



Notes from the Piano Bench

Washington International Piano Arts Council (WIPAC)

Established 2001

28 F

Summer 2017

Volume XXXVI

Regular Edition

* No. 36

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★HAPPY★
BIRTHDAY!

Greetings for a
happy birthday



Clayton Eisinger
WIPAC President

WELCOME to the Wonderful World of Music

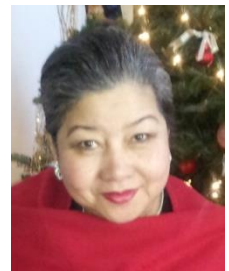


Festival of Music 2017 and 15th WIPAC Competition at the George Washington University Music Department B120 Phillips Hall. Photo by Lisa McF Polgar

Message from the Chair

Congratulations to WIPAC, Jurors, Donors, Sponsors, staff, Volunteers and particularly to the competitor— all talented pianists and most especially to the WINNERS.

What a treat to hear such marvelous performance by 23 candidates for four music days in Washington! Listening is the best part but judging, phew...glad I am not part of it! Kudos to the jurors of all rounds to pick the best of the best. Now my job begins and the competition ends. Because it means I need to have fundraising drive to sustain the remaining year 2017 until the 2018 Festival of music again. Boy, no rest for the weary. But it is all worth it!



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

Chateau Gardecki

From the President

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

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[Calendar of Events](#)

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2017

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

**BIG THANKS
Linda and Wayne
Sharp**

Dear friends of WIPAC,

We have a winner!

Mr. Hiroaki Taniguchi of Japan won first place at our 15th Festival of Music Competition. The finals were held at the beautiful Cosmos Club in Washington, DC.

Dr. Wanda O'Brien-Trefil and Dr. James Trefil were the chairs for the event and they both did an outstanding job. Everything ran smoothly and organized.

The Ambassador Pierre Clive Agius was most gracious and spoke eloquently about supporting the competition and WIPAC.

I want to thank the jurors under the leadership of Mike Davidson, for their successful outcome of the competition.

Chateau and John Gardecki, as always, worked tirelessly to bring this fabulous event to a celebration on every front.

To everybody involved in this year's Festival of Music, I want to say a well-deserved congratulation is in order. Sincere gratitude goes out to each and everyone who participated.

I also want to thank our board, supporters and committee members for their good work. I hope we will continue to work together to create these treasured events at WIPAC.

In closing, I would like to invite everybody to the Columbia Country Club on November 17, for our annual Gala. The opportunity for another enjoyable event will be waiting for all of us there.

Warm regards,
Clayton Eisinger, President

Scenes at various WIPAC Welcome Reception Aug. 3, 2017



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

MR. PRESIDENT!



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Link to a Web page
www.wipac.org

ARTS AND CULTURE, COMMUNITY NEWS

*WIPAC Launches Another Year Celebrating the
Art of Piano Performance*

by [Lisa McFarren-Polgar](http://www.festivaldc.com), FESTIVALDC.COM • August 3, 2017

The 15th annual Washington International Piano Artists Competition was off to a rousing start with the opening reception held at the Kosciuszko Foundation. With great enthusiasm, Mme. Chateau Gardecki, President and Founder of WIPAC introduced the Honorary Chairman of the Competition, His Excellency, the Ambassador of Malta, Pierreclive Agius who expressed his appreciation for the transformative beauty of music.

This year's Competition Committee Chairs are Dr. Wanda Trefil and her husband Dr. James Trefil. As a pianist herself, Dr. Wanda Trefil admired the commitment that the competition pianists make to develop their skills and learn new music whilst pursuing various other professions.

Mr. Clayton Eisinger, President of WIPAC, welcomed the audience and spoke of the high artistic caliber of pianists that WIPAC continues to attract and looked forward to a great competition.

Several of the contestants in attendance gave a glimpse of their talents by sharing various piano selections, auguring well for another exciting competition in which the talented pianists will compete to be designated a WIPAC award winner for 2017. WIPAC patrons, The Ambassador of Bulgaria and Mrs. Tihomir Stoytchev, were also in attendance, in addition to many of WIPAC's most generous patrons, including Lola C. Reinsch and Al Pierce of the Reinsch Pierce foundation, Dr. Joyce Hagel-Silverman, Michael and Portia Davidson, as well as board members Nicole d'Americourt, Susanne Eisinger and Jean Wigham, amongst many other supporters who make this remarkable competition possible.



Greeting with Ambassador Agius of Malta are Clayton. Wanda and Lola Reinsch accepting accolades as Benefactor of the WIPAC Competition 2017



Enjoying the Welcome Reception were Bulgarian Ambassador and Mrs. Stoytchev With Chateau, Clayton and Susie Eisinger and Rhoda Septilici.

**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
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Romania and Mrs. George
Cristian Maior

WIPAC Once Again Celebrates The Art of Piano Performance

by [Lisa McFarren-Polgar](#), FESTIVALDC.COM • August 6, 2017

The 2017 Washington International Piano Artists Competition judges once again met the very difficult challenge of selecting from amongst 23 very talented pianist who traveled from throughout the world to perform selections of the finest piano classical repertoire. Held at the Music School of George Washington University, the pianists have for the last 3 days demonstrated their passion for performance as artists who also happen to devote their lives to full time careers in other professions. Such is their love for music, that they are able to set time aside from their busy professional careers to perfect the art of piano performance and compete with the best.



The contestants have been performing before a distinguished group of judges who had the task of choosing from the original 23 contestants, 13 semifinalists who included John Blasdale, Joseph Lipare, Andy Liao, Alexandra Nica, Kotomi Suzuki, Simon Finlow, David Caldine, Ferdy Talon, Judy Darst, Max Sung, Hiroaki Taniguchi, Utako Tanigawa and I-Wen Tseng.

After two days of exciting performances of the classical piano repertoire the judges narrowed the field to 6 finalists, including Joseph Lipare, Ferdy Talan, Andy Liao, Simon Finlow, Hiroaki Taniguchi and I-Wen Tseng.

Although the tradition of “amateur” (stemming from the word “lover of”) pianists is a long one, it has been a recent phenomenon to acknowledge pianists who have chosen to pursue their dedication to the art of piano performance without being confined to the label of “professional.” The creation of international amateur piano competitions such as those held in Paris, Warsaw, Kiev, Tokyo, Boston, San Diego and Washington recognize pianists whose musical insights and skills would allow many of them to be in the “profession” if they so chose.

Unique to the Washington International Piano Artists Competition has been their reputation, as stated by some of the contestants, as the friendliness and most welcoming competition of all. Pianist Utako Tanigawa in particular noted the hospitality accorded to them by the organizers of WIPAC, notably its founders Chateau and John Gardecki, and Executive Board members Jean Wigham, Diane Merriam, Karl Woelflein and Portia Davidson.

The awards for First, Second and Third Prize winners will be selected on Sunday, August 6 at the Cosmos Club in Washington, DC. Other awards are given for best performance of Bach Work, Best Performance of Romantic Work, most Imaginative Programming. The first prize winner will receive the Austin Hay award for \$3000 dollars. This year WIPAC will be distributing over \$10,000 dollars in award prizes for 2017.

The spirit of WIPAC could not be better expressed than with the quote by preliminary contestant Melinda Morse, a retired public school teacher, who stated, “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 competitions.”



The Ambassador of Mozambique and Mrs. Carlos Dos Santos

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Contact: WIPAC
3862 Farrcroft Drive
FAIRFAX, VA 22030



WIPAC SEMI-FINALS AT GWU

<< Alexandra Nica

Joseph Lipare >>>>>



David Caldine



awards distribution



Judy Darst



John Blasdale



Simon Finlow



MaxSung and Wanda



Kotomi with Wanda



Utako Tanigawa in action



The 23 WIPAC PIANISTS OF THE FESTIVAL OF MUSIC 2017 AND THE 15TH WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION

PHOTOS

[Use PayPal link](#)



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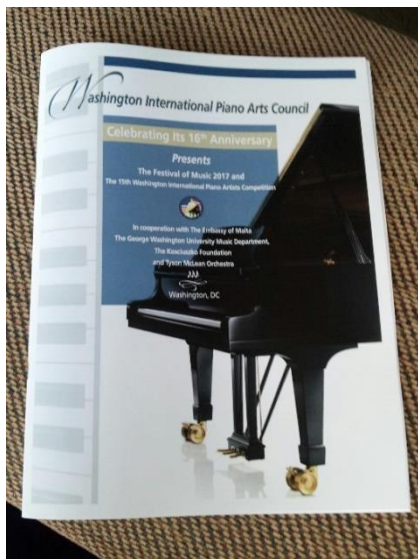
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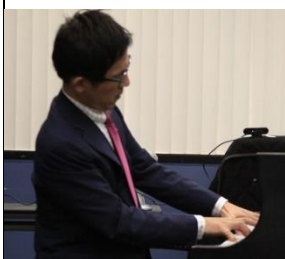
**The Festival of Music
2018**



The Final Round!

Social Chronicles by [Joe David](#) | guest contributor
on August 10th, 2017 | Photo credit: Joe David &
Claudette Brown

The ornate, French-style grand ballroom of the Cosmos Club came alive with music last Sunday; it was the piano music of some of the world's greatest masters – Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, Mozart, and more. For over three hours, the ballroom filled with beautiful sonatas, nocturnes, rhapsodies, interpreted by six talented, amateur pianists. Each of these finalists performed their music with peak skill in hopes of winning one of the three top prizes provided by [Washington International Piano Arts Council \(WIPAC\)](#). For three days, leading up to the Sunday events, 23 talented aspiring winners from around the world competed for the grand prize. Of the 23, only six were selected for the final round on Sunday at the Cosmos Club.



Hiroaki Taniguchi, WIPAC Grand Prize Winner

The Festival of Music 2017, which has become an annual WIPAC event in Washington for the past fifteen years, has been providing new opportunity for talented pianists from around the world with dreams of bringing their music to the American stage. “Considerable time has been dedicated to preparing for each festival, but the results have always been well worth it,” Clayton Eisinger, WIPAC president, said. “Thanks to the hard work of Chateau and John Gardecki, the annual festival has been enhancing the lives of our community since inception by bringing joy to its participants and its many attendees.”



Austin Hay, Ambassador Pierre Clive Agius, First-Prize Winner Hiroaki Taniguchi and Dr. Wanda Trefil

Honorary Chair, HE Pierre Clive Agius, Ambassador of Malta paid special tribute to the Gardecki's for their extraordinary work at celebrating music in the nation's capital. “It is the source of life that brings people together by touching their soul.” To quote Friedrich Nietzsche, “Without music, life would be a mistake.”

During the evening dinner-awards celebration, the top three winners – whom the

&
**The 16th Annual
 Washington
 International Piano
 Artists Competition**

CASH AWARDS

Grand Prize
 Debut Recital -The
 Kosciuszko Foundation
 Center
First Prize - \$ 3,000
Second Prize - \$ 2,000
Third Prize - \$ 1,000



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

judges evaluated for their musical accuracy, rhythmic clarity, style awareness and more – received cash prizes totaling \$7,000. Of the three, Hiroaki Taniguchi walked away with the most awards, including first prize, for the structural clarity and precise phrasing of three piano pieces – by Olivier Messiaen (“Ils de Feux”), Franz Liszt (“Valee d’Obermann”), and Alberto Ginastera (“Danzas Argentina,” Op. 2). For Hiroaki, who began studying music at 5, winning hasn’t been new. The attorney-trained, part-time pianist has won coveted amateur awards for his playing in both Paris and Tokyo since 1999, and he has performed with the Tsuyama Symphony Orchestra and with the orchestra of Japan’s famous TV Program Concert without Title.



Andy Liao (third prize winner), Dr. Wanda Trefil, (competition chair) and Ferdy Talan (second prize winner)

Indonesian-born Ferdy Talan, whose music reflected the rich mix of his ancestral traditions, and American-born Andy Liao, who recently distinguished himself with his performance of romantic era works in the 2017 Boston International Piano Competition, were the second and third prize winners, respectively. Of the six who performed to the over 100 guests, the three remaining finalists, I-Wen Tseng, Joseph Lipare and Simon Finlow received certificates of accomplishment and a \$250 cash award.

“Because of the significant talent many of these performers bring to the festival, it is always a difficult task to select a winner,” Michael Davidson, Chairman of the Jury, said. “Fortunately, we had high-caliber judges who made it possible to simplify the task for us and evaluate the musical skills of each performer with expertise. For them, and all of the others at WIPAC, we are forever grateful.” Among the jurists were Professor Frank Colon, Dr. Raymond Jackson, Laurence Berman, Haskell Small, Janice Weber, and Thomas Pandolfi.

Portia Davidson, Inez Jackson, John Gardecki, and Leila Mol

WIPAC has been successful all these years at bringing new talent to Washington, because of the cooperation of universities, orchestras, museums and embassies throughout the Washington, DC, area, including those in Maryland, Pennsylvania (Cheyney University), Azerbaijan, Japan, and Poland. An especially memorable moment for WIPAC occurred in 2015, when it was invited to present the First Festival of Piano Music in Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan, in partnership with Maryland State Sisterhood Program under the auspices of the Office of the Secretary of State and The Kanagawa Prefecture Government.

“These great musical moments for us and the performers couldn’t have been made possible without WIPAC’s many supporters. From the bottom of our heart, my husband, John, and I are humbled by all their hard work and donations that make this competition happen,” Chateau Gardecki, WIPAC founder, said. “I would like to give special thanks to the Festival of Music 2017 Competition Committee, its Chairs, Drs. James and Wanda Trefil, Ambassador Pierre Clive

WIPAC
 CALENDAR 2017
 REMAINING

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

September 9
Kosciuszko
Foundation WIPAC
PIANO SERIES –
PART I
David Witten, pianist
1:30pm-2:30pm

October 7
TONI HALL, piano
Part II Concert
Series
Open free to public

**Become a
member and receive
special invitations.

Agius, and the distinguished judges, headed by Mike Davidson, for the success of today's gala event."

Jan Du Plain, Monique Mally and Joan Polk>>>

Among those present were: Board Members Jeanne Blackwell and Rhoda Septilici; Executive Board Members Portia Davidson, secretary, Jean Wigham, treasurer, Diane Merriam, vice president, and John Gardecki, CFO. Others present included Suzanne Finney, who is responsible for the competition program, Jan Du Plain, and Henri (and his wife Lisa) Polgar, Press Jurists; HE Tihomir Stoytchev, the Ambassador of Bulgaria, and his wife Dr. Lubka Stoytchev; and Special Honorary Chair HE Pierre Clive Agius, Ambassador of Malta, and Austin Hay, a 102 years old retired movie actor and government worker; both men were given special honor for their contributions.



Washington International Piano Arts Council (WIPAC): Money raised during the annual gala supports WIPAC's international piano competition events and other piano concerts throughout the year. These competitions and concerts feature professional and non-professional piano artists from all walks of life and from many countries. Established in 2001, WIPAC has been using music to promote international friendships and mutual understanding among nations, to provide an educational forum for all levels of professional and non-professional pianists, and to help generate a renaissance of interest in great piano artistry worldwide. Its primary goal has always been to help classical music flourish. WIPAC is the only competition of its kind that has been presented consecutively year after year in the U.S.A. for the past 16 years. Its sister competition in Paris Le Concours des Grands Amateurs de Piano celebrated its 28th year in 2017.



Breathtaking view of Cosmos Grand Ballroom“ Warne Room”- taken by Hiroaki Taniguchi. Posted on Facebook.... Thanking WIPAC and Chateau for giving the competitors the opportunity to perform in palatial setting!



Invitation to join
WIPAC SPONSORS AND PATRONS

Welcome to WIPAC

2017 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: _____
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Level of Membership

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____ \$125+ Sponsor		Competition Supporter and above	
____ \$250+ Contributor		Competition Finals Supporter, full events	
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Mail to: 3862 Farrcroft Dr. Fairfax, VA 22030 -Tax ID 61-1426920

Go online at www.wipac.org and use PAYPAL for CCD Donations

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 organization.. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law!

WIPAC 2017 Piano Competition Final: “Making Music Flourish”



by [Lisa McFarren-Polgar](#) • August 12, 2017

“Music is the oxygen of the human soul.” These few words, expressed by the Ambassador of Malta Pierreclive Agius during the WIPAC Award Ceremony could not have more succinctly captured the spirit of the 15th Washington International Piano Artists Competition. From the 23 initial contestants to the final first prize winner, all gave meaning to those words with their inspiring performances of piano works spanning centuries of the classical music tradition.

In the elegant and gold leaf trimmed setting of the Cosmos Club in Washington, DC, the air of suspense was clear as the audience awaited the judges’ decision on the winners of the WIPAC 2017 Competition. The six finalists competed in the last round for first, second and third place, and for a series of special awards.

The audience was hosted by WIPAC to cocktails and hors d’oeuvres as the judges deliberated. Finally, the winners were announced to great enthusiasm followed by a gourmet celebratory dinner.

First prize was awarded to pianist Hiroaki Taniguchi of Japan who captured everyone’s attention from the preliminary rounds with exciting performances of works by Edward Grieg, Dmitry Kabalevsky, Chopin, Brahms, Liszt and Messiaen. Mr. Tanaguchi built a musical architectural structure in his selection of pieces that culminated in the finals. Commenting to an audience member who complimented him on his preliminary and semi-final performances, Mr. Taniguchi responded with a twinkle in his eye, “Wait until you hear the final.”

And indeed, it must have been the last piece of his performance of Alberto Ginastera’s “Danzas Argentinas Opus 2,” that sealed the judges’ decision to select him as first place winner. His performance reflected his virtuosity as well as the spontaneity and excitement that he was able to generate.

Mr. Ferdy Talan was chosen as second place winner. A pianist of immense talent, Mr. Talon is an innovator in his choice of most original programming. He is a champion of the music of new composers as well as lesser known pieces from the standard repertoire of well-known composers. Mr. Talan’s performances of works by Bach, York Bowen, Edward Grieg, Franz Liszt and Nocolai Kapustin were mesmerizing, as the pianist is endowed with a music personality that captured the audience’s attention from beginning to end.

Third prize was awarded to Mr. Andy Liao whose interpretive skills enthralled the audience throughout the competition with works by Schubert, Debussy, Abram Chasins, Rachmaninoff, Haydn and Franz Liszt. The Hungarian Rhapsody No. 12 of Franz Liszt was Andy Liao’s “finale” which left a lasting

impression of his vast palette of musical poetic expression. His performance must have made it more difficult for the judges to choose the order of the three finalist pianists.

- Special Awards were presented in the following categories:
- MOST IMAGINATIVE PROGRAMMING, Ferdy Talan
- ROMANTIC PERIOD, **Simon Finlow, Schumann Novelette in F Major;**
- BAROQUE PERIOD, **Joseph Lipare, Scarlatti Sonata;**
- CLASSICAL PERIOD, **Andy Liao, Haydn Sonata in B Minor;**
- COMTEMPORARY PERIOD, **Alexandra Nica, Enescu & Ciortea: Gypsy Dance & Prelude;**
- BACH PERFORMANCE, **I-wen Tseng, Tocatta in E Minor;**
- BEETHOVEN PERFORMANCE, **Simon Finlow, Sonata, Op. 10, No. 3;**
- CHOPIN PERFORMANCE, **Ferdy Talan, Tarantella;**
- LISZT PERFORMANCE, **Hiroaki Taniguchi, St. Francis Walking on the Waves;** RAVEL PERFORMANCE, **Kotomi Suzuki, Tombeau de Couperin Selections.**

The PRESS JURY AWARD as well as the AUDIENCE AWARD went to **Hiroaki Taniguchi.**

Michael Davidson, Chairman of the WIPAC jury, announced the winners and hoped that the competition organizers had succeeded in their goal to contribute to the artistic growth of the performers beyond the confines of the competition.

Several of the contestants expressed appreciation for the warm welcome that they received, and praised the organizers, Board Co-Chairs and Founders, Chateau Gardecki and John Gardecki for the recognition they gave to all the participants.

President of WIPAC, Clayton Eisinger, acknowledged the years long contribution of Austin Hay as the First Prize Award donor. The Second prize was co-sponsored by Joyce Hagel-Silverman, Dr. James and Dr. Wanda Trefil. Third Prize co-sponsors were Linda and Wayne Sharp as well as the Panamerican-Panafrican Association in memory of pianist Robert Pritchard.

This year, the competition increased its monetary awards upon the recommendation of the Competition Co-Chair, Dr. Wanda Trefil, who graciously presented the awards to the contestants. The distinguished jury included Raymond Jackson, Frank Conlon, Haskell Small, Janice Weber, Thomas Pandolfi, Laurence Berman. Participating as the Press Jury were Jan DuPlain and Henri Polgar.



The Scene at the Award Gala Ceremony



Hiroaki Taniguchi



Austin Hay, Ambassador of Malta, Chateau and Zidi



With Hiroaki
Taniguchi and Wanda
Trefil



Chateau and Hiroaki



Chateau setting up



***3 Japanese Pianists, Hiroaki
Utako Tanagawa and Hideya Suzuki



"Le Bal des Lumieres" A Sparkling Night on the Riviera



November 17, 2017 at 6:30 in the evening
Columbia Country Club
Chevy Chase, MD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



WIPAC cordially invites you to a Monte Carlo Night. The evening will feature WIPAC Competition 2003 First Place Winner Paul Romero, pianist, performing George Gershwin's Fantasy with guest on saxophone Brock Summers and music from Porgy and Bess, Chopin's Ballade in G minor, and to put us all in the mood for a night on the Riviera, he will conclude with James Bond tribute with themes from the movies like the "Casino Royale." The talented local Diva Robin Phillips, Gala Chair will treat us to a French song or two.



LIVE AND SILENT AUCTIONS FOR YOUR BIDDINGS!

Dinners at the Residences of Ambassadors

WIPAC invites its members and friends to join and support this exciting evening fundraiser for the 2018 Festival of Music and 16th WIPAC Piano Competition.

WIPAC GALA LEVEL OF DONATIONS

- Supporter \$ 225 Cocktails, Concert, Dinner & Dancing
 - Donor 275 Basic Membership and Above
 - Sponsor 500 VIP Seat at the Gala, one Special Event,* Program listing and above
 - Patron 1,000 One Seat at the Ambassador's table, Half-page ad and 2 Special Events*
 - Founder's Circle 2,000 Two Seats at the Ambassador's Table, Full Page Ad and 3 Special Events*
 - Benefactor 5,000 VIP Table for 8 at the Gala and above
- I/We are unable to attend but accept the invitation to become a Member of WIPAC with a donation of **\$50.00 (Basic Membership).**

Please make all checks payable to WIPAC and mail to:

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Valet parking available

For Credit Cards: www.wipac.org PAYPAL DONATION Link

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