pianist Martha Dorrill.