

Young Pianist Competition Of New Jersey



NEWSLETTER

Fall 2005

Dear Members:

This is the fourteenth edition of our annual newsletter. This letter comes out twice a year in the Spring and Fall and features our upcoming events, news about Competition Winners, Alumni and Teachers. We hope that this will be helpful and keep you up-to-date with our events.

If you have any news that you would like us to put in our next issue, please mail it to Young Pianist Competition of New Jersey, P.O. Box 3, Martinsville, NJ 08836, send a fax to 908-704-1694, or e-mail to ypcofnj@aol.com. All materials must be submitted in typed format. Please submit your materials by February 1, 2006 for our next issue.

Please check our website www.youngpianist.org for the 2005-2006 dates and events.

Board of Directors

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- September 28, 2005 **Children's Concert** at the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum Jewish Community Center in Bridgewater.
- October 22, 2005 **Workshop Recital**, Raritan Valley Community College. Materials must be submitted by October 15.
- November 2, 2005 **Children's Concert** at the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum Jewish Community Center in Bridgewater.
- November 15, 2005 **Application & Tape Deadline** for Concerto, Ensemble, and Chamber Music Divisions
- November 19, 2005 Concert: **Plainfield Symphony Orchestra** featuring 2004 YPCNJ Entire Concerto Division Gold Prize Winner: **Jeanette Aufiero** (Robert Schumann, Piano Concerto in A Minor)
- November 20, 2005 **Late Application & Tape Deadline** for Concerto, Ensemble, and Chamber Music Divisions
- December 18, 2005 Concerto, Ensemble, and Chamber Music Divisions **Final Round** at Steinway Hall
- January 10, 2006 Chamber Music Recital VHS Tape Audition Deadline
- January 14, 2006 Concerto and Ensemble Divisions **Winners' Recital** at Steinway Hall
- February 12, 2006 **Chamber Music Recital** at Steinway Hall
- March 1, 2006 Membership Renewal
- April 9, 2006 Concert: **Plainfield Symphony Orchestra** featuring the 2005 Gold Prize Winners of the Concerto Competition / One Movement Division
- April 15, 2006 **Application Deadline** for Solo, Young Artist Divisions
- April 24, 2004 **Application & Video Tape Deadline (Preliminary Round)** for Cyclical Work Divisions
- May 6 & 7, 2005 **Preliminary Round** for Solo, Young Artist Divisions
- May 20 & 21, 2005 **Final Round for Solo**, Young Artist & Cyclical Work Divisions
- June 18, 2006 Solo & Young Artists **Winners' Recital** at Weill Recital Hall

ADMINISTRATION

Lana Ivanov
Executive Director

J. Anthony Strong
Chairman of the Board

Yelena Ivanov
Artistic Director

Julie Reina
Administrator & Audition Coordinator

Andria Lykogiannis
Recital Coordinator

DIVISION CHAIRS

Eugenia Betman
Concerto Divisions

Larissa Blitz
Chamber Music

Yelena Mamonova
Solo Division

Sondra Tammam
Ensemble Division

J. Anthony Strong
Young Artist Division
Cyclical Work Division

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Yelena Ivanov
Workshop Recital Chair

Anna Vaidman
Treasurer

Irene Gersh
Director of Publicity
Development

Ellen Gurary
Executive Assistant

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THE 2005 SOLO & YOUNG ARTIST DIVISIONS

STUDENTS	DIVISION	AWARD	TEACHER
Patricio Molina	YA	Gold Prize	Vladimir Zaitsev
Patricia Yeh	Solo	Gold Prize	Yelena Mamonova
Caroline Kwon	CW	Silver Prize	Lana Ivanov
Luiko Yoshimoto	CW	Silver Prize	Golda Tatz
Jeanette Aufiero	YA	Silver Prize	*
Jeanette Aufiero	CW	Bronze Prize	*
Kevin Jang	YA	Bronze Prize	Yelena Ivanov
Stella Wang	YA	Bronze Prize	Golda Tatz
Monica Chon	Solo	Bronze Prize	Yelena Ivanov
Mikhail Kaykov	Solo	Bronze Prize	*
Jeffrey Cai	CW	Honorable Mention	Yelena Ivanov
Daria Koltunyyuk	CW	Honorable Mention	Golda Tatz
Stephen Li	YA	Honorable Mention	Susan Lou
Annabell Suh	Solo	Honorable Mention	Yelena Ivanov

YPCNJ's Board of directors says "Thank you" to all of the other participating teachers and students who performed in our Winner's Recital held on June 12, 2005 at **Weill Recital Hall** in Carnegie Hall.

Esther Lee, Kelsey Liu (students of **Ursula Ingolffson**); Dennis Hsu, Christina Qiu, Jeanna Qiu (students of **Lana Ivanov**); Irisa Chen, Doris Lee, Kevin Lee, Brianna Tang (students of **Yelena Ivanov**); Taylor Lee, Jonathan Lu (students of **Chiu-Tze Lin**); Angela Zhao (student of **Irene Lu**); Erica Liu, David Luor, (students of **Yelena Mamonova**); Alan Yang (student of **Lena Solaiman**); Sophie Zheng (student of **Pei Hua Wang**); Melissa Chan, Anastasia Falasca (students of **Veda Zuponic**), Christine Weng*, Clare Yeo *, Catherine Xu*.

* - Teacher not a member

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Tracy	Cheng	Bridgewater, NJ
Shou-Ping	Chiu	South Ozone Park, NY
Dennis	Ding	Bridgewater, NJ
Jennifer	Fang	Bridgewater, NJ
Kellie	Heom	Paramus, NJ
Cherie	Hu	Scarsdale, NY
Aaron	Huang	Little Neck, NY
Christopher	Kong	Lititz, PA
Lisa	Kong	Lititz, PA
Benson	Ku	Woodside, NY
Irene	Lu	Marlboro, NJ
Anita	Mo	Harrison, NJ
Emilia	Oskotsy	New York, NY
Olga	Stepanova	Dumont, NJ
Charles	Tang	Flushing, NY
Christine	Weng	Lumberton, NJ
Wendy	Wu	Warren, NJ
Catherine	Xu	Monmouth Junction, NJ
Zi-Yin	Xu	Flushing, NY
Marvin	Yan	Searingtown, NY
Clare	Yeo	New York, NY
Kyoung Ah	Yeom	Closter, NJ
Evan	Zhang	Scarsdale, NY

COMPETITION NEWS

This is the official Press Release, which was sent out by the Heine Associates, P.A., the law firm representing YPCNJ in regards to the Incidences Occurring on June 12, 2005, at a Public Performance By Prize Winners of the Young Pianist Competition of New Jersey. Winners' Recital at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Recital Hall.

This law firm was engaged by Young Pianist Competition of New Jersey, Yelena Ivanov and Lana Ivanov to represent them in all legal matters arising out of certain events occurring on June 12, 2005, at a public performance it sponsored at Weill Recital Hall at New York's Carnegie Hall. Based upon extensive interviews with principals and disinterested witnesses, the following information has been confirmed.

The Young Pianist Competition of New Jersey was formed in 1989. Since that date, it has conducted a competition for young artists (generally through high school age) who live in the Tri-State area. The Competition's Artistic Director is Yelena Ivanov, an accomplished piano pedagogue. Following her extensive study in Moscow, she and her husband moved to the United States where she established a fine reputation as a teacher of young pianists. The participation of the contestants in this annual competition is usually facilitated by their individual private piano teachers.

Through the years, the Competition has grown to witness the participation of approximately 120 students annually. Each year, the Competition's disinterested jurists identify those contestants, reflective of age and experience, whose competition performances

have excelled. The successful competitors participate in the Competition's culmination— the presentation of a recital at Weill Recital Hall. In 2005, 35 students participated in the winners' recital.

In the course of the competition, students may play personally selected repertoire that meets the competition's criteria. Following tradition and in the year 2005, after the winning recital participants were named, the competition's Director specified the piece each competitor would perform during the recital. It has been a consistent, understood, announced and observed practice for the Director to have full discretion and authority to specify the recital performance piece for each competitor. This practice not only assures balanced programming but also achieves the serious and limited time constraints in the Carnegie Hall engagement. This year, the entire performance was contractually limited to two hours. Accordingly, the piece selected for each participant was carefully designed to confine the total program, as well as ancillary program activities, to the allotted time.

Competitor Bryan O'Lone was provided with an information sheet that clearly identified the exact piece that he was authorized to play in the performance; namely, Beethoven's *Pathétique*, 3rd Movement, a 4½-minute piece. On the day of the winners' recital, Bryan O'Lone arrived with his parents and, before the public was admitted to the Hall, he was permitted to warm-up on the performance piano. Bryan was heard performing a Chopin piece, *Scherzo No. 2, opus 31*, which is a 12-minute piece. As soon as it was realized, Ms. Ivanov approached Bryan and informed him that that the longer Chopin piece was not the one approved for his performance, and that he was required to perform the shorter Beethoven selection. He then was taken to a private room with a practice piano so that he could warm up on the Beethoven piece, which was also in his active repertoire at the time.

At the scheduled time in the program, Bryan O'Lone entered the stage. Witnesses recollect that immediately prior to his performance, he announced to the audience of approximately 250, the following:

"There was a misprint in the program. I will play Chopin instead of Beethoven. Those who know this piece will enjoy it. Too bad for those who don't.."

Witnesses also confirm that he then commenced performing the 12-minute Chopin piece. Standing in the wings, Mrs. Ivanov overheard his performance of the unauthorized music. Mindful of the serious regulations, the integrity of the programming, the equality of treatment of all participants, and Bryan's disregard of clear instructions, she approached his piano while he was performing and instructed him to stop playing. He continued to play. With her left hand, she grasped firmly the keyboard cover and *slowly* moved it downwards to no more than 25% of it closing distance. Her grasp of the keyboard cover was firm and tightly controlled. The cover did not touch the hands of Bryan O'Lone.

Recognizing, that while his hands were free, he did not have full keyboard access, Bryan O'Lone removed his hands from the keyboard and placed them on his lap. Mrs. Ivanov then closed the piano cover and left the stage. As soon as she departed the stage, Bryan O'Lone lifted the cover from the keys and defiantly played the 12-minute Chopin piece from the beginning to its conclusion.

Immediately following the recital, false statements regarding the occurrences were circulated by Mr. O'Lone's family to the media. Some of the media quotations included descriptions that the keyboard lid of the piano was lowered on the pianist's fingers in a brutal assault. The clear recollection of disinterested witnesses sitting within feet of the piano performed upon by Mr. O'Lone and in full view of the keyboard, confirms that the handling of the keyboard lid of Mrs. Ivanov was controlled at all times, and the lid did not contact Bryan's fingers.

Further claims of O'Lone and his parents have been contained in a lawsuit filed in the Superior Court of New Jersey on or about July 1, 2005. Our investigation reveals that the claims made in the suit are a gross misrepresentation of the actual facts and have irresponsibly damaged the Competition and its Directors.

The non-profit corporation and its principals will take all necessary steps to defend the defamation and to restore to the Competition the lustre that was dulled by plaintiffs' defiant conduct. The recital was by necessity and tradition governed by strict rules. The adherence to recital rules by all participants assures that achievement is acknowledged in an environment that fosters integrity, fairness, accuracy and evenhandedness.

Young Mr. O'Lone, with or without parental blessing, was not privileged to make his own rules. Ms. Ivanov's conduct was necessary, measured, lawful and direct. Bryan O'Lone's sole injury was to his unrestrained ego.

Webmaster destroys/moves YPCNJ website over personal differences with Yelena Ivanov. Around the beginning of August we were shocked to discover that YPCNJ website stopped functioning, the usual address now pointed to a shopping site. We received hundreds of calls from students, teachers and concerned parents asking about the site. This happened during the media

blitz related to the O'Lone affair. Needless to say it was the worst possible time to be without website. These events closely coincided with the resignation of Mrs. Sharon Wei - our Webmaster.

YPCNJ was always very grateful to its dedicated volunteer Webmaster Mrs. Wei. Mrs. Wei designed and maintained our site since its beginning in 2002. Quickly the site became a vital part of YPCNJ by facilitating most of communications, public announcements, application forms etc. It was our public face.

As many may know Mrs. Wei is also a mother of Kevin Jang, a talented and accomplished young pianist who until this August studied and flourished under Yelena Ivanov. During the last summer Festival "Musica in Laguna" in Italy, Yelena Ivanov informed Mrs. Wei that she could not continue to teach Kevin. Teachers and students parting ways are common, after all only few students study under the same teacher throughout their education.

We believe that Mrs. Wei acted out her bitterness against Yelena Ivanov and destroyed / moved the site deliberately. Somehow she forgot that the site was not hers to destroy or move. What she has done is the equivalent of breaking into a Salvation Army store to take back her donations. This was a hostile and irrational act against the teacher who greatly contributed to Kevin's growth and success. We do not want to comment at this time on either the ethics or legality of her actions.

We are using this opportunity to thank SimX Corporation for donating their services and bringing the Site back to life.

MEMBER NEWS

Lana Ivanov's Studio: Lana Ivanov adjudicated NJMTA's Piano Festival in March of 2005. She was invited to give master classes at the Kazakh National Academy of Music in Astana, Kazakhstan in April/May 2005. Her student **Caroline Kwon** was the First Place Winner in her age group in the Piano Teachers Congress of New York Young Artist Honor Recital Competition, **Christina Qiu** was a winner of the 23rd Annual Young People's Music Program (YPMP) and **Caroline Kwon, Christina Qiu, Jeanna Qiu** and **Shirley Wang** were winners at the 2005 Young Musicians Showcase of the Watchung Arts Center, where they performed in September of 2005.

Yelena Ivanov' Studio: Yelena Ivanov judged for the NJMTA's Piano Festival in March of 2005 and for the Piano Audition in April 2005. Student **Allen Yueh** was the First Prizewinner of the 2005 International Solo Competition (Junior Division) at the "Festival Musica in Laguna" in July 2005, he was also the Alternate Winner of the Leschinsky Concerto Competition in April of 2005. Student **Kevin Jang** was the First Place Winner in his age group in the Piano Teachers Congress of New York Young Artist Honor Recital Competition, as well as the Bucks County Concerto Competition. **Kevin Lee** was a winner of the 23rd Annual Young People's Music Program (YPMP). **Doris Lee** and **Kevin Lee** were winners at the 2005 Young Musicians Showcase of the Watchung Arts Center, where they performed in September of 2005.

Beatrice Long: would like to announce that the **Long Duo** (Beatrice & Christina) will be presented in concert at Weill Recital Hall, Carnegie Hall (57th Street & 7th Avenue) on Saturday, October 29th, 2005 at 8:30 PM by The Formosa Chamber Music Society. The duo will be making the New York premiere of a newly published Grand Concert Piece on the Themes of Mendelssohn's "Songs without Words" by Franz Liszt, as well as composer I-Uen Wang's Dream Garden Series II.

Ticket prices are: \$10.00, \$15.00, \$20.00. For more information, please contact the Formosa Chamber Music Society: (718) 997-7119 or Carnegie Charge: (212) 247-7800 www.carnegiehall.org.

Yelena Mamonova's Studio: **Bena Cheung, Justin Yeh, Patricia Yeh, Nadine Rong, Erika Liu, and Jason Cai** were winners of the 2005 Young Musicians Showcase of the Watchung Arts Center. **Justin Yeh** was the first place winner and **Patricia Yeh** was the third place winner of the 2004 NJMTA Young Artist Competition, where they performed in September of 2005..

Lena Solaiman's Studio: **Eric Peng** was awarded the Second Prize of Level 8 by the 2005 World Piano Competition in July. He is invited to perform at the Carnegie Hall and United Nations in October 2005. **Janet Song** and **Alan Yang** were awarded Honorable Mention by the 2005 World Piano Competition at Level 9 and Level 6 respectively. **Lucy Zhang** won the Concerto Competition sponsored by the Ambler Symphony, PA. She is invited to perform Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5 with the Symphony in Spring of 2006.

Sondra Tamman's Studio: **The Taubman Institute** presents group instruction, and master classes at Jacobs Music in Philadelphia on October 29, 2005 from 10:00 – 4:00. Maria del Pico, Professor of Piano at Temple University and Sondra Tamman will Co-direct this event. For further information, please E-mail JTammam@aol.com or go to www.TaubmanSeminars.

During the summer of 2005, Ms Tammam was a co-director at the Taubman New York City four day Seminar, which was held at CAMI Hall and performed in a trio recital with members of the New York Philharmonic.

Her student **Alexander Liu**, was a camp scholarship winner awarded by the MEANJ and attended the Westminster Middle School Piano Camp in July. **Quiozi Yang**, former winner in YPCNJ was a Merit Scholar Award winner and is a freshman at Princeton University.

Veda Zuponic's Studio In February 2005: Miss Zuponic Performed the Shostakovich Piano Concerto No. 1 with the Portland (Oregon) Chamber Orchestra conducted by Yaki Bergman. During her visit to Portland, she also performed a solo recital and presented a master class for Steinway in Portland.

June/July 2005: Miss Zuponic served as the Artistic Director of the Northern Lights Music Festival, Aurora, MN; performed the Bartok Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion with Lidia Boguslavsky; and also performed Brahms e minor Cello sonata; Shostakovich Piano Trio; and various solo works on faculty recitals there.

March 2005: Miss Zuponic attended the MTNA national conference with her participating students: **Julia Sheriff**, ED winner in Junior Competition; and **Alexander Timofeev** in Collegiate Competition.

Summer 2005: Miss Zuponic presented three Master Classes and a pedagogy session for the Oxford International Piano Festival in Oxford. The Festival was the subject of a New York Times article in the Arts and Leisure section, published on August 22; Miss Zuponic is described as a "star pedagogue" and portions of her interview with author Michael White are printed in the article. She has been invited to return to the festival next season.

Student Awards: Rowan University student **Maria Sumareva** won second place in Delaware Symphony Competition. Her students **Katelyn Tran**, **Melissa Chan**, **Julia Sheriff**, **Jacek Skryzalin**, and **Steve Hsu** won numerous prizes in the solo and concerto categories of the Washington D.C. International Competition including four first, a second, a third; and three, first places for the best performances of the required Chinese pieces. **Katelyn Tran** and **Melissa Chan** were prizewinners in the Manalapan Symphony competition, performing Mendelssohn and Mozart concerti. **Jacek Skryzalin** and **Brian Tran** were prizewinners in the Kal Rudman Competition in Philadelphia, winning substantial cash awards. Five of Miss Zuponic's students won cash awards in the West Chester University Piano competition, including **Katelyn Tran**, **Melissa Chan**, **Jacek Skryzalin**, **Brian Tran** and **Anastasia Falasca**.

ALUMNI NEWS

Clare Yeo (2005 Young Artist Division) made her Singapore Esplanade Concert Hall debut on July 17, 2005. The Solo performance and concerto with the orchestra won standing ovations from the audiences of the 1800 seated concert hall, she raised 240,000 for the President Charity and all proceed including sales of Clare's CD benefit thousands of children at the School of Hearing Impaired. Soon after the concert in Singapore, Clare attended Aspen Music Festival and School this summer, studied under Ms Yehved Kaplinsky. An interview of Clare with BBC radio station titled - Who Runs Your World was broadcasted worldwide on September 27, more information could be found at www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/programmes/outlook.shtml

JULY 2006 PROGRAM FOR THE FESTIVAL MUSICA IN LAGUNA, CORSI MUSICALI

Next festival dates are July 1 – 14, 2005. The available piano programs consist of Workshops, Concerto Competitions for Junior and Senior divisions. Participants in the Concerto program will have five private lessons, two of which will be accompanied by **Orchestra Sinfonica del Festival di Chioggia**. Winners of the Concerto Competitions will perform in concert with **Orchestra Sinfonica del Festival di Chioggia**

JUNIOR DIVISION: Age 8 – 16

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART: Piano Concerto No. 8 in C Major, K. 246
Piano Concerto No. 23 in A Major, K. 488

For students under the age of 10:

FRANZ JOSEPH HAYDN: Piano Concerto in C Major or any other Divertimento with a limited string ensemble. YPCNJ administration must approve this repertoire in advance

SENIOR DIVISION: Age 17 and up

CAMILLE SAINT SAËNS: Piano Concerto No. 2 in g minor, Op. 22
WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART: Piano Concerto No. 20 in d Minor, K. 466
Piano Concerto No. 21 in C Major, K. 467

Festival Musica in Laguna will also hold an **International Piano Solo Competition** for Junior & Senior Divisions. Gold winners will receive cash awards and a full tuition scholarship to the 2007 Festival.

For those who are interested in participating in this program and would like to take advantage of airfare group rates, please contact us by January 15, 2006.

Those 2005 (Fall) & 2006 (Spring) prizewinners of the Young Pianist Competition of New Jersey (any division) attending the 2006 Festival "Musica in Laguna" are eligible for the Young Pianist Competition of New Jersey scholarship:

Gold Prize	\$500.00 towards tuition
Silver Prize	\$375.00 towards tuition
Bronze Prize	\$250.00 towards tuition

For further information and festival brochure, please contact:

Festival Musica in Laguna
P.O. Box 3
Martinsville, NJ 08836
Fax: 908-704-1694
E-mail: MusicainLaguna@aol.com
www: YoungPianist.org // International Summer Program