



NEW ENGLAND PIANO TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Committed to Excellence in Teaching Piano

2020 Awards Recital

Monday, May 18, 2020, at 10:30 a.m.

Louise Hodder Olsen Award

Louisa Thunderstorm

Carly Heslop

Carly Heslop

(student of Diana Tetzlaff)

Carly Heslop is a freshman at Lincoln-Sudbury High School in Sudbury, MA. Carly began learning music in 2009 at the Yamaha School of Music and began studying with Diana Tetzlaff in 2013. She has written several compositions as well as an orchestrated version of one of her pieces, and has also been writing music with her mom. Last year, she won the NEPTA Alice Proctor award with her piece Sunset on Io. Carly composes "because I love creating my own music and making my own statement for others to listen and to visualize." She also plays competitive tennis and enjoys studying science, especially astronomy, cosmology, and astrophysics in school and on her own time.

Alice Procter Award

Stone Lion

Leander Frank

Leander Frank

(student of Nina Grimaldi)

Leander Frank has been studying piano for 6 years under the same teacher, Nina Grimaldi. He began composing 3 years ago under the guidance of Howard Frazin of Somerville, and has written pieces for solo piano, oboe and piano, as well as adapted poems by a local poet for voice and piano. His most recent works, including the piece presented at the NEPTA recital, belong to a series of movements loosely following the concept of a visit to an art museum. This is Leander's second year participating in a NEPTA recital, but his first time presenting an original composition.

Mildred Freiberg Competition (Grades 6 - 8)

Etude in C-sharp minor Op. 25, No. 7
Video appearance

Frédéric Chopin
(1810 - 1849)

Emily Zhou
(student of Niva Fried)

Emily Zhou, 12, is a seventh grade student at Diamond Middle School in Lexington. She has been studying piano with Ms. Niva Fried for 7 years. She has also participated in chamber music and is a student in the Advanced Piano Seminar at NEC Prep School. Emily enjoys sharing her music by performing multiple times at Carnegie Hall and Boston Symphony Hall. She has been honored to win top prizes including the Chopin International Piano Competition, NEPTA Middle School Competition, Steinway Competition, MTNA Junior Performance Piano Competition, and MMTA Bay State Contest. Apart from the piano, Emily enjoys reading, skiing, and playing with her dog.

A Russian Rhapsody Op. 73, No. 7 (1989)
“A Crescent is Shining”
Video appearance

Vladimir Ryabov
(b. 1950)

Ben Wolfson
(student of Natalia Harlap)

Ben Wolfson joined Natalia Harlap’s piano studio in 2019 after studying with Irina Yakub in Amherst, where he lives with his family. He has performed as a soloist with the Springfield Symphony Orchestra and Springfield Youth Sinfonia. As a chamber musician, Ben is a founding member of RT9 Trio and attends Greenwood Music Camp in Cummington. He also plays the cello in NEC’s Youth Repertory Orchestra. Ben is completing eighth grade at the Williston Northampton Middle School and is headed to Deerfield Academy next fall.

Partita No. 6 in E minor, BWV 830
I. Toccata
Video Appearance

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685 - 1750)

Roxane Park
(student of Mila Filatova)

Roxane Park (12) is a student of Mila Filatova and a seventh grader at Crossroads Academy (Lyme, NH). She has received top prizes at numerous competitions, including the Paderewski International Competition and Steinway Society of Massachusetts Piano Competition. Most recently, she was selected as an official competitor in the preliminary round of the Gina Bachauer Junior International Piano Competition and a finalist in the Rosalyn Tureck International Bach Competition. Roxane has performed at Carnegie Hall, Boston's Symphony Hall, and the International Chopin Piano Festival in Busko-Zdroj, Poland. Last May, she was featured on NPR's *From the Top* with guest host Jeremy Denk.

Ruth Davidson Competition (Grades 9 & 10)

Prelude No. 3 *from 12 Preludes*

A. Ramón Rivera Contemporary Music Award

Video appearance

Henri Lazarof

(1932 - 2013)

Justin Wang

(student of Helena Vesterman)

Justin Wang is a sophomore attending Algonquin Regional High School in Northborough. He has been studying piano for eleven years and currently studies with Helena Vesterman. He is a state winner of the 2018 MTNA Junior Piano Competition, two-time first prize winner of the Music Worcester Youth Artist Competition, and six-time first prize winner of the MMTA Bay State Contest. Justin also plays violin with the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras and has participated in the Massachusetts All-State Orchestra. Besides music, he enjoys running cross-country and studying math in his spare time.

Prelude and Fugue No. 2 in C minor, BWV 871
from the Well-Tempered Clavier Book 2

Video appearance

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685 - 1750)

Prelude, Book 1, No. 7, *Ce qu'a vu le vent d'ouest*

Video appearance

(1862 - 1918)

Claude Debussy

Eric Zhang

(student of Helena Vesterman)

Eric Zhang, 14, is a student of Helena Vesterman. He is a freshman at Bedford High School. He began playing piano at age 5 and has been a prizewinner of several competitions, such as the MMTA Bay State competition (first place 2018, 3rd place 2019), NEPTA Mildred Freiberg piano competition (first place, 2019), URI Piano Extravaganza (best overall, 2019), MTNA

Junior Piano competition (MA alternate, 2019), and the Paderewski International Piano Competition (3rd place, 2019). This year, he was advanced to one of the 24 Junior competitors of the 2020 Gina Bachauer International Junior & Young Artists Piano Competitions. He received both the Wanda Paik and Nancy Oliva awards and is a 2020 Finalist for “From the Top”. He has performed at Carnegie Hall, the DiMenna Center for Classical Music, and the Kresge Auditorium at Interlochen. He also performed in masterclasses with several professional pianists. Besides music, he enjoys cooking and cycling.

Scherzo No. 1, in b minor, Op. 20
Video appearance

Frédéric Chopin
(1810 - 1849)

Michael Karshis
(student of Tanya Schwarzman)

Michael Karshis is a 15-year-old piano student of Tanya Schwartzman. He has performed in the Washington D.C.'s Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage hall as first place for the 33rd International Young Artist Competition, Puerto Rico, Kurozweki Palace In Poland, and in Carnegie Hall. He has won 1st and 2nd place of the Steinway Piano Competition, 6-time 1st place at Bay State Competition, 3rd prize winner of the Chopin International Piano Competition. He has been involved in several productions of short films and music videos with the popular show “From the Top.” He is currently a Sophomore at Xaverian Brothers High School with a trustee scholarship and is a piano tutor and assistant at Sharon Music Academy.

----- Intermission -----

Andante spianato et grande polonaise brillante, Op. 22
Margaret C. Bachelder Award
Video appearance

Frédéric Chopin
(1810 - 1849)

Elizabeth Zhang
(student of Natalia Harlap)

Elizabeth Zhang is a sophomore at Phillips Academy Andover. Raised in Salt Lake City, Utah, Elizabeth started learning piano at age six and currently studies with Professor Alexander Korsantia and Ms. Natalia Harlap. She played as a finalist in the national division of the MTNA Competition, has received top prizes in the MTNA Southwest Division competition for two years, is a two-year first prize winner of the MTNA Utah State Competition, and participated in the 2019 Cincinnati Art of the Piano and 2017 Gina Bachauer Piano Festivals. Elizabeth has also performed with the American Fork Symphony, the American West Symphony, and has been featured in the Deseret News, the Salt Lake Tribune, and KSL-TV. Aside from music, Elizabeth is also part of her school's track and tennis teams and enjoys hiking and skiing with her sister.

Alice Hamlet Competition (Grades 11 & 12)

Transparencies

A. Ramón Rivera Contemporary Music Award

Video appearance

James Romig

(b. 1971)

Jessie Liu

(student of Faina Kofman)

Jessie Liu is a junior at Westborough High School and has been studying piano with Faina Kofman for the past seven years. She won prizes in Music Worcester's Young Artist's Competition in 2015 and 2017. Jessie was a recipient of the 2018-2019 Chopin Foundation of the US Scholarship Program for Young Artists. She is the pianist for the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras (BYSO), performing with both the Boston Youth Symphony and Repertory Orchestra. In 2019, she won BYSO's concerto competition and performed Grieg's Piano Concerto with the orchestra at Kresge Auditorium at MIT. In June 2019, Jessie presented an all-Chopin solo concert at the Frederick Historical Piano Collection, performing on an 1840 Erard Piano. She is also a winner of the 2020 Anick Young People's Performing Arts Festival Competition. In addition, Jessie has presented numerous community benefit solo recitals at various hospitals, senior centers, and music schools.

Sonata No. 1 in F-sharp minor, Op. 11

I. Introduction: un poco adagio - Allegro vivace

Video appearance

Robert Schumann

(1810 - 1856)

Emma Illidge

(student of Niva Fried)

Emma Illidge is a 17-year-old pianist who is currently a senior at Winchester High School. She has been playing piano for 13 years and has been learning from her dearest teacher Niva Fried for the past five. She plans to continue her music studies at Wellesley College in the fall. In this time, she has participated in and received awards in several competitions, including MMTA and AFAF. She swims on her high school varsity swim team and is a part of her school's all girls choir, which she has accompanied in concert for the last four years. In her free time, Emma enjoys teaching piano, knitting, hiking, and spending time outdoors, including climbing up the white mountain in December and staying in a freezing hut overnight.

Sonata No. 3, Op. 28, in a minor

Video appearance

Sergei Prokofiev

(1891 - 1953)

Charmaine Liu

(student of Natalia Harlap)

Charmaine Liu, 17, started to play piano when she was 5. She is currently studying with Natalia Harlap at New England Conservatory. Charmaine has received numerous awards, prizes and scholarships from competitions and festivals, including the Steinway Society of Massachusetts, MMTA, YAPC, Chopin International Piano Competition, Best Rachmaninoff Competition, and Crescendo International Competition. She has performed at Jordan Hall, Carnegie Hall, and other various halls across Vienna, Hong Kong and Poland. Charmaine is also dedicated to chamber music, performing at NEC as well as locally for community, arts, media and fundraising events. She is also an active chorus member who has participated in the all-state and national honors choirs. Charmaine will be studying piano with Pavel Nersessian at Boston University starting fall of 2020.

Sonata No. 4, in F-sharp Major, Op. 30

Alexander Scriabin
(1872 - 1915)

I. Andante

II. Prestissimo volando

Video appearance

Danika Dai

(student of Nilly Epstein Shilo)

Danika Dai is a senior at Lexington High School. She has been playing piano for ten years and currently studies with Dr. Nilly Shilo. Danika has won awards from the Harvard Musical Association Competition, the New York Debut Young Musicians Competition, the NEPTA Competition, the MTNA State Performance Competition, the Steinway Society of Massachusetts Piano Competition, the URI Piano Extravaganza Competition, and the Bay State Piano Competition. Her other achievements include performing at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center as a participant of the American Fine Arts Festival, the DiMenna Center for Classical Music, and Boston Symphony Hall. Danika plays piano for patients at a local hospital, organizes an annual concert at her local senior care center, and performs for audiences in the Greater Boston area with the student-led music organization GBMO. In her spare time, she enjoys running, reading, and spending time with her family and friends.

Alice Hamlet Competition Winners

1. Danika Dai (student of Nilly Epstein Shilo)

2. Charmaine Liu (student of Natalia Harlap)

3. Emma Illidge (student of Niva Fried)

Honorable Mention: Alyssa Guo (student of Faina Kofman)

Honorable Mention: Meghan Tan (student of Natalia Harlap)

Ruth Davidson Competition Winners

1. Elizabeth Zhang (student of Natalia Harlap)

2. Michael Karshis (student of Tanya Schwartzman)

3. Eric Zhang (student of Helena Vesterman)

Honorable Mention: Gaeun Lee (student of Niva Fried)

Honorable Mention: Justin Wang (student of Helena Vesterman)

A. Ramón Rivera Contemporary Music Awards

For Alice Hamlet: Jessie Liu (student of Faina Kofman)
For Ruth Davidson: Justin Wang (student of Helena Vesterman)

Margaret C. Bachelder Romantic Music Award

Elizabeth Zhang (student of Natalia Harlap)

Mildred Freiberg Middle School Competition Winners

1. Roxane Park (student of Mila Filatova)
2. Ben Wolfson (student of Natalia Harlap)
3. Emily Zhou (student of Niva Fried)
Honorable Mention: Ella Li (student of Veda Kogan)
Honorable Mention: Richard Liu (student of Valerie Henkin)
Honorable Mention: Anna Yang (student of Nilly Epstein Shilo)

Alice Procter Composition Award Winner

Leander Frank (student of Nina Grimaldi)

Louise Hodder Olsen Award Winner

Carly Heslop (student of Diana Tetzlaff)

High School Competition Judges

Leslie Amper, David Deveau, Alex Poliykov

Middle School Competition Judges

Evan Hirsch, Lois Shapiro, Esther Ning Yau

High School Competition Committee

Jia Shi, Chair,
Diana Tetzlaff, Shizue Sano

Middle School Competition Committee

Shizue Sano, Chair,
Diana Tetzlaff, Jia Shi

New England Piano Teachers' Association, Inc. President **Diana Tetzlaff**

Tax deductible donations to NEPTA are welcome and appreciated.
Donations may be made at www.NEPTA.com
Thank you!