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ARTS AND CULTURE, COMMUNITY NEWS

WIPAC “Festival of Music” Welcomes Pianists in Preliminary Rounds

by Henri Georges Polgar • August 1, 2014

The 12th annual Washington International Piano Artists Competition was off to a great start today when pianist competitors from around the world participated in the preliminary round of the competition held at George Washington University.

Representing the USA, France, Germany, Japan and Taiwan pianists performed before a distinguished jury comprised of Dr. Raymond Jackson, concert pianist and professor of piano at Howard University; Tzvetan Konstantinov, concert pianist, professor at George Washington University and President of the International Leopold Godowsky Institute; Jay Gottlieb, concert pianist, composer and author; Frank Conlon, professor in the music department of George Washington University, and attorney Michael Davidson.

Madame Chateau Gardecki, founder and director of the Washington International Piano Artists Competition, graciously presided over the rounds introducing each performer.

Indeed, for music lovers and especially devotees of the classical piano repertoire, the WIPAC is a great opportunity to enjoy hours of wonderful piano performances. The next rounds will take place on August 1 at 1:20 pm at the George Washington University Music Department at 801 22 St, NW in Phillip Hall.

The Washington International Piano Artists Competition is one of the leading worldwide events devoted to the “amateur pianist.” These are musicians who have pursued their dedication to piano performance while working in other professions. Today an array of doctors, surgeons, attorneys, educators, railroad officer, scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs gathered to make wonderful music. Gerard de Botton, Casy Cherko, Dana Morgan, Andrew Celentano, Daniel Chow, Neil McKelvie, Jeremias Mameghani, Michael Slavin and Andrew Celentano were the pianists that participated in the preliminary rounds. There is a sense of “grandeur” to the lives of these pianists who have developed expertise in their own professions as they preserved their dedication to the art of piano playing at a very high level. Although some contestants performed more successfully than others, they all succeeded in making “time stop” for their audience which is the sign of true artistry.

WIPAC continues to live up to its pledge 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 arts of classical piano music.” Hurrah for WIPAC.

