In Good Hands Concert
Portland International Piano Festival
July 14, 2010

Performers' Biographies

Mingqian Tan, 10, from Access Academy is a student of Pauline Eidemiller. Active in OMTA and NFMC events, he is currently working on syllabus level 7. A winner in 2010 Junior Bach Festival for the Tualatin Valley district, he has performed in the Regional Division at Newport, Oregon this year. Mingqian enjoys swimming and playing tennis.

Michelle Wei Tong is an eleven year-old pianist, composer and saxophonist. Currently, she is taking piano lessons with PSU Professor Mary Hall Kogen Emerita. She is also learning composition with Susan Alexjander.

Zoe Kulkarni, 11 years old, is a student of Luiza Kramarchuk. She is also an avid tennis player and has been ranked as #1 in her age division in Oregon and as #6 in the Pacific NW by the United States Tennis Association. She has also won numerous OMTA festivals and participated in the Syllabus exams.

Sam Doby, a 5th grade student at Lake Grove Elementary School, has been a consistent winner in OMTA Period Festivals. Recently he performed in the *Lake Oswego Has Talent* event. An OMTA syllabus level VII student, he has studied piano with Patricia Scordato for three years.

Noah Sylwester, 16 years old, is a sophomore at Century High School.
He began his piano studios almost two years ago under the tutelage of Vladimir Kramarchuk. He also plays a variety of other instruments such as oboe, flute, bag pipe, banjo, saxophone.

Andrew Poiana, 13 years old, recently graduated from South West Christian School 8 degree. He is a student of Vladimir Kramarchuk. His achievements include: Winner of OMTA Classical Festival, two Honorable Mentions among others. One of his main hobbies is reading.

Bran Ruby, a sophomore at BHS, enjoys playing golf, playing jazz on his trumpet and participating in his school's marching band. This year he will be working on Syllabus Level Ten.

Anusha Pai, 13 years old, is a Summa Program student at Meadow Park Middle School. She has been studying piano for seven years with Luiza Kramarchuk. Besides excelling at OMTA festivals, exams, and master classes, she takes Indian voice lessons and plays the flute in her school's band.

Natina Gilbert will be a freshman at Lincoln High School in the fall. She has studied piano with Barbara Musolf for six years and has just begun vocal studies. She is also a competitive swimmer.

Jimmy Chen, student of Myrna Elmore, received the OMTA Level X Medal ***with distinction***. He has achieved numerous honors in OMTA and NFMC events. Other interests include playing violin in MYS, table tennis, swimming, robotics, game design and photo shop.

Ruta Kuzmickas ,14, came to Oregon two years ago from Las Vegas, Nevada where she studied piano with Ekaterina Melkamini. Ruta currently studies composition and music theory with Gary Noland and piano performance with Jean-David Coen. Along with playing the piano, Ruta loves drawing and exploring nature.

Yurie Farnsworth is a 15-year old sophomore at Tualatin High School. She has played piano for 9 years, and currently studies with Dr. Julia Hwakyu Lee.

Jaron Cannon,17, of Roseburg, Oregon completed all syllabus levels as a sophomore. He has received numerous awards and gold medals at the Music Fest Northwest and OMTA Bach Festival. OMTA has published five of Jaron's compositions. Presently, Jaron is a member of Cascadia Composers Society, a church pianist and is a local favorite performing for various venues.

Rachel Pendakur, Forest Grove, will attend Point Loma University in September with a full music and academic scholarship to pursue a double major in piano performance and psychology. She has been a regional winner in OMTA's Bach Festival, has complete Level X Syllabus, and recently took second place in the Virginia Melton Scholarship Award.

Colleen Xu, 16, and **Ayumi Mizuno**, 13, are students of Alena Dubauskaya, NCTM. They are active participants of OMTA festivals, syllabus and various piano master classes. Besides piano, Ayumi enjoys playing tennis and Colleen takes classes in Chinese water painting and calligraphy.

Rhonda Ringering is a pianist, author, and instructor who specializes in new music and jazz. Her recordings include "Oregon Impressions: the Piano Music of Dave Deason", "A Lullaby for Innocence", featuring the music of Dana Carlisle, and "2 to Tango: Dance Music for Piano Duet" with duo partner Molly Wheeler. She teaches piano in Forest Grove, Oregon.

Samuel Saunders, 17, will be a senior at Hillsboro High in the fall, He has studied piano with Mary Hulme for 10 years. In the spring he passed the OMTA Syllabus X *with distinction*. Samuel also plays trumpet in the Hillsboro marching and jazz bands and gives private instruction in piano.

Composer Biographies

Paul Safar is a versatile composer/performer and private piano instructor based in Eugene, Oregon. Paul's focus has often been vocal and theatrical music and the incorporation of popular styles.

Christopher Dyson has been composing music since he was nine years old and participated in the Young Composers' Workshop for seven years. He has just finished his freshman year at PSU, majoring in computer science.

Carol Crowder Phillips earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Oklahoma State University; taught music in Nairobi, Kenya; and has worked professionally as a violinist, pianist, organist, and singer. Her compositions are influenced by a wide diversity of musical and cultural experiences.

Bonnie Miksch, a composer whose music embraces multiple musical universes, creates both acoustic and electro acoustic works. On most days she can be heard whistling or singing in the halls at Portland State University where she teaches composition, theory, and computer science.

Denis Floyd decided to go back to school and study music seriously when he was near the end of his career as a teacher of college mathematics. While still teaching math, he studied music theory and composition at San Jose State University where he obtained a degree in music composition in 2003.

John McKinnon teaches composition, theory and world music at Eastern Oregon University.

Jay Derderian, a Portland based composer, has a body of work that has evolved into an eclectic catalog of sounds. All sounds are created equal to Jay, and his music strives to communicate that democracy."

Art Resnick is a jazz pianist, educator, and composer. A former teacher of ensemble and improvisation at San Diego State University-SDSU and Wm Paterson College NJ, he has recorded with several well known musicians and has his own recordings.

Elizabeth Blachly-Dyson started composing after several years of accompanying her son to his composition lessons. She plays the cello and has written a number of works for strings. She studies composition with Dr. Robert Priest.

Jan Mittelstaedt, NCTM, OMTA teacher, syllabus adjudicator, and program presenter, was composer of the year in 1994. A long time student of Dr. Walter B. Saul II, she has music published by Schaum and Boston Music.

Gary Noland has taught music at Harvard and the University of Oregon and currently teaches piano, theory, and composition as an independent instructor in Portland. Six CDs of his compositions are available on *North Pacific Music*

Mark Vigil received his Bachelor's degree in piano and composition from the Cornish Institute of the Allied Arts school in Seattle Washington in 1982 and his Master's degree in composition from the University of Oregon School of Music in 1996.

Jaron Cannon: See student bios.

Daniel Brugh, the 2009-2010 OMTA Composer of the Year, teaches piano and music composition in Beaverton, Oregon. A Graduate from Interlochen Arts Academy, Dan earned his Bachelor's of Music from the University of Oregon. Currently, he works at Portland Music Company.

Tomas Svoboda was a recipient of the Governor's Award for the Art for music accomplishment. He also received a BMI award for being one of the most broadcast classical composers in the US. For over seven years, he has been a Prof. Emeritus from PSU where he taught music for over 30 years.

Jeff Winslow, a fourth-generation Oregonian, studied music and electronics at UC Berkeley, and finally got serious about composition in the mid-90's. When not playing piano or composing, he hikes, on trail and off, or works at his new dream job - principal engineer at Stilwell Baker.

As a creative artist, **David S. Bernstein** is unusually versatile in his choice of musical genres -- from intimate chamber combinations to pieces for full band and orchestra; from music for films and video productions to theater, dance, and opera.

Program Notes

Stella's Waltz was written for **Paul Safar's** ballerina step daughter to choreograph. It has shades of Brahms, Schubert and a jazz tune with a similar title.

Christopher Dyson wrote ***Water*** when he was thirteen years old. It represents the water cycle, from a small stream to the ocean. It is aleatoric: general directions to the player are specified but specific notes are not.

Suite of Ascending Thought by **Carol Crowder Phillips** contains the following movements: **I – Pensive**; **II – Offering**; and **III – Joy**.

Key Lime Pie is **Bonnie Miksch's** favorite dessert. The title, while seemingly whimsical, is actually a metaphor for intense longing and frustration that results when longing is unfulfilled.

An early version of **Denis Floyd's** ***Sonata No. 1 for Piano*** was written in the late 1950s. It was revised and greatly expanded in the late 1980s. It consists of three movements: Allegro Spiritoso, Andante Cantabile, and Vivace.

Washing the Air by **John McKinnon** gets its title and "character" from a few lines of A Midsummer Night's Dream: *"Therefore the moon, the governess of floods, Pale in her anger, washes the air,....."*

Variations on Constellations by **Jay Derderian** is a piece based literally on the constellations above... the stars have been placed on the music stave and revealed their inner song through the medium of the keyboard.

Bag N Tell by **Art Resnik** was written specifically for this concert and contains elements of jazz harmony and phrasing, and has the structure of many jazz pieces ie. AABA'

Trees: I. *Acorns* by **Elizabeth Dyson** is lumpy like the feeling under your feet when you walk under an oak tree in the fall. **II. *Aspens*** tries to capture the fluttering of aspen leaves in a light breeze and the swaying of the trees in a stronger wind.

Masks: 1. *Laughter* by **Jan Mittelstaedt** often masks emotions such as embarrassment. It may also be hurtful and sinister when we laugh **at** people instead of **with** them. Other movements in the ***Masks* Suite** are: **II. Tears**, **III. Anger**, and **IV. Joy**.

***Etude*, Op. 1 No. 10** is the tenth in a set of twenty piano pieces that **Gary Noland** composed in the early 1980s. As of April last year he has been writing a set of 39 variations (on his own theme) for piano.

Sontaine for Solo Piano reflects **Mark Vigil's** lifelong appreciation for the talent and delicate artful beauty of the music of Maurice Ravel.

The mood of **Jaron Cannon's** music, ***Nocturne in Bb***, is lyrical with traditional harmony. The piece is the first slow composition written by the composer and reminds him of Schubert's compositional style.

Reductio ad Absurdum by **Dan Brugh** refers to the disproof of a proposition by showing that it leads to absurd or untenable conclusions.

Nocturne for Piano 4-hands is originally the 2nd movement from **Suite for Piano 4-hand**, Op. 124. This piece was composed for **Tomas Svoboda's** daughter, Lenka, when she was 13 years old. The Nocturne, written in a calm, peaceful mood, opens the image of a quiet night. The performance is somewhat challenging between players because of a slow, rhythmical exactness.

Ghosts and Machines: 1. *Hijinks* may be Jeff Winslow's least serious piece. It opens a four-movement work based on the beginning of act III of "Tristan und Isolde", a funereal, diatonic version of the opera's famous opening. In "Hijinks", however, it's mostly a background that's ignored, sniped at, trampled, at best tolerated, until finally it just gives up.

December Visions by **David Bernstein** was commissioned by the Fortnightly Musical Club of Cleveland, Ohio and was premiered by a student at the Cleveland Music School Settlement in 1999.