



Notes from the Piano Bench

Washington International Piano Arts Council (WIPAC)

Established 2001

28 F

Spring 2017

Volume XXXV

Regular Edition

* No. 35

In This Issue

- A Road in Texas
- * Message from The Chairman of the Board
- From the President
- WIPAC GALA
- Highlights and scenes
- Scenes of 2016
- Fantasie Musicale

WELCOME to the Wonderful World of Music



A highway in Texas that may lead you to our concert.
Posted on Facebook by Wayne Sharp.

★HAPPY★
BIRTHDAY!

Greetings for a
happy birthday

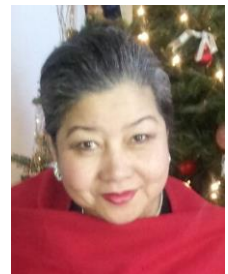


Michael Davidson
WIPAC
Parliamentarian

Message from the Chair

Spring is in peril because of the recent Indian summer in late February and early March. It was warm and our yard was blooming with primroses. Crocus and daffodils. Then, bam! #*^# Mr. Snow showed up. Oh well, c'est la vie. Pas grave, as they say in Paree..

In 2017, WIPAC starts with great expectations and hope as this is our 16th year with thanks to all our donors, patrons and members whose support and keep us going. My 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 ending the year 2016 nicely! Last and not least, sincere thanks to the Gala Committee, Marsha, Carmen, Angela, Jean, Susie, Portia and donors 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

*To our new
members*

*Linda and Wayne
Sharp*

From the President

Dear Friends of WIPAC:

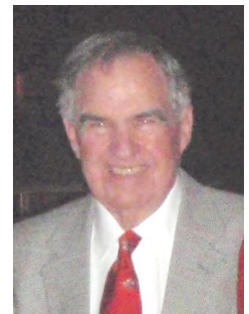
What a strange spring we have this year. This newsletter is being written as we are experiencing a snowfall on our flowering trees and springtime flowers.

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

On February 17th, we had "Winter Interlude" at the Slovakian Embassy. It was a concert performed by Maestro Thomas Pandolfi. Ambassador Peter Kmec and his wife, Monika Kmecova, were most gracious host and hostess, with a fabulous buffet reception which followed after the wonderful performance of our concert pianist.

On April 20th, we'll have another exciting event, at the Romanian Ambassador's residence, which will feature three winners of the International Piano Competition, with our Diplomatic Liaison, Rhoda Septilici, chairing the event. Invitations will go out this month, and we hope to see all of you there.

In closing, I would like reiterate our appreciation for our founders, Chateau and John Gardecki, our board members, committee members and volunteers. We are fortunate to have so many great members who volunteer their time to work for WIPAC, and participate in our events. We couldn't do it without these dedicated volunteers. I'm so proud to be part of this organization. Thank you all for your good work.



I'm looking forward to seeing you at our next event!

Warm regards, Clayton Eisinger
President

Scenes at various WIPAC Events in 2016



The famous fish at the Bulgarian Christmas Dinner for WIPAC, Blagodorja!!!!

*Special
Acknowledgement*

Matching Grant Donors

Reinsch-Pierce Family
Foundation
Richard Lounsbery
Foundation

Donors and Patrons

Mr. & Mrs. Rand Allen
Harriet Becker
Diane Bohn
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Cox
Michael & Portia Davidson
Susanne & Clayton Eisinger
Dr. & Mrs. Leslie H. Fenton
G. Austin Hay
Lloyd & Valerie Huff
Tehmina Khan
Angeles de Leon Khanna
Susan Lehrman
Mr. & Mrs. C Braxton
Moncure
Robin Phillips
Jacqueline Ohrstrom
Lola C. Reinsch
Mr. Charles Silverman
Dr. Joyce Hagel-Silverman
Jean Wigham

WIPAC DIPLOMATIC

Friends

H.E. the Ambassador of
Bulgaria Tihomir Stoytchev

H.E. the Ambassador of
Mozambique

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

Link to a Web page

www.wipac.org

[ARTS AND CULTURE, COMMUNITY NEWS](#)

WIPAC's 16th Grand Prix Celebrates Two Winners Hosted by Romanian Ambassador

by [H and L Polgar](#) • April 27, 2017

Beyond the beautiful music that one always enjoys at a Washington International Piano Arts Council piano recital, it is the special character of these events that continues to attract music lovers year after year. The Sixteenth Annual "Winners' Grand Prix Concert" featuring pianists Robert Berkowitz and Ken Isaka was no exception. No doubt, the gracious hospitality of the Ambassador of Romania and Mrs. George Maior, who welcomed the audience to their beautiful Embassy Residence added a glimpse into Romanian culture and delicious cuisine.

WIPAC's Founders, Chateau and John Gardecki were joined by the Concert Committee Co-Chairs, Mr. Salah Turkmani, Mrs. Chang Turkmani and Rhoda Sepilici who were integral in the success of celebrating the performance of the two remarkable pianists.

Pianists Robert Berkowitz and Ken Isaka left the audience exhilarated with their masterful performances. Dr. Berkowitz is the first prize winner of the 2016 San Diego Amateur Piano Competition, and Ken Isaka is the recipient of the first prize of the 2016 Washington International Piano Artists Competition.

Taking the stage in the ornate embassy residence, Robert Berkowitz opened the concert with the Mazurka No. 32 in C# minor. The Mazurkas are considered by some as Chopin's most creative and intimate pieces. Chopin himself said he had "to coax mazurkas out of my conflict-ridden heart." Musical historians have referred to the Mazurkas as "Chopin's intimate diary". Indeed, Robert Berkowitz evoked a feeling of intimacy with mellow sonorities and a rhythmic authenticity.

Robert Berkowitz chose three Piano Miniatures by Hungarian composer Lajos Delej. He performed the pieces with great sensitivity, perhaps because of a family historical link to the composer. Dr. Berkowitz told a very moving story of how Lajos Delej had met his mother, Herzek, when he had attended a recital in Cluj, Romania. Delej courted his mother in her hometown of Baia Mare, Romania. Tragically during the war, Pauline Herzek was sent to Auschwitz, and Lajos Delej to Buchenwald. The composer did not survive while his mother survived to return to Romania, where she met pianist Berkowitz' father, who was also of Romanian descent. In later years Dr. Berkowitz reunited with members of the Delej's family and was inspired to perform his music. He dedicated this performance to his own father. Both his father and mother had always regarded themselves as Romanian.

Berkowitz captured the purity and beauty of the melodic line of the Delej work, which served as a reminder of the contrast between the wondrous nature of music and the horrors that later would befall the composer and his mother. Berkowitz completed his part of the program with a passionate performance of the Chopin Ballade #4 in f minor Opus 52 demonstrating his understanding of the dramatic power of the work.

Opening with the Sonata in D major by Padre Antonio Soler, pianist Ken Isaka performed the composition by this 18th century Spanish composer with great ease and clarity. Isaka explained that Soler, who was a student of Scarlatti, "was able to push the boundaries of what was possible with the harpsichord at that time."

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
Mr. & Mrs. Leon Snead

Friends

Harriet Becker
Zidi Berger
Mike & Portia Davidson
Lloyd and Valerie Huff
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

Ken Lisaka also performed the Funerailles, S. 172, No. 7 by Franz Liszt. Mr. Lisaka, who is also a talented communicator, shared background annotations pertaining to the Liszt work. He explained that Liszt wrote the work as a “requiem” tribute to three friends who suffered in the failed Hungarian uprising against the rule of the Hapsburgs in 1848. Lisaka’s pianistic abilities have a transcendent quality where artist and instrument have merged together. The great pianist Glen Gould is quoted as saying “we do not play piano with our fingers, but with our minds.” This is the sensation that Lisaka projects.

Lisaka characterized the next piece, Ravel’s Sonatine by quoting Antoine de Saint-Exupery, “Perfection is achieved, not when there is nothing more to add, but when there is nothing left to take away.” He explained that despite the fact there are millions of notes, Ravel was very sparing with his notes. And Lisaka played each note to perfection.

In homage to his Romanian hosts, Lisaka chose a work that is rarely heard by Romanian composer Dinu Lipatti, who was also known as a great pianist. His Andante Espresso from Sonatina for Left Hand, Op. 10 completed the musical evening with a sense of an artist who is also a humanist.



Guests enjoyed the cocktail reception outdoors as the weather was spectacular making the garden a perfect place to sip champagne and converse in grand style

More Photos at FestivalDC.com Page

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

Honorary Board

Harriet Becker
The Honorable Robert
Blackwell
Dr. & Mrs. Leslie H. Fenton
G. Austin Hay
Peter Mermagen
J. Almont Pierce
Lola C. Reinsch
Carol Rudman
Linda and Wayne Sharp
Dr. Joyce Hagel-Silverman

Executive Board

Chateau Gardecki,
Chair and Founder
Clayton Eisinger, President
Diane Merriam –
Vice President
Jean Wigham, Treasurer
Portia Davidson, Secretary

Chief Financial Officer

John Gardecki

Board Members

Jeanne Blackwell
Nicole d'Amecourt
Susanne Eisinger
Darlene Lebedev
Zelmira B. Nedelcovic
Robin Phillips
Judith Ramage

Parliamentarian

Michael Davidson, Esq.

Diplomatic Liaison

Rhoda Septilici

Artistic Advisory Board

Jerome Barry, Frederic Chiu
Richard Dowling
John Gardecki, Eric Himy
Stuart Isacoff
Raymond Jackson
Janice Weber

Contact: WIPAC
3862 Farrcroft Drive
FAIRFAX, VA 22030

PHOTOS BY Claudette
Davis



“IMAGES OF MUSIC”

WIPAC Special Event presented one after the other in Towson, MD on May 6, 2017, and the other at Department of State, Dean Acheson Auditorium in Washington, DC, on May 16, 2017.

The Images of Music held at Peabody Institute Preparatory Hall was a great success. The Art that music made! Below is an incredible masterpiece by Susie Eisinger during the presentation of this unique and unusual piano concert performed by maestro John Gardecki



~ John Gardecki and Susie Eisinger on stage ~

The two artists are both members of the WIPAC board. WIPAC's president is Clayton Eisinger, who is husband of the artist, Susie Eisinger, *ex officio* President of WIPAC.

What is “Images of Music™”? One might ask. It is a very unusual merging of two art forms, an amazing spontaneous collaboration by a pianist and an artist. On stage is a piano. Next to it, a white large canvas. As the pianist performs, the artist paints in bold abstract color creations her impressions of the music.

Both artists express their craft in terms of colors. John interprets musical scores with hues and colors of tone. Teaming up with Ms. Eisinger, they produce colors that come alive within the context of music and art.



The two paintings were distinct and equally beautiful as photos show.

[Use PayPal link](#)
[For all donations](#)
www.wipac.org
[Gift Giving Form](#)
[Available at](#)
www.wipac.org

WIPAC
MEMBERS

H.E. the Ambassador of
 Fiji Winston Thompson
 and Mrs. Queenie
 Thompson
 Amb. & Mrs. Paul
 Hartman
 Jan Anderson
 Kazuko Bach
 Malia Baduw
 Elaine Bainbridge
 Caroline Baker
 Bari Berger
 Diane Bohn
 Patricia Chapell
 Craig & Eva Coleman
 Gabriela Coman
 Jennifer Coombs
 John Curd
 Joseph David
 Lisa Dickelman
 Salvatrice DeLuca
 Marlies Diehl
 Pernille Elbech
 Nick & Patti Gardecki
 Luz & Jack Gregory
 Shelly Harlow
 Tehmina Kahn
 Ioanna and Paul Lee
 Barbara & Warren
 Lewis
 Hal Matson
 Camilla McCaslin
 Jesse Morrow
 Jan Phillips
 Eva Salmoiraghi
 Wayne & Linda Sharp
 Sheila & Tom Switzer
 Lynn Theismann
 Pauline Thompson
 Mr & Mrs Lars Thunell
 Eberhard & Veronika
 von Loehneysen

ARTS AND CULTURE, COMMUNITY NEWS

“Images of Music” at the State Department

by [H and L Polgar](#) • May 22, 2017

The magic of color expressed in every musical note and in every brush stroke came to life in the unique ensemble of two remarkable artists, pianist John Gardecki and visual artist Suzanne Eisinger. In a “meeting of the minds and hearts,” pianist Gardecki performed works of both the romantic and impressionist eras whilst artist Eisinger captured the spirit of the music with exciting colors on a large canvas at the Acheson Theater at the US State Department. The audience was captivated by the program, entitled “Images of Music,” with the unfolding phenomena of two artists collaborating in a musical and visually expressive presentation.



John Gardecki began the recital with the first movement of the Waldstein Sonata #21 in C Major by Ludwig van Beethoven. His other selections were the nocturne Op. 9 #2 in D flat major (for the left hand alone) by Scriabin “Bruyeres” by Claude Debussy, Poeme in G flat Major by Otto Ortmann (Mr. Gardecki’s teacher), and a Chopin group comprised of a Waltz, Mazurka (Fantasy

Impromptu), and the Polonaise (Heroique).

Mr. Gardecki explained in his interesting commentaries that he selected the works to show different phases of romanticism leading into the French impressionist Claude Debussy, noting that the composer Otto Ortmann, a 20th century composer, was for him perhaps the most romantic of all. Mr. Gardecki also noted that he was performing the well-known Chopin Fantaisie Impromptu from a score that was discovered in recent years which has been authenticated as the original score, whilst for over 100 years, the piece had been played by pianists from a copied score by one of Chopin’s students.

John Gardecki is a pianist, very gifted in the art of finding the balance with tempi and color dynamics, with a “velvety” tonal quality, taking his rubato to the edge but always remaining in good taste.

Ms. Eisinger seemed to be in a trance as she filled the canvas with beautiful dramatic red strokes as she listened to Beethoven’s Sonata, followed by softer hues of color while listening to Debussy and Ortmann. Her talent made the act of creation appear effortless, although the final result revealed a sense of inspired thought.

The event was sponsored by both WIPAC and the US State Department.



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

HIGHLIGHTS OF "IMAGES OF MUSIC™"

State Department, photos courtesy of Lisa Polgar



CHARLES SILVERMAN
WIPAC SECRETARY 2008-2010
MAY 19, 2017

WIPAC
 CALENDAR 2017
 April 19 – Wed
 Welcome Reception
 Holiday Inn vantage
 Point rooftop

April 20 – Thurs
 Winners Grand Prix
 Concert
 Romanian Amb.
 Residence
 Winners of Comp.

April 22- Sat
 WIPAC SPRING
 CONCERT Series
 KosciuszkoCenter
 Ken Iisaka
 Pianist

April 30 – Sun
 M'burg Point-to-
 Point Races
 **
 Glenwood Park,
 Middleburg

May 6 – Sat
 Images of Music
 **

Peabody Institute
 Prep auditorium
 Gardecki –
 Eisinger

May 16 – Tues
 Images of Music
 State Department
 Gardecki-Eisinger

August 3-6
 WIPAC
 COMPETITION
 GWU B120 H Street

.....
 All events are by
 invitation * and
 some open to the
 public **



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 2017 Calendar of Events is available at
www.wipac.org

Yes, I/We wish to join the celebration of music and support WIPAC to make music flourish in our community and/or bequeath a gift under the name of _____

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

Level of Membership

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> One YR | <input type="checkbox"/> Two Year | New: <input type="checkbox"/> | Renewal: <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50+ Supporter | | Individual Basic Membership benefit as below | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75+ Supporter | | Two-year Basic Membership benefit as below | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$125+ Sponsor | | Competition Passes and above | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250+ Contributor | | Competition Finals, Celebratory Dinner | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500+ Patron | | Two Tickets to all WIPAC Special Events | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Charter Member | | Embassy Patron Dinner Invitation for 2 7 above | |

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

Cultural Diplomacy at its Best

by H and L Polgar • February 20, 2017

With Pianist Pandolfi, Visual Artist Brase, WIPAC and the Embassy of the Slovak Republic.



Citing the significance of cultural diplomacy to promote mutual understanding between peoples, HE Peter Kmec, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic hosted an exquisite “Winter Interlude, An Evening of Classical Music” sponsored by the Washington International Piano Arts Council. As the first cultural event of the year at the Embassy, Ambassador Kmec expressed his pleasure in co-hosting the concert with WIPAC and its Founder director Maria “Chateau” Gardecki.

Featuring American pianist Thomas Pandolfi and Slovak visual artist Luka Brase, the event, “Winter in the Slovak Republic,” spoke to the power of music and the arts to communicate the shared values and aspirations of different cultures.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Kmec commented that the Slovak Republic had for the first time concluded its Presidency of the European Union. He emphasized that 2017 marked the 70th anniversary of the Marshall Plan which achieved much for the stabilization and integration of Europe and European-Trans Atlantic integration. As their country’s leadership role on a global level has increased, the Ambassador welcomed the opportunity to share Slovak arts and culture at the Embassy, featuring the exhibit of Slovak artist Luka Brase.

Pianist Pandolfi’s eclectic repertoire spanned from Addinsell, Mozart, Chopin and two brilliant transcriptions by Pandolfi of Bernstein and Weber.

His performance of the “Warsaw Concerto” by Richard Addinsell set the stage for a breathtaking concert. Referred to as an old favorite on many pianists’ repertoire, the “Warsaw Concerto” has been enjoyed by many concert audiences. As Mr. Pandolfi explained, it was commissioned for the movie score of the 1941 film, “Dangerous Moonlight.” While Rachmaninoff refused the commission, it was the young British Hollywood film composer Richard Addinsell who was granted the commission for the movie score with the proviso that he follow in the style of Rachmaninoff. It is the story of a pianist/ airplane pilot and a lady reporter who fall in love during the Nazi invasion of Poland, thus the name “Warsaw Concerto.”

Revealing an ability to adapt to the romantic ethereal quality of the Chopin “Nocturne in E-Flat Major, Op 9, No. 2,” to the exuberance of Chopin’s “Etude No. 12 in C minor, Op. 10 (Revolutionary),” Pandolfi was equally able to transition to the refined flawless control of Mozart’s “Sonata in F Major, K 332.”

Mr. Pandolfi indicated that he deliberately changed the order of his program by performing Chopin before Mozart, noting that Chopin’s love for Mozart’s music influenced his use of lyrical and beautiful melodies in many of his slow movements. Similarly, Chopin embraced Mozart’s use of the piano to simulate a vocal instrument rather than a percussive one. With a fiery Franz Liszt-like virtuosity, Pandolfi thrilled his audience with his transcriptions of theme songs from Leonard Bernstein’s “West Side Story.” In Pandolfi’s “Fantasy on Themes from West Side Story,” familiar melodies from the well-known musical were melodiously revealed through brilliant glissandos. In paying tribute to the famous conductor, composer and pianist, Leonard Bernstein, Mr. Pandolfi reminded us that the Bernstein centenary will take place in 2018.

The audience was treated to a final encore of another Pandolfi transcription, Andrew Lloyd Webber’s “Phantom of the Opera” in a tour de force that enthralled his audience to their feet.

Amongst the music devotees in attendance was Thomas Switzer, Director of Global Diplomatic Resources and Career Foreign Service Officer. He commented that throughout his career as a Cultural Attache to many nations, he was keenly aware that “great music transcends animosities.” He added, “I witnessed the impact of culture and the effect that music has in softening peoples’ sensitivities... It’s hard to hate someone that entralls you.” Citing the effect of pianist Van Cliburn’s performance in the Tchaikovsky International Piano Competition in breaking down barriers with the former Soviet Union, Mr. Switzer commented that “There has to be a way for nations to settle their differences and cultural exchange is the answer.”

True to its mission, WIPAC continues to promote international friendship and mutual understanding among nations through music. The Concert Committee Chair was Ms. Portia Davidson and the pianist was sponsored by art patrons Wayne and Linda Sharp. A reception of gourmet Slovak delicacies followed the concert.