

Lura Johnson



Instrument/Position:

Principal Keyboard

How long in the DSO?

8 years

Ideal Vacation?

Somewhere warm and Caribbean! Also love Vienna, Salzburg, and Paris.

Music Education:

Rice University, Shepherd School of Music, Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance, Master of Music in Piano Performance

Other Ensembles You Perform With:

Baltimore Symphony, Annapolis Symphony

Other Professional Activities?

I have taught at Peabody Conservatory since 2002 and just became the director of an Adult Chamber Music Program at Peabody Preparatory.

Hobbies, Activities?

I'm an avid social dancer, trained in ballet, gymnastics, and ballroom, specializing now in West Coast Swing! I travel all over the country to compete, and in 2015 I won 2nd prize at the U.S. Open Swing Dance Championships!

Favorite Composer/Piece?

My favorite composer is Brahms.

Why?

He has the counterpoint of Bach, the architecture of Beethoven, and lyricism of Schubert and the fantasy of Schumann, all wrapped into one.

What teacher/educator/event influenced you the most, and why?

Leon Fleisher has been my most influential teacher. He is a sublime and profound musician and manages with his words to educate and inspire his students. Many pianists consider him the "Yoda" of classical music, but to me he has always been, and will always be, my "Aslan."

Other Interesting Item(s) About You:

I love jigsaw puzzles, enjoy cooking, speak a little bit of Chinese, thanks to my parents who are both fluent, and was a contestant in the 1988 Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC. I was eliminated in round 5 after spelling "uncrystalized"

with two L's!

Cheesesteak Topping?

- American
- Provolone
- Whiz
- Don't do cheesesteaks!

