



Notes from the Piano Bench

Washington International Piano Arts Council (WIPAC)

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27 E

Winter 2016

Volume XXXIII

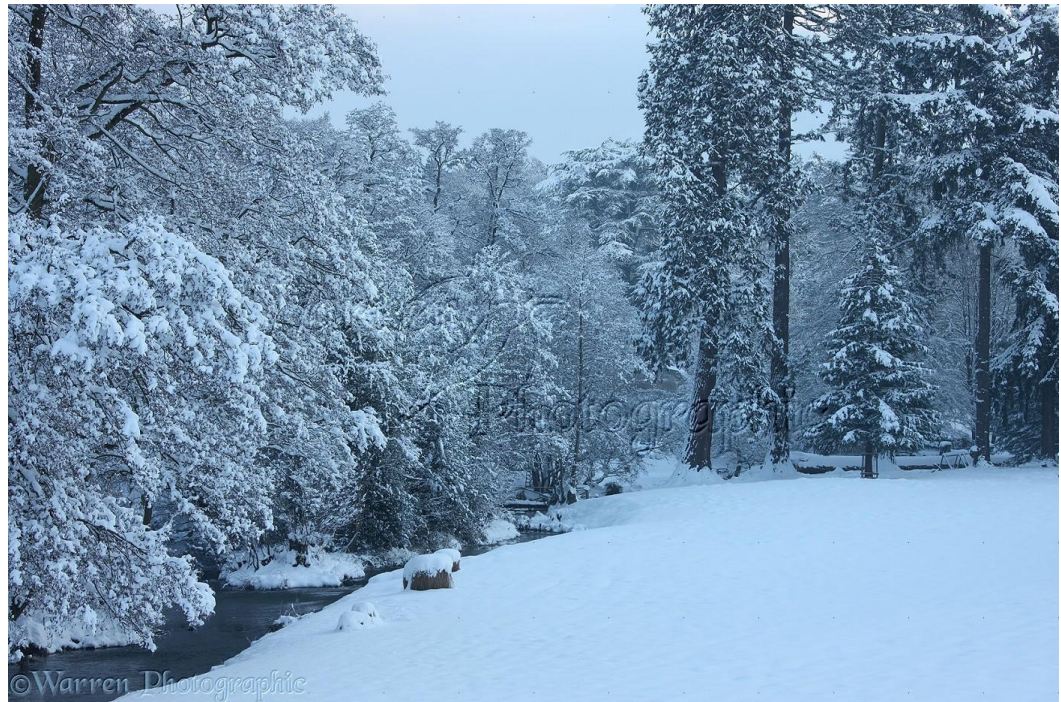
Regular Edition

* No. 34

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WELCOME to the Wonderful World of Music



©Warren Photographic

HAPPY NEW YEAR

First Snow came but only a tease! Scene from Clip Art.

★ HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ★

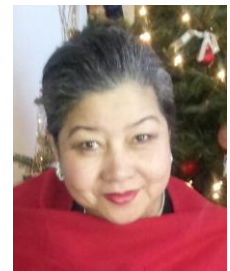
Greetings for a happy birthday



Message from the Chair

May you had a blessed holiday and a New Year filled with joy and productive days. We will have a new administration in our country, and we pray for Peace and Unity. WIPAC starts with great expectations and hope in this our 16th year with thanks to all our donors, patrons and members whose support and keep us going.

Personal thanks to Wayne and Linda Sharp for inviting me to join the board of The McLean Orchestra. Big thanks to Lola Reinsch and the family foundation for a matching grant drive in 2016! Last and not least, sincere thanks to the Gala Committee for a great event!!!



Chateau Gardecki, WIPAC Board Chair and Founder

(100 Most influential Women in the U.S. of Phil. Descent 2011 Filipino Women's Network)

WIPAC QUOTE

"Music gives a soul to the universe...

Wings to the mind,

Flight to the imagination and

Life to everything."

Plato

Category of Links

WWW.WIPAC.ORG



[Calendar of Events](#)

Call 703 728-7766



Notes as a Rose
Radio Classique

2017

**Kosciuszko
Foundation Center
2025 O Street NW
Washington, DC**

**BIG THANKS AND
SALUTE TO**

**ROBIN PHILLIPS AND
PAMELA WRIGHT**

*Sentimental
Journey*

From the President

Dear Friends of WIPAC,

It gives me great pleasure to report that our annual gala was a success again and now at this writing, we are approaching the holiday season.

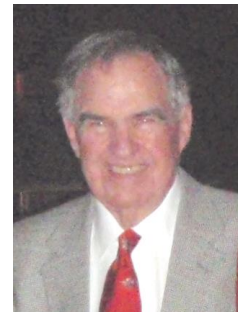
Again, I would like to thank our board, our committees and our supporters for making it possible for us to bring music as a means of communication between all the countries on this earth.

I am so pleased to have Chateau and John Gardecki as our exceptional team at the helm.

They have been our guiding light though out our endeavor to accomplish our goal to have the WIPAC competition as one of the foremost competitions in the United States.

WIPAC's Christmas party at the Bulgarian Embassy was a great. I hope that you all who came had a fabulous time. Sincere thanks to His Excellency Tihomir Stoytchev and his lovely wife Lubka.

Please keep up your support. Our team is committed to do the work necessary to ensure to have the best experience at the competitions.



Warm regards,
Clayton Eisinger

ARTS AND CULTURE, COMMUNITY NEWS

Part II of WIPAC's Fall Piano Concert Series Another Great Success

by [H and L Polgar](#) • October 24, 2016

Noted Pianist Francis Conlon performed at WIPAC's Fall Piano Concert Series Part II evoking a timeless "salon" atmosphere in the intimate setting of the Kosciuszko Foundation. Annotating each piano work with interesting comments, the audience experienced a direct connection with the music as well as with the pianist.

The most accomplished pianists are those who have honed their musicianship skills to allow their personality to filter through the music. Francis Conlon is such a pianist, as his audience enjoyed the warm and mellow tones of his performance, he demonstrated a gift for choosing tempi that allowed the music to breathe.

Special Acknowledgement

Matching Grant Donors

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WIPAC DIPLOMATIC

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Bulgaria Tihomir Stoytchev

H.E. the Ambassador of
Mozambique

H.E. the Ambassador of the
Philippines
Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. and Mrs.
Vicky Cuisia

The program consisted of three Domenico Scarlatti Sonatas, A Major, L 483, D Minor, L 413, E Major, L 430; Scriabin's two pieces for the Left Hand Alone, Opus 9, Prelude in C Sharp Minor, and Nocturne in D Flat Major; the Chopin Polonaise in A Flat Major, Opus 53; the Prole do Bebe suite by Heitor Villa Lobos; the three Preludes of Gershwin and the famous Rhapsody in Blue.

Mr. Conlon is a seasoned performer who has performed at Carnegie Hall, the Gardner Museum in Boston, Robin Hood Dell in Philadelphia, Kennedy Center, the National Gallery, the Phillips Collection, the Corcoran Gallery, the Smithsonian Institution amongst many other venues. He has taught at such major universities as George Washington, Georgetown, Catholic University School of Music, George Mason, the Ellington School of the Arts, amongst others.

The finale of the recital was the Gershwin Rhapsody in Blue. Although the work is usually performed with an orchestra, Mr. Conlon presented his own brilliant arrangement giving a wonderful rendition for solo piano.

Mr. Eisinger, President of the WIPAC Board of Directors commented that he appreciated Mr. Conlon's annotations of the music which enhanced the overall experience of the audience. Mr. John Gardecki, Co-Founder of WIPAC shared his admiration for Francis Conlon stating that he is a great asset to the cultural community of Washington DC.

A special surprise after the recital was a birthday celebration for Chateau Gardecki, Co-Founder and Board Chair of WIPAC.



Pianist Frank Conlon *** Rhoda Septilici with Chateau and Frank with Mike



Jean Wigham



Wanda and Frank



Hal, Clayton & John

Link to a Web page
www.wipac.org

The 2017 Festival of Music and The 15th Washington International Piano Competition is annually presented
In cooperation with the George Washington University music department,

the Kosciuszko Foundation and several embassies



Special Guests and Patrons

Leeda and Rand Allen
 Lola C. Reinsch
 J Almont Pierce
 Ms. Robin Phillips
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Friends

Harriet Becker
 Zidi Berger
 Mike & Portia Davidson
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 Diane Merriam
 Wei Ling Wang

WIPAC Diplomatic Council

Their Excellences
 The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Cambodia
 Chum Bun Rong and
 Madame Sonnantevy Run
 The Ambassador of Barbados to the OAS and
 Mrs. John Beale
 The Ambassador of Bulgaria and Mrs. Tihomir Stoytchev
 The Ambassador of Hungary Dr. Réka Szemerkenyi
 The Ambassador of Slovak Republic and Mrs. Peter Kmec
 The Ambassador of

2016 WIPAC Fall Gala

The WIPAC Gala was a big success!!! Highlights of the evening was a touching speech of the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Cambodia following the lead of Chateau Gardecki in regards to using Music as means to achieve peace and making WIPAC's mission to promote international friendship and understanding among nations.

We were surrounded by ambassadors from the Islands, to Europe, African nation and Asian continent. How great is that!!! below photos,



Bob Ryan with the Eisinger's, Ambassador Beale; Leon and Deborah Snead; and next photo is H. E. Ambassador of Cambodia and Chateau Gardecki.

Mary Hood, Zelmira Nedelcovic and Nancita Palma at the Gala. Photos by Claudette Davis.



Romania and Mrs. George
Cristian Maior
The Ambassador of
Mozambique and Mrs.
Carlos Dos Santos

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Contact: WIPAC
3862 Farrcroft Drive
FAIRFAX, VA 22030

La Musique et Les Amis on November 17 was as the title says. The music



performed by the luminous trio capped by Jose Ramos Santana's Chopin Nocturne and the birthday boy John Gardecki performing Chopin's Fantasie Impromptu, and Champagne!

Big, big thanks to Marsha Muawwad and Dr. Rafik who chaired the event and introduced these delightful artists! Hooray!

Certainly one of the highlights of the evening (and there were many) was the speech of the Cambodian Ambassador. I was very impressed with his sincere testament to the value of music, given what he acknowledged

his country has endured. We are all aware of the brutal & difficult hardships so many of his countrymen suffered and thus his references to that time, I would surmise, was not an easy or pleasant topic. Acknowledging this history, his statements about the importance and role of music certainly was a welcome endorsement of the principles upon which WIPAC was founded and rests.

KUDOs to the chairs of the gala, committee members, WIPAC Board members, Chateau & John, and others, all of whom organized and made this such a special event and invited the Ambassador to speak.

Mike Davidson



Their Excellences Ambassador of Mozambique and Barbados with Mrs. John Beale; Olga Ryan; next group are Barbara Fenton, John Dassoulas, Susan and Ernie Ascenbach

PHOTOS BY Claudette Davis

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[For all donations](#)
www.wipac.org
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[Available at](#)
www.wipac.org



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Sheila & Tom Switzer
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SCENES OF 2016 from Competition to New Year's Eve



Ken Iisaka, WIPAC Winner
Left, The Finalists of the
14th WIPAC Competition
Held in Washington, DC



Competition Prelims and Awards Night



Black Tie December Party



Christmas Party at the Bulgarian Ambassador's Residence



Army and Navy Country Club New Year's Eve

Eberhard & Veronika
von Loehneysen



Invitation to join **WIPAC SPONSORS AND PATRONS**

Welcome to WIPAC 2016 Season

We wish to invite you to support and renew your membership to enable WIPAC to present the musical program, which is now a tradition in the Capital City of Washington.

May we take this opportunity to say thanks to all WIPAC General Members, Sponsors, Patrons and Donors!

WIPAC has presented highly successful international piano competitions in cooperation with The George Washington University Music Department, International Finance Corporation of the IMF/World Bank Group, The Arts Club of Washington, The Kosciuszko Foundation, Mexican Cultural Institute and several embassies. WIPAC has presented well-attended annual November Galas since 2003, as fundraisers for the international piano competition and concerts under the gracious patronage of foreign Ambassadors.

Come join other devoted music lovers and enjoy the numerous benefits that WIPAC has to offer our sponsors, patrons and members. For WIPAC new and current members, we offer a wonderful list of special events as below, which were successfully presented on a shoestring budget

WIPAC 2016 Calendar of Events is available at

www.wipac.org

The Festival of Music
2017

&
**The 15th Annual
Washington
International Piano
Artists Competition**

CASH AWARDS

Grand Prize
Debut Recital -The
Kosciuszko Foundation
Center
First Prize - \$ 2,000
Second Prize - \$ 1,000
Third Prize - \$ 500



TROPHIES

**First Prize Piano
Second & Third
Competition
Certificates**



SPECIAL AWARDS-

\$250 and Donors
Best Performance of
Bach's composition
Best Performance of
Beethoven works

Best Performance of
Chopin works

Best Performance of a
Polish composition

Best Performance for
Baroque Period

Best Performance of
Contemporary Work

Best Performance of
Classical

Most Imaginative
Programming

Best Performance of a
Romantic Period

Best Performance of
Bach composition

The Audience Award

The Press Jury Award

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My name: _____ Tel. No. _____ E-mail: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ STATE: ___ ZIP: _____

Level of Membership

___ One YR ___ Two Year New: ___ Renewal: _____
___ \$50+ Supporter Individual Basic Membership benefit as below
___ \$75+ Supporter Two-year Basic Membership benefit as below
___ \$125+ Sponsor Competition Passes and above
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Make Checks Payable to: WIPAC Membership
Mail to: 3862 Farrcroft Dr. Fairfax, VA 22030 -Tax ID 61-1426920

Basic Membership benefits includes: Advance notice to all special events and The Kosciuszko Foundation Fall and Spring Piano Concert Series. Quarterly Newsletter and listing in programs and WIPAC logo pin. WIPAC is a 501 (c) (3). All contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. Thank you! WIPAC Board



Washington International
Piano Arts
Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chateau Gardecki, wipac@verizon.net

703-728-7766

In cooperation with WIPAC

**The McLean Orchestra
Presenting**

An Afternoon of Classical Piano Music
“Fantasie Musicale”

Ken Iisaka

WIPAC First Place Winner 2016

(Sponsored by Linda and Wayne Sharp)

Sunday, January 29th, 2017
3 o'clock in the afternoon

VIP Champagne Reception, Piano Concert, and Wine Reception

Our Host- Robin Phillips' Carderock Falls Manor
1323 Calder Road
McLean, VA 22101

RSVP: Card enclosed By January 20

Sunday Best

**MCLEAN
ORCHESTRA**
MIRIAM BURNS
MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

For More Information: 703-893-8646
Margot Young, President
Miriam Burns, MO Conductor

**Visit MCLEAN ORCHESTRA Website*
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