The Forty-Second Annual

Renée B. Fisher Competition for Young Pianists

Winners Concert and Awards Presentation
Saturday, May 11, 2019
RENÉE B. FISHER

R enée 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.

**Avery Duer.** 17, is a junior at Greens Farms Academy in Westport, CT and has been studying piano with Steinway Artist Yoshie Akimoto for almost three years.

Most recently this season, Avery placed first in the Connecticut Bach Festival. In April 2018, Avery placed first in the Senior Bach Category and second in the Senior Chopin Category at the Schubert Club Competition of Fairfield County. She also placed second in the Junior Division of the Chappaqua Orchestra Concerto Competition 2018.

In February 2017, Avery won first prize and “Most Outstanding Performance” award at the 32nd Annual CSMTA Deborah Kahan Competition. She also won first prize for the French Award at the April 2017 Schubert Club Competition. In fall 2016 Avery was alternate winner of the MTNA State Competition.

Every June, Avery takes great pride in participating in the Young Talent Chamber Music Workshop (YTCM), which is a highlight of the year. She loves collaborating with other students and professionals like renowned cellist Allison Eldredge. In August 2017, she performed at the Vianden International Chamber Music Festival in Luxembourg.

Avery’s passion is music. When she is not on the piano, she enjoys playing all percussion instruments, especially for theater productions in the pit band for her school and the community. In addition to music, Avery is a committed Social Justice Advocate and is very involved in the equity and inclusion groups on campus that work to promote change in society.

**Seorin E. Kim** is 11 years old and in 6th grade at Brown Middle School in Madison, CT. She was born in Atlanta, Georgia, and started playing piano at the age of five before moving to Connecticut in 2013. She has been studying piano under the guidance of Ms. Sylvia Chambless since the fall of 2016.

Seorin won the Best Performance of the Commissioned Work in the Middle School division of the 2018 Renee B. Fisher Competition. She participated in the Young Musicians’ festival in 2015/16, sponsored by the Schubert Club in Fairfield County. She has been a winner in the CSMTA Competition in 2017/18.

In addition to Seorin’s piano study, she is a violin student with Mr. Mark Rike at Neighborhood Music School. Her other interests include swimming, and she is a member of Soundview YMCA Stingrays swim team, where she has been competitively swimming for past three years. Seorin loves math and science, and enjoys crafting, sewing, and reading mystery, fantasy, and realistic fiction books.

**Marin Korenaga** is an eighth grader at Amity Middle School Bethany. Marin started playing the piano at the age of five. She was always at her brother’s lessons and could not resist trying it herself. She has been studying with Joel Wizansky for the past six years, and she was a winner of 2017 Renée B. Fisher Competition for Commissioned Work.

Marin also plays the violin, currently studying with Wendy Sharp. Marin is a concert master of her school’s string orchestra and has been a member of the Greater New Haven Concert Orchestra since 2015 and the Greater New Haven Youth Orchestra since 2017. As a violinist she was a winner of the Middle School Division of the 2016 NMS Concerto Competition. She attended the Elm City ChamberFest for four summers and is going to attend the Meadowmount School of Music this summer.

Marin has a strong passion for singing as well and loves to sing with a piano in her spare time.
Jeffrey Liang, 11, is a sixth grader at Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School in Madison, Connecticut. He has been studying with Ms. Svitlana Ficinato for over three years. He previously studied with Ms. Michelle Zingale and then Ms. Eva Virsik.

Jeffrey was the 1st Prize and Gold Medal recipient of the Suzanne Cully Competition in 2018. In addition, he won the title of Special Award at both the 2018 and 2019 CSMTA Deborah Kahan Competitions. At the 2018 Steinway Piano Competition, he was awarded 2nd Prize and Silver Medal. He received 1st Prize in both the J. S. Bach Primary and Chopin Primary at the 2018 Schubert’s Club Awards Competition. He recently won 1st Prize at the Fifth Annual J. Y. Park Piano Competition.

Outside of piano, Jeffrey enjoys playing violin and French horn, reading, composing his own pieces of music, and running on his school’s cross country team.

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 Renee 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.

Tianhai Zhou. Inspired by his mother who is a pianist and a singer, Tony Zhou has been playing the piano since he was 6 years old. He studied with Jie Xu, a professor at the Zhejiang Conservatory of Music, until 2017 when he enrolled at Choate Rosemary Hall as a freshman. At Choate, he continues to play the piano and studies with his current piano teacher, Thomas Martin. Tony has entered multiple international and national competitions since the age of 10. His awards include First Prize and multiple Second Prizes at the 18th Hong Kong-Asia Piano Open Competition, and the 1st Prize at the Fifth China-Japan Piano Competition, Children’s Group, in 2014. He has also participated in chamber music groups and performed multiple times in recitals at his school for both solo and chamber music.

Tony enjoys playing tennis and eating sushi when he’s not playing the piano. He is also a Lego-enthusiast, but he is unable to pursue his passion of building Legos recently due to the potential risk of injuring his fingers.
PROGRAM

Moscow Sketches
G. Stevenson

Jeffrey Liang
Best Performance of the Commissioned Work - Elementary/Middle School Division

George Stevenson - Comments
2019 Fisher Composers Award Winner

F. Chopin

Marin Korenaga
Honorable Mention - Elementary/Middle School Division

Rondo Capriccioso, Op. 15
F. Mendelssohn

Hudson Shi
Third Prize - Elementary/Middle School Division

Sonata in F Major, Hob. XVI:23
Moderato
F. J. Haydn

Seorin Kim
Second Prize - Elementary/Middle School Division

Sonata in C Major, Hob. XVI:30
F. J. Haydn

Jeffrey Liang
First Prize - Elementary/Middle School Division

Reflection (Echo and Shadow)
H. Yang

Tianhai Zhou
Best Performance of the Commissioned Work - High School Division

Heeyoung Yang - Comments
2019 Fisher Composers Award Winner

Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue
J. S. Bach

Avery Duer
Second Prize - High School Division

Scherzo No. 3 in C♯ minor, Op. 39
F. Chopin

Tianhai Zhou
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

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: Avery Duer)

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 Competitions.

(Winning student: Seorin Kim)

Svitlana Fiorito is the director of Stamford Music and Arts Academy. She has a versatile background in performance, accompanying, teaching and music education. She received Bachelor Degrees from Lutoshinsky Music College and Masters from National Academy of Arts, Kharkov, Ukraine. Ms. Fiorito’s students have won many awards at state, national and international competitions including Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition, Etlingen International Competition for Young Pianists, Germany, Washington International Young Artist Competition in D.C., International Piano Competition in Spain, participated in Aspen and Interlochen Music Festivals, performed at Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center.

(Winning student: Jeffrey Liang)

Thomas A. Martin graduated from Oberlin College Conservatory of Music. He earned his M.Mus. degree at the Juilliard School. He has performed solo and chamber music recitals throughout the United States and France and has been heard on Connecticut Public Radio. Additionally, Mr. Martin has been orchestral pianist with the New Haven Symphony and the Wallingford Symphony. A former faculty member at Neighborhood Music School, Westover School and the International Sessione Musicale in Grenoble, France, Mr. Martin is a part-time faculty member at Choate-Rosemary Hall. For 11 years he was a faculty member of the Music Advancement Program at the Juilliard School. His students have been winners of several competitions, including the Hamden Symphony Concerto Competition, Greater New Haven Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition, Renee B. Fisher Competition and the Frederick Chopin Society Competition.

(Winning student: Tianhai Zhou)

Elaine Silberis has enjoyed a career as a concert artist and teacher. She holds advanced degrees in both piano and organ performance from La 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.

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 awarded 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)

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)
JUDGES’ BIOGRAPHIES

Miki Aoki

Praised for “genuinely memorable performance” by BBC Music Magazine, pianist Miki Aoki is widely recognized for her diverse abilities as pianist and as a collaborative artist.

Ms. Aoki has performed as soloist with National Symphony, London Soloist Chamber Orchestra, Hamburg Camerata, Washington Sinfonietta and Orquesta Sinfónica del Estado de México.

As a collaborative pianist Ms. Aoki has been invited by Heifetz International Music Institute in Virginia, International Summer Academy Mozarteum Salzburg (Austria), Mattheiser Sommer-Akademie, International Summer Academy Bad Leondfelden, International Mendelssohn Summer School, International Violin Masterclasses at Kronberg Academy and KONTUREN Brühl (Germany). Ms. Aoki regularly plays for masterclasses of internationally renowned musicians including Yuri Bashmet, Christoph Eschenbach, Christian Tetzlaff, Maxim Vengerov and Tabea Zimmermann. Ms. Aoki is a faculty pianist at the prestigious Kronberg Academy in Germany.

As a devoted educator, Ms Aoki has served as a faculty member at major European institutions including Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hamburg (Germany) and Conservatoire de Lausanne (Switzerland). From 2012-2016 Ms Aoki worked full-time as a Senior Lecturer in Collaborative Piano at Kunstuniversität Graz in Austria.

Ms. Aoki moved to London at age 9 where she joined the Purcell School of Music. She holds degrees from Indiana University and Yale University. In 2007 Ms. Aoki obtained a distinction in the Konzertexamen degree at Hochschule für Musik und Theater, Hamburg, (Mit Auszeichnung). Her main teachers were Roshan Magub, James Gibb, Relko Neriki, György Sebők, Boris Berman and Evgeni Koroliov.

Ms. Aoki is currently a teaching assistant at SUNY Stony Brook in New York where she is pursuing DMA under the guidance of Gilbert Kalish.

Ukrainian pianist Angelina Gadieliya has received high critical acclaim for her performances as a soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician throughout the United States and across Europe. Born in Sukhumi, Georgia, Angelina began her musical studies there at the age of five, and continued them in Ukraine up until moving to the US in 1990. She completed three seasons with the prestigious Ensemble ACJW, bringing classical music to NYC public schools, and performing regularly at Carnegie Hall as well as at the Juilliard School.

A passionate advocate of contemporary music, Angelina has given numerous premieres of works and has worked closely with such composers as John Adams, Thomas Adès, Marc-André Dalbavie, Steve Reich, Steven Mackey, Daniel Bjarnason, Matthias Pintscher, and John Harbison. In October of 2008, Angelina organized a benefit concert at NY’s Steinway Hall in order to aid refugees in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Angelina has also toured Ukraine several times playing benefit concerts for families with special needs children. She continues to work hard to raise awareness of this neglected demographic in Ukrainian society. Since 2011, Angelina has served on the New School Alumni Association Board of Directors in NYC, and also serves on the board of the Amateur Pianists International Competition and Festival in Colorado.

Angelina has studied under the guidance of Pavlina Dokovska, Gilbert Kalish, Angela Cheng, Julian Martin, and Arlene Krueger. A graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, The Juilliard School, and Mannes College of Music, she also studied at CU Boulder, and holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Stony Brook University. She serves as piano faculty at the University of Connecticut in Storrs.
Blair McMillan Hailed by the New York Times as “prodigiously accomplished and exciting” and as one of the piano’s “brilliant stars,” pianist Blair McMillan has forged a busy musical life that is unbounded by convention. He is well-known for his advocacy of living composers and contemporary music, as well as for championing very early keyboard music and more recent neglected masterpieces.

Blair McMillan has performed in major concert venues in New York City, throughout the United States, and around the world. Recent appearances include concerts with the American Symphony Orchestra in Carnegie Hall, solo appearances with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and the Albany Symphony, and a 3-week tour of Brazil sponsored by the US State Department. He is a member of several prominent ensembles, including the American Modern Ensemble, the Bardian Ensemble, the six-piano “supergroup” Grand Band, and the Perspectives Ensemble, among others. For 12 years he was pianist for the Naumburg Award-winning Da Capo Chamber Players.

As a teacher and pedagogue, he has taught at Bard College and Conservatory since 2005, and he serves on the piano faculty at the Mannes School of Music in New York City. He regularly adjudicates at competitions and festivals throughout the United States and abroad. In past summers, McMillan has taught at the Elm City Chamber Festival, the Xi’an Festival, the Wellesley Composers Conference, the Samuel Barber Institute, and the Bennington Chamber Music Festival.

Blair McMillen holds degrees from Oberlin College, Manhattan School of Music, and The Juilliard School. While atJuilliard he was featured as concerto soloist on a tour of Japan with the Juilliard Orchestra. As a Juilliard Masters student there, he won both the Gina Bachauer Competition and the Sony “Elevated Standards” Career Grant. McMillen’s principal teachers have included Jerome Lowenthal, Robert McDonald, Joseph Kalichstein, and Byron Janis.

**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

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Vicky Reeve, Elaine Silbereis, Ingeborg Schimmer, Mani Mizraee, David DeLucia and Frances Taylor.

Thank you also to Vicky Reeve, Patty Boczer and Gillian Eversman and daughters 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 2,500 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, receive individual and group instruction in music, dance and drama and participate in over 100 weekly ensembles. NMS also houses a certified arts-integrated preschool and toddler program, an After-School Arts Academy and several popular summer programs. In addition, NMS provides more than $275,000 in financial aid and tuition support for 550 students each year. NMS also runs ATLAS Middle School, an independent, progressive middle school where important core academics are taught through the context of theatre.

NMS programs are made possible with support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Connecticut Department of Economic & Community Development - Office of the Arts, The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, The Carolyn Foundation, The Daniel E. Offutt, III Charitable Trust and the Liberty Bank Foundation, along with many other generous foundations and individuals.
RENÉE B. FISHER COMPOSER AWARDS
2019 WINNERS

The distinguished panel which selected the winning composers for 2018 and 2019 included Miki Aoki, Blair McMillan and Angelina Gafeliya.

ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION

London-based Scottish composer George Stevenson has written for musicians of the Russian National Orchestra, New Russia State Symphony Orchestra, Solovey Ensemble, Psaphha Ensemble, Pentaèdre, Assembly Project, Brodick Quartet and Duo Palladium, as well as dancers of The Bolshoi Ballet. Other works have been commissioned by Moscow Viola Festival, Suzuki Scotland and International Flute Competition ‘Moya Lyubimaya Flyeta’. Upcoming projects include works for the London Symphony Orchestra and Berkeley Ensemble, as well as continued collaboration with Juncture Ensemble on a forthcoming album.

George is a 2018 LSO Panufnik Composer and also joins the PRS Accelerate Scheme for emerging composers this year. Past awards include First Prize in the St Magnus Composers’ competition, as well as the Dvořák Prize at the International Dvořák Composition Competition. George also won Creative Scotland’s ‘The Night With...’ Call for Scores, the Montréal Concert Society Composition Prize and the Renée B. Fisher Composer Award. In the UK, his works have been performed at the Barbican, Sadler’s Wells, St Magnus Festival, St. James Piccadilly, The Royal Academy of Arts and the Elgar Room of The Albert Hall. His influences are numerous, but a love for jazz and other forms of improvised music has had a particular impact on his work.

In London George studied with Julian Anderson and Joseph Phibbs, and holds a Masters from The Guildhall School of Music and Drama. He also received an Advanced Diploma in Composition from Moscow Conservatoire under Alexander Tchaikovsky.

HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION

Inspired by diverse cultural backgrounds, Heeyoung Yang has been actively composing a variety of music with a wide spectrum, which crosses multiple dimensions: the East and the West, the old and the new, the irrational and the logical, and the sacred and the secular. Such cross-cultural components are naturally embedded in her approach on musical language, timbre, intonation, lyric, pulsation, time, and expression. These ingredients enable Heeyoung’s music to deliberately touch audience - by a unique way of delivering the tradition of Korean and Western music in a contemporary form and by a lyrical and imaginative story-telling of her own thoughts and faith. Originally from South Korea, she received both her D.M.A. and M.M. in music composition from the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati.
THE FISHER COMPETITION

Now in its 42nd 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