NEIGHBORHOOD MUSIC SCHOOL

RENÉE B. FISHER COMPETITION
FOR YOUNG PIANISTS

Winners’ Concert
Saturday, May 6, 2017

40th ANNIVERSARY
Piano was Ms. Fisher's favorite instrument and she enjoyed playing a broad repertoire, from classical to chamber music to jazz and blues. She performed piano professionally and also composed for the piano. Ms. Fisher played string bass (she was a member of the Norwalk Symphony and the Bridgeport Symphony) as well as clarinet, vibraphone, organ, accordion, guitar and other instruments. She organized and conducted a number of vocal groups as well.

Ms. Fisher taught music and music education at the University of Bridgeport, Brooklyn College, Long Island University, Southern Connecticut State College and in the public school systems in New York and Westport, Connecticut. A native of New York, she moved to Westport with her husband, the late Milton Fisher, and their daughter, Shelley, in 1960. She spent many stimulating and happy days in New Haven doing research for her books in Yale's Sterling Memorial Library and later visiting her daughter, who became a member of the first class of women to graduate from Yale. (Shelley Fisher Fishkin continued at Yale for her Ph.D., became a teacher and administrator there and is now professor of English and director of American studies at Stanford University.)

Renée Fisher died in 1976 at the age of 57. Following her untimely death, Milton Fisher, a writer and attorney who also taught a course in "Applied Creativity," looked for a fitting way to honor her memory. The Renée B. Fisher Piano Competition and the Renée B. Fisher Composer Awards were the result. Both celebrate the potential of each generation to make beautiful music.
GUEST ARTISTS

Born in New York, David Sacks has lived in Greenwich, CT since he was five, at which time he began to study the piano. David has appeared in concert on numerous stages ranging from the Stanford University's CEMEX Auditorium to the Sala Michelangelini in Bolzano, Italy. He has given numerous solo recitals at the Tenri Cultural Center in New York and in the fall of 2015 he inaugurated the Young Artist Concert Series at the 92nd Street Y’s Weill Art Gallery. David made his orchestral debut with the Yonkers Philharmonic this past spring as the First Prize winner of their Concerto Competition, playing the Piano Concerto No. 3 in d minor by Rachmaninoff. Most recently he was named a Finalist by the National YoungArts Foundation and participated in the 2017 National YoungArts Week in Miami, Florida. David has performed at Yale’s Summer Music Festival in Norfolk, CT, where he played the first movement of Beethoven’s Hammerklavier Sonata in a master class for Boris Berman. He has participated in several piano competitions here and abroad, most recently competing by invitation in the preliminary round of the Concorso Busoni and prior to that winning First Prize and Best Performance of a Commissioned Work in the 2016 High School Division of the Renée B. Fisher Competition for Young Pianists in New Haven, CT.

Most recently, Darwin reconstructed the 1940’s Heifetz arrangement of Irving Berlin’s White Christmas and rare pieces by Leopold Auer and John Crowther, and published his work online in video format. All were highlighted by violinist.com. Darwin is currently working on a number of similar projects.

In addition to his performance schedule, Darwin maintains a teaching studio for pre-college students in the New York metropolitan area. His students have gone on to study at many of the major music conservatories and colleges in the United States. Darwin is also the founder and executive director of the Violin Audition Prep Program, an annual, intensive program which is designed to teach young musicians how to approach and perform in auditions of all types, including for college and conservatory admissions and orchestra placements. He also works with student orchestras and school music programs as a guest teacher, helping students work through intensive rehearsals or difficult pieces.

Darwin studied violin with Paul Kantor, Kyung Yu and Yuval Waldman. He also has a B.A. degree in History from Manhattanville College.

Alexis Zingale began her piano studies at the age of four and presented her first solo recital program at age nine. Ms. Zingale has performed throughout the U.S. and Canada as soloist and collaborator in a variety of venues, winning numerous awards in both roles. Ms. Zingale has recorded for Peer Music Classical and the Charles Ives Society, and her performances have been broadcast on Connecticut Public Radio.

Ms. Zingale is an adjunct professor of piano and chamber music at the University of Bridgeport, a staff accompanist at Western CT State University, a piano faculty member and staff accompanist at the Neighborhood Music School in New Haven, a piano faculty member at the Suzuki Music School of Westport, and the accompanist of the New Haven Oratorio Choir.

A full-time student at Stanford Online High School, David has had a particular affinity for the classics, having read Latin and Ancient Greek. He considers himself fortunate to be studying currently with Boris Berman in New Haven and Miyoko Lotto in New York, with occasional coaching from Ursula Oppens. When time permits, David enjoys skiing steep terrain and writing poetry and short stories.

Violinist Darwin Shen has been performing as a soloist in concert halls and with ensembles and orchestras all over the United States for over twenty years. Although he continues to perform much of the standard violin repertoire, in recent years he has specialized in resurrecting lost or rarely performed works of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He has been sought after by other artists and musicians as an expert in these works, and his most recent projects in this area have been published online.
YOUNG PIANISTS’ BIOGRAPHIES

Past Fisher prize winners have gone on to attend all the major U. S. conservatories at the undergraduate and graduate levels, to participate in major international piano competitions and to serve on the piano performance faculties of major colleges and community music schools. We wish this year’s prize winners success in their future careers.

Aimee Chang, 13, is an 8th grader at Polson Middle School in Madison. She has been studying piano since 2015 under Miyoko Lotto at the Manhattan School of Music Pre-college Division. She is also a part of a chamber music trio with fellow MSM Pre-college students. In February 2017, Aimee gave her solo debut recital at Pforzheimer Hall, Manhattan School of Music. She also participated in the DEBUT International Piano Competition (3rd Place), VIVO-Youth International Music Competition (2nd Place), and recently won First Prize in the Vanguard International Music Competition. She has had the honor of performing at Carnegie Hall’s Weill and Zankel Recital Halls on multiple occasions. This year, Aimee is looking forward to attending the Curtis Institute of Music’s Young Artist Summer Program.

Claire Chang, 15, is a sophomore at Daniel Hand High School in Madison. She started piano at four and violin at twelve. In 2015, she began studying piano with Miyoko Lotto at the Manhattan School of Music Pre-college Division. Claire began studying violin with Grace Shim at MSM in 2016 and declared a double major in piano and violin at that time. She is a member of the MSM Pre-college Symphony Orchestra conducted by Brian Worsdale. Claire has won various awards from competitions and festivals and has had the honor to perform at Carnegie Hall’s Weill and Zankel Recital Halls. This summer, she is excited to attend the Interlochen Arts Camp for violin and orchestra.

Maxwell Carmichael of Killingworth is a junior in the Honors Program at Xavier High School. He began his piano studies at age four and has been studying with Victoria Reeves since 2009. In 2016 he won first place in the senior division of the Jumy Foundation Park Piano Competition held at Western CT State University. During the summers of 2015 and 2016, Max studied piano and bassoon at New England Music Camp (NEMC). He was chosen to receive NEMC’s Honor Musician award in 2016. Max was the recipient of the 2012 and 2014 Tri-State Certificates of Excellence for Levels 4 and 6 Piano respectively, in CT, for the Carnegie Hall Royal Conservatory Achievement Program. He also was awarded a National Gold Medal by the Royal Conservatory program in 2014 for achieving the highest mark in the country on his piano assessment. These awards included invitations to perform at Carnegie Hall. In 2013 he earned an Honorable Mention for the MTNA CT Junior Performance Piano Competition. Max has studied bassoon with Sue Cross since 2009. In 2013 and 2014 he was invited to participate as a bassoonist in the CMEA Southern Regionals middle school band. He has been a bassoonist in the Greater New Haven Youth Orchestra since 2014. He was selected for the CMEA Southern Regional high school orchestra in 2015 and high school band in 2016 and the All State high school Band in 2016. Beginning in the fall 2016 he has been the guest artist on bassoon with the Choate Rosemary Hall Orchestra, which recently performed at Carnegie Hall. In addition to music, Max has a passion for science and math. He was chosen to participate in the National Chemistry Olympiad in April and is considering a career in the sciences.

Lisha Jing is 16 years old from Foshan, China. She is currently attending the Norwich Free Academy in Norwich, CT and is in 11th grade. She has studied piano 12 years, and 1.5 years with Ms. Chambless. In China she was awarded the highest level of the Royal School of Music Awards, and then presented a recital in the Xinghai Concert Hall. Lisha especially loves Debussy and Chopin, and feels that the piano is one of her best friends! As soon as her fingers touch the keys, her worries seem to disappear!! Lisha won several awards with Robotics in 2013; the Hawaii Pan Pacific Championship Gold Medal, the Think Award of Heco Division, and the Los Angeles World Championship Bronze Medal. Last summer she was a volunteer in Bali teaching elementary children math and music, then a volunteer in Xi'an helping to take care of “left-behind” children. Lisha is very active at Norwich Free Academy and is on the “Math Team (A team)” and played piano in the school orchestra. And just for fun, she likes to play table tennis and watch movies!

Marin Korenaga is a 6th grader at Bethany Community School. She started playing the piano at age five. She was always at her brother’s lessons and could not resist trying it herself. Marin has been studying with Joel Wizansky for the past four years. In addition to playing solo, she loves making music with her friends and often accompanies her brother’s and mother’s violin playing. Marin also plays the violin and is currently studying with Wendy Sharp. She has been a member...
of the Greater New Haven Concert Orchestra since 2015 and attended the Elm City ChamberFest for two summers. As a violinist, she was a winner of the Middle School Division of the 2016 NMS Concerto Competition, and last December performed Beethoven’s Romance in F Major as soloist with the Concert Orchestra. This February, for her dedication to her school’s music activities, she was invited to attend a banquet honoring students in the arts from elementary schools throughout Connecticut. Marin particularly loves math and science.

Charis Liu of West Hartford has been studying piano with Malgosia Lis at Hartt School Community Division since 2nd grade. Between 3rd and 5th grades, Charis was selected by teachers to perform in the Junior Showcase at Hartt. In the bi-annual Suzuki Conference of the Americas in 2014, she was accepted to the piano masterclass by audition. She also won honorable mention in the Audrey Thayer Piano Competition in 3rd grade. She then won 2nd place in the Virtuoso Piano Competition in 4th and 5th grades. In addition, she won the Bach award for the most intelligent playing in 4th grade and the Gershwin award for the most stylish playing in 5th grade. Recently, she was selected by audition to perform in the honor recital at Hartt. Charis also has been studying violin close to 5 years. She was recently accepted by audition to the Northern Regional Middle School Orchestra. Besides her interest in music, she also plays tennis and enjoys reading and drawing cartoons.

Hudson Ragins of Yonkers, New York, is 10 years old and goes to school at Ethical Culture Fieldston School. His favorite subjects are woodshop and Social Studies Workshop, a workshop for sewing, cooking, and many other hands-on things. He was born in NY and his mother is from Taiwan. His teacher is Yoshie Akimoto. In piano, he enjoys improvising and chamber music. As he practices, his mind sometimes wanders and takes him on trips in the nation of Imag. When he is stuck on something (like this), he plays the piano and it gives him ideas. When he is not practicing, he likes reading adventurous stories, exercising, hiking, swimming, wrestling, traveling, and eating. He currently lives in Yonkers, NY, with his second teacher (mom) and personal chauffeur (dad).

Hudson Shi is a 4th grade student at Oak Grove Montessori School in Mansfield, CT. He started to learn piano in 2012, when he was five years old. He has received the State Certificate of Excellence Award three times from Royal Conservatory of Music, in 2014, 2015 and 2016. In addition to playing piano, he likes solving Rubik’s cube and practicing yo-yo tricks. He also enjoys watching YouTube videos and has learned a lot about atoms and the universe.

Kaki Su, born in Japan, is a sophomore at Choate Rosemary Hall. Ever since beginning the piano at 4, she has participated in competitions in Japan, and has received many prizes including First Place in several regional competitions. Even though she took a break from competitions in middle school, her boundless passion for music allowed her to explore and build up a wide-ranging repertoire during that period. In her first competition in the U.S., the 92nd St. Y School of Music Concerto Competition in New York earlier in the year, she was chosen as a finalist to perform the entire Saint-Saëns Piano Concerto No. 2.

At Choate, Kaki is working on the Beethoven Triple Concerto with the Choate Symphony Orchestra, which she will perform at the end of the semester. She enjoys playing the violin in the orchestra as well. Next year she will serve as the vice-president of the Choate Teach Music club, which provides private music lessons to underserved children from Wallingford. She is also the goalie of the soccer team and handles on the track team. At home in Japan over the breaks, you could find her practicing karate, reading Japanese literature, enjoying the great food, and of course, playing and listening to her beloved classical masterpieces.

Victor You, age 15, began his piano studies with Rachel Acuff in his native Tennessee at five. When his family relocated to Woodbridge, he studied with Ludmila Ozyriansky in Cheshire, for six years, followed by brief studies with Steven Beck and José García-León. Since 2015, Victor has been attending Pre-college at the Manhattan School of Music, studying piano with Phillip Kawin.

Victor was a winner in several piano competitions, including the Audrey Thayer Piano Competition, the V. Chopin International Piano Competition in Hartford, the Crescendo International Music Competition and the American Protégé International Piano and Strings Competition. He has performed in several winners’ recitals at Weill Recital Hall and performed at the winners’ recital at Merkin Concert Hall in the Kaufman Music Center, New York. In 2015, he was a Semifinalist at the IV. Tureck International Bach Competition in New York. In 2016, Victor won First Prize at the International Grande Music Competition.
Victor tied for First Prize in the Elementary/Middle School Division of the 37th Renée B. Fisher Competition in 2014. He is a freshman at Amity Regional High School and plays alto saxophone in the jazz and school bands. In addition, he is a member of the Amity Science Research Program and a member of Amity’s varsity ski race team.

Alyssa Xu is a 6th grader at Timothy Edwards Middle School in South Windsor. Her interest in piano sparked when she heard her sister playing piano, and she often tried to play along with her. When Alyssa was about 6, she started to take Dr. Zhong Chen’s piano lessons. She participated in the Virtuoso Pianists Competition hosted by the Hartford Music Teachers Alliance and has been the pianist in her school jazz band. She has also performed in the University of Hartford’s Hartt School’s Honors Recital. In addition, Xu started to play the violin when she was 8 years old, and has been in the East Regional Middle School Festival orchestra.

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**Celebrating 40 Years of the Fisher Competition**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1st Prize</th>
<th>2nd Prize</th>
<th>3rd Prize</th>
<th>Honorable Mention</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>Andrew Sill</td>
<td>Mark Salman</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Thomas Giles, Michael Micale, Giocelle Terenzio, Madeleine Denise Willi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>Mark Salman</td>
<td>Ronald Squibbs</td>
<td>Steve Marzullo</td>
<td>Lucia Bonnesen, Gloriana Garth, Thomas Giles, Meg Lowenthal, Merilee Murphy, Giocelle Terenzio, Linda Yu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Ronald Squibbs</td>
<td>Meg Lowenthal</td>
<td>Thomas Giles</td>
<td>Lucia Bonnesen, Chase Coleman, Steve Marzullo, Merilee Murphy, Giocelle Terenzio, Mark Dimenno, Jason Solomides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Jason Solomides</td>
<td>Mark Diminno</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Lucia Bonnesen, Chase Coleman, Rachel Currin, Robin Dober, Holly Clarcia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Michele Moses</td>
<td>David Naiman</td>
<td>Nick Wolke</td>
<td>Beth Almon, Tatiana Bylinsky, Peter Stern, Jennifer O’Brien, Lauren Schack</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Celebrating 40 Years of the Fisher Competition

## 1982
- **1st Prize**: Miekyoung Kim
- **2nd Prize**: Melissa Kuo
- **3rd Prize**: David Scrimmeli
- **Honorable Mention**: Peter Stern, Margo Daskal, Beth Almore, Boaz Halaban, Lucia Bonnesen, David Najman

## 1983
- **1st Prize**: Hai-Hui Wang
- **2nd Prize**: Boaz Halaban
- **3rd Prize**: Lucia Bonnesen
- **Honorable Mention**: Alexander Citron, Melissa Kuo, Eric Miller, Peter Stern, Charles Tauber

## 1984
- **1st Prize**: Lucia Bonnesen
- **2nd Prize**: Melissa Kuo
- **3rd Prize**: Mia Lee
- **Honorable Mention**: Jennifer Bakeman, Nicole Balazas, Alexander Citron, Anne Hughes, Jean Kim, Edna Koren, Raymond Lowey, Eric Miller, Ryan Murphy, Peter Stern, Ayako Tsuruta

## 1985
- **The Competition grows to award prizes in two age divisions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Junior Division</th>
<th>Senior Division</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1986</strong></td>
<td><strong>1989</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Junior Division</strong></td>
<td><strong>Commissioned Work: Impromptu by Leopold Godowsky III</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Prize: Robert MacDonald</td>
<td>1st Prize: Alice Huang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Prize: Peter Stern</td>
<td>2nd Prize: Akiko Tominangaa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Prize: Alexis Zingale</td>
<td>3rd Prize: Yoko Tominanga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honorable Mention: Andrew Armstrong, Eric Miller</td>
<td>Honorable Mention: Matthew Congo, Katherine Miller, Alexander Freedman, Kenneth Amano</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senior Division</th>
<th><strong>Senior Division</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Prize: Corinne Nordmann</td>
<td><strong>Commissioned Work: Songs without Words by Russell Platt</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Prize: George Lopez</td>
<td>1st Prize: Ryan Murphy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Prize: Christopher Locke</td>
<td>2nd Prize: Claude Mottier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honorable Mention: Ryan Murphy, Jennifer Bakeman, Edna Koren</td>
<td>3rd Prize: Alexis Zingale</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 1987
- **The competition begins to feature the premiere of new works commissioned for the competition**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1987</th>
<th>Junior Division</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Commissioned Work: Repercussions by Roland Tec</strong></td>
<td><strong>Commissioned Work: Toccata &amp; Arietta by Ruth Schottal</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Prize: Peter Yao</td>
<td>1st Prize: Albert Kim **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Prize: Erica Morgan</td>
<td>2nd Prize: Akiko Tominangaa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Prize: Lisa Kaplan</td>
<td>3rd Prize: Yoko Tominanga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honorable Mention: Andrew Armstrong, Alexis Zingale, Francis Brancieri, Audrey Fu, Sehee Park</td>
<td>Honorable Mention: Neylan McBain, Michelle Park</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senior Division</th>
<th><strong>Commissioned Work: Guesting by Chen Yi</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Commissioned Work: In Front by Paul McKibbins</strong></td>
<td>1st Prize: Megumi Watanabe **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Prize: Yuki Shimada</td>
<td>2nd Prize: Peter Stern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Prize: Peter Stern</td>
<td>3rd Prize: Erica Morgan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Prize: Ryan Murphy</td>
<td>Honorable Mention: Lisa Kaplan, Alexis Zingale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honorable Mention: Holly Hutchinson, Mary Jo Arboleda, Nicole Balazas</td>
<td><strong>Senior Division</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 1988
- **Commissioned Work: Toccata by Corinne Nordmann**
- **1st Prize**: Kenneth Park
- **2nd Prize**: Andrew Armstrong**
- **3rd Prize**: Jeb Dennis
- **Honorable Mention**: Alexis Zingale, Emily Tsai, Sehee Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senior Division</th>
<th><strong>Commissioned Work: Swing Shift by Robert Carl</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Commissioned Work: Two Moods by Nesly Bruce</strong></td>
<td>1st Prize: Mary Jocelyn Arboleda **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Prize: Neylan McBain</td>
<td>2nd Prize: Peter Stern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Prize: Sarah Han</td>
<td>3rd Prize: Ryan Murphy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Prize: Akiko Tominangaa</td>
<td>Honorable Mention: Eric Hunter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Best performance of the Commissioned Work**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1991</th>
<th>Junior Division</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Commissioned Work: Rhythm Changes by Laura Morgen Tuner</strong></td>
<td><strong>Commissioned Work: Impromptu by Donald Wheelock</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Prize: Yuki Kao**</td>
<td>1st Prize: Lynne Kao**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Prize: Elina Teplinskaya</td>
<td>2nd Prize: Alisa Tominangaa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Prize: Alma Osotsky</td>
<td>3rd Prize: Alice Tominangaa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honorable Mention: Nicholas Britell, Eunice Hahn, Eric Hunter</td>
<td>Honorable Mention: Alice Tominangaa, Katherine Miller</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senior Division</th>
<th><strong>Special Achievement Award: Misha Shimada</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Commissioned Work: Thought Pastures by Gregory Mertl</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Prize: Andrew Armstrong**</td>
<td>1st Prize: Andrew Armstrong**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Prize: Alexis Zingale</td>
<td>2nd Prize: Alexis Zingale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Prize: Jeb Dennis</td>
<td>3rd Prize: Jeb Dennis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honorable Mention: Matthew Congo, Aleksandra Bobkowskii</td>
<td>Honorable Mention: Matthew Congo, Aleksandra Bobkowskii</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Best performance of the Commissioned Work**
Celebrating 40 Years of the Fisher Competition

1994  Junior Division
Commissioned Work: Key Caribe by Deborah Teasor
1st Prize: Nicholas Britell
2nd Prize: Eric Hunter**
3rd Prize: Eunice Hahn
Honorable Mention: Kimberly Blair Condon

Senior Division
Commissioned Work: Sinar Surya by Edie Hill
1st Prize: Akiko Tominaga
2nd Prize: Melody Fader
3rd Prize: Alice Huang
Honorable Mention: Lynn Kao, Jacqueline Blair, Alex Lee, Jeffers Engelhardt**

1995  Junior Division
Commissioned Work: Morning Song by David MacBride
1st Prize: Alice Lin
2nd Prize: Michelle Leutzinger
3rd Prize: Kimberly Condon
Honorable Mention: Michael Hunter, Mary Elizabeth Mille, Grace Shin **

Senior Division
Commissioned Work: Perpetua by Jack Perla
1st Prize: Alice Huang
2nd Prize: Sarah Han **
3rd Prize: Andrew Horn
Honorable Mention: Lynn Kao

1996  Junior Division
Commissioned Work: Hoedown by Margery Stone Selden
1st Prize: James Christiano
2nd Prize: Jared Eddy
3rd Prize: Michael Hunter**
Honorable Mention: Michelle Leutzinger, Kimberly Condon

Senior Division
Commissioned Work: Stone Arch Bridge by Jeffrey Brooks
1st Prize: Alexander Freedman
2nd Prize: Kao Osawa**
3rd Prize: John Chen
Honorable Mention: Eunice Hahn, Jonathan Chin

1997  **20th Anniversary Year**
Commissioned Composers served as judges for their own works

Junior Division
Commissioned Work: Petite Suite by Molés Bertran
1st Prize: Michael Hunter
2nd Prize: Brian Ju
3rd Prize: Chika Watanabe**
Honorable Mention: Michelle Leutzinger

Senior Division
Commissioned Work: Light Shadows by Todd Brief
1st Prize: Lynn Kao**
2nd Prize: Nicole Fang Wang
3rd Prize: Nicholas Zebb
Honorable Mention: John Y. Chen
Special Achievement Award: Christopher Blossom

1998  Junior Division
Commissioned Work: Etude after Mondrian by David Snow
1st Prize: Timothy Andres**
2nd Prize: Jennifer Hsiao
3rd Prize: Brian Ju
Honorable Mention: Mina Kim

Senior Division
Commissioned Work: Don't Interrupt! by Stanley Clarke
1st Prize: Eric Hunter
2nd Prize: Jared Eddy**
3rd Prize: Kimberly Condon
Honorable Mention: Amir Rasoulpour

1999  Junior Division
Commissioned Work: disfigurations by John Kafer
1st Prize: Marc Rumilly**
2nd Prize: George Michael Maronich
3rd Prize: Deborah Chen
Honorable Mention: Dion DePra

Senior Division
Commissioned Work: Vision Fugitive by Allen Brings
1st Prize: Carol Chen**
2nd Prize: Kimberly Condon
3rd Prize: Michael Hunter

** Best Performance of the Commissioned Work

2000  Junior Division
Commissioned Work: Barbershop Quartet by Harold Meltzer
1st Prize: G. Michael Maronich**
2nd Prize: Jong-Hai Park
3rd Prize: Yun Okada

Senior Division
Commissioned Work: Tribute and Fantasy by Philip Rothman
1st Prize: Monica Yan**
2nd Prize: Michael Hunter
3rd Prize: Julie Hunter

2001  Junior Division
Commissioned Work: Fandango Fantasy by Elizabeth Lauer
1st Prize: Jonathan Payne
2nd Prize: Hillary Watkins**
3rd Prize: Muireann Mageras

Senior Division
Commissioned Work: Fane and Tiamannen Square by Daniel Kellogg
1st Prize: G. Michael Maronich
2nd Prize: Patrick Wood
3rd Prize: Rebecca Francis
Honorable Mention: Michael Hunter**

2002  **25th Anniversary Year**
Gala Celebration was held, featuring a performance by Andrew Armstrong

2003  Junior Division
Commissioned Work: Encore by David Rubenstein
1st Prize: Kevin Mao**
2nd Prize: Michelle Lee
3rd Prize: Muireann Mageras

Senior Division
Commissioned Work: Two Fireflies by Thomas Oboe Lee
1st Prize: Marc Rumilly**
2nd Prize: Bonni Brodsy
3rd Prize: Miho Nishizawa

2004  Commissioned Composers served as judges for their own works

Junior Division
Commissioned Work: Transformations by Stephen Halloran
1st Prize: Michelle Lee**
2nd Prize: Siyi John Fu
3rd Prize: Marco Marra
Honorable Mention: Christine Guo

Senior Division
Commissioned Work: October Leaves by Peter Knell
1st Prize: Chip Backish
2nd Prize: Wen Fan**
3rd Prize: Wendy Liu

2006  Junior Division
Commissioned Work: Piano Prelude No. 4 by Steven Holochwost
1st Prize: Marco Marra**
2nd Prize (tie): Sophia Chua-Rubenstein, Annie Rose Tindall-Gibson
Honorable Mention: Edward Liu

Senior Division
Commissioned Work: Variations for Solo Piano by Gregory Hutter
1st Prize: Graciela Arguedas Herrera
2nd Prize: Zachary Weiner
Honorable Mention: Ben Scherban

** Best Performance of the Commissioned Work
Celebrating 40 Years of the Fisher Competition

2006
Junior Division
Commissioned Work: Ephemera by Carl Schimmel
2nd Prize (tie): Sophia Chua-Rubenfeld, **
3rd Prize: Chihiro Tsukamoto
Honorable Mention: John King, Christine Huang, Annie Rose Tindall-Gibson

Senior Division
Commissioned Work: Morning Meltdown by David Heedlerks
1st Prize: Michelle Lee
3rd Prize (tie): Mark Tondi, **
Joshua Sawicki
Honorable Mention: Naomi Weiss-Goldman

2007
**30th Anniversary Year**
Gala Celebration Featuring Performances by Former Fisher Prize-Winners
Job Dennis, Michael Maronich, and Alexis Zingale

2008
Junior Division
Commissioned Work: Fairy Tales by Aaron Alton
1st Prize: Sophia Chua-Rubenfeld
2nd Prize: Alexander Beyer**
3rd Prize: Chihiro Tsukamoto
Honorable Mention: Eric Jiang, Daniel Snyder, Thomas Kelley

Senior Division
Commissioned Work: Etchings IV by Paolo Longo
1st Prize: Jeffrey Li**
2nd Prize: Mark Tondi

2009
Elementary/Middle School Division
Commissioned Work: Two Pattern Preludes by Karim Al-Zand
1st Prize (tie): Anning Wang, Anna Pan **
3rd Prize: Nicole Kogan
Honorable Mention: Ethan Wu

High School Division
Commissioned Work: Quidditch by Gregory Frize
1st Prize: Joyce Han
2nd Prize: Morgan Lee **
3rd Prize: Audrey Zhang

2010
Elementary/Middle School Division
Commissioned Work: Coming in Thirds by Mark Zuckerman
1st Prize: Nicole Kogan
2nd Prize: Sindy Yang **
3rd Prize: Corey Chang
Honorable Mention: Madison Howard

High School Division
Commissioned Work: Mystic River by Hyekyung Lee
1st Prize: Christine Huang
2nd Prize: Wendy Hou
3rd Prize (tie): Denis Michael Nicholson, Lloyd Chen, ** Eric Jiang

2011
Elementary/Middle School Division
Commissioned Work: Soliloquy by Takuma Itoh
1st Prize: Julian Shively **
2nd Prize (tie): Madison Howard, Jordan Groff
3rd Prize: Anni Huang

High School Division
Commissioned Work: Three Strange Contraptions by Paul Lombardi
1st Prize: Sean Lee **
2nd Prize: Ming Wilson
3rd Prize (tie): Denis Michael Nicholson, Mingqi Chen

** Best Performance of the Commissioned Work

2012
Elementary/Middle School Division
Commissioned Work: Staircases by Tom Peterson
1st Prize: Kelly Zheng **
2nd Prize: Jordan Groff, Yosinho Toi
3rd Prize: Angela Luo
Honorable Mention: Sean Yu, Grace Nieh

High School Division
Commissioned Work: Three mini-Etudes in C by Ju Ri Seo
1st Prize: Lloyd Chen **
2nd Prize: Sindy Yang
3rd Prize: Richard Huffman

2013
Elementary/Middle School Division
Commissioned Work: Harubang by Wendy Wan-ki Lee
1st Prize: David Sacks
2nd Prize: Jordan Groff, John Alstott
3rd Prize: Claire Chang
Honorable Mention: Noah Lee**
Gilbert Tsui

High School Division
Commissioned Work: Wind-Up Etude by Sean Friar
1st Prize: Anna Pan **
2nd Prize: Corey Chang
Honorable Mention: Ming Wilson, Nina Knight

2014
Elementary/Middle School Division
Commissioned Work: For Piano by Garrett Schumann
1st Prize (tie): Dalton Yu, ** Victor You
3rd Prize: Yukino Toi
Honorable Mention: Noah Lee, Claire Chang

High School Division
Commissioned Work: Bell Dreams by Emily Cooley
1st Prize: Yosinho Toi **
2nd Prize (tie): Sindy Yang, Anning Wang
Honorable Mention: William Wang

2015
Elementary/Middle School Division
Commissioned Work: pipeskeak by Ryan Brown
1st Prize: Rachel Li
2nd Prize: Claire Chang
3rd Prize (tie): Aimee Chang, Seoyoun Kim
Honorable Mention: Charis Liu**
Dicheng Wu

High School Division
Commissioned Work: Little Spark of Madness by Tonia Ko
1st Prize: William Wang
2nd Prize: Harris Andersen
3rd Prize: Yukino Toi
Honorable Mention: Wendy Zhan**
William Yin

2016
Elementary/Middle School Division
Commissioned Work: The Strath by Edmund Jolliffe
1st Prize: Stephanie Chang**
2nd Prize: Noah Lee
3rd Prize: Aimee Chang

High School Division
Commissioned Work: Laeta Devote by Pierre Bastard
1st Prize: David Sacks**
2nd Prize: Caroline Ma
3rd Prize (tie): Harris Andersen, Gilbert Tsui
Honorable Mention: Claire Chang

** Best Performance of the Commissioned Work
PROGRAM

Etude, Op. 7, No. 6
Alyssa Xu
M. Moszkowski
Honorable Mention - Elementary/Middle School Division

Partita No. 2 in C minor, BWV 826
I. Sinfonia
J. S. Bach

Charis Liu
Honorable Mention - Elementary/Middle School Division

Dave's Reel
David Evan Thomas

Marin Korenaga
Honorable Mention & Best Performance of the Commissioned Work
Elementary/Middle School Division

David Evan Thomas - Comments

My Music Box
Toy Soldier March
Ballade

Guest Artist, Alexis Zingale
Seven time honoree of the Competition
First Prize - Senior Division, 1993

Sonata No. 2 in D minor, Op. 14
I. Allegro ma non troppo
Sergei Prokofiev

Guest Artist, David Sacks
First Prize Elementary/Middle School Division, 2013
First Prize - High School Division, 2016

Hudson Ragins
F. Chopin
First Prize - Elementary/Middle School Division

Sonata in F Major, Hob. XVI/23
I. Allegro moderato
F. J. Haydn

Hudson Shi
Third Prize - Elementary/Middle School Division

Fantasy in F# minor, Op. 28
Aimee Chang
F. Mendelssohn
Second Prize - Elementary/Middle School Division

Sonata No. 18 in D Major, K. 576
I. Allegro
W. A. Mozart

Hudson Ragins
First Prize - Elementary/Middle School Division

Sonata No. 3 in A minor, Op. 28
Claire Chang
S. Prokofiev
Honorable Mention - High School Division

Romeo & Juliet, Op. 75,
VI. Montagues & Capulets
S. Prokofiev

Maxwell Carmichael
Honorable Mention - High School Division

The Burning Totem
Kaki Su
Zhouyang Yu
Best Performance of the Commissioned Work - High School Division

Istvan B'Racz - Comments for Zhouyang Yu
Violin Sonata No. I in F minor, Op. 80
II. Allegro brusco
Guest Artists, Darwin Shen, violin & Alexis Zingale, piano

French Suite No. 5 in G Major, BWV 816
I. Allemande
II. Courante
III. Sarabande
IV. Gavotte
V. Bourée
VI. Loure
VII. Gigue
J. S. Bach

Victor You
Second Prize (tie) - High School Division

Jeux d'eau
M. Ravel

Lisha Jing
Second Prize (tie) - High School Division

Sonata in E¹ Major, Hob. XVI/52
III. Finale. Presto
F. J. Haydn

Kaki Su
First Prize - High School Division

Presentation of Awards
Shelley Fisher Fishkin, Renée B. Fisher Foundation
Dan Gurvich, Executive Director, Neighborhood Music School
Michelle Zingale, Fisher Competition Manager

Please join us for a reception following the concert.
TEACHERS’ BIOGRAPHIES

Steinway Artist Yoshie Akimoto, winner of J. S. Bach International Competition, Washington D.C. and faculty member of Foulger International Music Festival, Killington International Music Festival and Vianden, Luxembourg International Music Festival, has had a distinguished career as a soloist and chamber musician. She has produced numerous prodigies and top prize winning pianists nationally and internationally. Further, her students are accepted at top conservatories and universities, including Curtis, Juilliard, Harvard, Yale, Stanford and Columbia.

At age 10 she won First Prize in the prestigious All-Japan NHK Student Competition. She made her debut at age 13 with the Osaka Philharmonic Orchestra, substituting at the last minute and performing the Mozart Piano Concerto K. 415 with her own cadenza. She had a prodigious concert career in Japan through her teen years.

Ms. Akimoto is a graduate of Juilliard where she was a protégé of James Friskin and Sascha Gorodnitzki. She further studied with Guido Agosti at the Academia Chigiana in Sienna, Italy, and her concertizing expanded internationally and included frequent return engagements in Japan.

Ms. Akimoto’s teaching activities include frequent master classes and coaching at Juilliard and other music institutions and she has served as juror at various national and international competitions.

(Winning student: Hudson Ragins)

Sylvia Chambless graduated from the Juilliard School, studying with the legendary Rosina Lhevinne. She earned her M.M. with honors at the New England Conservatory, where she studied with Leonard Shure. She has performed throughout the United States, including New York’s Carnegie Hall and Boston’s Jordan Hall.

Ms. Chambless achieved early recognition winning numerous competitions, including the Merriweather Post National Competition at age 13, performing with the National Symphony in Washington, DC, and the New Orleans Symphony at age 15. She was presented in her NY debut as a winner of Concert Artist Guild when she was 20.

Sylvia was on the faculty at the New England Conservatory Preparatory School and the Walnut Hill School of Performing Arts for over 30 years.

Additionally, she was on the faculty of the Chinese Foundation for the Performing Arts Summer Festival from 2008-2012. She is former co-chair of the NEC Preparatory School Piano Department, and former president of the New England Piano Teachers’ Association. Her students have been consistent winners in many local, national and international competitions, including the Junior Tchaikovsky International Competition.

(Winning student: Lisa Jing)

Zhong Chen has been a faculty member at the Hartt Community Division since 1991. He holds a D.M.A. and an M.M. from The Hartt School and a B.M. from the Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing, China.

He is a former assistant professor at the Central Conservatory of Beijing and is currently a member of the Connecticut State Music Teachers Association.

(Winning student: Alyssa Xu)

Phillip Kawin has received critical acclaim for his performances. As recitalist and soloist with orchestra, he has performed throughout Australia, China, Korea, Italy, Russia, Spain and the U.S. Phillip Kawin has an exclusive recording contract with the Master Performers Record Label. His debut album featuring works of Beethoven, Schumann, Liszt and Prokofiev was launched at Steinway Hall in New York in 2008, and received with critical acclaim. His all-Schubert CD recorded in June 2014, under the direction of renowned producer Steven Epstein, was released to critical acclaim in 2015: “Perhaps among recording artists today Maurizio Pollini (Deutsche Grammophon) or Mitsuko Uchida (Philips) can, and certainly in the recent past Paul Badura-Skoda and Clara Haskil could, but now there is a new recording to put alongside these venerable artists. Phillip Kawin gives us all the necessary elements that make the diminutive composer with a gigantic soul come to life.” (Fanfare Magazine)

Mr. Kawin has given master classes at the Moscow Conservatory, Saint Petersburg State Conservatory, Tel-Hai International Piano Masterclasses, Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Seoul National University, Van Cliburn Piano Institute, among many others. Recently,
his master classes have taken him to the Busan International and the DMZ Festivals in South Korea; the Harvard Club in New York (the first class at that historic venue); Arizona State University; New England Piano Teachers Association; Summit Music Festival; the Sibelius Academy in Finland and the Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen, through the Distance Learning at Manhattan School of Music Global Conservatory Videoconference Master Class Series.

Phillip Kawin has developed a highly individual pedagogical approach that has established him as a much sought after artist-teacher. His approach does not ignore the intuitive aspect of music-making. Mr. Kawin studied with Alfred Cortot's long-time associate Jules Gentil at the École Normale de Musique in Paris, in New York City with Howard Aibel (assistant to Rosina Lhevinne), with John Perry, and with Dora Zaslavsky (who had studied with Wilhelm Backhaus and Harold Bauer) at the Manhattan School of Music. In 1989, Mr. Kawin was appointed to the college faculty of Manhattan School of Music, where he currently works with a select studio of advanced and highly gifted pupils from diverse corners of the globe.

Mr. Kawin's students have won top honors in the Young Concert Artists Auditions, as well as in the Martha Argerich International, Jacob Flier International, World Piano, Kosciusko, Thelonious Monk International (jazz piano), Melilla in Spain, Heida Hermanns, Soulima Stravinsky International, Josef Hofmann, Mieczyslaw Munz, Leschetizky, and the Long-Thibaud Crespin (France) International competitions.

Phillip Kawin is a Steinway Artist.

(Winning student: Victor You)

**Malgosia Lis** earned her M. M. in piano pedagogy at the Paderewski University of Music in Poznan, Poland. While there, she was on the piano faculty at the Music School for Talented Youth. She is a faculty member at the Hartt School Community Division in West Hartford, where she is the coordinator for the Suzuki Piano Department and the piano coordinator for the Hartt Suzuki Summer Institute. Ms. Lis was the piano coordinator for the 2012 Suzuki Conference of the Americas in Minneapolis, Minn. Her students participated and received numerous prizes at the following piano events: Renée B. Fisher Competition, Rhode Island University Piano Competition, Chopin International Competition in Hartford, Musical Club of Hartford Competition, Virtuoso Pianists Competition, Czech Republic Piano Competition in Ustii, Bach International Competition in Gorzow, Poland, and the Audrey Thayer Competition. She will be one of the featured clinicians during this year's Suzuki Conference in May in Minneapolis. She collaborated with Mirror Visions Ensemble and performed at the Polish Library in Paris. She was a vice-president of the Hartford Chapter of CSMTA in 2001-04 and is currently on the board of North Central Chapter of Music Teachers National Association.

(Winning students: Charis Liu)

**Miyoko Lotto** Born in Hokkaido, Japan, Miyoko Nakaya Lotto attended the Preparatory Division of the Toho School of Music at age 5. Ms. Lotto emigrated to the US at the age of 7, her studies began in the US with Chairman of the Piano Department of Roosevelt College in Chicago, Saul Doorman, who was a pupil of Artur Schnabel. Ms. Lotto won Third Prize in the prestigious Mainichi-NHK Music Competition in Tokyo at age 17. She entered the Juilliard School at the age of 18 to study with Sascha Gorodnitzki and was chosen to become his assistant in her junior year at Juilliard. Ms. Lotto taught at the Juilliard School for 14 years as assistant to Sascha Gorodnitzki.

Ms. Lotto was a Finalist in the Kosciusko Chopin Competition in NYC, Second Place in the Juilliard Concerto Competition, Finalist in the Concert Artist Guild and the Young Concert Artist Competitions. She was First Prize winner in the Sterling Staff Competition in Texas and a Finalist in the International Busoni Competition in Italy.

Ms. Lotto has been on the faculty of the Juilliard School, the Manhattan School of Music, NYU and the Perlman Music Program.

(Winning students: Aimee Chang, Claire Chang)
Elaine Silberis has extensive training as a concert artist and 25 years experience as a teacher. She is on the piano faculty at the Hartford Conservatory. Ms. Silberis holds a B.Mus. in Piano Performance from La Sierra University in Riverside, CA and an M.M. in Organ Performance from the University of Cincinnati-College Conservatory of Music. She continued her studies in piano pedagogy at the Royal School of Music and had extensive summer study at the Aspen Music Festival and School. She trained with Katinka Daniel in the Kodaly Method of music education. Her keyboard teachers include: Anita Olsen, Earl Voorhies, Edith Oppens, Robert Glasgow and Roberta Gary.

(Winning student: Hudson Shi)

Pianist Joel Wizansky was a student of Leonard Shure and Leon Fleisher. He perpetuates the artistic tradition of their teacher, the legendary Artur Schnabel. Among Mr. Wizansky’s numerous awards are the First Prize in the Helen Hart International Piano Competition, Fifth Prize in the prestigious Marguerite Long International Competition, and First Prize in the Yale Gordon Competition.

Mr. Wizansky made his debut with the San Francisco Symphony at the age of 17. Since that time he has performed frequently in recital and with orchestras across the United States and in Europe, Taiwan and Korea.

Mr. Wizansky has recorded for Albany Records, and his solo disc A Brahms Recital appeared on the MRC label. Mr. Wizansky is also a noted chamber musician and collaborator, and has appeared in duo recitals at such venues as Weill Recital Hall in New York, the National Concert Hall in Taipei and the Seoul Arts Center in Korea.

Mr. Wizansky is a graduate of the New England Conservatory, and earned the Artist Diploma from the Peabody Conservatory, where he has also served as Adjunct Piano Faculty. He is currently on the faculty of the Yale School of Music.

(Winning student: Marin Korenaga)

Victoria Reeve holds a B.Mus. degree from the University of Cape Town, South Africa, and an MM from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. She has lived and taught piano in Namibia, Cape Town, Oxford UK and Syracuse, NY. Currently on the piano faculty at Neighborhood Music School, she also maintains a busy private studio in Guilford. As well as being winners in the Fisher Piano Competition, her students have been awarded Tri State Certificates of Excellence for the Royal Conservatory Music Development program, have performed at Carnegie Hall and in 2014, two were awarded the gold medal for achieving the highest mark in the USA for their grade level. Her students have been honored at state piano competitions.

Victoria performs with her eight-hand piano ensemble "sFOURzando" and is an avid home baker, sharing her cakes with the faculty at NMS.

(Winning student: Maxwell Carmichael)

In demand as a dedicated teacher, Wei-Yi Yang has presented master classes and performances in Scotland, Ireland, Austria, Germany, Italy, Spain, Thailand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, Mexico, Serbia, and Montenegro, among other countries around the world. Mr. Yang’s performances have been featured on NPR, PBS, ARTE, the Australian Broadcasting Company and on many recordings.

Mr. Yang has worked with several composers including Jonathan Cole, Ezra Laderman, Martin Bresnick and George Crumb, to prepare their works for premiere and recording. He is a founding member of the Soyulla Ensemble, which received the prestigious McKnight Fellowship, and recently made its debut at Alice Tully Hall and toured Korea.

In 2004, he received his doctorate from Yale, where he joined the faculty in 2005, and serves as Associate Professor of Piano, Chair of the DMA committee, and Faculty Fellow of Jonathan Edwards College.

(Winning student: Kaki Su)
CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF THE FISHER COMPETITION

In addition to celebrating 40 years of outstanding musicianship and hard work by the young pianists who have been recognized by the Fisher Competition, we also look back with gratitude for those who enabled our students to reach such heights.

The Trustees and Officers of the Renée B. Fisher Foundation salute the teachers of Fisher winners past and present.

Yoshie Akimoto
Donald Alfano
Anrzej Anweiler
Vera Appleton
Istvan B'Racz
Mary Bloom
King Bosworth
Jane Bradley
Melissa Brockert
Sima Brodsky
Luiz de Mauro Castro
Ruth Steinikraus Cohen
Leena Crothers
Donald Currier
Ward Davenny
D. Frederic DeHaven
Dorothy Dalonzo
Haewon Feltzman
Melinda Fields
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Rita Lapcevic
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Frank Levy
Malgosia Lis
Qi Liu
Mandy Lo
Miyoko Nakaya Lottto
Thomas Martin
Natalie Ryshna Maynard
Solomon Mikowsky
Barbara Mills
Watson Morrison
Sandra Shaw Murphy
Margaretta Nuller
Ludmila Ozeryansky
Joan Panetti
Hyun-Sook Park
Tatiana Pikaysen
Robert Preston
Jane Prevost
Rebecca Raffaelli
Victoria Reeve
Dorothy Renouf
Sister Evelyn Ribicki
Rosa Rio
Benita Rose
Marilyn Roth
Paul Rutman
Erika Schroth
Violeta Chan Scott
Bela Seki
Soojung Sharp
Juliet Shaw
Karen Shaw
Susan Tenenbaum
Howard Tuvelle
Norma Verrilli
Constance Walton
David Allen Wehr
David Westfall
Louis J. Williford
Carolyn Woodard
Alexis Zingale
Michelle Zingale

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Thank you also to Vickie Cohen, Brandon Gallego, Vicky Reeve and Patty Boczer for their coordination of the post-concert reception.

FISHER COMPETITION STAFF AT NEIGHBORHOOD MUSIC SCHOOL

Dan Gurvich, executive director
Michelle Zingale, Fisher Competition manager, piano faculty
Alexis Zingale, assistant competition manager, piano faculty
Istvan B'Racz, composition coordinator, piano faculty
Chris Radowiec, program manager
Lisa Rovello, marketing and public relations manager
Patty Boczer, facilities coordinator

NEIGHBORHOOD MUSIC SCHOOL

Neighborhood Music School (NMS) is the largest non-profit community arts organization in Connecticut. Founded in 1911 as part of the settlement house movement serving New Haven and now serving nearly 3,000 students from 80-plus cities and towns annually, NMS continues its mission to create community, spark potential and share joy through the arts.

NMS students, ranging in age from toddlers to seniors in their 90s, study music, dance and drama and participate in over 100 weekly ensembles. NMS offers individual and group instruction on 30+ instruments and presents more than 250 performances and events each year. NMS also houses an arts-integrated preschool and toddler program, an After School Arts Academy and several summer programs. In addition, NMS provides over $220,000 in financial aid and tuition support for more than 500 students each year.

NMS programs are made possible with support from the Connecticut Department of Economic & Community Development - Office of the Arts and The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, along with many other generous foundations and individuals.

...and others, whose contributions to their students’ triumphs are not recorded or recognized - we know there are many.

Thank you to all of Connecticut’s piano faculty who inspire their students to greatness.
JUDGES’ BIOGRAPHIES

The Korean-born pianist Mihae Lee has been captivating audiences throughout North America, Europe, and Asia in solo recitals and chamber music concerts with her poetic lyricism and scintillating virtuosity. She is an artist member of the Boston Chamber Music Society, a founding member of the Triton Horn Trio, and the Artistic Director of the Essex Winter Series in Connecticut.

She has appeared at numerous international festivals including Dubrovnik, Amsterdam, Medellin Festicamara, Seattle, OK Mozart, Mainly Mozart, Music from Angel Fire, Chamber Music Northwest, Rockport, Bard, Norfolk, Monadnock, Music Mountain, and Chestnut Hill Concerts. She has been a guest artist with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, St Paul Chamber Orchestra, Bargemusic, and Speculum Musicae and has collaborated with the Tokyo, Muir, Cassati, and Manhattan string quartets.

A graduate of The Juilliard School and the New England Conservatory, she has released recordings on the Bridge, Etcetera, EDI, Northeastern, and BCM labels.

Miki Sawada is a musician who is free-spirited in her pursuit of adventure while showing deep commitment to fully realize classical music’s capacity to nurture community and civil society.

Most recently, Miki performed as the pianist of Lincoln Center Stage, an initiative by Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

She won the Yale Chamber Music Competition by performing Beethoven on fortepiano, and has appeared as a concerto soloist playing Bach on harpsichord. She is in high demand in contemporary music ensembles, and can be heard on numerous recordings of premieres as part of Atlantic Music Festival’s Contemporary Ensemble, Norfolk Contemporary Ensemble, New Music New Haven, and Club DADA.

Miki was a resident musician and founder of the piano program at Music Haven, an organization that seeks to empower youth by providing mentoring and tuition-free music education to students from underserved communities in New Haven. Miki is also the director of NewMusic4Us, a project through which young and emerging composers write beginner-level chamber music pieces for young students, with the goal of connecting composers and young students so as to re-evaluate our attitudes toward contemporary music and music education.

Miki received her formal training in solo piano performance. She received training at Yale School of Music (Artist Diploma) with Wei-Yi Yang, Eastman School of Music (M.M.) with Natalya Antonova and Northwestern University (B.M.) with James Giles.

Isabelle O’Connell is co-founder of GrandBand, New York’s new music piano sextet, described by the NY Times as: “six of the finest, busiest pianists active in New York’s contemporary-classical scene.” She made her debut as concerto soloist at the National Concert Hall, Dublin, in 1999. She has performed with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland under conductors William Eddins, Gerhard Markson and Gavin Maloney. Her recording of Kevin Volans’ Concerto No. 1 for Piano and Winds with the NSO was released on the Lyric FM label in 2014.

In addition to winning an award from Artists International in 2001, Isabelle was the recipient of the Tibor Paul Medal, the 1998 Mabel Swanison Pianoforte Award at the Feis Ceoil (which led to her debut recital at the John Field Room in Dublin) and the Ulster Bank Music Foundation Piano Award (making a television appearance on the “Late Late Show”). Some of her other awards have included a Fulbright scholarship (1999), Bank of Ireland Millennium Scholarship (2000), John F. Kennedy scholarship (1999-2002), Music Network Touring awards and multiple awards from the Irish Arts Council and Culture Ireland.

Isabelle is currently on the piano faculties at Bard College, the Diller-Quaile School of Music and the Masters School, New York. She is a former faculty member of the Manhattan School of Music Pre-College Division and the Lucy Moses School. Isabelle has a particular interest in music involving extended piano techniques and is often invited to give masterclasses and workshops on the topic. Isabelle received her Masters degree from the Manhattan School of Music in 2001. She subsequently studied with Zitta Zohar in New York. Her earlier studies took place at the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin (Reamonn Keary, Therese Fahy) where she received her B.A. in Music Performance in 1999.
RENÉE B. FISHER COMPOSER AWARDS
2016 WINNERS

The distinguished panel which selected the winning composers for 2016 and 2017 included Kenneth Steen and David MacBride (composition and theory faculty members, Hartt School of Music) and Lisa Moore (a New York-based pianist, performer of contemporary music).

ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION

The music of David Evan Thomas has been praised for its eloquence, power and craft. Critics note Thomas's loving ties to tradition, made evident in clear forms, smart instrumental writing and skillful orchestration. Audiences respond to the music's warmth, lyricism and sense of play.

The recipient of two McKnight Foundation Fellowships (1992, 2013), a Citation from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and the Möller-A.G.O. Award in Choral Composition, Thomas has received commissions from the Minnesota Orchestra, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Schubert Club, the American Composers Forum and the American Guild of Organists. He has twice been a resident artist at Wyoming's Ucross and Brush Creek Foundations. In May 2015, Thomas was an artist in residence at Montalvo Arts Center in Saratoga, CA.

Born in Rochester, NY in 1958, David Evan Thomas graduated with honors in trumpet from the “Prep” Department of the Eastman School of Music, and received degrees from Northwestern University, Eastman and the University of Minnesota. His teachers have included Dominick Argento, Samuel Adler and Alan Stout, with further study at the Aspen Festival and with David Diamond at the Atlantic Center for the Arts.

Thomas lives in Minneapolis, where he is also active as a program annotator, choral singer, pianist and conductor.

HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION

Born in 1999, Zhouyang Yu, a native of China, started learning piano at the age of 4. In 2011, he was enrolled in Wuhan Conservatory of Music Middle School in Changsha where he started studying composition under the tutelage of Zou Hang in 2012. Yu is currently a first-year student in Central Conservatory of Music High School. There he won first place for the entrance examination in 2014. He has participated in many national piano competitions and has received various honors in his field, including prizes in the Samadis and Renée B. Fisher Competitions.