



FREDONIA
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

The Clauddette Sorel Piano Competition & Fellows Program

Celebrating the
creativity and excellence
of young pianists

LIVE FINAL ROUND
Sunday, November 3, 2019 at 12:00pm
Juliet J. Rosch Recital Hall
School of Music
State University of New York at Fredonia



In Memory

Today's competition is dedicated to the memory of Judy Cope, Executive Director of The Sorel Organization, Inc., and tireless supporter of the Arts. Without her, the Claudette Sorel Piano Competition would not exist. We remember and honor her today for her immense contributions to the Sorel Competition, to Fredonia, and to the Arts community.



"We are all heartbroken about Judy's passing. We will forever be grateful for her generosity, warmth, sense of humor, and fierce support of us musicians. The music world has lost one of its biggest advocates, yet her legacy will be a reminder to all of us of what can be achieved with optimism, kindness, and perseverance. May her memory be a blessing."

- Dr. Eliran Avni
Assistant Professor of Piano
Claudette Sorel Competition Director

"The Fredonia College Foundation is forever grateful to Judy Cope for her extraordinary work to establish Claudette Sorel's legacy on the Fredonia campus. In her leadership role with the Sorel Organization, Judy provided many grants and donations to Fredonia including the Claudette Sorel Memorial Piano Scholarship endowment which provides annual scholarships for Fredonia's School of Music piano majors. Thank you to the Sorel Organization but most of all, thank you to Judy for her vision and her friendship! "

- June Miller-Spann
Director of Development, Fredonia College Foundation

"Bravo to the ten finalists! The Sorel Organization is proud to help support these talented pianists on their musical journeys. Claudette Sorel was a child prodigy, and today's young musicians are a living embodiment of her legacy."

- Wende Persons
Interim Executive Director, The Sorel Organization

Welcome!



The Claudette Sorel Piano Competition at Fredonia is open to young artists ages 15-18 who are passionate about piano performance and repertoire. The competition is presented by the Fredonia School of Music and is named for pianist and SUNY Distinguished Professor Claudette Sorel. This event is generously supported by The Sorel Organization, a foundation established by Claudette. The Sorel Organization intends to create opportunities for women in composition, conducting, piano, voice and film scoring and to keep musical excellence alive while expanding the boundaries for women in music.

Special thanks to The Sorel Organization for their generous gift of the Steinway concert grand piano.

2019 Claudette Sorel Piano Competition Judges:

Eliran Avni
Fr. Sean Duggan
Mary Marden Cobb
Anne Kissel
Nick Weiser
Tony Caramia

Please join us for a reception in the lobby immediately following the award presentation.

For information about our next competition, please like our Facebook page

For more information about Fredonia's piano faculty and programs, visit us online at fredonia.edu/music or, schedule a visit with us!

The Sorel 
O R G A N I Z A T I O N
The Elizabeth and Michel Sorel Charitable Organization, Inc.
Expanding Opportunities for Women in Music

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CLAUDETTE SOREL PIANO COMPETITION

PROGRAM

Welcome Remarks

Dr. Eliran Avni, Competition Director and Piano professor

Madison Yan, 15

Palm Beach Gardens, FL
Teacher: Irena Kofman

Beethoven **Sonata No. 21 (Waldstein), Op. 53, Mvt. 1**

Chopin **Nocturne in D-flat Major, Op. 27, No. 2**

Why did you choose this recital program?

Beethoven's Waldstein Sonata and Chopin's Nocturne Op. 27 No. 2 reflect on two simple yet contrasting parts of our daily lives - day and night.

The roaring and energetic first movement of Beethoven's Waldstein sonata, dedicated to Count Waldstein, is comparable to daytime and light, with moments of bubbling humor and exhilarating tension accompanied by hints of darkness. The movement gives an image of restless, buzzing motion, climaxing in an explosive and satisfying ending. French music lovers and critics have even nicknamed the sonata "L'Aurore", which translates to "the Dawn", as the three movements seem to represent moments of a day.

After day comes night. The Chopin Nocturne, Op. 27 No. 2, brings to mind a quiet starry sky. It features two melodies – one aria-like, expressive and singing like a gentle wind, with elaborate ornamentation; the other driving and flowing like a dark river. The ending represents a dreamy, lilting, lullaby, gradually slowing as might a heartbeat before drifting off to sleep. The nocturne ends with two chords that seem to say: "Goodnight."

Why are you passionate about the piano?

For me, piano is a shared experience. There's the performer, and there's the audience; whether it be a student, strangers on the street, or just yourself. Performance is what makes me passionate about piano. You step on stage and there are hundreds of people eager to hear your music (and there are several people falling asleep, too). And you, as the performer, are eager to communicate the music to the audience; to bring the music to life, to give it personal meaning and impart that to the listeners. The energy that's created is magnificent. To know you're able to elicit emotion, touch the heart, bring back old memories, and allow the audience to give their own personal meaning to the music is the greatest part of piano.

Bio:

Madison Yan, junior in Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts Major in Piano, 2019-2020 Chopin Scholarship recipient, She has won many international, state, local piano competition such as 1st place in William Knabe International Piano Competition Concerto I Division, 1st place in University of Florida International Piano Festival Artist Division (2019 Jun 21st, 1st place in Florida Music Teacher Association Concerto competition Senior Division, solo competition in Junior division, Chopin award, 1st place in Florida Federation music club Junior convention in solo Advance II (highest level). She also played solos with Alhambra Orchestra, Greater Miami Youth Symphony.

Charlie Zhang, 16

Dallas, TX
Teacher: Kevin Gunter

Liszt **Rigoletto Concert Paraphrase**

Scriabin **Piano Sonata No.2, Mvt. 2**

Why did you choose this recital program?

I especially love classical music from the 19th century, so my program consists of music written between 1850 and 1900. Romantic era music contains tons of emotion. This type of music easily connects to my heart, making it my favorite style of classical music.

Liszt's Rigoletto was the first Liszt piece I learned. It presents many different textures and harmonies, which I all savor. After listening to "Bella figlia dell'amore" from Verdi's opera Rigoletto, I became even more attracted to Liszt's Rigoletto. I became more attuned to all the specific lines and phrasings, making my understanding of the piece more insightful and my performance of the piece more enjoyable. Because many people also enjoy hearing me play this piece, I hold it close to my heart.

One night, I watched a pianist perform Scriabin's Piano Sonata No.2. I remember enjoying the first movement. Moreover, I recall being mesmerized by the second movement. The sounds created waves which I contently--and passively--rode. The tenor melody was particularly striking and each time it emerged and climbed, my heart melted. Now that I play it, I hope my playing of the piece can also positively impact others.

Why are you passionate about the piano?

I'm passionate about playing piano for three main reasons. First, I love listening to the all the beautiful sounds that a good quality piano can produce. I particularly like piano sounds from the soprano and tenor. When played well, lines from the soprano and tenor produce soothing sounds that I specifically like. Being the initiator and pressing the keys myself enhances the listening experience. In addition to producing single melodies, a piano can create a vast mix of different tones at the same time, giving a solo pianist the ability to mimic an orchestra. Second, I love the physical and active part of playing the piano. Some pieces require an immense amount of movement which I really enjoy. These songs require most of my upper body; it's amazing to me that piano gives me the opportunity to not only spend a lot of energy playing the notes but also produce wonderful sounds. Other songs don't require much physical movement but require me to be extremely alert. I enjoy the deep concentration of listening that I must maintain to keep the music running smoothly. In addition, these types of pieces let me soak in every beautiful harmony while playing. Third, the process of preparing a piece for piano is awesome. Learning and performing a song on the piano is a project. It requires me to plan ahead. I can make short term goals and long term goals, giving me something to work for. I can share my work and collaborate with others. After working on a piece for a long time, I can feel an intimate connection with the song.

Bio:

Charlie, age 16, lives in Dallas, TX, and attends St. Mark's School of Texas. He began his piano studies at age 5 and currently studies piano with Mr. Kevin Gunter and Dr. Catharine Lysinger. This year, he has won 2nd at the DMTA Symphonic Festival and 3rd at TMTA. In addition to playing piano, Charlie plays the viola in his school orchestra and has made Texas's private school all-state orchestra. Outside of music, he plays basketball for his school and participates in various community service opportunities.

Bekzat Rakymov, 17

Almaty, Kazakhstan

Teacher: Gulzhan Kaipbekovna Kazybekova

Chopin **Ballade No. 2 in F Major, Op. 38****Rachmaninov** **Etude-Tableaux No.4 in D minor, Op.33****Horowitz** ***Carmen Variations***

Why did you choose this recital program?

My life consists of small excerpts of music pieces. When overwhelmed with emotions of gay and joy, when you feel happy and courageous, you think of Mozart's "Turkish March." And, in times of sadness, you can think of Rachmaninov, something like the memory of a bright past. And when anger takes hold of you, or you feel hurt, imagine the orchestra playing a Requiem with a choral accompaniment. Isn't it interesting?

I have a lot of works in my repertoire and give great preference to virtuoso works.

A special place is occupied by Rachmaninov - my favorite composer. I always play with pleasure.

When I heard Horowitz's *Carmen Variations*, I wanted to try it too. Chopin's second ballade is a complex composition. I like the performance of Arthur Rubinstein. I would like to convey Chopin's thoughts as he was writing the piece.

Why are you passionate about the piano?

Our life is like a black and white movie, but we can add colors to it with the help of music. Music makes my life colorful and beautiful, I can feel my good and bad impressions of life to the drop. I think life would be boring without music. Can you imagine concerts, performances, operas and ballets without music... this is just unthinkable.

Music means a lot in my life. My love for music came from an early age. And I think it will live forever. To summarize everything that I have said, music is an inspiration of the whole world, which provides the soul with wings and enables the imagination to soar high.

Bio:

Bezkat Rakymov maintains an active performing schedule and has achieved great success on the competition circuit, including: Winner, Republican Piano Contest, 2010; III Prize, Ahmet Zhubanov International Contest, 2010; I Prize, Ahmet Zhubanov International Contest, 2012; II Prize, Republican Piano Contest, 2013; I Prize, III Republican Contest "Piano Forum Kazakhstan - 2013"; Grand Prix, Ahmet Zhubanov International Contest, 2014; 2nd Prize, III International Contest "Astana Piano Passion - 2015"; I Prize, I International Competition "Iste'dod" in Tashkent -2015; First Prize, Republican Competition of Young Pianists of Kazakhstan, 2017; IV Eurasian Music Performances Award, Astana, Kazakhstan, 2017; Grand Prix of the International Contest dedicated to the 145th Anniversary of S. Rachmaninov "Music should flow from the heart", Pavlodar, Kazakhstan, 2018; II Prize, II International Contest "Iste'dod" in Tashkent, 2018.

Ben Kim, 16

Milton, MA

Teacher: Julian Martin

Beethoven **Piano Sonata Op. 2, No. 3 in C major, Mvt. 1. Allegro con brio****Liszt** **Hungarian Rhapsody No. 10 in E major**

Why did you choose this recital program?

For me, performing solo music is largely about enjoying myself onstage, interacting with the audience and keeping them engaged, instead of just having the audience listen to my playing passively. In essence, I think performances are most effective when the performer plays with the audience's hearts. From my current repertoire, these two pieces encapsulate this idea best.

In the Beethoven, the joyful suspense of the first theme and the lyrical contrast of the second theme all add to the playfulness. The sudden and huge dynamic contrasts in the development jolt the audience out of their seats, and make them anticipate what is about to come next. In the coda, the consecutive diminished chords add to the suspense and uncertainty before the relieving C major chord returns, preceding a brilliant cadenza and an ecstatic ending. This unique mix of seriousness, nobleness and playfulness made me fall in love with this piece.

The mood of the Liszt is completely different from that of the Beethoven, but mischievous in its own way. The bombastic opening again surprises the audience, and the decisive first theme is in stark contrast from the capricious second theme. This then gives way to a heart-wrenching monologue, and a joyful coda. The whole piece is essentially a showpiece in which I can express my humorous, sarcastic, and expressive sides. This piece, for me, embodies the idea of "playing hide and seek with the piano."

Why are you passionate about the piano?

When I was five, I started tinkling with my family's upright piano, and marveled at the sounds they made. Since then, music has been my sanctuary, and the piano the medium in which I can express my creativity. I tried a variety of instruments at first, from the drums to the violin, but the piano in particular stayed with me and struck me with wonder. Due to its wide range, I thought it had the potential to be more expressive and less dependent than the other instruments. As I progressed through the levels, performed and attended concerts, I gained a deeper understanding of what music meant to me. Music has taken a place in my heart as not only a hobby or stress reliever, but a passion. My core belief about music is that it goes above and beyond what could be expressed in words, for if it didn't, then there would be no need for music. The piano has been, and will always be, my lifelong friend, one who I can reveal all my true and ineffable feelings to, relieve my stress with, and have an engaging conversation with. When words fail to express my feelings, I go to the piano to express them more effectively.

Bio:

Ben Kim was one of seven Korean students selected to study at Seoul Arts Center's Music Academy for Talented Youth. In 2017, he made an appearance as a piano and composition prodigy in the ninety-fifth episode of Finding Genius, a television program by Korean broadcaster SBS. In 2018, he won the grand prize in the Korean Chamber Orchestra National Concours, giving him the opportunity to perform with the orchestra. In 2019, he represented Connecticut in the Steinway Junior Piano Competition in NYC, and won 1st place in his division. He is currently studying with Julian Martin in Juilliard Pre-College.

Lucas Amory, 17

New York, NY

Teacher: Julian Martin

Schubert **Piano Sonata in D Major, D. 850, Mvt. 1**

Chopin **Etude in C Major, Op. 10 No. 7**

Bolcom **12 New Etudes: 8. Rag Infernal**

Bartok **Piano Sonata Sz. 80, Mvt. 1.**

Why did you choose this recital program?

I chose this recital program because I'm fascinated by how rhythm grips listeners easily, whether it be with rock music, folk songs, or classical music. Each piece on this particular program is unique because they each communicate a different way that rhythm can give a piece momentum. The Schubert has running triplets in tandem with a repeated set of fourth eighth notes; the Chopin has a flowing line in the right hand throughout; the Bolcom is an eccentric ragtime with syncopations; and the Bartok has low drums in the left hand that permeate the entire movement.

Why are you passionate about the piano?

I'm passionate about the piano because of its simultaneous accessibility and complexity, and its multiple roles in its relationships with other classical music instruments. On the surface it's much easier to produce a sound on the piano than on a stringed or wooden, because the keys are set in place -- no opportunities to play out of tune. This makes it instantly popular among children and adult classical music beginners alike. At the same time, because of the percussive nature of the sounds a piano produces, and the fact that one has to switch from piano to piano constantly, it's difficult to find a sound that one can make their own. This can easily catapult those with exceptional technique near the top, but without a control of a unique and touching sound, it's hard to stand out from the crowd. As a pianist I'm fascinated by the piano as it's the most popular and therefore competitive, it has the vastest repertoire of any instrument, and yet it's at its most effective when it is embodying another kind of sound. The range and different tones can allow it to sound like any instrument in a symphony orchestra, and it can imitate other sounds like bells and bird calls as well. I look forward to exploring the limits of the sound range of the piano in the future.

Bio:

Lucas Amory is a pianist attending the Juilliard School's Pre-College program, under the tutelage of Professor Julian Martin. Winner of the 2019 Lyra Music Young Artists Competition, Lucas has also received prizes from the 92nd St. Y Concerto Competition, the Stony Brook International Competition, and the Bravura Philharmonic Concerto Competition. He has performed at the 92nd St. Y, Weill Recital Hall, and multiple times at Alice Tully Hall, and has collaborated with artists such as Bruce Adolphe and the Escher Quartet. He also co-directs the Back to BACH Project in New York, and enjoys conducting, chess, and ping-pong.

Katie Liu, 16

Pittsburgh, PA

Teacher: Natasha Snitkovsky

Chopin **Andante Spianato and Grande Polonaise Brillante, Op. 22**

Why did you choose this recital program?

I chose to play Chopin's Andante Spianato and Grande Polonaise Brillante because Chopin is my favorite composer and I really enjoy playing this piece. The smooth, delicate, and romantic melody that is part of the Andante is one of the most beautiful melodies I feel Chopin ever composed; it almost bewitches me with its beauty. I also love how the grand polonaise bursts through the music right as the Andante ends. The sparkling melodies and heroic climaxes that follow give me a thrill that is unique to this piece. The experience of playing this piece is very special to me and I hope to share this with my audience every time I perform.

Why are you passionate about the piano?

The piano gives meaning to my life. Playing music every day gives me an amazing outlet for my emotions. It brings vivid colors to the monochrome canvas that is my usual school day. Whenever I feel unhappy or frustrated, I can play a joyful piece to make myself feel better. When I want to calm down, a soft, quiet nocturne always puts me in a peaceful mood. Also, I love sharing music with and helping audiences across my community, and playing the piano is an amazing way to do not only what I enjoy but also share it with others. It is communication without words, and it is so wonderful that everyone has his or her own interpretation of what the music expresses. I could not imagine what my life would be like without the piano in it.

Bio:

Katie started learning the piano at the age of four. She has won many awards at various competitions, including the Duquesne Young Artist National Competition, Pittsburgh Concert Society Young Artist Audition, Young Artist Audition at Steinway Society of Western PA, Pittsburgh International Piano Competition, China Central Television (CCTV) Starlight Youth Talent Competition, and US New Star Piano Competition. A three-time US Chopin Foundation Scholarship recipient, Katie has performed in her hometown as well as at Cleveland Institute of Music in Ohio, at Carnegie Hall (Weill Hall) in New York, at Frost Chopin Academy in Florida, and at Perugia, Italy.

SHORT BREAK - 10 minutes

Emmanuel Laforest, 18

Lavaltrie, Québec
Teacher: Marie-Claude Bilodeau

Bach **Prelude and Fugue in B Major, WTC Book I**

Beethoven **Sonata Op. 31, No. 2 “Tempest,” Mvt. 1**

Chopin **Etude Op. 10, No. 4**

Why did you choose this recital program?

I chose this program because these pieces are all master pieces of their respective era. They are also mandatory for any university auditions. I love to play Beethoven, because classical times is giving such a challenge, where we have to keep the structure, the phrase, the overall sense of beauty. Bach is always a pleasure to play in terms of the benefits we earn from them. The most beautiful structures of polyphony and counterpoint are outstanding. Finally, Chopin is incredibly fun to play because of the beauty in the most virtuosic moments and the very pianistic way of composing.

Why are you passionate about the piano?

Piano, and music in general, always played a strong part in my life. Born in a musical family, I had no other choices than to learn piano and to listen to music all the time. During my teenage years, I really got an addiction and a passion for piano and started to dedicate my whole life to the piano! this instrument gives me a whole new way of expressing my feelings, getting away from my ordinary life, and overall, gives a meaning to my life.

Bio:

Emmanuel started to play piano at the age of 8 and is studying music seriously in pre-university program called Cégep in Quebec, Canada. he played for masters in music camps such as Orford music with Sarah Davis Buechner, Richard raymond at the musical camp of the Laurentides, etc. he won some 1st prizes in provincial competitions such as Pierre de saurel piano competition, Lanaudière music festival, and he wants to go to the Canadian music competition.

Perren-Luc Thiessen, 16

McKinney, TX
Teacher: Tamas Ungar

Bach **Prelude and Fugue in F-sharp Minor, WTC Book II**

Chopin **Barcarolle in F-sharp Major, Op. 60**

Why did you choose this recital program?

I chose this program for a couple of reasons. I love the music of Bach, especially his fugues which are challenging and rewarding at the same time. I've played quite a few of his Preludes and Fugues, but this particular one I consider one of his greatest. It is so lyrical and complex – the Fugue has three subjects and it's really something to experience performing it. The Chopin Barcarolle has gone around the world with me, and every time I play it, I find something new. It's a love song, a story of Chopin, and has so many haunting moments as well as moments of triumph.

I've always been fascinated with the properties of different keys, and these two beautiful pieces that explore F-Sharp minor and F-Sharp Major together create a musical journey that I hope audiences will appreciate and enjoy.

Why are you passionate about the piano?

Music has given me incredible opportunities to play around the world and meet great friends. A year ago, I spent a week in an offbeat Hungarian beach town where the small group of participants and I stayed in an eighteenth-century palace. We spent our days practicing and our evenings strolling the dark narrow streets laughing and talking about our home lives and what had brought us to this particular festival. My family, outside of my mom and dad, always ask questions like, “Do you really want to do this?” Honestly, if I didn't want to do it, I wouldn't be doing it. I'm no the type to do something I don't want to do. Music has taken me all over the world from New York to Moscow, and it has let me see and hear so many beautiful things; it has given me a lot to reflect on. I've met a lot of great people, a lot of strange people, and a lot of people who have shaped me into who I am today. Music is a lot of things, but one thing it is not is boring because if it was I would not be writing this paper right now.

Bio:

Perren-Luc Thiessen, a student of Tamas Ungar, made his Orchestra Debut at 12 in Italy and his Carnegie (Weill) Hall Debut in 2017. He has performed solo recitals and concertos with orchestras throughout the United States and Europe including Moscow's Tchaikovsky Hall, Sibera, Italy, Vienna and Poland. He won Diplomat in the 2018 International Grand Piano Competition in Moscow and 1st Prizes at the 2017 Young Pianist of the North International Piano Competition, Debut International Piano Competition and numerous national competitions. International Summer festivals include Piano Texas, Todi International Music Masters, Semper Music Festival, and Paderewski Piano Academy.

Sean Yang, 18
Nashville, TN
Teacher: Amy Dorfman

Liszt **Transcendental Étude No. 4 in D minor, “Mazeppa” by Franz Liszt**

Bach **Prelude and Fugue in G minor, WTC Book II**

Why did you choose this recital program?

While most people tend to focus on the virtuosic displays of Liszt's compositions, I love Mazeppa because Liszt takes a vivacious theme and expands on it beautifully. His musical portrayal of a wild horse is very vivid, and I love the bursts of contrast in this already technically demanding piece. On the other hand, I love the amount of concentration and creativity that goes into playing Bach's Prelude and Fugues. The calming tranquility is constant throughout the push and pull of the prelude, and the fugue's bold theme weaves in and out of a myriad of textures to resemble the sound of a choir ensemble.

In addition, these are my first pieces that I have worked on in college, and they represent a new chapter for me. I love being able to intensify my focus and attention to my repertoire, and I have fallen in love with these two pieces during my first month in college. The Bach has introduced new challenges for me, but I like the opportunity to reach new heights by learning new techniques and approaches. The colors that Bach and Liszt create are almost like my canvas to express the emotions of happiness, discomfort, tension, and melancholy that I have felt during my first college experience, and I hope that I can communicate these experiences through their pieces.

Why are you passionate about the piano?

Piano has helped me overcome many hurdles in my childhood. Although it has and always be my first love, my love for the piano has only grown each day. Piano is a place of comfort for me; no matter how bad my day is, I know that a simple press of the keys will produce the sound that I have become so accustomed to hearing. When I become frustrated with schoolwork, the piano is always there to calm me down. Piano has helped me deal with tragedies as well; after the 2011 Japanese Earthquake, I felt helpless in not being able to volunteer in the recovery effort. Yet, fundraising through piano performances gave me comfort in knowing that I could make a change with an activity that I love. Most of all, piano music can transcend any boundary, whether that be language, ethnicity, or disability. Despite it being one of the most difficult instruments to carry around, the piano itself is a very malleable instrument; it can mold into any medium that one may need. It can depict a plethora of cultures through different textures, and it can communicate emotions that are inexpressible in words. Overall, piano has been a home for me at times of absolute joy and throbbing sadness, and I can be passionate about the piano because it allows me to trust it with my memories and experiences.

Bio:
Attending Vanderbilt University as a Cornelius Vanderbilt Scholar, Sean has studied with Dr. Yukiko Whitehead of Rhodes College and Professor Amy Dorfman of the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt. Sean has placed at multiple regional and international competitions including Memphis International Piano Competition, Emory University Young Artist Piano Competition, and Music Teachers National Association, among others. Notable performances include a concerto appearance with the Nashville Symphony in May of 2018. Besides being an avid classical music lover, Sean studies biology at Vanderbilt. During his free time, he enjoys drumming and participating in medical events.

Stephanie Draughon, 16
Ashburn, VA
Teacher: Jean Saulnier

Chopin **Barcarolle Op. 60 in F-sharp Major**

Chopin **Etude Op. 25, No. 11 “Winter Wind”**

Why did you choose this recital program?

I chose this all-Chopin program because he is my favorite composer and also the composer I believe I play the best. The two pieces I chose are ones that are particularly close to my heart. I feel they're both very atmospheric pieces. In the Barcarolle I hear Chopin's dream of Venice and in the Etude I feel a wintry wind blowing over a desolate battlefield. I also believe I've reached a deeper understanding of these than most pieces, as I've had more time to go behind the notes and discover for myself some of the things that make them timeless masterpieces. These are both pieces I've performed, put aside, and then revisited several times. I find that each time I revisit them I discover new meanings and magical moments. For the Barcarolle, I also discovered how important it is not only to have moods and colors, but also a beautiful, singing sound throughout the entire piece. Both hands should be clearly voiced and the melody should be carefully phrased and sound as close as possible to a human voice, rather than a percussion instrument. Only after I refined my sound did the piece become effective to me.

Why are you passionate about the piano?

When I was 3 years old, I already knew that I was meant to be a classical musician. My parents would play CDs during meals and one day when I was listening I decided that I wanted what seemed to me the miraculous ability to be able to produce music like that. Not long after, my parents got me my first piano and piano teacher, and I've never looked back. Actually, when I started, I was more passionate about classical music in general than about the piano in particular. But as I grew more familiar with the piano and the amazing music written for it, I realized that it's by far my favorite instrument, because, as Liszt said, on the piano one has the unique possibility of producing the colors of an entire orchestra. When I play the piano, the music takes me to a fantasy world, a world that can be magically beautiful or heartrendingly sad (or both), but always thrilling. I think musicians have special access to such extraordinary experiences! Even when I've met difficulties in my career path, I've never thought of giving up, because playing the piano has already become an essential part of me.

Bio:
Stephanie Ding Draughon studies with Jean Saulnier. She has performed at Carnegie Hall twice. Stephanie won the 2015 Peabody Preparatory Concerto Competition and performed Beethoven's 1st Piano Concerto. She has received the Chopin Foundation Scholarship twice. In 2018, she won the Friday Woodmere Music Club Competition and the Sound Symphony Competition. She attended the Frost Chopin Academy in Florida, where she performed the last two movements of Chopin's Concerto in F minor with the Amernet String Quartet. In December, she performed the entire concerto with the Sound Symphony Orchestra. She was a prizewinner of the 2019 Thousand Islands Competition.

Thank you for your patience while our judges deliberate.
Winners will be announced shortly, followed by a reception in the lobby.

Thank you for joining us today!



With a broad range of bachelor's and master's degree programs, as well as the new Music Education Master's in Five program (the only NYS-registered multi-award Bachelor's and Master's in Music Education degree program), Fredonia is among the best places to enter professional music training. Accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music, our reputation is built on a long history of excellence, consistency, trust, innovation, and insight from a faculty dedicated to teaching. Fredonia has been known and recognized for excellence in music and music education for over 100 years. Choosing Fredonia links you to an illustrious list of alumni who have made great careers in music education, performance, composition, and other related specializations. Your education at Fredonia can take you anywhere you want to go, and our artist faculty are here to help you realize your dreams.

The School of Music is housed in Mason Hall. The 500-seat Rosch Recital Hall and 200-seat Diers Recital Hall offer students intimate performance venues. Technology labs, recording studios, and ample practice rooms support and enhance every aspect of music study. In addition, the 1145-seat King Concert Hall in the University's Rockefeller Arts Center (with its 2400-pipe Schlicker organ) hosts the School's large-scale concert productions.

The School of Music partners with numerous international universities and conservatories, providing global perspectives and exposure. In addition, the School hosts appearances and master classes by renowned artists and ensembles; in recent years, these have included Yo-Yo Ma, Arturo Sandoval, Ying Wa College (Hong Kong), and the Shanghai Quartet, to name just a few.

MUSIC EDUCATION	PERFORMANCE	COMPOSITION	SOUND RECORDING TECHNOLOGY	MUSIC THERAPY
MUSIC THEORY	MUSICOLOGY	OPERA	JAZZ	MUSICAL THEATRE
			MUSICAL THEATRE	MUSIC INDUSTRY

Fredonia Piano Faculty:

- Fr. Sean Duggan, piano**
- Eliran Avni, piano**
- Mary Marden Cobb, piano**
- Phyllis East, piano**
- Anne Kissel, piano/collaborative piano**
- JiHyun Woo, organ**

Visit us online for faculty bios, audio samples, links to streamed concerts, and more:

fredonia.edu/music