

[themusicretreatofficial@gmail.com](mailto:themusicretreatofficial@gmail.com)

# *The Music Retreat*<sup>®</sup>

PIANO MASTERCLASS

 SICILY EDITION

*18 - 24 August 2025*



*A Journey of Music, Culture and Inspiration at Giuliana Castle*

*“Music is the purest expression of the soul; through it, the heart speaks without the need for words.”*

*- Vincenzo Bellini*

Join us at **The Music Retreat**, for an inspiring musical journey **in the heart of Sicily**, where the piano becomes a vessel for discovery, expression, and transformation. These masterclasses, designed for intermediate to advanced pianists, offer a unique opportunity to refine technique, deepen performance skills, and explore the subtleties of musical interpretation.

Guided by internationally respected artist **Petras Geniušas**, participants will receive personalized instruction, engage in insightful discussions, and connect with fellow musicians who share a passion for artistry and excellence.

Beyond the music, the retreat offers a holistic approach to performance and well-being. Morning Pilates sessions in **Giuliana Castle** provide a foundation for physical alignment, breath awareness, and mental focus—essential elements in both musicianship and mindfulness. Through this integration of movement and music, participants will cultivate greater balance, resilience, and artistry.

Immerse yourself in the beauty of a region steeped in history and culture. From ancient architecture to breathtaking landscapes, every moment resonates with inspiration. This harmonious blend of music, mindfulness, and place ensures not only artistic growth but also an unforgettable cultural experience.

*The Music Retreat - Where Music, Body and Soul Unite in Harmony*



## *Petras Geniušas*

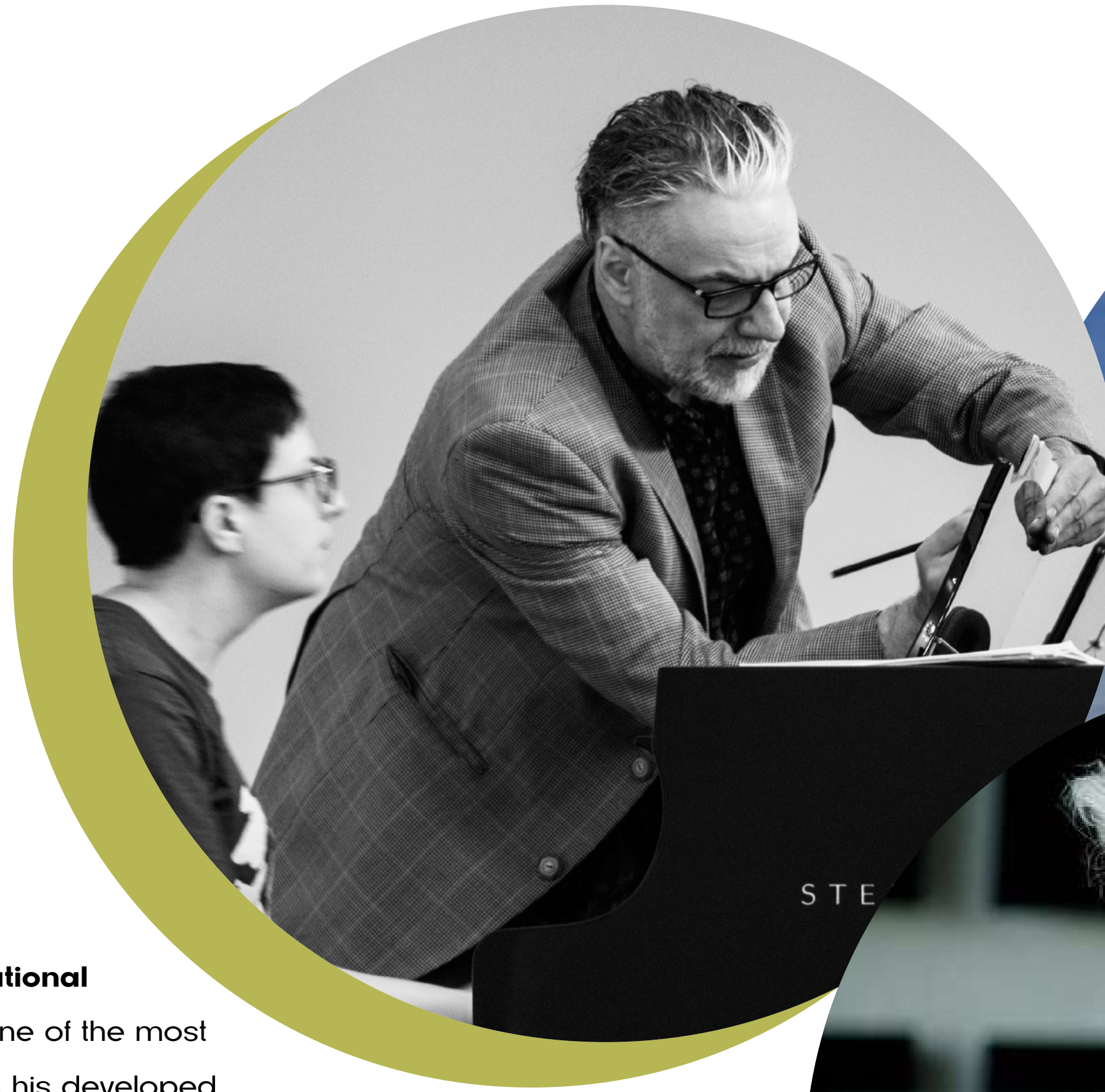
One of Lithuania's most prominent and versatile pianists, renowned for his mastery of classical, romantic and contemporary repertoire. Petras Geniušas collaborated with legends such as Rostropovich and Menuhin and is equally at home in classical concerts, drama stages, jazz, and crossover projects. He graduated from **Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory**, where he studied under Prof. Vera Gornostaeva.

A series of highest awards at prestigious piano competitions, including **first prizes** in the **1991 Y.C.A.A. International Piano Competition**, and in the **1992 Palm Beach Invitational International Piano Competition**, remarkably confirmed his reputation as one of the most gifted and accomplished pianists of his generation. Along with his developed musical taste, technique and sensitivity to sound, his innate curiosity to expand his musical horizons is probably one of the most valuable qualities of this pianist.

With performances in **over 40 countries** at the world's major concert venues like **Vienna's Musikverein** and **New York's Lincoln Center**, Geniušas is also a dedicated teacher, currently a professor at **the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland**.

His accomplishments have earned him awards such as the Lithuanian National Award, the Ministry of Culture medal "Bring your light and Believe", and the Order of the Grand Duke Gediminas.

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## *Ruxandra Humă*

Ruxandra began her musical journey in Iasi, Romania, earning awards at prestigious competitions before moving to the UK at 14 to study at **Peter Symonds College**. She later completed degrees at the **Royal Welsh College of Music** and **Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance**.

An experienced performer and teacher, Ruxandra has played at venues like **Cadogan Hall** and **St. Martin-in-the-Fields**, and inspires students of all levels with her holistic approach to music tuition.



## *Peter Kalmár*

A Slovak pianist, began performing publicly at age eight and graduated with honors from the **Zilina Conservatoire**. He earned a Master's in Music from the **Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama** and has competed internationally, including a second-place win in the **Schubert International Duo Competition**.

A dedicated teacher, Peter inspires students of all ages to excel in music, emphasizing emotional expression and technical skill. He has contributed to community projects, including music education for disadvantaged children in **Cambodia**, and takes pride in nurturing talent and sharing the joy of music.



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## *Full Participation Package: €1,500*

Includes: Masterclasses, Pilates, Cultural Trip, meals, accommodation, and Gala Concert performance.

### *Arrival* - Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>

- Transfer from Palermo to Giuliana, dinner provided.

### *Accommodation*

- 7 nights in a traditional hotel (single/double rooms).

### *Pilates* - Monday, Wednesday, Friday

- Sunrise sessions in the Castle courtyard, to relax and stretch before the day's activities.

### *Masterclasses* - Monday to Friday

- Technique, repertoire, and guided or free practice. Evening performance classes.

### *Cultural Trip* - Thursday

- Agrigento tour + cooking class.

### *Meals*

- Daily breakfast, lunch, and dinner at the castle and local restaurant, including a Sicilian party with a hands-on cannoli-making experience.

### *Concert & Celebration* - Saturday

- Gala Concert at the Castle courtyard.

### *Departure* - Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>

- Transfer to Palermo Airport.

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## *Observer Package: €950*

Includes: Access to all Masterclasses, Pilates, Cultural Trip, meals, accommodation, and Gala Concert (no active participation).

### *Arrival & Departure*

- Same as Full Package.

### *Accommodation*

- 7 nights in a traditional hotel (single/double rooms).

### *Pilates* - Monday, Wednesday, Friday

- Join sunrise sessions in the Castle for relaxation and gentle stretching.

### *Masterclasses Observation* - Monday to Friday

- Attend technique and repertoire sessions. Optional afternoon practice observation. Evening performance classes.

### *Cultural Trip* - Thursday, optional

- Agrigento tour + cooking class.

### *Meals*

- Included, same as full package.

### *Concert & Celebration* - Saturday

- Attend the Gala Concert at the Castle courtyard.

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## Contact Us!

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