



NEW ENGLAND PIANO TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Committed to Excellence in Teaching Piano

## 2021 Awards Recital

Monday, May 17, 2021

(following the 9:30 a.m. Annual Meeting)

### **Alice Procter Award for Original Composition**

Lost in a Dream

Ian Lin

***Ian Lin***

(student of Tanya Schwartzman)

**Ian J. Lin** started studying piano at age three and a half, and music composition at six. He currently studies under Ms. Tanya Schwartzman. He has won music composition awards such as 3rd place at MTNA National Final, ASCAP Young Composers honorable mention, New Tribeca Emerging Composer Award. His piano awards include the 1st place at Steinway Piano Competition, 1st Prize at International Chopin competition in Hartford, CT, 3rd place International Young Artist Piano competition in DC among others. Besides music, Ian also loves sports, especially tennis, science and solving Rubik's cubes.

### **Mildred Freiberg Middle School Competition (Grades 6 - 8)**

Sonata in A minor, K. 310

II. Andante cantabile con espressione

Wolfgang A. Mozart

(1756 – 1791)

***Katherine Chen***

(student of Eleanor McLaughlin)

Katherine Chen, age eleven, from Sudbury, MA, has studied piano with Eleanor McLaughlin since May 2015. She won 1st place in 2016 and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in MMTA Judged Festival. In 2016 she won the Grand Prize in the Talented Young Musicians Russian Music Competition and

performed at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall. She won 1<sup>st</sup> prize in 2017 and 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in 2018 in the Young Artist Competition. In the MMTA Bay State Competition she won 3rd place in 2018 and honorable mention in 2019. As the first prize winner of the Elite International Competition in 2018 & 2019, she performed at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall. She won 1<sup>st</sup> prize in TYMA Russian Music Competition in 2020. Katherine also plays violin, enjoys drawing and photography.

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*Gondoliera, from Venezia e Napoli*  
Années de Pèlerinage, II Supplément

Franz Liszt  
(1811 – 1886)

***Anna Yang***

(student of Dr. Nilly Epstein Shilo)

**Anna Yang** is currently in seventh grade at The Winsor School in Boston, MA. She has been playing piano since age five, and for the past five years has been studying under the direction of Dr. Nilly Shilo. She has competed and placed in numerous regional piano competitions such as the MMTA Judged Festival, Bay State Piano Competition and the NEPTA Mildred Freiberg Competition. She has also had the opportunity to perform at Carnegie Hall through the American Fine Arts Festival and was a Gold medal winner in the AADGT International Young Musicians Festival. Aside from music, Anna enjoys baking, art, and soccer.

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Sonata in B-flat Major, Op. 22  
I. Allegro con brio

Ludwig van Beethoven  
(1770 – 1827)

***Claire Tong***

(student of Natalia Harlap)

**Claire Tong** began her music studies at the age of four and a half with Professor Natalia Harlap. She was the four-time First Prize Winner at the Annual Bay State Piano Competition between 2016 and 2019. In 2019, she was the First Prize Winner at the Best Chopin Performance Competition and IV Paderewski International Competition. In 2020, Claire was the Second Prize Winner at the Chopin International Competition in Hartford, CT, and the Gold Prize Winner at the Musicale Beethoven Festival. Currently in seventh grade, Claire also plays violin in the NEC prep orchestra and is an active K-pop dancer.

## **Ruth Davidson Competition (Grades 9 & 10)**

Impromptu Op. 142, D.935, No. 1 in F minor

Franz Schubert  
(1797 - 1828)

### ***Benjamin Shaar***

(student of Dr. Nilly Epstein Shilo)

**Benjamin Shaar** is a high school sophomore from Newton, MA. He started his piano lessons at the age of five and has been studying with Dr. Nilly Shilo since age nine. He has performed in numerous recitals and venues including Carnegie Hall, Boston Symphony Hall and Jordan Hall. Ben has won first place of the MMTA Bay State competition numerous times, has placed second at the Steinway competition and third at the Chopin International Competition in Hartford, CT. He has appeared on the NPR show "From the Top" in 2020 and was also the Alternate winner of the MTNA competition. In his spare time, Ben enjoys math and playing basketball.

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32 Variations in C minor, WoO 80

Ludwig van Beethoven  
(1770 -1827)

### ***Evan Huang***

(student of Mila Filatova)

**Evan Huang** has studied with his current teacher, Ms. Filatova, for four years. During this time, he has participated and received awards in many piano competitions, including the Granite State Piano Competition, the Sempre Musick Piano Competition, and the Elite International Music Competition. He is currently in tenth grade and lives in Andover, Massachusetts with his mom, dad, and little sister. He enjoys playing the piano because it allows him to express himself through music. In his free time, he likes to take walks around his neighborhood and spend time with his family.

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Chez Pétroushka  
*from Three movements from Petrushka*

Igor Stravinsky  
(1882 – 1971)

*African Sketches*  
No. 2 Dust  
No. 3 Dancing Barefoot in Rain  
A. Ramón Rivera Contemporary Music Award

Nkeiru Okoye  
(b. 1972)

***Eric Zhang***

(student of Helena Vesterman)

**Eric Zhang**, fifteen, a student of Helena Vesterman, is currently a sophomore at Bedford High School. He began playing piano at age five. Some of his musical achievements are: A current Quarter Finalist for the 2020/2021, Gina Bachauer International Junior & Young Artists Piano Competitions ; 2nd place winners of A. Ramon Rivera Piano Competition and HMA high school achievement awards (2021); 1st place winner of the NEPTA Mildred Freiberg Competition (2019) and the URI Piano Extravaganza (2019); MTNA Junior Piano Competition, MA Alternate (2019); He has performed at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, the DiMenna Center for Classical Music in New York, Kresge Auditorium at Interlochen, and other venues. Besides music, he enjoys cooking, writing, and exercising.

**Alice Hamlet Competition (Grades 11 & 12)**

Prelude and Fugue in B Major, BWV 892  
*from The Well-Tempered Clavier Book 2*

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685 - 1750)

***David Heschel Liebowitz***

(student of Natalia Harlap)

**David Heschel Liebowitz** is a piano student of Natalia Harlap at the New England Conservatory Prep program. He is a Junior at the Roxbury Latin School, where he is a pianist in the chamber music program, participates in the singing group *Latonics*, and is on the varsity Cross Country and Track teams. David received first prize in his piano division of the MMTA Bay State Music Competition and received the Nancy Oliva Award for excellence in piano performance from NEPTA. David's love of music is deep and constant. He is dedicated to lifelong learning, listening, composing, studying, and performing music.

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Toccatà in C minor, BWV 911  
Fugue

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685 - 1750)

**Gaeun Lee**  
(student of Niva Fried)

**Gaeun Lee** is a junior at Belmont High School currently studying with Niva Fried. Recently placing first and receiving the Bach Prize in the 2021 A. Ramon Rivera Competition, Gaeun has won other top prizes around the Greater Boston area including the Bay State Competition, MTNA Competition, and the Steinway Competition. She has also been an avid chamber musician in the Rivers School Conservatory's Honors Trio for the past three years. Aside from piano, Gaeun is a clarinetist in the Boston Youth Symphony and served as principal in the 2021 dMMEA All-State Festival. She is Co-Founder of the student-led nonprofit Virtuosi Music Mentorship, providing virtual mentorship opportunities to students reaching across the nation.

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Ballade No. 4 in F minor, Op. 52

Frédéric Chopin  
(1810 - 1849)

Margaret C. Bachelder Romantic Music Award

Grease on the Handlebars  
*from Indie Ditties*

Nicholas Vines  
(b. 1976)

A. Ramón Rivera Contemporary Music Award

**Nicole Hu**  
(student of Mila Filatova)

**Nicole Hu** embarked on her piano journey at age six in Pittsburgh, PA. She studied with Ian Parker in Vancouver, Canada, who greatly diversified and enriched her musical palate. Currently studying at St. Paul's School in Concord, NH, she studies with Victor Rosenbaum and Mila Filatova. Nicole has won numerous international and national competitions, including the Canadian Music Competition, American Protégé Concerto Competition, Seattle International Competition. She has performed as a soloist with the Vancouver Philharmonic Symphony, West Coast Symphony, and the Nashua Chamber Orchestra. She also studies French Horn with Orlando Pandolfi, and currently is the second horn player in the New Hampshire All-State Orchestra.

## **2021 NEPTA Competitions Winners and Judges**

### **Alice Hamlet Competition Winners**

1. Nicole Hu (student of Mila Filatova)
  2. Gaeun Lee (student of Niva Fried)
  3. David Liebowitz (student of Natalia Harlap)
- Honorable Mention: Elizabeth Zhong (student of Dr. Nilly Shilo)  
Honorable Mention: Olivia Yang (student of Mila Filatova)

### **Ruth Davidson Competition Winners**

1. Eric Zhang (student of Helena Vesterman)
  2. Evan Huang (student of Mila Filatova)
  3. Benjamin Shaar (student of Dr. Nilly Shilo)
- Honorable Mention: Maxwell Huang (student of Faina Kofman)

### **A. Ramón Rivera Contemporary Music Awards**

Alice Hamlet - Nicole Hu (student of Mila Filatova)  
Ruth Davidson - Eric Zhang (student of Helena Vesterman)

### **Margaret C. Bachelder Romantic Music Award**

Nicole Hu (student of Mila Filatova)

### **Mildred Freiberg Middle School Competition Winners**

1. Claire Tong (student of Natalia Harlap)
  2. Anna Yang (student of Dr. Nilly Shilo)
  3. Katherine Chen (student of Eleanor McLaughlin)
- Honorable Mention: Claire Chow (student of Veda Kogan)  
Honorable Mention: Richard Liu (student of Valerie Henkin)  
Honorable Mention: Emily Zhou (student of Niva Fried)

### **Alice Procter Composition Award Winner**

Ian Lin (student of Tanya Schwartzman)

### **High School Competition Judges**

Ernest Barretta  
Tanya Gabrielian  
A. Ramón Rivera

**Middle School Competition Judges**

Gila Goldstein  
Randall Hodgkinson  
Eileen Hutchins

**High School Competition Committee**

Jia Shi, *chair*  
Diana Tetzlaff, Shizue Sano

**Middle School Competition Committee**

Shizue Sano, *chair*  
Diana Tetzlaff, Jia Shi

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**New England Piano Teachers' Association, Inc.**

Diana Tetzlaff, President

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[www.nepta.com](http://www.nepta.com)