

Robert Harris

Robert Harris studied piano with Ruth Slenczynska at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, Illinois. He emigrated to the Netherlands in 1971 and worked from 1974 to 1990 at the Municipal Conservatoire of Leeuwarden which merged with the Municipal Conservatoire of Groningen in 1990 to form the present Prince Claus Conservatoire.

Harris studied with Willem Brons at the Sweelinck Conservatoire in Amsterdam and pursued a doctoral degree in Human Movement Science at the University of Groningen, graduating in 1995. His thesis *Piano Techniek in Beweging* dealt with an embodied-cognition model of piano technique. On the basis of this model, he conducted interviews with members of the piano faculty of the conservatoire at that time, making recommendations on improvements to the conservatoire piano curriculum.

Harris worked as accompanist and piano and piano pedagogy teacher at the conservatoire, developing methods for keyboard harmonization and score reading. He lectures once a year on the subject of 'Music and Expression'. In addition he pursues research for the Lectorate Lifelong Learning in Music & the Arts, exemplified by his study on the subject of 'Teacher Competences for working with young talent'.

Harris published articles in the EPTA Piano Bulletin about 'Interactive Teaching' and 'Reading Tuition for Beginners' and spoke at the annual EPTA conference on the subject of 'Reading between the Lines'. Together with the EPTA he organized a 2009 conference concerning improvisation in piano teaching: *Bach and all that Jazz* at the Prince Claus Conservatoire.

Harris is now conducting a PhD research project at the University of Groningen, studying the subject of non score-dependency and cerebral resonance behaviour in music performance. In addition, he is studying music and language dissociation among Parkinson patients.