



Dr. Mihai Vatca

Born in Romania, Dr. Vatca has received awards in numerous national and international piano competitions, including First Prize at National Piano Competition Deva, Romania 2000, 2001; “Troisieme Medaille”-International Piano Competition “Maryse Cheilan” Ville d’Hyeres, France, 2000, 2002; First Prize National Competition Oradea, Romania, 2001; Grand Prize and Special Prize winner- National Piano Competition, Sighetu Marmatiei, Romania, 2001; Finalist for “Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart”-Chamber Music Festival-Competition, Romania, 2003; First Prize at the Art Song Competition (2014) and Concerto Competition (2015), Sam Houston State University.

Dr. Vatca has performed in numerous Solo Recitals, Chamber Music recitals. He appeared as a soloist with the “Sigismund Toduta” Youth Orchestra, Sam Houston Symphonic Orchestra, and The Woodlands Concert Band as a soloist. He has also performed in masterclasses taught by leading musicians, most notably Léa-Jeanne Litzler Adam and Jerome Lowenthal. He had collaborations with Houston Symphony Chorus, Houston Chamber Choir, The Woodlands Concert Band, and The Woodlands Symphony. Furthermore, he served as judge for multiple piano competitions around the United States.

Dr. Vatca received his Bachelor’s and Master’s Degree of Piano Performance from “Gheorghe Dima” Music Academy in Romania. He later earned his second Master’s Degree in Piano Collaborative and Chamber Music at Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas. He furthered his studies at University of Houston where he earned a Doctoral Degree emphasis on Piano Collaborative and Chamber Music. He was then awarded as the *University of Houston Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts Fellowship* to continue his studies with a Professional Certificate in Piano Collaborative.

Dr. Vatca has been actively involving in musical education at different music institutions since 2005. In 2019, he joined the piano department at Sam Houston State University where he serves as Adjunct Professor of Piano. He also involved in several professional educators’ organizations such as MTNA, TMTA, CMTA, NFMC, TFMC, and CJMC. In 2021 Dr. Vatca was selected as a distinguished Shigeru Kawai Artist and later that year he was awarded the Kawai Medallion Educator award.

Dr. Vatca was raised in a Christian family and later became a follower of Christ. Since 2014, he has been serving as the pianist at Christ Church United Methodist in the Woodlands, Texas, where he plays piano for weekly church services and rehearsals.