



Dr. Gary de Sesa, musical director, pianist, conductor, composer, author and teacher, received his Ph.D. in music from New York University and was elected to Kappa Delta Phi. He is a graduate of The High School of Music & Art (now LaGuardia High School) and also the Juilliard School, where he received his B.M., B.S., and M.M. degrees as a scholarship student. He was awarded a teaching fellowship for four consecutive years, and was elected to *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*. Dr. de Sesa's Ph.D. dissertation on Leonard Bernstein's *MASS* was acclaimed by the composer as "moving – not only a labor of love, but a deeply thought-out exegesis." Dr. de Sesa was called upon by Juilliard as organist in their most important and challenging concerts and has also performed as an organist in Carnegie Hall and Alice Tully Hall.

As a concert pianist, he has performed in all the major concert halls in New York City including Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Hall and Merkin Concert Hall. He has also appeared at the Caramoor, Ambler, Aspen, Verbier and Siena summer music festivals. Dr. de Sesa was first-place winner in the prestigious Bach International Competition and Mason and Hamlin Competition. Dr. de Sesa is a published author and was a winner of the Columbia Records Recording Artists' Search, cited for his "unique talents as a performer, and his musical quality, distinctiveness and depth of expression."

As a conductor, Dr. de Sesa has been associated with the Juilliard Chorus, the Collegiate Chorale and the American and New York Opera choruses. He has also acted as Associate Director of the Manhattan Borough-wide Chorus and has been a guest conductor of the Southern Indiana Orchestra and Chorus. Dr. de Sesa was the Associate Director of the Columbia University Glee Club for fifteen years.

A composer as well, Dr. de Sesa was invited to perform his Jewish service, *Shabbat Joy*, *Shabbat Peace* and his *New Russian Anthem*, in the major concert halls of Moscow and St. Petersburg along with performances as a pianist and conductor. His works were broadcast throughout Russia on Russian national television and radio. He was accompanied by his wife, soprano, Kita Bouroff, and his son, Gary, a violinist, both of whom also performed extensively. *Shabbat Joy*, *Shabbat Peace* has also been performed in Merkin Hall, Alice Tully Hall and at temples in New Jersey, Westchester, Massachusetts and California and was a winner in the American Jewish Song Festival.

Dr de Sesa was the choral director and theatre director in Half Hollow Hills for thirty-four years, where he has been recognized for his dedication to his students by having been chosen the recipient of the PTA's Jenkins award and elected to *Who's Who Among American Teachers* three times. Dr is one of a few directors that has New York State certification to teach Theatre.

Dr. de Sesa is presently the Organist and Choir director of both the Roslyn Presbyterian Church and Temple Beth David in Commack and has held both positions for the last thirty years.