The Forty-First Annual

RENÉE B. FISHER COMPETITION for YOUNG PIANISTS

WINNERS CONCERT AND AWARDS PRESENTATION
SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2018
RENÉE B. FISHER

Renée B. Fisher was an elegant writer, an accomplished musician, a dedicated teacher and a devoted wife and mother. She was the author of the widely acclaimed *Musical Prodigies: Masters at an Early Age* (1973), which was the first book on the topic when it appeared. The book included chapters on prodigies including Mozart, Paganini, Anton Rubenstein, Adelina Patti, Arturo Toscanini, Lorin Maazel, Ruth Slenczynska, Philippa Schuyler, Yehudi Menuhin and Louis Armstrong. Armstrong was delighted with what she wrote about his childhood: "The whole time I was reading your book I could see my hometown, New Orleans. Keep on telling it like it is, or was," he wrote. Yehudi Menuhin liked the book as well, and wrote the foreword. Ms. Fisher was also the author of *Heroes of Music* (1974), a book for young adults about the composers who changed the shape of Western music—composers such as Monteverdi, Bach, Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Liszt, Chopin, Schumann, Brahms, Berlioz, Bartok, Wagner, Debussy, Verdi, Stravinsky, Gottschalk, Gershwin and Ives. She contributed articles and music reviews frequently to national and scholarly publications, and at the time of her death was researching a book about a fascinating musical family that included one of Europe’s most celebrated nineteenth-century opera stars.

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.
**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.

**Harris Andersen**, 17, began his piano studies at the age of five at Neighborhood Music School and currently studies with Rebecca Raffaelli. In addition to studying violin with Marshall Barron, he has played violin in the Greater New Haven Youth Orchestras for 6 years and is currently concertmaster of the ensemble. An active member of NMS, he is a violinist in the Premier String Quartet, has studied AP Theory and composition, and is completing his certificate in the senior division of the Young Artist Diploma Program. Harris is also a member of the Greater Bridgeport Youth Orchestra, Principal and Chamber Orchestra.

For the past seven years, Harris has been accepted to the CMEA Southern Regional Festival, attending also the Connecticut All-State Festival in 2017 and 2018 on trumpet and violin. In 2016, Harris won the Greater New Haven Youth Ensembles Concerto Competition, making his orchestral debut with the Youth Orchestra performing Beethoven’s “Emperor Concerto.” Other accomplishments include 2nd prize winner of the 38th Annual Renée Fisher Competition, recipient of the Annie Memorial Merit Scholarship Fund for outstanding musicianship in 2016, 2nd prize winner of the New York Debut International Piano Competition, and 1st prize winner of the 2017 Great Composers Competition for music of Germany and Austria. Harris attended the Boston University Tanglewood Institute Piano Program in the summer of 2017. He participated in the session project, based on Marcel Proust’s novel, À la recherche du temps perdu, and was invited to play at the annual Tanglewood on Parade music festival during his residency.

Harris will attend the Bowdoin International Music Festival in the summer of 2018 to study with Peter Serkin. Harris is a senior at Amity Regional High School and will attend Ithaca College in the fall of 2018 to study music education and piano performance.

**Lisha Jing**, born in China, is a senior at Norwich Free Academy. She has studied piano for 13 years, and 2.5 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. In the U.S., she placed second in the high school division of the 40th annual Renée B. Fisher Piano Competition. Lisha likes collecting traditional instruments from every new place she goes, learning to play them and building a collection of musical culture. She has travelled to many places and learned to play lots of instruments including Kalimba thumb piano, Ukulele, and cucurbit flute.

Lisha loves science and engineering as well. She likes designing and building robotics, and she has won several international robotics competitions, including the Hawaii Pan Pacific Championship Gold Medal and the Los Angeles World Championship Bronze Medal.

Lisha is very active at Norwich Free Academy. She is a member of the school Math Team, the project outreach, and plays piano in the school orchestra. And just for fun, she likes playing table tennis and reading science fiction! Next year, she’ll be attending Wellesley College.

**Seorin Kim**, 11 years old, is a 5th grader at Brown Middle School in Madison, Conn. She was born in Atlanta, Georgia, and started playing piano at the age of five before moving to Connecticut in 2013. She has studied piano under the guidance of Ms. Sylvia Chambless since the fall of 2016. She was a winner in the Connecticut State Music Teachers Association’s (CSMTA) New Haven Chapter Competition in 2017/2018. She participated in the Young Musicians Festival sponsored by the Schubert Club of Fairfield County in 2015/2016.

Seorin also studies violin with Mr. Mark Rike at Neighborhood Music School. She enjoys swimming and is a member of Soundview YMCA Stingrays swim team, where she has been competitively swimming for the past 2 years. Her favorite academics are math and science. In her spare time, she has been mastering different ways of making slime, self-taught by watching YouTube videos. She also enjoys crafting, sewing, and reading mystery, fantasy, and realistic fiction books.
Jason Nguyen is 11 years old, a 5th grader at Glastonbury East Hartford Magnet School. Jason started piano lessons when he was 5 years old with Malgosia Lis. Over the years, he has participated in many musical events, including the Hartt School Junior Showcase Honors Recital. He has won First Place at the Virtuoso Pianist Competition in Hartford, 2016 and 2017. He also placed third in the Chopin International Competition in 2017. Jason is part of the chamber music group and a pianist for the Sinfonia Orchestra at the Hartt School.

In addition to his musical interests, Jason loves computer programming and writing. He taught himself how to code with Python, creating various computer games. Jason was awarded the honorable mention prize in the 30th issue of Connecticut Student Writers (CSW) magazine for his genre piece “The Wormiest Worm of the Worms” 2018.

Hudson Shi is a 5th grade student at Mansfield Middle School in Storrs, Conn. He began to play piano in 2012, when he was five years old.

He received the State Certificate of Excellence Award four times from the Royal Conservatory of Music, in 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017. He received the third prize in the 2017 Renée B. Fisher Competition (Middle School Division). Other prizes include the second prize in the 2017 Virtuoso Pianists Competition (Grades 3 to 4 Group) at Hartford, Conn., the third prize in 2017 Connecticut Bach Festival (Junior Division), and the second prize in the 2018 J.Y. Park Piano Competition (Junior Division).

At Mansfield Middle School, Hudson is a member of the Junior Jazz Band and Rubik’s Cube Club.

Jasmine Xi is currently an 8th grader at The Foote School. She has been playing the piano for eight years and has studied with Sima Brodsky for four years at the Hartt School.

She has won awards in many competitions, such as The University of Rhode Island Piano Competition, Young Artist Piano Competition at Westfield University and HMTA Virtuoso Piano Competition. This is her first time competing in the Renée B. Fisher Competition. Outside of piano, she enjoys playing the cello, acting and playing field hockey.

Catherine Xie began studying the piano with her father at the age of six. In 2015, she played a solo piano concert to raise money for the Connecticut Food Bank at the Trumbull Library, Conn. In 2016, she was admitted to the Manhattan School of Music Precollege with a scholarship. Since the age of 11, she studied with Svitlana Fiorito, Solomon Mikowsky, and Jiayin Li.

Julia Zheng is a 7th grader at Avon Middle School. At age five, Julia began studying piano with Sima Brodsky at the Hartt School of Music Community Division. She has participated in piano competitions in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, and has won first prize in the Virtuoso Pianists Competition since 2014; she received first, second and third prizes in the Young Artist Piano Competition since 2015; and she was awarded second prize in the 2017 Connecticut Bach Festival. This year, Julia won Honorable Mention in the Hartford International Chopin Competition as well as the Hartt Honors Watson Morrison Scholarship. In addition to playing the piano, Julia enjoys drawing and playing the violin.

Kelly Zheng, a senior at Avon High School, currently studies with Sima Brodsky at the Hartt School of Music. Since starting her classical piano studies at age 4, Kelly has performed in numerous recitals and festivals, and competed in many state, regional, and international competitions. Her recent awards include the Hartt Honors Jeffrey Quinn Morrison Prize, third place in the Musical Club of Hartford Piano Competition, second place in the Connecticut Bach Festival, first place in the Virtuoso Piano Competitions, and the Evelyn Bonar Storrs Scholarship. Kelly also received first prize and the Judge’s Distinction Award in the American Protege International Piano and Strings Competition, and subsequently performed in Carnegie Hall. Besides competing, she enjoys performing with her quintet and spending time with her plants and parrot. This fall, Kelly will be attending Amherst College, where she plans to double major in anthropology and music.
PROGRAM

Partita No. 4 in G Major
Gigue

Julia Zheng
First Prize - Elementary/Middle School Division

Six Preludes for Piano, Op. 6, No. 1
I. Vivace
II. Lento
III. Allegro giocoso

Hudson Shi
Honorable Mention - Elementary/Middle School Division

Prelude and Fugue in B Major, No. 23, WTC Book I

Catherine Xie
Third Prize - Elementary/Middle School Division

Suite de danzas criolles

Jason Nguyen
Second Prize (tie) - Elementary/Middle School Division

Lost Things Circle Us

Seorin Kim
Best Performance of the Commissioned Work - Elementary/Middle School Division

Neil Brandt - Comments
2018 Fisher Composers Award Winner

Danzas Argentinas

Jasmine Xi
Second Prize (tie) - Elementary/Middle School Division

Impromptu in G♭ Major, Op. 51

Julia Zheng
First Prize - Elementary/Middle School Division

Folk Rhapsody

Harris Andersen
Best Performance of the Commissioned Work - High School Division

Richard Thomas Jones - Comments
2018 Fisher Composers Award Winner

Scherzo No. 1 in B minor, Op. 20

Lisha Jing
Third Prize - High School Division

Sonata No. 2 in G♯ minor, Op. 19

Kelly Zheng
Second Prize - High School Division

Hungarian Rhapsody in D♭ Major, No. 6

Harris Andersen
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**

**Sima Brodsky**, pianist, received a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance from New England Conservatory, and a Master of Music degree in Piano Performance from The Hartt School, University of Hartford. She studied with Gabriel Chodos, Raymond Hanson, and Anne Koscielny. Former Faculty member of Trinity College, Miss Porter School, and the Camerata Conservatory, she has been on the faculty of The Hartt School Community Division since 1984 where she teaches Piano and Chamber Music. She has performed solo and chamber music in the US and abroad as well as having conducted Master Classes in the US, Europe, China and Iran. Her students have been the recipients of many awards in local, regional and national competitions. A former president of the Hartford Chapter of the Connecticut State Music Teachers Association, she is now the president of the Hartford Music Teachers Alliance.

(Winning students: Jasmine Xi, Julia Zheng, Kelly Zheng)

**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 the 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 students: Lisha Jing, Seorin Kim)

**Jiayin Li**, a native of Tianjin, China, holds B.M. and M.M. degrees from the China Conservatory in Beijing, where she was a student and assistant of Professor Min Li and a member of the China Conservatory Trio. She is currently a doctoral candidate in the DMA program at Manhattan School of Music where she studies with Dr. Solomon Mikowsky.

Ms. Li has performed in recital and as a chamber music player throughout China and in the US, as well as being an orchestral soloist in Yunnan, Hebei and with the Cuban National Symphony. As a teacher she has achieved recognition with the success of her students in national competitions like the Prime Golden Bell Music Award, Steinway, Young Chang, Kayserburg, Hailin and Xinghai in China as well as international competitions in Imola (Italy) and in Singapore. As a result, she has been awarded several diplomas for the excellence and success of her teaching and has been interviewed by the China Educational Television. She is a member of the Manhattan School of Music Precollege piano faculty.

(Winning student: Catherine Xie)

**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 student: Jason Nguyen)
Rebecca Raffaelli received a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Music in applied piano from Boston University. She studied with Leonard Shure and Russell Sherman, with further studies at the Institute for Advanced Musical Studies in Montreux, Switzerland. She has performed solo and chamber works in the U.S. and Europe. An editor and adjudicator, she is a member of the Music Teachers National Association and the European Piano Teachers Association.
(Winning student: Harris Andersen)

Elaine Silberis has enjoyed a career as a concert artist, and teacher. She holds advanced degrees in both piano and organ performance from The Sierra University, and the College Conservatory of Music, Cincinnati. Her teachers include Anita Norskav Olsen, Edith Oppens, Earl Voorhies, David McVey, Robert Glasgow, and Roberta Gary.

She has a Kodaly Education Certificate, having studied with Katinka Daniel. Through the Golandsky Institute, she has studied the Taubman Approach, “a groundbreaking analysis of the mostly invisible motions that function underneath a virtuoso technique.”

Elaine is an astute and devoted piano teacher. Her students benefit from the comprehensive curriculum of the Royal Conservatory of Toronto. In addition, they use the Taubman approach to develop a sound and healthy piano technique. They develop strong aural and sight-reading skills through the Kodaly approach.

Her students regularly and successfully participate in local, national and international competitions, and many have performed in Carnegie Hall as recipients of the highest honors award by the Royal Conservatory of Music examination program.

Elaine has a large studio of students in West Hartford. She is also on the faculty of Neighborhood Music School. She is the Founding Director of the Connecticut Bach Festival.
(Winning student: Hudson Shi)

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 Radawiec, program manager
Lisa Rovello, marketing and public relations manager
Patty Boczer, facilities coordinator

Acknowledgements

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Thank you also to Vicky Reeve, Patty Boczer and Tracey Albert and her volunteers for their coordination of the post-concert reception.

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 immigrants to 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.
JUDGES’ BIOGRAPHIES

Greek concert pianist/conductor, Charis Dimaras, is gradually becoming recognized as one of the most individual and multi-faceted musical talents of his generation. Noted for his diverse activity as solo recitalist, vocal/instrumental chamber music collaborator, orchestra soloist and conductor of symphonic and operatic repertory, he is equally at home performing the music of Bach, Mozart and Beethoven, as he is presenting brand new works in their world-premieres.

International critics have repeatedly hailed his virtuoso technique and refined musicality, while his exciting stage-presence has thrilled audiences around the world. Elsewhere, Dr. Dimaras remains strongly committed to the education of future generations of musicians: Since 1999 he has been a member of the Music Faculty at Ithaca College, where he is currently Associate Professor of Piano and Collaborative Studies.

Additionally, in recent years he has repeatedly served on the faculties of many coveted, international summer programs, such as the University of Miami’s Summer Vocal Program in Salzburg/Austria, the Holland Summer Music Sessions and the Opera Theater Institute of famed Metropolitan Opera soprano, Johanna Meier, in Spearfish/SD.

Lisa Moore has been described by The New York Times as “brilliant and searching...beautiful and impassioned...lustrous at the keyboard” Lisa Moore’s performances combine music and theatre with expressive and emotional power – whether in the delivery of the simplest song, a solo recital or a fiendish chamber score. Pitchfork writes “She’s the best kind of contemporary classical musician, one so fearsomely game that she inspires composers to offer her their most wildly unplayable ideas”. Crowned “New York’s queen of avant-garde piano” and “visionary” in The New Yorker this Australian virtuoso has developed an unconventional career.

Lisa Moore is a Steinway artist. As a concerto soloist Moore has performed with the London Sinfonietta, Australian Chamber Orchestra, Albany, La Jolla, Sydney, Tasmania, Thai and Canberra Symphony Orchestras, Monash Academy Performing Arts Orchestra, Wesleyan Orchestra and Sumarsam Gamelan, Philharmonia Virtuosi and the Queensland Philharmonic – under the batons of Bradley Lubman, Steve Schick, Richard Mills, Reinbert de Leeuw, Pierre Boulez, Jorge Mester, Angel Gil-Ordoniez, Benjamin Northey and Edo de Waart.

Lisa Moore makes regular guest teaching appearances at conservatories around the world. She annually coaches (and occasionally conducts) at the Yale-Norfolk Festival New Music Workshop during the American summers. Past residencies include Banff, London’s Royal Academy of Music, Eastman School of Music, Sydney and Queensland Conservatoriums, Australian Youth Orchestra National Music Camp and the Australian National Academy of Music. From 2004-2016, Lisa taught at Wesleyan University (CT). Born in Canberra and raised in Australia and London (1971-73), Lisa studied at the Sydney (NSW) Conservatorium for 4 years from 1976-80 before moving to the USA. She spent a year in Paris (1982-83) before settling in New York City. She is a graduate of the University of Illinois (BMus) Eastman School of Music (MMus) and SUNY Stonybrook (DMA). Her past teachers include Gilbert Kalish, David Burge, Yvonne Loriod, Albert Landa, Sonya Hanke, Wilma McKeown and Larry Sitksy.
A native of Quebec, Canada, **Eric Trudel** graduated with top honors from the Quebec Conservatory of Music. He won the prestigious Prix d'Europe competition, which enabled him to study privately with pianists Garrick Ohlsson, Jean-Claude Pennetier, Marc Durand and Louis Lortie. He has taught and performed extensively throughout Canada, Italy, Germany, Austria, Japan, Korea, Spain, and the United States. His New York City credits include recitals at Weil Recital Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Merkin Hall and the 92nd Street Y. While pursuing an active career as a pianist, he took conducting lessons from Raffi Armenian and Ronald Zollman.

Mr. Trudel has worked as a pianist, coach and/or conductor with many organizations, including the Montreal International Piano Festival, the Banff Center Festival for the Arts, L'Opéra de Montréal, Connecticut Grand Opera, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, the OK MOZART Festival, the Pro Arte Singers and the Stamford Chorale.

His faculty appointments include the Banff Centre for the Performing Arts, the Conservatoire de Musique du Québec in Trois-Rivières, Montréal Opera's Atelier Lyrique, the Université du Québec à Montréal and more recently, Yale University's School of Music (2001-2005) and Western Connecticut State University. He currently is on faculty at University of Hartford's Hartt School of Music and Southern Connecticut State University.

His long association with the CBC includes numerous television and radio performances as a soloist, chamber musician and accompanist. On CD, he can be heard on the CBC, Star, and Naxos labels. In 2005, he was involved in the recording of the complete songs of Charles Ives for Naxos.

In 2008, the national publication “Classical Singer” Magazine chose Eric Trudel to be "Vocal Coach of the Year," a crowning acknowledgement of his many years of collaborative work with opera singers. In the opera field, he has recently conducted productions of "Carmen," "Dialogues des Carmélites," "Street Scene," "Suor Angelica," "Les Mamelles de Tirésias" and "Peter Grimes."

Eric Trudel just joined the Wall Street Chamber Players, a group of first chair musicians from the New Haven Symphony and other orchestras who have been performing in their own subscription series throughout Connecticut for the past 35 years.

For three years, Mr. Trudel was the music director at First Congregational Church in Watertown, where he prepared and conducted the choir and honed his organ skills. He is currently pianist and organist for Tremont and Emanu-El Temples Synagogue in Scarsdale NY.

A devoted student and practitioner of the Alexander Technique, he gratefully credits his teacher Rachel Bernsen with weekly life-changing experiences.
The distinguished panel which selected the winning composers for 2018 and 2019 included Stephen Gryc (Professor Emeritus of Theory and Composition at Hartt School of Music), David MacBride (composition and theory faculty member, Hartt School of Music) and Eric Trudel (faculty member at Hartt School of Music and SCSU).

**ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION**

Richard Thomas Jones was born and raised in Germany to English-speaking parents. At eight, he started piano lessons with the obscure Schenkerian Karl-Otto Plum, and had some success in various piano competitions as a teenager. He started composing at the age of nine, and won a “Jugend komponiert” third prize for a flute sonata in 1995.

From 1997 to 2000, he read Music at King’s College, Cambridge, where he studied free composition with Robin Holloway. After struggling to fit in at Cambridge, he abandoned all plans of a career in music after graduation. However, he soon started a rock band with friends, and, over the next years, co-wrote and recorded two studio albums, and played piano on others.

During that time, he briefly worked in television before training as a secondary school teacher in London. He has since taught adults with learning difficulties, as well as countless students of all ages one-to-one in performance and composition. After becoming a father in 2009, he decided to answer his nine-year-old self’s demand to fully return to composition. In 2013, he completed a Dubstep and Fugue for symphonic wind band, a reconciliation of swing, dubstep and traditional polyphony. He has since completed a number of pieces synthesizing popular vernaculars with studied techniques, and recently enrolled at Bristol University as a research student in composition under John Pickard.

**HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION**

Neil Brandt is a composer, educator, and software engineer living in Toronto. He has spent much of his life exploring many aspects of sound, music, and computer-generated sound. His recent composition practice focuses on using low-level computer code to control additive synthesis at a fine timescale. He has a deep interest in the perception of sound and form, the experience of musical structure, and in our intellectual and emotional responses to what we hear.

Born in 1970 in British Columbia, Canada, Neil has music, mathematics and education degrees from the University of Victoria and the University of Toronto. Besides composing, he teaches college mathematics. He previously worked for two decades as a software engineer, most recently for Autodesk.
THE FISHER COMPETITION

Now in its 41st year, the purpose of the Competition for Young Pianists is to nurture the growth and development of student musicians, to reward them for excellence in classical repertoire and to encourage them to acquaint themselves with and perform contemporary music. To qualify for the competition, students must live or study in Connecticut. A special feature is that through the Renée B. Fisher Composer Awards, two composers each year are chosen internationally to create new works for performance at the competition. In 2003, Neighborhood Music School proudly accepted the management of this legacy at the request of the Renée B. Fisher Foundation.

Congratulations to all the winners, and to the parents and teachers who nurture their talent. May music deepen your joys and soften your sorrows throughout your lives.

-The Renée B. Fisher Foundation & Neighborhood Music School