

Robert Laird Harris was born in Wilmington, Delaware, USA. He attended the St. Louis Institute of Music and continued his studies with Ruth Slenczynska at Southern Illinois University. After emigrating to the Netherlands, he earned a degree in piano performance (Uitvoerende Musicus) from the Conservatory of Amsterdam and pursued a career in music education, teaching piano, piano methodology, accompaniment, practical harmony and score reading at the Municipal Music Pedagogic Academy in Leeuwarden and the Prince Claus Conservatoire in Groningen. He is presently research coach and lecturer in the Master of Music program at Prince Claus and a member of the Research Group Lifelong Learning in Music which is affiliated with the Research Centre Art & Society of the Hanze University of Applied Sciences. Not only a performer and educator, he has pursued the scientific study of motor control in music performance, first earning a degree in Human Movement Science from the University of Groningen and later embarking on a Ph.D. in neuroscience. He defended his dissertation 'The Cerebral Organization of Audiomotor Transformations in Music' at the University of Groningen on February 6, 2017. He is presently working on the application of instrumental music teaching to the enhancement of aural perception in Cochlear Implant users, a joint effort of the Research Group Lifelong Learning in Music and the department of otolaryngology of the UMCG.