

*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

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*The Festival of Music 2017 and the 15<sup>th</sup> Washington International Piano Artists Competition*

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and Mrs. Pierreclive Agius*

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**Chairman of the Jury – Michael Davidson, Esq.**

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Washington International  
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## The Festival of Music 2017 and The 15th Washington International Piano Artists Competition

*Welcome to the Wonderful World of Music!*

 **D**ear Friends of WIPAC,



*As we host the 15<sup>th</sup> 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 Kosuszko 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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



Washington International  
Piano Arts  
Council

## The Festival of Music 2017 and The 15th Washington International Piano Artists Competition

 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**



Washington International  
Piano Arts  
Council

## The Festival of Music 2017 and The 15th Washington International Piano Artists Competition

 Dear Friends of the Arts,



It is an honor and privilege to welcome all the outstanding pianists and renowned judges to the 15<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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



**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 accompanied 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.



# JURY FOR SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS

## JANICE WEBER

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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

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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



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



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](http://www.FestivalDC.com), which highlights and promotes the richness of the culturally and ethnically diverse communities of the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

*Congratulations!*

On the 15<sup>th</sup> International Piano Artists Competition

*In memory of*  
Charles Silverman



— Dr. Joyce Hagel-Silverman

**The Festival of Music 2017 and  
The 15<sup>th</sup> 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*  
**Best Performance of a Classical Work** – *Donated by Michael Davidson, Esq.  
In Memory of Prof. Tzvetan Konstantinov*  
**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, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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*







# THE 2017 COMPETITORS

## Pianists and Repertoire

**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. Bertges 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

Whippany, NJ



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 Allegro vivace
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
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## 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  
Claude Debussy

Moments Musicaux Op. 16, No. 1  
L'isle joyeuse

#### **Semi-Final Round**

Franz Liszt  
Fryderyk Chopin

Sposalizio  
Scherzo No. 2, Op. 31

#### **Final Round**

Felix Mendelssohn  
Felix Blumenfeld  
Franz Liszt

Rondo Capriccioso  
Left Hand Etude  
Hungarian Rhapsody No. 14





## Judy Darst, Ret. Piano Teacher

Bend, Oregon, USA



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  
Franz Schubert  
Fryderyk Chopin

Waltzes, Op. 39, Nos. 2,4,8,15  
Moment Musicale in F Minor  
Prelude in C Sharp Minor, Op. 45

#### Semifinal Round

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
Johannes Brahms  
Alexander Scriabin  
Xavier Schwarenka  
Daniel Weinberger

Sonata, K.330, First Movement  
Intermezzo, Op. 117, No. 1  
Prelude, Op. 13, No. 3  
Nocturne, Op. 86  
Shwanda Polka (arr. Blasser)

#### Final Round

Robert Schumann  
Sergei Rachmaninov  
Fryderyk Chopin

Romance in F-sharp Major, Op. 28, No. 2  
Prelude, Op. 32, No. 5  
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

Washington, DC/UK



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 9<sup>th</sup> 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  
Domenico Scarlatti  
Mily Balakirev

Novelette in F Major, Op. 21 No. 1  
Sonata in E Major, K.380; L.23  
Mazurka No. 6 in A-flat Major

#### Semifinal Round

Johann Sebastian Bach  
Franz Schubert  
Fryderyk Chopin

Partita No. 2 in C minor, BWV 826  
Sarabande and Caprice  
Drei Klavierstücke, D 946, No. 2 in E flat Major  
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 (1<sup>st</sup>), the National 15 Minute Piano Recital Competition (2<sup>nd</sup>), 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

Sposalizio from *Années De Pèlerinage*,  
Deuxième Année, Italie, S. 161: 1.

Fryderyk Chopin

Scherzo No. 4 in E Major, Op. 54

## David Leehey, Retired Physician

Oak Park, IL



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

Brookline, Massachusetts



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	<i>Brouillards</i> from Preludes, Book 2, L. 123
Abram Chasins	<i>Hommage à Haydn</i> , L. 115
	Rush Hour in Hong Kong, from Three Chinese Pieces, Op. 5

#### Semi Final Round

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

Detroit, Michigan



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, <i>Ich Ruf' Zu Dir</i>
Fryderyk Chopin	Mazurka, Op. 59, No. 1
Sergei Bortkiewicz	Lyrca 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	Lyrca 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
H. Villa-Lobos	Allegro vivace Poema Singelo

#### Semifinal Round

Fryderyk Chopin	Berceuse, Op.57
Maurice Ravel	Miroirs IV: <i>Alborada del gracioso</i>

#### 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  
Fryderyk Chopin  
Claude Debussy

George Enescu

Joc Tiganesc (Gypsy Dance)  
Étude, Op. 25, No. 1, *Aeolian Harp*  
Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum  
from Children's Corner's Suite  
Prelude from Piano Suite No. 1  
*Dans le style ancien*, Op. 3

#### Semifinal Round

Fryderyk Chopin  
Philip Wesley

Paul Constantinescu

Polonaise, Op. 40, No. 1, *Militaire*  
*Lamentations of the Heart*  
from the Album *Dark Night of the Soul*  
Toccata *Joc Dobrogean* (Dobrogean Dance)

#### Final Round

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Fryderyk Chopin  
Ludwig van Beethoven

Piano Sonata No. 11, K.331  
Third Movement: Allegretto (Alla Turca)  
Valse, Op. 69, No. 1  
Sonata No. 14, Op. 27, No. 2, *Quasi una Fantasia*  
Adagio sostenuto  
Allegretto  
Presto agitato



## Nuria Planas-Villanova, Registered Nurse

Vienna, VA



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 Deutsch" 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-Impromptu, 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  
Fryderyk Chopin

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

#### Semifinal Round

Fryderyk Chopin  
Johannes Brahms  
Maurice Ravel

Polonaise-Fantaisie in A flat, Op. 61  
Intermezzo in A, Op. 118, No. 2  
Toccata from Le Tombeau de Couperin

#### Final Round

Ludwig van Beethoven

Sonata in C, Op. 53 "Waldstein"  
Allegro con brio  
Introduzione: Adagio molto  
Rondo: Allegretto moderato – Prestissimo

## Hideya Suzuki, R&D Chemistry Research

Chiba-City, Japan



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 "Bydło," borrowed from the Polish "bydło" which means "cattle". In online culture, bydło 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 euphonium.

### 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

Bydło; Promenade; Ballet of the Unhatched Chicks;

Samuel Goldenberg and Schmulyle; Promenade;

Limoges; The Market Square; Catacombs;

With the Dead in a Dead Language; Babyaga;

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

## Ferdy Talan, Real Estate Agent

Sherman, CT



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 realtor, 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  
York Bowen

Capriccio on the departure of a beloved brother, BWV 992  
Toccata, Op. 155

#### Semifinal Round

Edvard Grieg

Ballade, Op. 24

#### Final Round

Franz Liszt  
Nicolai Kapustin

Ballade No. 2, S. 171  
Variations, Op. 41

## Yinuo Tang, Asst. Professor

Hong Kong



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







## Hiroaki Taniguchi, Government worker

Kobe, Japan



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 Kwansai-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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> prize at the Osaka international music competition (duo-category) in 2006, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize (no 1<sup>st</sup> 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, Miyagi-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
	1 <sup>st</sup> movement, Allegro con moto
	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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. <i>François de Paule: marchant sur les flots</i>

#### 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  
So rasch wie möglich. Schneller. Noch schneller.  
Andantino: Getragen.  
Scherzo: Sehr rasch und markiert  
Rondo: Presto

#### Final Round

Fryderyk Chopin  
Maurice Ravel  
Claude Debussy

Ballade No. 3 in A-flat Major, Op. 47  
Jeux d'eau  
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
Niccol Paganini/Franz Liszt	Introduction; Un poco Allegro; Adagio; Fugue Etude No. 3, <i>La Campanella</i>

#### Semi-Final Round

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

#### Final Round

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

Plano, Texas



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  
Eight Memories in Watercolor, Op. 1, No. 8 *Sunrain*

Tan Dun

#### Final Round

Domenico Scarlatti  
Fryderyk Chopin  
Sergei Rachmaninoff

Sonata in D Minor K. 213  
Nocturne in B Flat Minor, Op. 9, No. 1  
Morceaux de fantaisie, Op. 3  
No. 1, Elegie  
No. 4, Polichinelle

# Special Acknowledgement

"WIPAC QUOTE..." **Music gives a soul to the universe...**

**Wings to the mind, Flight to the imagination and Life to everything." Plato**

Welcome to the Wonderful World of WIPAC and Music!

This is the 15<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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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