

**The Embassy of France
La Maison Française**



*Washington International
Piano Arts
Council*

proudly presents

The
Tenth Anniversary
WINNERS
GRAND PRIX CONCERT

Wednesday April 18, 2012 6:30 PM

**The Embassy of France
La Maison Française
4101 Reservoir Road, NW
Washington, DC**





Washington International
Piano Arts
Council

**“An Evening of Classical Piano Music”
“The Tenth Annual Winners Grand Prix Concert
Committee”**

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Roland Celette, Director of La Maison and Cultural Attaché

Washington International Piano Arts Council

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Washington International
Piano Arts
Council

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**Welcome to Washington,
the most exciting city in the world, where music lives!
Congratulations to the Winners of WIPAC's Piano Competitions!**

It is my distinct pleasure to present the First Place Winners of WIPAC from 2004 to 2011. Two of these talented pianists are medical physicians, one specialist for Children MRI, a FAA analyst and a DC independent contractor to perform at our 10th year celebration of music, the Winners Grand Prix Concert,

On behalf of WIPAC, may I welcome you, our friends and patrons to La Maison Française where we first began in 2002. This was just an idea, 10 years later, it is a dream of every international piano amateur competition winners to come and perform to showcase their talent in our capital city of Washington.

This concert amplifies what most of us believe that performing is not limited to a select few in the classical world. There is indeed a wealth of musical talent around us that needs to be recognized, encouraged, and heard by a wider audience.

Our sincere appreciation to this year's Honorary Chairs, H.E. ***the Ambassador of France Francois Delattre*** for his gracious patronage as we welcome him to our city and to WIPAC.

Personal thanks ***Roland Celette***, Cultural Attaché and Director of La Maison who has assumed the task of welcoming us all to the embassy. He has been there for me and WIPAC from the very start. I hope to continue this musical friendship to last another 10 years or more for us long as pianists keeps playing.

Sincere thanks to our Concert Committee Chairmen ***Barbara and Leslie Fenton*** who did not shy away from the challenge and to ***Susie Eisinger***, WIPAC President for her commitment and leadership. Most especially to all our WIPAC Board Members and Committee Members for their constant advice and assistance in planning this concert and to the embassy staff and WIPAC volunteers without whom this concert would have not been possible.

Most especially to ***Bob Madigan***, our "Man about Town" of WTOP who has followed us during many of our past years, our gratitude.

To the audience, the advertisers, patrons, donors and sponsors, my gratitude. I hope that you will continue to support WIPAC and its activities.

Last, but certainly not least, I salute our pianists, ***Henri Delbeau, Ali Mushtaq, Vincent Schmithorst, Christopher Shih and Viscount Thurston*** for their devotion to the great art of piano performance and thank them for being here tonight and for sharing their great artistic achievements with us!

WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL PIANO ARTS COUNCIL

**Chateau Gardecki
Board Chair and Founder**



Washington International
Piano Arts
Council

In cooperation with

The Embassy of France

proudly presents

“Celebrating 10 Years of Classical Piano Music”
Winners Grand Prix Concert
April 18, 2012

Pianists and Program

Vincent Schmithorst of Ohio, First Place Winner
2008 Washington International Piano Artists Competition
2009 Boston International Piano Amateurs Competition

Sebastian Bach	<i>Prelude & Fugue in D major, WTC I</i>
Domenico Scarlatti	<i>Sonata D Major</i>
Amadeus Mozart	<i>Fantasy in c minor</i>
Claude Debussy	<i>Feux d'Artifice</i>
Fryderyk Chopin	<i>Scherzo No. 3 in e-sharp minor</i>

Henri Delbeau of New York First Place Winner
2005 Washington International Piano Artists Competition
2007 First Berlin International Piano Amateur Competition

Anatoli Liadov	<i>Musical Snuff Box</i>
Vladimir Rebikov	<i>Musical Snuff Box</i>
Franz Liszt	<i>Reminiscences of Don Giovanni</i>

Intermission

Viscount Thurston of Maryland, First Place Winner,
2010 Washington International Piano Artists Competition

Ludwig van Beethoven	<i>Piano Sonata, No. 23 in F minor, Opus 57</i> <i>“Appassionata”</i>
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Christopher Shih of Maryland, First Place Winner
2004 Washington International Piano Artists Competition
2008 Paris Les Concours des Grands Amateurs de Piano
&

Ali Mushtaq of Virginia, First Place Winner
2011 Washington International Piano Artists Competition

Camille Saint-Saens	<i>“Carnival of the Animals”</i> <i>Lions, Hens & Roosters, and Wild Asses</i>
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Buffet Dinner to follow the concert
No cell phones, videotaping or cameras allowed.

About the Pianists

♫ **Henri Delbeau** of **New York City**, is a **First Place Winner of the 2005 Washington International Piano Artists Competition and 2007 Berlin International Piano Amateur Competition**



Soon after he began playing the piano at the age of seven, Henri Delbeau was a featured soloist with the Suburban Symphony Orchestra of the greater New York City area, and has subsequently played throughout the US and abroad as a guest artist, soloist and chamber musician. He appeared at the internationally famous Gasteig Arts complex in Munich, and presented a solo recital in the Berlin Philharmoniker complex in the fall of 2007.

A recipient of noted musical awards, Mr. Delbeau is the winner of the Northeastern Piano Competition and the 2005 Washington International Piano Artists Competition and in 2007, he won First Place at the Berlin International Piano Artists Competition. Mr. Delbeau obtained his medical degree from the Cornell University College of Medicine and did his internal medicine residency at the New York Hospital. He is currently an inpatient internist at the Lutheran Hospital in Brooklyn as an inpatient internist and ward chief.

♫ **Vincent Schmithorst** of **Cincinnati, Ohio- First Place Winner, 2008 Washington International Piano Artists Competition and 2009 Boston International Piano Competition**



Vince is currently working at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center where he is using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) technology to study how the brain processes sound in children with unilateral hearing loss and auditory processing disorders, and is interested in the effect musical training in childhood may have on other cognitive domains such as math processing. He began his piano studies at the age of four and soloed with an amateur orchestra at the age of eight. At ten years of age, he was a soloist with the Cincinnati POPS Orchestra, and has since also played with the Cincinnati Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony, and Columbus Symphony Orchestras. He continued his studies at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, where he double-majored in piano performance and physics, graduating with a Bachelor's of Science and Bachelor's of Music at the age of eighteen. Subsequently he pursued doctoral studies in physics.

Vince continues to perform piano in solo recitals, and his awards include sixth prize in the American Music Scholarship Association World Piano Competition, and was a finalist and diploma-recipient in the first international Piano and Organ Competition held in Vilnius, Lithuania.

♫ **Ali Mushtaq** of **Virginia, First Place Winner, Washington International Piano Artists Competition**

Ali started to play piano at age 12, after listening to a recording of Horowitz play Beethoven's Pathetique sonata. He studied seriously in High School, eventually to be accepted into the Oberlin



Conservatory of Music. After a year at Oberlin, however, he left to pursue a career outside music. Many years later, he is now an Independent Statistical Contractor in the DC area, studying piano on his free time at the Levine School of Music.



♪ **Christopher Shih from Ellicott City, Maryland, First Place Winner of 2006 WIPAC, 2007 Boston, and 2008 Paris and 2011 Van Cliburn *International Piano Competitions***

Physician and pianist Christopher Shih has been hailed by *The New York Times* as "an intelligent and thoughtful musician," with "effortless performances" and "consummate control." He has performed in major venues in over a dozen countries including France, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Taiwan, Canada, and many cities in the United States. Festival appearances include the Aspen Music Festival and the Banff Chamber Music Festival. He has soloed with numerous orchestras, including repeated engagements with the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall in Washington DC. His performance with the National Symphony on the apitol Lawn for an audience of 50,000 prompted the Washington Post to declare, "If Shih is as gifted in medicine as he is in music, he has some serious career decisions to make. His performance was fluent, gracious, miraculously light, and a joy to the ear." Other past orchestral engagements include the Georgetown, Ann Arbor, University of Michigan, New England Conservatory, Harvard-Radcliffe, Newton, and Paris Garde Republicaine symphony orchestras.

In 2011, Christopher won first prize and audience award at the Sixth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition for Outstanding Amateurs in Fort Worth, Texas. Fourteen years prior to that, he was one of the top four Americans in the professional Tenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, where he was a press and audience favorite. The Fort Worth Star-Telegram raved, "He demonstrated a magical touch in voicing and a fine Chopinesque rubato...a total sense of style across three centuries. For Shih, technical control supports impeccable musicianship." Christopher is also the grand prize winner (including jury, press, and audience awards) of the 2008 Paris Concours International de Grands Amateurs de Piano, the 2007 Boston International Piano Competition for Exceptional Amateurs, and the 2006 Washington International Piano Artists Competition.

Christopher has studied with Boris Slutsky, Robert McDonald, Natalya Antonova, and Suzanne Guy. He received his B.A. from Harvard University and his M.D. from The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and currently a board-certified gastroenterologist with Maryland Digestive Disease Center, a division of Capital Digestive Care. ♪

Viscount Thurston of Maryland, First Place Winner of 2010 Washington International Piano Artists Competition

Viscount Thurston began piano studies at age 7. At his first public performance at age 17, he played Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 in Denver, Colorado with the orchestra led by his teacher, Antonia Brico. As a graduate student at Ohio State University, Viscount won the music school's concerto competition and performed Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 with the university orchestra. Studying with Rosemary Platt and then Richard Tetley-Kardos; completing DMA degree in piano performance in 1984. In 2003, he enjoyed the opportunity to reprise his performance of the Rach 3 in Colorado, this time with the Littleton Symphony Orchestra. He placed 2nd in



the 2009 WIPAC Competition. Viscount is a performing member of the Friday Morning Music Club and the Piano Society of Greater Washington. He works for the FAA at its headquarters in Washington, DC, and lives with his wife, Vickie, in Columbia, Maryland. Their four grown children, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, and one granddaughter all live in the Baltimore metro area.

----- The Master of Ceremonies

Bob Madigan, "Man About Town," has been with **WTOP** Radio for 19 years. For most of that time, he has been covering the good and positive news of Washington.

Prior to moving to DC full time in 1991, he was an NBC News Correspondent in New York City. During his nearly 12 years at NBC, he was a Financial Correspondent for the NBC Radio Networks, creating and hosting the award winning feature, "The Money Memo". For nine years, Bob Madigan was the morning news anchor for "The Source", NBC's Young Adult Radio Network. He was also a nationally broadcast talk show host of Talknet, tackling topics from finances to fidelity.



For nine years, Bob Madigan served on the board of the RTNDA (Radio Television News Directors Association) Washington D.C. Area. Bob serves as a member of both the Media and Core Committees for The Komen Global Race for the Cure as well as the "start-line race announcer" on race day. Bob has received many prestigious awards including: an Edward R. Morrow Award, an Overseas Press Club Award, The Freedom Foundation Award, an Armstrong Award, several International Radio Festival awards, an Ohio State Award, a Deadline Club Award from Sigma Delta Chi, a Headliners Club Award, the Roy T. Howard Journalism Award, The Janus Award, The International Billboard Award, two Golden Mikes from the Radio Television News Association of Southern California, and The Carlton Sherwood Media Award from the Blinded American Veterans Foundation (BAVF).

He was honored as the 2005 Celebrity of the Year by Friends of Hexagon "Washington's only original, political, satirical, musical, comedy revue." Recently, he was presented with the National Epilepsy Foundation's "2010 Hero of Epilepsy Award" for his work with the organization. Additionally he was honored by the Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington with the prestigious RAMMY known as "The Duke Zeibert Capital Achievement Award". Bob Madigan has also been honored to help MC the Helen Hayes Awards Annual Auction. Bob lives in downtown, Silver Spring, MD.

Compliments of

Mr. Charles and Dr. Joyce Hagel-Silverman



Washington International Piano Arts Council

Established 2001

WIPAC HISTORY



Washington International Piano Arts Council (**WIPAC**) was conceived and organized in 2001. With the assistance of Jerome Barry, Director of Embassy Series, a non-profit organization for the performing arts, **WIPAC** launched its first public event on April 24, 2002, the “*Winners Grands Prix Concert*,” at La Maison Française, French Embassy in Washington, DC. It was a truly innovative concept and the concert featured four winners of different international competitions for outstanding amateur pianists. Its huge success provided **WIPAC** the impetus, courage and energy to continue its mission and develop into what is it today.

In July 2003, with the invaluable assistance of Roy Guenther, Chair of the Music Department of The George Washington University, **WIPAC** Board Members, volunteers and outstanding panel of jurors, the *Festival of Music and the First Washington International Piano Amateur Competition* became a reality.

WIPAC MEMBERSHIP

Washington International Piano Arts Council Membership is an integral part of its existence. **WIPAC** seeks private and federal funding through grants. It relies on the support of a public that believes that music enriches and enhances the quality of our lives and that the promotion of international friendship through music and musical events such as **WIPAC** sponsors will make this world a better place to live in.

WIPAC accepts membership in different categories and different levels of contributions. *Diplomatic Membership* is given to diplomats representing their country and military missions during their tour of duty and tenure of office. In December 2002, **WIPAC** received the letter of acceptance from the US Internal Revenue as a 501(c)3 status, a non-profit category in the federal tax code, which provided its accreditation as a bona-fide tax-exempt organization. All contributions are deductible according to the extent provided by law.

Becoming an *Active WIPAC Board Member* requires sponsorship or invitation from a sitting Board Member. To become a *General Member* does not require the above; a full application can be downloaded from the website at www.wipac.org or e-mail us at wipacusa@gmail.com.

Washington International Piano Arts Council will host *The Festival of Music 2012* and the *10th Washington International Piano Artists Competition* on August 1-5, 2012 in cooperation with **The George Washington University Music Department**, and the embassies of France, Bulgaria, Portugal and Poland.

The Competition is open to all pianists over 31-years old who are not full time professional pianists; please check our website for complete guidelines. The four days of the competitions are open to the public, courtesy of above partners. Reservations for the Celebratory Dinner will available at GWU Music Department during the rounds of competition or call 703-728-7766; email wipacusa@gmail.com (new).

The exciting **Final Rounds** of the competition will be held on August 5 from 2-6pm at La Maison Française, Embassy of France, 4101 Reservoir Road to be followed by the Awards Ceremony. There will be four *Master Classes offered* by professional pianists, open to the public at \$20 for auditors (2) on Saturday and (2) Sunday mornings at GWU Music Department. Venues are subject to change without prior notice.

Reserve a space in advance for the *Celebratory Dinner*, grand foyer of La Maison Française, immediately following the Award Ceremony.



*Congratulations to
WIPAC's 10th Year
Presenting wonderful piano concerts performed
by fabulous pianists who are
winners of international piano competitions!*

Clayton and Susanne Eisinger

WIPAC 2012 Calendar OF EVENTS

May 12 - 1:30PM	Spring Piano Concert Series Part II
June TBA, 1PM-5PM	Summer Fling Upperville Horse and Colt Show Grand Prix
August 1 - 5:30PM	Welcome Party TBA
August 2 – 10IS -6PM	<u>Preliminary Round I</u> GWU Music Department B120
August 3 – 10AM -6PM	<u>Preliminary Round II</u> GWU Music Department B120 Announcement of Semi-Finalists Cocktail Reception TBA
August 4 - 1:30PM-6PM	<u>Semifinal Round</u>
August 5 – 2PM-6PM	<u>Final Round</u>
6PM-7PM	Jury Deliberation and Announcement of the Winners and Award Ceremony
8PM-10PM	Celebratory Champagne and Dinner

Venues of the rest of the Rounds will be announced later.



WIPAC Membership

___ Yes, Count me In! I would like to be part of a new and exciting celebration of music in Washington, DC. I heartily accept the kind invitation to become a Member of Washington International Piano Arts Council, host of the ***Washington International Piano Artists Competition.***

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

_Membership Levels

---- WIPAC Supporter	\$ 50	Basic Membership
---- WIPAC Sponsor	\$ 75	Listing and above
---- WIPAC Member	\$ 125	One Concert and above
---- Friends of WIPAC	\$ 250	All Concerts
---- Charter Members	\$ 500	Concerts and Competition Dinner
---- Patron	\$1,000	Middleburg Fall Races and above
---- Founder's Circle	\$ 2,000	Special Events, Concerts and above

Basic entitlements for WIPAC membership at \$50.00 are: notifications and invitations to special events, reserved seats for The Anderson House Piano Concert Series, copy of quarterly WIPAC newsletter, ***Notes from the Piano Bench*** ©, and WIPAC member pin with the official logo.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To the following individuals and groups for their generosity, assistance and kind support without whom the "10th Anniversary celebration of the **Winners Grand Prix Concert**" would have not been possible:

His Excellency, the Ambassador of France Francois Delattre
Dr. Leslie and Mrs. Barbara Fenton, WGPC Committee Chairs
Members of the WGPC Committee
Roland Celette, Director of La Maison Française, the Embassy of France
Dan and Salve Bernabe, Welcome Reception Hosts
Mary E. Hood, Rhoda Septilici, Jean Wigham and Karl Woelflein
Peter Weyland of Look.net
Advertisers
All the ushers and volunteers

The Pianists
Henri Delbeau, Ali Mushtaq, Vincent Schmithorst, Christopher Shih,
and Viscount Thurston

Special Guests

H.E., The Ambassador of Bulgaria Elena Poptodorova & Mr. Georgi Petrov
H.E., The Ambassador of Madagascar and Mrs. Jocelyn Radifera
The Honorable Bela Gedeon, Cultural Attaché, Embassy of Hungary
Princess Selene Obolensky

UNDERWRITERS

Maryland Digestive Disease Center, a division of Capital Digestive Care, LLC (Georgia and Kim)
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Dr. & Mrs. Leslie H. Fenton
Dr. Mark Li, ACAP-MAC

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John Dassoulas & Judith Ramage
Alexandra Douglas
Michael Epstein
Eva Granzow & Poul Jensen
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Claudine Mahin
Chris Pedzich
Mel Odilao
Kathie Olsen
Wyatt & Renee Stewart
John Wheatland
Ivan Zabaleoff



Washington International
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THE GEORGE
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"Welcome to the Wonderful World of Classical Piano Music"

**The 2012 Festival of Music &
the Tenth
Washington International Piano
Artists Competition**



FLASH, FLASH --- NEW this year.....First Prize is up to \$2,000 cash and a solo "debut recital" The Kosciuszko Foundation Center in the City of Washington. All other prizes go up TOO!!!!

Our capital city sparkles in the summertime, what better place and time to be but during the Festival and Competition in the District. To all pianists 31 years and older from all corners of the world (Europe, Asia, South and Central America, Canada and the continental USA), WIPAC offers the challenge to compete for honors, distinctions, and cash awards in the summer of 2010 in the Capital City of Washington, DC.

All Special Awards are \$250 each for the Best Performance of any Polish and American Composer excluding Gershwin. The audience is invited to vote at the Final Round to pick their favorite pianist for the People's Choice Award.

Join us to celebrate music! To make the competition more exciting, the audience is allowed to vote for its favorite pianist. Visitors to Washington D.C. will discover many historical sights from the Smithsonian Museums, Harbor Restaurants, fashionable Georgetown, and The White House are within walking distance and accessible by metro from the competition venues.

Competitor Application fee: \$135 includes Preliminary Round performance CD; Full Competition Package of \$200.00 (Includes all events, 1 Master Class audit & Celebratory Dinner (\$75.00 separately)

\$75.00 is non-refundable in case of cancellation at anytime

Master Class fees - \$50 for performer and \$20 for auditors-

~~~ All venues and information maybe subject to change without prior notice! ~~~

Susanne Eisinger, President ~ Ed and Carmen Stull, Committee Chairmen

WIPAC is a non-profit organization funded through contributions from generous members and donors who believe that music and the performing arts enhance and enrich the quality of our lives. Cash Awards Sponsors are requested. All contributions are tax deductible according to the extent provided by law. Visit us at www.wipac.org or e-mail us wipac@gmail.com for complete competition information.