Washington International Piano Arts Council is Dedicated to creating a Renaissance of interest in the Art of Piano Performance. Making music flourish in our communities. Promoting international friendship and cultural understanding through the art of classical piano music.

Established 2001
3862 Farrcroft Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 USA
E-mail: wipacusa@gmail.com  Website: www.wipac.org  (703) 728-7766
The Festival of Music 2017 and the 15th Washington International Piano Artists Competition

Honorary Chairs
His Excellency, the Ambassador of Malta
and Mrs. Pierreclive Agius

Competition Committee Chairs
Dr. James and Dr. Wanda Trefil
Chairman of the Jury – Michael Davidson, Esq.

Competition Committee Members
Nicole d’Amecourt
Mary Hood
Monika Petter
Frances Berkman
Zelmira de Braganza Nedelcovic
Jean Wigham
Portia Davidson
Diane Merriam
Karl Woelflein

Washington International Piano Arts Council

Honorary Board
Harriet Becker
G. Austin Hay
Carol Rudman
Wayne and Linda Sharp

Executive Board
Chateau Gardecki, Founder and Board Chair
Clayton Eisinger, President
Jean Wigham, Treasurer
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Portia Davidson, Secretary
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Nicole d’Amecourt
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Susanne Eisinger
Judith Ramage
Rhoda Septilici, Diplomatic Liaison

Artistic Advisory Board
Jerome Barry
Frank Conlon
Eric Himy
Thomas Pandolfi
Laurence Berman
Richard Dowling
Stuart Isacoff
Frederic Chiu
John Gardecki
Raymond Jackson
Janice Weber
Dear Friends of WIPAC,

As we host the 15th Festival of Music and International Piano Competition! John and I extend enormous thanks to so many special people, most especially to the gem in our crown Austin Hay, to whom we shall forever be grateful for supporting the awards for our first prize winners from the very beginning. As a lover of music and piano, he has always there for WIPAC. Now going younger and younger at 102yrs old…..I offer a toast!

Sincere thanks to Clayton Eisinger, President extra-ordinaire, who never failed to preside over our board meeting, whose term ends this August. As well we celebrate his birthday! Special mention to Susie Eisinger, lovely and artistic wife, former President of WIPAC, for sharing her great talent by cooperating with John Gardecki in their program “Images of Music.”

My gratitude continues to all our members and partners and the institutions that have encouraged and supported us in making the path easier, i.e., The George Washington Music Department, The Arts Club of Washington, The World Bank Group and IMF, Anderson House of the Society of the Cincinnati, and many embassies: Austria, Barbados, Bulgaria, Fiji, Finland, France, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Serbia and Slovakia.

The next season, 2017-2018, WIPAC has and will go global again as we contribute to the world community a cultural program- “Lullaby of Peace,” an enormous task made easy with the cooperation and assistance of Haskell Small, pianist and composer, who has donated his time, talent, expertise and effort to compose the music for the poem of an Azerbaijani poet commemorating a tragic event. Also to Sheila Switzer of AAFSW by providing venue for the concert. and Shahla Naghiyeva, President of Sonmaz Mashal CRPU of Baku, Azerbaijan.

To the very talented WIPAC Board member and friend Robin Phillips whose contribution to music and generosity had no bounds, always standing by the door ready to help us. With Tim Thomas, they will be chairing “Le Bal des Lumieres, the WIPAC November 2017 Gala.

Great thanks to the Honorary and Board members for their constant advice and participation in all WIPAC events. This competition is made possible not by accident but because of all the good people who have made substantial contributions. Especially to lovely Barbara Bernhardt and the Koszusko Foundation for a splendid cooperation year after year in presenting our Spring and Fall Concerts!

My personal thanks to the Jurors, Bravo! as they undertake the most difficult job of all: picking the winner --- choosing the brightest amongst the brightest!

To all WIPAC staff, volunteers and donors. Mike Davidson, Chair of the jury for 6 consecutive years and Big thanks to Dr. James and Dr. Wanda O’Brien-Trefil for chairing this 15th WIPAC Competition and for encouraging us to increase awards this year. Also to Jean Wigham, Diane Merriam, and new volunteer, Loretta Statham. Their dedication is immeasurable.

CONGRATULATIONS PIANISTS!!!!
There are 24 International pianists who will be competing from 3 continents. Thank you for coming. Heartfelt thanks to these pianists who travelled far and wide from different parts of the USA, to make this 15th year truly special.

Best wishes,

Chateau Gardecki
Co-Founder and Board Chair
Dear Friends of Music

I would like to welcome everyone, especially our contestants and our distinguished jurors to the Festival of Music here in our wonderful city of Washington DC.

For the past 15 years WIPAC’s Festival of Music has enhanced the lives of so many in our community and has brought great joy to all those who participate and attend this great event.

I want to thank Chateau and John Gardecki, our founders, because through their hard work this event becomes a reality year after year.

I also want to thank our Competition Committee Co-Chairs, Dr. James Trefil and Dr. Wanda O’Brien-Trefil for their expertise in the field of music and for chairing our event.

A special thank you to Barbara Bernhardt, the Director of the Ko ciuszko Foundation American Center for Polish Culture for being so gracious in her hospitality and hosting our WIPAC Piano Concert Series and outreach programs at the Center.

My thanks also goes to our supporters, our board members and our committees for their Support, their dedication and their time.

I hope everybody will enjoy the Festival of Music.

Best wishes to all participants.

Warm regards,

Clayton Eisinger
President
Dear Friends of the Arts,

It is an honor and privilege to welcome all the outstanding pianists and renowned judges to the 15th Annual Washington International Piano Artists Competition. Before sharing some heartfelt thoughts, we want to thank Chateau and John Gardecki, founders of the WIPAC, for selecting us as Chairs of the 2017 Piano Competition.

First, we want to pass on our sincere admiration of the achievements of the competing pianists. We are deeply aware of the dedication each one of you pianists has shown in keeping up and developing your piano skills and increasing your piano repertoire. That each of you has been able to do this while successfully participating in a non-musical profession is a wonder. This Herculean life-long effort speaks to the immense satisfaction that playing the piano must bring to you, and to the aesthetic pleasure and immense joy that you must feel when recreating the transcendent drama which composers sketch out in musical notation. As you perform that drama for us, we humbly thank you for providing for us, your appreciative audience, with many hours of sublime listening experiences.

Secondly, we want to pass on our admiration for the sensibilities and musical achievements of our judges, which qualify them to discriminate among the superlative performances of our competitors. And thirdly, we want to pass on our thanks to all the donors who have come forth to reward the accomplishments of the competitors with a wide selection of prizes.

As Co-Chairs of the Piano Competition, we were in the position to make suggestions which we hope have added positively to the success of this year's competition. For example, this year, the Prize Moneys for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Prizes have been increased. The Competition page on the WIPAC website has been updated. Chateau Gardecki has already told us that she suspects these improvements have brought more competitors, and from farther regions of the world. We are thankful that our suggestions helped to bring these fine pianists to beautiful Washington, DC. Please accept our Best Wishes!

Dr. James Trefil and Dr. Wanda O'Brien-Trefil
Co-Chairs, WIPAC Piano Competition 2017
The Festival of Music 2017 and
The 15th Washington International Piano Artists Competition

THE JURY

MICHAEL DAVIDSON, Chairman of the Jury

Michael Davidson, Esq., has served as Chairman of the Jury of the WIPAC competition since 2010. Michael is an attorney, now retired, who lives in Lake Ridge, Virginia, with his wife, Portia Davidson, a member of the WIPAC Board of Directors. Mr. Davidson’s career included serving as a prosecutor for US Department of Justice, teaching law at a foreign university and in private practice in the Washington area. Mr. Davidson also served as the Parliamentarian for the WIPAC Board of Directors. Mr. Davidson serves as advisor/member of some non-profit organizations, including some dedicated to building international understanding and friendship using the arts. He commenced studying piano as a young boy in Minnesota but eventually concentrated on playing alto saxophone.

JURY FOR ALL ROUNDS

PROF. FRANK CONLON

Professor Francis Conlon has served many years on the faculty of the Music Department of GWU until 2015. He has performed at colleges and concert halls in the Washington area and in throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Europe, India and Japan. He has played at Carnegie Recital Hall, New York, at the Gardner Museum, Boston, at the Robin Hood Dell, Philadelphia and in Washington at the Kennedy Center, the Smithsonian Institution, the Library of Congress, the National Gallery, the Phillips Collection, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, the Pan American Union, and Dumbarton Oaks.

Prof. Conlon has performed concerti with many orchestras, including the Montreal Chamber Orchestra, the Washington Sinfonia, Washington Pro Musica and Washington Chamber Orchestra, the Alexandria Symphony, the Georgetown Symphony, and the Amadeus Orchestra. Prof. Conlon has won the National Society of Arts and Letters and the Jordan Awards Competitions in Washington and the Brewster-Allison Competition in Austin, Texas. He served as official accompanist for the National Symphony Young Soloist Competition, the National Opera Institute Auditions, and the National Federation of Music Clubs Contest. Prof. Conlon has accompanies students in departmental recitals, served as music director for the Department’s opera productions and also teaches at the Levine School of Music and is director of music at the Church of the Annunciation and at the Temple Rodef Shalom in Falls Church. Prof. Conlon has previously taught at the Catholic University School of Music and the Ellington School of the Arts, and served as artist-in-residence for the DC Public School System, and is one of the most sought after accompanist in the region.
DR. RAYMOND JACKSON

Professor of Music, Howard University. Born in Providence, Rhode Island, concert pianist, and educator Raymond Thompson Jackson, has been a recipient of numerous awards and has won top honors in national and international piano competitions. He was the first African American and musician to be inducted into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame. Dr. Jackson’s musical talent surfaced at an early age. Graduating from Hope High School, he played the bass violin, organ, and piano and was active in the young artists club, orchestra, band, and glee club. Dr. Jackson attended the prestigious New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. He and fellow classmate, Coretta Scott King, were among a handful of African Americans who attended the Conservatory, where Dr. Jackson earned his bachelor’s of music degree in piano performance. In addition to graduating first in his class, he was the recipient of the Conservatory’s highest award, the “George Whitfield Chadwick Medal.” He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in piano from the renowned Juilliard School of Music in New York and went on to receive Masters and Doctors of Music Arts degrees. He went to France and studied at the American Conservatory of Music in Fontainebleau. After studying in France, he worked as an organist and choir director for several churches in New Jersey. He received a fellowship that allowed him to perform a series of debut piano recitals in Vienna, London, Stockholm, Geneva, Berlin, and Munich. He immediately captured the hearts and applause of European audiences. In 1970, Jackson began teaching at Mannes College of Music in New York and Concordia College, Bronxville. In 1977, he was offered a faculty position at Howard University, where he continues to teach music today.

LAURENCE BERMAN

A professor of the history and theory of music, Laurence Berman was involved in full-time teaching for over thirty years. Although he took early retirement from the University of Massachusetts/Boston in 1994, he occasionally continues to give courses. Author of a number of articles on Debussy, he has written two books, *The Musical Image: A Theory of Content* and *The Mimetic in Music.*

As a pianist, Mr. Berman enjoys equally the roles of soloist, accompanist, and chamber player. In repertoire, too, he prefers variety to concentrating on any single area, the works he plays ranging from the Elizabethan virginalists to Schoenberg and Bartok. His performances have taken him to Europe and India as well as throughout the United States. In recent times he has given numbers of lecture-recitals for philanthropic events.

JURY FOR THE PRELIMINARY ONLY

HASKELL SMALL

Composer and pianist Haskell Small has been praised for the exquisite blend of sound and silence in his compositions and for his prodigious technique and subtle touch at the keyboard. His discography of over a dozen recordings and his frequent performances in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and Spoleto USA have firmly established Small’s artistic reputation around the world.

Over the course of his career, Small’s contemplative nature has drawn him to music that seeks a spiritual quietude that approaches silence. Small regularly tours the United States, Europe and Japan, programming his own compositions as well as works by other composers that share this aesthetic, performing in monasteries and churches as well as more conventional concert venues.

Haskell Small has studied piano with Leon Fleisher and William Masselos, composition with Vincent Persichetti, and is a faculty member of the Washington (DC) Conservatory of Music.
JURY FOR SEMI–FINALS AND FINALS

JANICE WEBER

Member of Piano Faculty, Boston Conservatory of Music and MIT, Boston, Massachusetts. Author and pianist, Janice Weber grew up in Ridgewood, New Jersey. A summa-cum-laude graduate of the Eastman School of Music, she performed the entire Book I of J.S. Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier from memory during her sophomore year. She studied in New York and Zurich and was a fellowship student at the Tanglewood Music Festival, where she received the C.D. Jackson Award for Excellence. Known for her exploration of the uncommon avenues of the piano literature, including works of Leopold Godowsky, Leo Ornstein and Leo Sowerby, Ms. Weber is an exceptional interpreter of contemporary music and has performed with the New York Philharmonic, American Composers Orchestra, Contemporary Chamber Ensemble, Boston Pops, Sarasota Pops, Newport Festival, Handel and Hayden Society, New Philharmonia and Atlantic Sinfonia.

Ms. Weber's solo recitals in the United States and Europe have included Carnegie Hall, Rare Piano Music Festival (Germany), Chautauqua Music Festival, Castle Hill, Wigmore Hall (London), Old First (San Francisco) Victoria Museum (Ottawa), Dame Myra Hess Series (Chicago), La Gesse Foundation (France), Merkin hall, National Gallery of Art and USIA Tours of Turkey, Yugoslavia and the Baltic States. Ms. Weber has also performed at the White House.

THOMAS PANDOLFI

American pianist Thomas Pandolfi is an exciting virtuoso who, with each passing season, is becoming more and more sought after by audiences worldwide, and showered with superlatives by critics for his passionate artistry and amazing technique. His engagements during the 2015-16 season, included as guest soloist with The National Philharmonic at Strathmore, Ohio Valley Symphony, North Charleston Pops, Cheyenne Symphony, Maryland Symphony, Alexandria Symphony, Symphonicity, Amadeus Orchestra, McLean Orchestra and the Frederick Symphony.

During 2016-17, he was guest soloist with The Paducah Symphony, the Charlotte Symphony (FL), the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic, the Amadeus Orchestra, The Tiraspol Philharmonic, The Alexandria Symphony, and the Maryland Symphony at The Garrett Lakes Arts Festival. Thomas will also be the Artist in Residence at The Black Rock Center for the Arts in Maryland during this season, and his recital touring schedule will take him across the United States on a twenty state tour. Thomas' international concerts have included those in China and Europe, and last season, he also made his Canadian debut in British Columbia.

An outstanding cross-over artist, Mr. Pandolfi's virtuoso transcriptions of the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber, Marvin Hamlisch, George Gershwin and Leonard Bernstein are in much demand.

Mr. Pandolfi earned both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the Juilliard School of Music as a scholarship student. He is the proud father of a wonderful son and daughter, and resides in Washington, DC.
Jan Du Plain, President and CEO, is a public relations and special events executive who has worked in the Washington DC area for over 40 years. Her career began in California as an advertising executive on her father’s newspaper, a literary agency in Hollywood, and then in NYC as publicist for CBS Films, a motion picture company that produced such hits as “Little Big Man” with Dustin Hoffman and the “Reivers” with Steve McQueen. She came to Washington DC in 1971 and served as the PR Director at historic Ford’s Theater promoting such shows as “Godspell,” David Wayne in “An Unpleasant Evening with H.L. Mencken,” and Hal Holbrook in “Mark Twain Tonight.” Ms. Du Plain enjoyed a short career as an actress with a repertory theatre in northern California, starring in the hit show “Same Time Next Year.” She returned to Washington and for 15 years was the PR Director of WETA, the 3rd largest producer of public TV shows for PBS, promoting such luminaries as award-winning documentary filmmaker Ken Burns (The Civil War) talk show hosts Bill Moyers, Charlie Rose and David Frost. She is a graduate of the School of Public Affairs and Government of American University, Washington, D.C., and has received many honors during her prestigious career. For the last 13 years, she is the CEO of Du Plain Enterprises Inc, a PR and special events firm, and the Du Plain International Speakers Bureau. Her company has handled the successful speakers program for the Smithsonian Institution’s highly acclaimed 150th anniversary celebration on the national mall, Broadway’s smash hit musical, “Chicago”, at the National Theater in Washington, DC. Also they handled the Shakespeare Guild’s “Sir John Gielgud Award” featuring Kenneth Branagh and Judi Dench, Robert Mondavi’s American Center for Wine, Food and the Arts, and helped launch Cultural Tourism DC’s “Passport DC,” a citywide open house in Washington DC featuring over 30 embassies.

Henri Polgar is a 1968 Charter-Trustee and current Executive Director of the Panamerican-Panafrican Association (the PaPa), which is a NGO in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Henri Polgar and his PaPa colleagues administer programs that foster multiculturalism in the arts and humanities.

As a pianist, Henri Polgar has toured in the USA, Africa and the Pacific Rim with the Pritchard Concert Ensemble, founded by American pianist Robert Pritchard. He was the recipient of the President’s Artist Award at Lincoln University. Mr. Polgar is a contributing writer to www.FestivalDC.com, which highlights and promotes the richness of the culturally and ethnically diverse communities of the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

On the 15th International Piano Artists Competition

In memory of

Charles Silverman

---

Dr. Joyce Hagel-Silverman
The Festival of Music 2017 and
The 15th Washington International Piano Artists Competition

CASH AWARDS AND HONORS

Grand Prize - Solo Recital at The Kosciuszko Foundation Center
Certificate to be presented by the Guest of Honor

First Prize $3,000 The Austin Hay Award
Second Prize $2,000 Co-Sponsored by Dr. Joyce Hagel-Silverman and
Dr. James Trefil and Dr. Wanda O’Brien-Trefil
Third Prize $1,000 Co-Sponsored by PAPA Council in honor of
Dr. Robert Pritchard, and Linda and Wayne Sharp

$250 - CASH AWARDS - REMAINING FINALISTS Co-Sponsored by
Anonymous Donor and Linda and Wayne Sharp

COMPOSERS AWARDS - $250 and Donors

Best Performance of Bach work – Dr. and Mrs. Leslie Fenton
Best Performance of Beethoven work – Dr. Joyce Hagel-Silverman
Best Performance of Chopin work – Dr. Wanda O’Brien Trefil
Best Performance of a Ravel work – Donated by Michael Davidson, Esq.
Best Performance of a Liszt work – Judith Ramage and John Dassoulas

SPECIAL AWARDS - $250 and DONORS

Best Performance for Baroque Period – Harriet Becker
Performance of a Romantic Period – Clayton and Susanne Eisinger
Best Performance of Contemporary Work – In Memory of Col. Raymond Shreckengost
Most Imaginative Programming – Nancy L. Dunton

The Press Jury Award – Portia Davidson
The Audience Award – Donated by Jean Wigham

TROPHY and PLAQUES

First Prize - Miniature Piano – donated by Mr. & Mrs. Leonid Kelner
First, 2nd and 3rd Prize Plaques- Monique Lass
Competition Certificates – donated by Diane Merriam
Gifts for the Competition – donated
Gifts for completion – donated by Monica Petter
Semi-Finals CD – donated by Thomas Panbolfi
# Schedule of Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 2</td>
<td>9:00am-5:00pm</td>
<td>Registration and Hospitality Opens</td>
<td>GWU Music Dept. Phillips Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00am-5:00pm</td>
<td>Piano Try-out: Practice room closes</td>
<td>GWU Music Dept.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:00pm-9:00pm</td>
<td>Welcome Reception (by invitation)</td>
<td>Kościuszko Foundation Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 3-8</td>
<td>3:30pm-8:00pm</td>
<td>Hospitality Opens</td>
<td>GWU Music Dept.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 4</td>
<td>8:30am-12:00pm</td>
<td>Piano Try-out</td>
<td>GWU Music Dept.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 5-8</td>
<td>9:00am-12:00pm</td>
<td>Piano try outs</td>
<td>B120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00am-1:30pm</td>
<td>Preliminary Rounds First Set (refer to next page)</td>
<td>Phillips Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:30pm-5:00pm</td>
<td>Jury Deliberation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:30pm-9:00pm</td>
<td>Announcement of Semi-Finalists</td>
<td>Phillips Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 6</td>
<td>8:30am-9:00am</td>
<td>Hospitality Opens</td>
<td>GWU Music Dept.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:30am-10:30am</td>
<td>Piano Marathon</td>
<td>B120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:30am-12:00am</td>
<td>Master Classes I</td>
<td>Phillips Hall (J. Weber)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00am-1:00pm</td>
<td>Piano Tuning</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:30pm-5:00pm</td>
<td>Semi-Final Rounds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5:20pm-9:00pm</td>
<td>Jury Deliberation</td>
<td>GWU B120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 7-8</td>
<td>9:30am-11:00am</td>
<td>Master Class II</td>
<td>GWU B120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00am-11:30am</td>
<td>Piano Try out</td>
<td>The Cosmos Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:00am-12:30am</td>
<td>Master Class III</td>
<td>GWU B120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 9</td>
<td>2PM-6:00pm</td>
<td>Final Rounds</td>
<td>The Cosmos Club</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:00pm-10:00pm</td>
<td>Celebratory Dinner</td>
<td>6501 Massachusetts Avenue, NW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FREE EVENING – No host dinner**

| August 5-8 | 10:00am-1:30pm| Piano Tryouts and Practice Rm                                             | GWU Music Dept.                              |
| August 4   | 1:30pm-5:00pm | Preliminary Rounds Second Set                                             | B120                                          |
| August 5   | 5:10pm-6:20pm | Jury Deliberation                                                         | Phillips Hall                                 |
| August 6   | 6:30pm-9:00pm | Announcement of Semi-Finalists and Cocktails Reception                    | 801 22nd St & H St.                           |

**LUNCH BREAK**

| August 6   | 9:30am-11:00am| Master Class II                                                           | GWU B120                                      |
| August 7-8 | 10:00am-11:30am| Piano Try out                                                            | The Cosmos Club                               |
| August 8   | 11:00am-12:30am| Master Class III                                                          | GWU B120                                      |

No camera or videotaping allowed!!! All contestants should check the bulletin board for practice time and room allocation. All schedules subject to change without prior notice. The public is asked to remain seated during the performances and no pagers, cell phones and alarms.
## Order of Performance for 2017

### Preliminary Round First Set – August 3
The George Washington University Music Dept. B120

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAMES</th>
<th>TIME OF PERFORMANCE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Leslie Shapiro</td>
<td>10:30AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Steve Bertges</td>
<td>10:50AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. I-wen Tseng</td>
<td>11:10AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Yinuo Tang</td>
<td>11:30AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Nuria Planas Vilanova</td>
<td>1:30PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. John Blasdale</td>
<td>1:50PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Joseph Lipare</td>
<td>2:30PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mid- Afternoon Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Andy Liao</td>
<td>3:00PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Yoko Taruki</td>
<td>3:20PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Alexandra Nica</td>
<td>3:40PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Kotomi Suzuki</td>
<td>4:00PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Short Pause</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Simon Finlow</td>
<td>4:25PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Timothy Kent</td>
<td>4:45PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. David Caldine</td>
<td>5:05PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

First Set Preliminary ends at 5:25PM

No Host Dinner
Order of Performance for 2017

Preliminary Round Second Set – August 4
The George Washington University Music Dept. B120

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAMES</th>
<th>TIME OF PERFORMANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15. Neil McKelvie</td>
<td>1:30PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Ferdy Talan</td>
<td>1:50PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. David Leehy</td>
<td>2:10PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Hideya Suzuki</td>
<td>2:30PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mid- Afternoon Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Utako Tanigawa</td>
<td>3:00PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Melinda Morse</td>
<td>3:20PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Judy Darst</td>
<td>3:40PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Late Afternoon Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Wei Ling Wang</td>
<td>4:05PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Max Sung</td>
<td>4:25PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Hiroaki Taniguchi</td>
<td>4:45PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

JURY DELIBERATION FOLLOWS 5:10PM-6:00PM
RECEPTION AND ANNOUNCEMENT 6:00PM-9:00PM

Award Ceremony and Announcement of Semi-Finalists follows jury deliberation
Order of Semi-Finalist performances by lottery
Reception open to the public
Stephen Bertges, Executive Coach
Sacramento, CA

Stephen Bertges first studied piano at seven years old and continued his studies throughout his early adult life earning a Bachelor and Masters of Piano from the Manhattan School of Music. A professional jazz musician in his younger years, he earned an MBA from Columbia University. Mr. Berges entered the emerging world of personal computing and built a highly successful and entrepreneurial executive career working in Silicon Valley with companies that included Apple Computer, IBM, Dow Jones, Adaptec and Sybase. Among his milestones were leadership positions in companies that pioneered digital music distribution, social media, and other web technology products we all enjoy today.

After a 40 year hiatus, he returned to serious piano study with Sonia Leong, at the University of the Pacific Conservatory of Music and gave his first public performance in the Spring of 2016 for the Adult Performers Showcase of the regional Music Teachers Association. There he was selected to perform at the State Convention in Los Angeles, and also participated in the Grand Concours des Amateurs in Paris, France. This was followed with local performances throughout the San Francisco and Sacramento region where he actively encourages and supports avocational pianists to renew and participate in the avocational music movement.

Anecdote: My wife and I met as piano students of Robert Goldsand in the first days of our attending Manhattan School of Music, We’ve been together ever since: married 42 years, raising our children in music, and enjoying our solo and duo piano interests.

REPERTOIRE

Preliminary Round
Franz Liszt
Grande etude de concert No. 3 in D flat major, S. 144 “Un Sospiro”
Grande etudes de Paganini S 141, No. 2 in E flat major

Semifinal Round
Bach-Busoni
Chaconne in D Minor

Final Round
Ludwig van Beethoven
Piano Sonata Number 31 in A flat major, Opus 110
Moderato Cantabile
Allegro Molto
Adagio, Fuga
John Blasdale, Ret. Patent Agent

John Blasdale was born near Nottingham, England in 1937. He is now a Christian Minister. He started to study piano at age 8. As a teenager he was strongly attracted to Beethoven's late piano sonatas, especially the last one, Opus 111. Music remains one of his main interests, even though he chose a scientific career. After completing his university studies in Natural Sciences, he qualified as a Patent Agent and worked professionally in London, Lucerne, Switzerland, and New Jersey. Mr. Blasdale has often performed at amateur concerts and taken part in amateur piano competitions. In August 2007 he received a Best Performance prize for his playing of Beethoven's Sonata in A Flat Major op. 110 in the Final Round of the Rocky Mountain Competition (Colorado Springs). In retirement he has studied Piano, Orchestration, Advanced Harmony, and Composition in the Juilliard School Evening Division. John's New York Recital Debut on June 21 2016 was part of the local "Make Music New York" festival; his main work was Beethoven's last Sonata, op. 111.

Anecdote: In the semi-final round of the Rocky Mountain Amateur Competition (in Colorado Springs) in August 2007, I started with Scriabin's Prelude in C Sharp Minor, for the left hand alone, letting my right hand rest on the piano stool. When I lifted my right hand, to continue with the second movement of Beethoven's Sonata op. 111, I found that it had gone to sleep!

REPERTOIRE

Preliminary Round

| Ludwig van Beethoven | Sonata in F# Major, Op. 78, 2nd Movement  
| Franz Schubert | Impromptu in G Flat Major, Op. 90, No. 3  
| Johannes Brahms | Intermezzo in E Flat Minor, Op 118, No. 6 |

Semifinal Round

| John Blasdale [b. 1937] | Elegy in E Minor, Op. 6a  
| Ludwig van Beethoven | Sonata in A Flat Major, Op. 110, 2nd & 3rd Movements  
|  | Allegro Molto  
|  | Adagio ma non troppo; Fuga (Allegro ma non troppo) |

Final Round

| Ludwig van Beethoven | Sonata in C Minor, op. 111  
|  | Maestoso. Allegro con brio appassionato.  
|  | Arietta: (Var. 1): Adagio molto semplice e cantabile  
|  | (Var. 2, 3): L'istesso tempo |
David Caldine, Sr. Software Engineer
Fairfax, VA - USA

David Caldine started clarinet at age 7, but changed to piano at age 18. From 1982 to 1992 he studied with Elvin Schmitt at George Mason University. At GMU, David finished the performance requirements in the Bachelor of Music program, as well as receiving a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. He played about 20 solo recitals in the Washington Area and in St. Petersburg and Moscow, Russia, as well as participating in many amateur piano competitions, including the 2016 Cliburn Amateur Competition. Mr. Caldine also performs for the New York Piano Society. He has studied with Eric Himy for the past 12 years. Now he works as Senior Software Engineer on US Navy messaging projects at the Washington Navy Yard. He has travelled to Russia and Ukraine many times, and is writing a book on history of Crimea in the post war years of 1944-54. Mr. Caldine also composes for solo piano and orchestra, and has been a frequent competitor at WIPAC’s piano competition.

Anecdote: Physical exercise and piano practice are one percent perspiration and 99 percent inspiration.

REPERTOIRE

**Preliminary Round**

- Sergei Rachmaninoff: Moments Musicaux Op. 16, No. 1
- Claude Debussy: L’isle joyeuse

**Semi-Final Round**

- Franz Liszt: Sposalizio
- Fryderyk Chopin: Scherzo No. 2, Op. 31

**Final Round**

- Felix Mendelssohn: Rondo Capricioso
- Felix Blumenfeld: Left Hand Etude
- Franz Liszt: Hungarian Rhapsody No. 14
Judy Darst, Ret. Piano Teacher

Judy is a retired piano teacher with a degree in piano performance from the University of Colorado, Boulder. She has adjudicated as a member of MTNA and National Guild of Piano Teachers and has performed with the Bainbridge Island Orchestra and the Greeley Philharmonic. Ms. Darst was a performing member of the Ladies Musicale Club in Seattle before moving to Bend, Oregon, where she has started a performance group. She has participated in piano competitions in Chicago, Ft. Worth, Colorado Springs, San Diego, Boston, and Washington, DC. She is an accomplished equestrian, showing in the hunter division over fences, and has also taught Line Dancing.

**Anecdote:** As long as I can get through the airport, I want to keep doing this!

**REPERTOIRE**

**Preliminary Round**
- Johannes Brahms: Waltzes, Op. 39, Nos. 2, 4, 8, 15
- Franz Schubert: Moment Musicale in F Minor
- Fryderyk Chopin: Prelude in C Sharp Minor, Op. 45

**Semifinal Round**
- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Sonata, K.330, First Movement
- Johannes Brahms: Intermezzo, Op. 117, No. 1
- Daniel Weinberger: Shwanda Polka (arr. Blasser)

**Final Round**
- Robert Schumann: Romance in F-sharp Major, Op. 28, No. 2
- Sergei Rachmaninov: Prelude, Op. 32, No. 5
- Fryderyk Chopin: Étude, Op. 25, No. 1 (Harp)
- Mazurka, Op. 67, No. 3
- Mazurka, Op. 59, No. 1
- Prelude, Op. 28, No. 9 in E Major
- Prelude, Op. 28, No. 17 in A-flat Major
Simon Finlow, Ret. IT Engineer

Simon Finlow was born and raised in England. He started learning piano at age 4 and studied with Imogen Cooper from 1972 to 1973. He graduated with a BA/MA from Oxford University and subsequently earned a PhD in music from King’s College, Cambridge. Dr. Finlow performed regularly while at university; highlights included concert performances of the Brahms B-flat Concerto, Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue*, and Mozart’s Concerto in A, K.488. In 1985, Dr. Finlow immigrated to the US. Because music and money don’t usually combine synergistically, he obtained an MS in computer science, became a US citizen, and worked as an IT professional for the next 25 years. In 2014, he quit his job and began to practice piano seriously again. He found a terrific piano teacher (Michael Adcock at the Washington Conservatory of Music), set about rebuilding his repertoire, and gradually started performing again after a 30-year hiatus. Last year he advanced to the second round of the Cliburn amateur competition and the finals of the WIPAC. This year, he competed in the 9th Boston International Competition, advancing to the semifinals. Mr. Finlow’s extracurricular activities include running, reading, video games, practicing piano (at least that’s what he tells his teacher), and strategizing daily with his wife Leslie to prevent their 15-year-old twin children from exterminating one other.

**Anecdote:** I have learned through music that you can only discover your limitations by always seeking to transcend them. *Nothing* is impossible – except Mozart.

**REPERTOIRE**

**Preliminary Round**

- Robert Schumann: *Novelette in F Major, Op. 21 No. 1*
- Domenico Scarlatti: *Sonata in E Major, K.380; L.23*
- Mily Balakirev: *Mazurka No. 6 in A-flat Major*

**Semifinal Round**

- Johann Sebastian Bach: *Partita No. 2 in C minor, BWV 826*
- Sarabande and Caprice
- Franz Schubert: *Drei Klavierstücke, D 946, No. 2 in E flat Major*
- Fryderyk Chopin: *Valse brillante, Op. 34, No. 1*

**Final Round**

- Ludwig van Beethoven: *Sonata Op. 10, No. 3*
- Presto
- Largo e mesto
- Menuetto: Allegro
- Rondo: Allegro

- Claude Debussy: *L’Isle joyeuse*
Timothy Kent, Entrepreneur
Sussex, England

Tim Kent lives with his wife and two children in Sussex in the southeast of England. Having worked run a number of start-up businesses, he now splits his time between childcare, working in his wife’s stationery company, and planning a new venture, making it easier for people to find and listen to classical music. When he’s not playing piano he can be found cultivating their small meadow or on the squash court.

Having started learning the piano aged 4, his fitful early efforts came to a halt at 14. Slowly returning to the instrument, he eventually became a committed player while he was studying Economics at Edinburgh University. Fortunate to come under the guidance of pianist and teacher Peter Evans, he then entered a number of student competitions including the International Students Piano Competition in Utrecht (semi-finalist), Edinburgh Competition Festival 15 minute recital class (1st), the National 15 Minute Piano Recital Competition (2nd), and won the Edinburgh University Chamber Orchestra concerto competition in 2001. He has also played twice as soloist with the Nairobi Orchestra.

After university, Tim ran a technology company and has since been involved in other start-up businesses in the humanitarian sector. Finding time to play continues to be a challenge, though he has been fortunate again in finding another great teacher, Paul Roberts, who lives in the same village, and is a concert pianist, teacher and expert on French music. Paul helped Tim to get through to the Quarter Finals of the Paris Grands Amateurs competition last year.

REPERTOIRE

Preliminary round

Johann Sebastian Bach
Fryderyk Chopin

Prelude and Fugue No. 15 in G Major, BWV 884, WTC II
Impromptu No. 2 in F-sharp Major, Opus 36

Semifinal round

Maurice Ravel

Valses Nobles et Sentimentales

Final round

Franz Liszt
Fryderyk Chopin

Sposalizio from Années De Pèlerinage,
Scherzo No. 4 in E Major, Op. 54
David Leehey, Retired Physician

Dr. David Leehey is President of the Symphony of Oak Park and River Forest in Illinois. He performed the Brahms D minor Concerto in October 2001, Beethoven Choral Fantasy in April 2011 and the Dvořák Concerto in May 2015 with the Symphony. He also serves as its orchestral pianist and rehearsal/choral accompanist. Dr. Leehey was a semifinalist in the 2001 and 2003 Boston amateur competitions and the 2009 and 2011 WIPAC competitions. He was a founding board member of Pianoforte Foundation in Chicago, serving as chair of the competition committee for the first Chicago amateur competition held in June 2010.

Anecdote: This is my first appearance at WIPAC since my bicycle accident in DC during the 2013 competition that occurred 2 hours before I was scheduled to perform in the preliminary round.

REPERTOIRE

Preliminary Round

Franz Schubert
Alexander Scriabin
Fryderyk Chopin

Impromptu in E-flat Major, Op. 90, No. 2
Étude in B-flat Minor, Op. 8, No. 11
Valse Brillante in A-flat Major, Op. 34, No. 1

Semifinal Round

Fryderyk Chopin
Ludwig van Beethoven

Berceuse, Op. 57
Sonata in C Minor, Op. 10, No. 1
Allegro molto e con brio
Adagio Molto
Prestissimo

Final Round

Robert Schuman

Carnival in Vienna, Op. 26
Andy Liao, Actuary

Andy Liao has been playing piano since he was seven. He has previously studied with Howard Aibel, Daniel Shapiro, Sergey Schepkin, and Uriel Tsachor and has participated in masterclasses from Menahem Pressler and Joseph Kalichstein. He graduated from the University of Iowa with a B.M. in piano performance and B.S. in Actuarial Science. After college, he moved to Boston for work, but continued to play piano extensively. He has taken various piano classes and chamber music coachings throughout the Boston area, including private studies with Randall Hodgkinson, the Piano Interpretation & Performance Seminar with Ya-Fei Chuang at NEC, and chamber music masterclasses with members of the Pacifica String Quartet and Triple Helix Piano Trio. Mr. Liao was the third prize winner at the 2015 Washington International Piano Arts Council (WIPAC) Amateur Piano Competition and awarded Best Performance of a Modern/Contemporary Work at the 2016 San Diego Piano Competition. Most recently, he was awarded the best performance of a romantic era work and named the second prize winner of the 2017 Boston International Piano Competition. His other interests besides piano are running, tennis, and watching the NBA.

Anecdote: “Without music, life would be a mistake.” (Friedrich Nietzsche).

REPERTOIRE

**Preliminary Round**

- Franz Schubert: Impromptu No. 2 in A-Flat Major, D. 935
- Claude Debussy: *Brouillards* from Preludes, Book 2, L. 123
  *Hommage à Haydn*, L. 115
- Abram Chasins: Rush Hour in Hong Kong, from Three Chinese Pieces, Op. 5

**Semi Final Round**

- Sergei Rachmaninoff: Variations on a Theme of Corelli, Op. 42

**Final Round**

- Franz Joseph Haydn: Sonata in B Minor, Hob XVI:32
  1. Allegro moderato
  2. Minuet - Trio
  3. Finale. Presto
- Franz Liszt: Hungarian Rhapsody No. 12
Joseph Lipare, Automotive Tool Designer

Joseph Lipare was born in 1969 and raised in the northern suburbs of Detroit, Michigan. Upon complaining of being bored one summer day, his mother promptly signed him up for piano lessons at a local music store at the age of 5.... ironically there were no other musicians or musical influences in his extended family. Taking to it well, he won first prize in his elementary school talent show as a kindergartener. Unfortunately, Joseph was never a hard-working or driven musical student and quit studying at the age of 16. He went to college for engineering and has worked as an Automotive Tool Designer in the automotive industry for the last 25+ years. Fast forward to 2015, he had just met his future wife Amanda (a former opera singer) and she encouraged him to begin studying piano again saying, “It’s never too late”. Joseph has been studying with Dr. Tian Tian at Oakland University in Rochester Hills, MI for the past two years, and so began a wonderful re-connection with the piano which brings him here today.

In his spare time, Joseph enjoys spending time with his wife Amanda, step-daughter Elizabeth & dog Bernie, riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle, running, and down-hill skiing.

Anecdote: I’m a 48 year old Automotive Tool Designer from the northern suburbs of Detroit, Michigan; started piano lessons at 5; studied till age 16. After a 30 year break, I started seriously studying again just 2 years ago.

REPERTOIRE

Preliminary Round

Johannes Brahms
Rhapsody in G Minor, Op.79, No.2
Angel Villoldo (Arr. E. Rojas)
El Choclo

Semifinal Round

Allesandro Scarlatti
Sonata K.466 - Andante Moderato
Sonata K.519 - Allegro Assai
Ludwig van Beethoven
Sonata No.14 in C Sharp Minor (Moonlight), Op.27, No.2
Adagio Sostenuto
Allegretto
Presto Agitato

Final Round

Fryderyk Chopin
Nocturne in E Flat Major, Op.9, No.1
Nocturne in B Flat Minor, Op.9, No.1
Nocturne in F Minor, Op.55, No.1
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Sonata No.14 in C Minor, K.457
1: Molto Allegro
Sergei Rachmaninoff
Prelude in C Sharp Minor, Op.3, No.2
Neil McKelvie, Emeritus Professor (CCUNY)  
NYC, USA/UK

Dr. Neil McKelvie was born in England in 1930. After Cambridge U. (BA and MA) he came to NYC in 1954 for his PhD from Columbia U. Other than one year at Yale, he has been a NYC resident ever since. He was a Chemistry Professor at the City College of New York and the CUNY Graduate School for 45 years, until retiring ten years ago, having taught perhaps some 18,000 students. He has no academic musical education, only extensive private teaching, in London from Manuell Frankell (RACM) to 1954. Then, 45 years later, from Seymour Bernstein and more recently Mara Waldman. Dr. McKelvie has played in amateur competitions in Boston, Chicago, Berlin and Washington DC, winning a total of seven special prizes for e.g. Best Performance of Romantic Music or Best Program. He is also a chess master with a top rating over 2400, at one time in the top 20 in the US. His wife of 45 years, now deceased, was a student of Kodaly in Budapest.

Anecdote: Over 40 years ago, a friend placed a piece in front of me at the piano and said: “Let’s see you play this!” It was the first Viennese Dance by Ignaz Friedman - not easy to sight-read! I’d heard of Friedman as a great pianist from the early 19th century, but not as a composer. I have included this piece, as well as two Friedman Mazurkas in my program here. The theme is from a song from the Viennese popular singer Eduard Gaertner, who had died leaving his widow destitute, so Friedman arranged that she should get the income from this, which was a big success. Later, on a visit to Amsterdam, visiting the several used and antiquarian music shops, I found quite a number of Friedman pieces, and became interested. More were acquired on visits to Copenhagen and Vienna. I now have perhaps 80% of his 100 opus numbers and over 60 arrangements. Perhaps Paderewski can have the last word. He said that Friedman was the “most perfect interpreter of Chopin”, and the finest “Ambassador of Polish culture to the world”. As for his compositions, listen and judge for yourself.

REPERTOIRE

Preliminary Round

Johann Sebastian Bach/ Ferruccio Busoni  
Choral prelude, *Ich Ruf’ Zu Dir*

Fryderyk Chopin  
Mazurka, Op. 59, No. 1

Sergei Bortkiewicz  
Lyrica Nova, Op 59, No. 3

Ignaz Friedman (after Gaertner)  
Viennese Dance, No. 1

Semi-Final Round

Ignaz Friedman  
Mazurkas, Op. 15, No. 1

Sergei Bortkiewicz  
Lyrica Nova, Op. 59, No. 1

Ernesto Halffter  
Habanera

Zoltan Kodaly  
Dances of Marosszek

Final Round

Fryderyk Chopin  
Prelude, Op. 28, No. 17 in A Flat Major

Ludwig van Beethoven  
Sonata No. 31, Op. 110 in A Flat Major
Melinda Morse, Ret. Public School Teacher
San Ramon, CA

A native of rural Arkansas, Melinda grew up within a community of music making. After receiving a B.A. from Hendrix College, she received her M.M. from Memphis State University, studying piano during the summers while teaching. During 37 years in public school instruction, she taught general music, sixth grade science and achieved National Board Certification in math. Her interests include running on a racing team, participating in civic and church events, and enjoying friends and family (including two grandchildren under age four). She studies piano with Roy Bogas. Ms. Morse is pleased to remember that her grandmother taught piano and voice in the Cherokee Female Seminary in the early 1900’s.

Anecdote: Music has been a constant, beautiful and inspiring companion for me since childhood. I think it has been for other amateur pianists as well. It is a special privilege for us to get to share our «companion» with each other at the WIPAC and other completions.

REPERTOIRE

Preliminary Round

Ludwig van Beethoven
Sonata No.24, Op.78
Adagio cantabile; Allegro ma non troppo
Allegro vivace

H. Villa-Lobos
Poema Singelo

Semifinal Round

Fryderyk Chopin
Berceuse, Op.57

Maurice Ravel
Miroirs IV: Alborada del gracioso

Final Round

Paul Hindemith
Fugue No. 2 in G

Ludwig von Beethoven
Sonata, Op.27, No.2
Adagio Sostenuto
Allegretto
Presto Agitato

Fryderyk Chopin
Ballade No.4 in F minor, Op.52
Alexandra Nica, Faculty Member, Economics, Univ. of Iowa  
Coralville, Iowa

Dr. Alexandra Nica was born in the beautiful city of Brasov, located in the Transylvania region of Romania. She comes from a family with a professional side of technical design, engineering and academics, but also a strong artistic side. Her family’s artistic activity of over thirty years in the “Poienita” Folkloric Ensemble from Brasov, Romania has brought them many prestigious awards from their participation in national and international festivals. Consequently, music has been a crucial part of Alexandra’s life from early on. She had her first piano lesson at the age of six and had a formal musical education for eight years with Professor Dorina Popescu at the “Tudor Ciortea” Music School in Brasov. Taking a different career-path, she received a B.A. in International Trade from the University of Transylvania in Romania, followed by an M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics at the University of Iowa. She then joined the Economics department faculty at the University of Iowa in 2014.

Piano, however, has always been a most rewarding passion in Dr. Nica’s life. She has given many recitals, played several times with the Brasov Philharmonic Orchestra led by renowned conductor Ilarion Ionescu-Galati and received awards in the prestigious “Song of Romania” contests. After a long hiatus of public performances, she recently participated in the San Diego, Chicago and Boston International Piano Competition. She is also one of the Chairs of the University Club Piano Interest Groups that holds monthly themed piano performances in Boston.

**Anecdote:** Alexandra’s home, Brasov, Transylvania, is a fifteen minute drive away from the famously advertised, “Dracula’s Castle.” However, there are no vampires on the site when tourists visit!

**REPERTOIRE**

**Preliminary Round**
- Tudor Ciortea: Joc Tiganesc (Gypsy Dance)
- Claude Debussy: Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum, from Children’s Corner’s Suite
- George Enescu: Prelude from Piano Suite No. 1 *Dans le style ancien*, Op. 3

**Semifinal Round**
- Philip Wesley: *Lamentations of the Heart* from the Album *Dark Night of the Soul*
- Paul Constantinescu: Toccata *Joc Dobrogean* (Dobrogean Dance)

**Final Round**
- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Piano Sonata No. 11, K.331, Third Movement: Allegretto (Alla Turca)
- Fryderyk Chopin: Valse, Op. 69, No. 1

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From 2004, Nuria Plana-Villanova has been teaching Spanish and German language with some piano teaching on the side. From 1985 to 1998, she was a registered nurse, and from 1979-1986, a bank clerk. Her education includes nursing study in Barcelona (1986), at Escola d’Infermeria Vall Hebron, and at George Mason University (2002). She studied piano and music theory at Conservatory Municipal de Musica of Barcelona in her earlier years, and more recently studying piano with Stanislav Rosenberg (2009-2013) and Nikita Eitenko (2013-present). This is Ms. Planas-Villanova’s first appearance at piano artist competitions for adult non-professionals.

Anecdote: At the beginning of living in Germany, I told a friend “auf Deutch” that “I needed to eat a cat,” whereas I meant to say, “I need to feed my cat!” I’m always learning!

**REPERTOIRE**

**Preliminary Round**
- Edvard Grieg
- Fryderyk Chopin
- Alexander Scriabin
- Fryderyk Chopin

Nocturne, Op. 54
Étude, Op. 10, No. 2
Prelude (pour la main gauche seule), Op. 9
Étude, Op. 10, No. 12 (Revolutionary)

**Semi-Final Round**
- Franz Schubert
- Fryderyk Chopin

Impromptu, Op. 90 No. 2
Ballade No. 1 in G Minor, Op. 23

**Final Round**
- Claude Debussy
- Franz Schubert
- Fryderyk Chopin
- Enrique Granados
- Fryderyk Chopin

Claire de Lune
Ständchen (from Schwanengesang)
Étude, Op. 10, No. 3
Spanish Dance No. 2, Orientale
Étude, Op. 10, No. 1
Leslie Shapiro, Ret. NY  Piano Teacher  Del Ray Beach, FL

Leslie Shapiro has devoted her life to piano since age 6. She grew up studying at the Juilliard School Preparatory Division with Katherine Parker and Edgar Roberts, the latter also at New York University, where she earned B.S. and M.A. degrees in piano/music education. Further studies include work with Zelma Bodzin and Eva Lisa Kovalik at the Juillard Evening Division. Her studies were interrupted by a stroke, which caused her premature retirement from teaching in the New York City school system in 2003. She had three additional strokes, but has managed to work her way back through rigorous physical therapy. Her piano work has played a significant role in her overall recovery.

Anecdote: Never give up on your dreams!

REPERTOIRE

Preliminary Round

Franz Liszt
Claude Debussy
Sergei Prokofiev

Sonetto 104 del Petrarca
Reflets dans l’eau [Image 1]
Suggestion Diabolique, Op.4, No. 4

Semifinal Round

Johann Sebastian Bach
Isaac Albéniz
Sergei Rachmaninoff

Aria and Ten Variations in the Italian Style
El Puerto [Iberia, 1st Book] (The Port)
Prelude in C sharp minor, Op. 3, No. 2

Final Round

Johann Sebastian Bach
Franz Liszt
Nicolai Medtner
Sergei Rachmaninoff

Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue, BWV 903
Valse-Imromptu, R36
Sonata-Elegie in D minor, Op. 11, No. 2 (one movement sonata)
Prelude in G minor, Op. 23, No. 5
Max Sung, Physician
New York, New York

Dr. Max Sung is a physician with a practice in New York. Prior to his medical studies, he studied music for a year on a German Academic Exchange Fellowship with Professor Helmut Roloff at the National College of Music and Theatrical Arts in Berlin, Germany. He also took courses in chamber music performance with Leon Kirschner, Earl Kim and Patricia Zander at Harvard University. Dr. Sung is a frequent competitor in competitions worldwide and has performed several times at the Washington International Piano Artists Competition, winning a variety of special awards for his performances.

Anecdote: A man of very few words.

REPERTOIRE

Preliminary Round

Fryderyk Chopin
Nocturne in B, Op. 62, No. 1
Fryderyk Chopin
Scherzo in C sharp minor, Op. 39

Semifinal Round

Fryderyk Chopin
Polonaise-Fantaisie in A flat, Op. 61
Johannes Brahms
Intermezzo in A, Op. 118, No. 2
Maurice Ravel
Toccata from Le Tombeau de Couperin

Final Round

Ludwig van Beethoven
Allegro con brio
Introduzione: Adagio molto
Rondo: Allegretto moderato – Prestissimo
Hideya Suzuki, R&D Chemistry Research

Hideya is an R&D Research Chemist at the polymer laboratory of DIC Corporation. He began studies in piano at age 5, but lessons were interrupted at age 8, then he restarted at age 15 with a new teacher. He married Kotomi, who is also a pianist, in 2003. They both participated in many piano competitions for non-professional pianists in Japan for the past 15 years! They have also performed in similar competitions in Paris, Vienna, Chicago, Hawaii, and Colorado Springs. This will be their first visit to Washington, DC. Mr. Suzuki's younger sister, Yoko, and her family, reside in Los Alamos, New Mexico.

Anecdote: I would like to say that the preliminary round expresses various “winds” of Debussy. My semifinal round is related to “water” (snow, sunken cathedrals, and big beautiful carp). My final round I think of the word “Bydlo.” borrowed from the Polish “bydło” which means “cattle”. In online culture, bydlo has been used as a derogatory term to designate someone who is considered backwards, like the connotative uses of redneck). An episode of the oxen drearily hauling a heavy load is the actual scene, the painting that Mussorgsky refers to with his music. When performed with orchestras, this part is given to trombone or euphonia.

REPERTOIRE

Preliminary Round

Claude Debussy

Preludes from BOOK I
No. 2 Sails or Veils
No. 3 The Wind on the Plain
No. 4 Sounds and Fragrances Intertwine in Evening Air
No. 7 What the West Wind has Seen

Semifinal Round

Johannes Brahms
Intermezzo in A Major, Op. 118, No. 2

Claude Debussy
Preludes from BOOK I
No. 5 Footprints in the Snow
No. 10 Sunken Cathedral

Claude Debussy
Images, Book II, No. 3 The Golden Fish

Final Round

Modest Mussorgsky
Pictures at an Exhibition
Bydlo; Promenade; Ballet of the Unhatched Chicks;
Samuel Goldenberg and Schmulyle; Promenade;
Limoges; The Market Square; Catacombs;
With the Dead in a Dead Language; Babjaga;
The Hut on Hen's Legs; The Great Gate of Kiev
Kotomi Suzuki, Housewife  Chiba-City, Japan

Kotomi Suzuki began piano lessons at 6 years of age with a piano teacher near the house where she lived. She tried other instruments, such as the flute during her teenage years, and has also played the Koto (Japanese harp) when she was 20. Since marrying Hideya Suzuki in 2003, they have jointly participated in nonprofessional piano competitions in Paris, Vienna, Chicago, Hawaii, Colorado Springs, and Japan. This will be their first visit to Washington, DC. She had been working in the financial department of Agility Ltd., a logistics company in Japan, for 17 years, but now, especially enjoys taking care of a 3 year old daughter, Honoka, at home.

**Anecdote:** My favorite composers are Prokofiev and Ravel. I am also performing music of the Russian composer, Kapustin, a little bit jazzy, very close to my feelings. Ravel and Poulenc are for France, and Samuel Barber for America. Music is a wonderful world of many colors, ideas, and beautiful music to share.

**REPERTOIRE**

**Preliminary Round**

- Sergei Prokofiev
  - Prelude from 10 Pieces, Op. 12
  - Sonata No. 3, Op. 28

**Semi-Final Round**

- Nikolay Kapustin
- Samuel Barber
- Maurice Ravel
  - Prelude from Eight Concert Etudes, Op. 40
  - Excursions, Op. 20
  - Tombeau de Couperin (selections)
  - Prelude, Forlane, Toccata

**Final Round**

- Francis Poulenc
- Sergei Prokofiev
  - Hommage à Edith Piaff
  - Sonata No. 2, Op. 14
Surrounded and influenced by a rich mix of traditions, Indonesian-born Ferdy Talan has continued his quest for the path less traveled. Cited for his imaginative programming, Talan was awarded Third Prize at the Washington International Piano Artists Competition in 2016, and was a semifinalist at the 27th International Competition for Outstanding Piano Amateurs in Paris. In 2017, Mr. Talan shared first prize at the Boston Piano Amateur Competition. Since 2012, he has studied with Zitta Zohar, whose vision and guidance have shaken and continue to awaken his sense of being and purpose. As a real estate agent, Ferdy continues to be in the forefront leader of his niche market, acting as trusted advisor to his Southeast Asian clientele.

**REPERTOIRE**

**Preliminary Round**
- Johann Sebastian Bach: Capriccio on the departure of a beloved brother, BWV 992

**Semifinal Round**

**Final Round**
- Franz Liszt: Ballade No. 2, S. 171
- Nicolai Kapustin: Variations, Op. 41
Yinuo Tang, Asst. Professor

Dr. Yinuo Tang was born into a musical family in Beijing, China, where he began studying piano with Guangren Zhou at the age of six. After winning many regional and national piano competitions, he gave a successful public recital at the Forbidden City Hall when he was seventeen. With great enthusiasm for performing, he has performed in more than twenty countries as an active young pianist since then. In 2001, he performed at Lincoln Center, New York City after winning the Finalist Award in Lennox International Young Pianist Competition at Dallas. He received a bachelor’s degree in economics from Tsinghua University. In 2008, he performed at the National Center for the Performing Arts (the Egg) in Beijing, China. As a MPA candidate at Cornell University, he studied with Professor Xak Bjerken and gave a recital there in 2010. In 2015, he earned his PhD in Strategic Management at University of Pittsburgh. He is the recipient of the Gold Medal in the amateur category of the 2015 Sixth Seattle International Piano Competition. In 2016, he earned the championship in the Chicago Amateur Piano Competition. (Dr. Tang's website at U. of Hong Kong is https://www.fbe.hku.hk/staff/academic/detail/yinuo-tang)

Anecdote: Playing the piano makes me feel alive. I very much appreciate every opportunity of making a contribution to the musical world. In my perspective, this is the most meaningful way of living.

REPERTOIRE

Preliminary Round

Johann Sebastian Bach
Franz Liszt

Italienisches Konzert, BWV 971 (I. Allegro)
Tarantella da Guillaume Louis Cottrau, S.162(3)

Semi-Final Round

Schumann-Liszt
Bach-Busoni

Widmung (Liebeslied) No.1 from Myrthen S. 566
Chaconne in D Minor, BWV 1004

Final Round

Fryderyk Chopin

Polonaise in A-flat major, Op.53 (Heroique)
Andante Spianato et Grande Polonaise Brillante, Op.22
Dr. Utako Tanigawa, Exec. Technology Advisor, Georgia

Dr. Utako Tanigawa has been an executive in technology divisions in multiple global corporations for more than three decades. In addition, she has been an academic researcher and lecturer in Computer Science, Leadership, and Information Systems at universities of Stanford, Boston, Colorado and Chicago. Several years ago, her life took a dramatic turn due to a life-threatening illness. However, it brought her back to the love of music which has been providing her a tangible lifeline. Music continues to play a key soothing and healing role as her recovery continues. She has been a contestant of international amateur piano competitions in Washington International Piano Artists Competition, Chicago, Van Cliburn, Chopin Competition in Warsaw, Poland; and Piano Bridge in St. Petersburg. She is a founder and president of Georgia Musicale Group (www.mygmg.org).

Anecdote: Although Utako suffers multiple side effects from Chemo Therapy, her spirit is with the Georgia Musicale Group (www.mygmg.org) where many music lovers get together and enjoy music.

REPERTOIRE

Preliminary Round

Joseph Haydn
Franz Schubert

Sonata Hob:xvi 49, 1st movement
Impromptu, Op. 142, No. 3

Semi-Final Round

Jean Phillipe Rameau
Felix Mendelssohn
Fryderyk Chopin

Gavotte & 6 doubles
Rondo Capriccioso, Op. 14
Etudes Op. 25, No. 5; Op. 10, No. 12

Final Round

Ludwig Van Beethoven
Fryderyk Chopin

WoW 80, 32 Variations
Scherzo, No. 2
Hiroaki Taniguchi, Government worker

Hiroaki Taniguchi was born in Tsuyama-city, Okayama pref., Japan in 1970 and began to study piano at the age of 5. After graduation from Kwansei-University’s law department, he started to work at the Nishinomiya-city hall. He has studied piano with professor and pianist, Mr. Shinya Okahara and Ms. Reiko Nakaoki. Mr. Taniguchi received the 3rd prize at the International Piano Competition for outstanding amateur pianists in Paris in 2005 (and also finalist in 1999, 2000 and 2002). And he also received the 1st prize at the Osaka international music competition (duo-category) in 2006, and the 2nd prize (no 1st prize) at the Tokyo piano competition in 2014. He has held many solo recitals since 1999 and performed with the Orchestra at the Japanese famous TV program “Concert without title” in 2005. In 2015, he performed Grieg's Piano Concerto with Tsuyama Symphony Orchestra.

Hiroaki has been devoting musical performances to support the refugees of Minamisanriku-town, Miya-gi-pref., Japan, extremely damaged by the great earthquakes and tsunami in 2011. He has visited there many times to soothe their hurt feelings with piano music and held many charity concerts for Minamisanriku-town in both Japan and Paris.

Anecdote: I will perform a piano concert for Minamisanriku-town.

REPertoire

Preliminary Round

Edvard Grieg
Norwegian Melody, Op. 12, No. 6
Spring Dance, Op. 47, No. 6

Dmitry Kabalevsky
Piano Sonata No.3, Op. 46
1st movement, Allegro con moto
2nd movement, Andante cantabile

Semi-final Round

Fryderyk Chopin
Nocturne No.13, Op.48, No. 1

Johannes Brahms
Capriccio, Op. 76, No. 5

Franz Liszt
Legend No.2 St. François de Paule: marchant sur les flots

Final Round

Olivier Messiaen
Ils de feux

Franz Liszt
Valee d’Obermann

Alberto Ginastera
Danzas Argentinas, Op. 2
Yoko Taruki, Director of Kindergarten Sch, Yokohama, Japan

Yoko Taruki is a School Director in Yokohama, Japan. She started learning to play the piano at age four, but stopped in high school. She came to the US and graduated with a MS from the Indiana University. She has worked in the social science fields. In 2005, she was invited to perform at the music concert in the Dominican Republic, which inspired her to return to piano performances. From 2005 to 2012, she took a piano amateur program at Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris and attended the summer piano programs at Mannes College in NYC. In 2009, she was a finalist at the International piano amateur competitions in Osaka, Japan and Tianjin, China. Yoko has participated in other International amateur piano competitions in Berlin, Boston, Chicago Paris, Texas, and Washington, DC.

Anecdote: When the children in my school listen to my piano playing, they say “That is a beautiful song!” So I am always so happy.

REPERTOIRE

Preliminary Round

Franz Schubert
Sonata No.13 in A major, D644 Op. 120
Allegro moderato
Andante
Allegro

Semi-Final Round

Robert Schumann
Sonata No. 2 in G Minor, Op. 22
Andantino: Getragen.
Scherzo: Sehr rasch und markiert
Rondo: Presto

Final Round

Fryderyk Chopin
Ballade No. 3 in A-flat Major, Op. 47
Maurice Ravel
Jeaux d’eau
Claude Debussy
L’isle joyeuse
I-Wen Tseng, Interior Designer               Baltimore, MD USA

I-Wen Tseng started studying piano at the age of 6 because her parents thought it a great way for her to learn patience. Little did she know the road of learning patience kept going until she finished graduate school. Soon after she earned her degree, I-Wen quit piano and went on to study interior design and architecture, and worked in that field for many years. In 2013, I-Wen hit a health downturn, which forced her to stop working and do nothing but rest. After a year of recuperating and soul searching, I-Wen realized that she really missed playing the piano and started to look for help to relearn the craft of piano playing. In the Fall of 2014, I-Wen started working with Mr. Robert Durso and has been learning a whole new way of playing and teaching piano under his guidance. As of now, I-Wen is teaching piano part time while continuing to learn the craft of playing. This competition will be her first public solo performance since her graduation recital 20 years ago!

Anecdote: My bucket list.

REPERTOIRE

Preliminary Round

Johann Sebastian Bach        Toccatta in E Minor, BWV 914
   Introduction; Un poco Allegro; Adagio; Fugue
Niccolò Paganini/Franz Liszt  Etude No. 3, La Campanella

Semi-Final Round

Fryderyk Chopin             Fantasie in F Minor, Op. 49
   Ballade No. 3 in A Flat Major, Op. 47
Fryderyk Chopin

Final Round

Ludwig van Beethoven        Sonata No. 21 in C Major, Op. 53, Waldstein
   Allegro con brio
   Introduzione. Adagio molto-attacca
   Rondo. Allegretto moderato
Wei Ling Wang, Computer Network Specialist

Wei Ling Wang graduated from Rice University with a degree in computer science, and has since been building cloud computer networks to transport voice, data and video for consumers and corporations. In recent years, Wei Ling participated in amateur piano competitions in Boston, Chicago, and Washington D.C., and she was a silver medalist of the 2017 Boston Amateur Piano Competition 2-Round category. Wei Ling is also an active supporter of music schools and non-profit music organizations.

REPERTOIRE

Preliminary Round

Fryderyk Chopin
- Prelude in C Minor, Op. 28, No. 20
- Waltz in A Minor, Op. 34, No. 2
- Waltz in E Minor, Op. Posthumous

Semi-Final Round

Fryderyk Chopin
- Mazurka in A Minor, Op. 17, No. 4
- Mazurka in C Major, Op. 56, No. 2
- Polonaise in G Flat Major, Op. Posthumous

Tan Dun
- Eight Memories in Watercolor, Op. 1, No. 8 Sunrain

Final Round

Domenico Scarlatti
- Sonata in D Minor K. 213

Fryderyk Chopin
- Nocturne in B Flat Minor, Op. 9, No. 1

Sergei Rachmaninoff
- Morceaux de fantaisie, Op. 3
  - No. 1, Elegie
  - No. 4, Polichinelle
Welcome to the Wonderful World of WIPAC and Music!

This is the 15th Washington International Piano Artists Competition, the longest running annual competition for non-professional piano artists in the USA. The longest running competition of its kind is the granddaddy of all, Le Concours de Grandes Amateurs de Piano, in Paris, France. The difference between us is that WIPAC accepts pianists 31 years and older, whereas the French start at 18.

To WIPAC, these are simply just pianists who have the passion and love to play the piano to share their talent and make music flourish in our community!

This year, we extend heartfelt thanks to H.E. Pierreclive Agius, the Ambassador of Malta, the Honorary Chair of the Festival of Music 2017 and the 15th WIPAC competition. We also thank the Ambassadors of the Embassies of Barbados, Bulgaria, Philippines, Poland, Romania and Slovakia for their unyielding cooperation and support during this past year. We could have not done what we aspire to do without their support.

To our beloved patron Austin Hay, thank you for always “Being there!” And a big thanks to Lola C. Reinsch, and Al Pierce of the Reinsch-Pierce Foundation. And most especially, our thanks to a dear friend, Robin Phillips, WIPAC Board Member and Patron of the Arts, for her support and hosting the “Musicale” event earlier this year.

We offer special thanks to the team of Dr. James Trefil and Dr. Wanda O’Brien-Trefil for accepting our invitation to chair this 15th year of competition in Washington. Many thanks to Suzanne Finney for coordinating the editorial aspects of the program with Wanda.

We give special mention to Wayne and Linda Sharp for their support in the production of the first “Musicale” concert in cooperation with Tyson-McLean Orchestra, and sponsoring the artist at Embassy of Slovak Republic “East meets West” cultural event presented by WIPAC. To Dagmar Timurova, Slovak Embassy Cultural Attaché, leaving at the end of her tour in August, “Farewell, dear partner!”

To the following individuals, in addition to the above, who share our passion for music with their generous contributions, and without whom this event would have not been possible:

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