

the colonial dames of america

Adryn Sumner is the featured musical performer for the Mount Vernon Hotel Museum's 2020 Fall Benefit. She will be playing and discussing selected piano pieces composed in the Gilded Age when The Colonial Dames of America (CDA) was founded.

About Adryn Sumner

At the age of 4, Adryn began studying piano, performing her first concerto with the Seattle Symphony at 11, and taking on her own students two years later.

Adryn furthered her studies at the prestigious Interlochen Academy under Dr. Dadi Mehta, cousin of world-famous conductor Zubin Mehta. Adryn later opted to attend the University of Missouri-Columbia on music, athletic and academic scholarships. While at university, Adryn was selected as the first ever Piano Performance Minor to win the Best Pianist of the Year award.



Following graduation, Adryn moved to Los Angeles where she performed both as a solo artist and with chamber music groups throughout the city and state including the Los Angeles Philharmonic and as the first featured artist of the Los Angeles Living Room Series concert and DVD collection. Adryn's performances have also been widely featured in movie and television soundtracks.

In 2008, Adryn helped found the piano division of the Music for Healing program at Cedars-Sinai Hospital, in Los Angeles, for which she secured the donation of a beautiful new Yamaha grand piano and where she was the featured performer at the inaugural gala. What began as a program with a handful of musicians, now boasts hundreds of pianists of every genre – volunteering and sharing their gifts with the patients, staff and visitors.

Adryn travels the country performing Lit Classical, a popular new concert series with an interactive component designed to significantly enrich the listening experience. She shares the “human experience” behind classical music by contextualizing the composers – who they were as individuals, what motivated and inspired them, what were their challenges and passions and even their naughty foibles. All of these human components are expressed through their music in the greatest compositions of all time; but few know to listen for them. Prior to playing each piece for her audience, Adryn points to the stylistic periods, what to listen for and the composer's message. This approach delivers a deeper understanding and heightened enjoyment of the music, for both classical music aficionados as well as for “classical-curious” newbies.

Adryn resides in Historic Downtown Charleston, with her husband and seven year-old son, and is proud to be Second Vice President of CDA's Chapter XXXI South Carolina.

