

YOUNG CLASSICAL VIRTUOSOS OF TOMORROW

A NATIONAL COMPETITION IN MEMORIAL OF NELLY BERMAN

“THERE IS NO SONG, ONCE SUNG, MADE STILL FOREVER.”

PRESENTED BY THE NBS CLASSICAL MUSIC INSTITUTE

www.nbsmusic.com

youngclassicalvirtuosos@gmail.com

Sponsored by Jacobs Music and West Chester University

The NBS Classical Music Institute, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a mission to promote serious classical music concerts and competitions in the Philadelphia area, will be presenting “Young Classical Virtuosos of Tomorrow,” a national competition as a memorial to its founder, Nelly Berman. It will draw students from across the nation, and winners at various levels will be performing in concerts at Radnor Middle School, West Chester University, and the Kimmel Center; over \$10,000 in prizes will be awarded. The jury will be members of the Philadelphia Orchestra, international performing artists, and faculty from West Chester, Temple, Tulane, Long Island Universities, and the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University.

We need young classical music performers now more than ever. Just like when the 23 year old American pianist Van Cliburn went to Moscow in the '60's to win first prize at the monumental Tchaikovsky piano competition and with his passionate playing helped thaw the Cold War between the Soviet Union and the US -- young musicians of the tumultuous and pivotal years 2016-2017 can help shape international debate with high ideals for future generations through their likewise memorable performance.

The Nelly Berman Memorial "Young Classical Virtuosos of Tomorrow" competition, established in 2010, sees its important national place as a cultural emissary for the transformative power of classical music. It provides a platform for young musicians to reach the hearts of old and young alike with their playing and, through classical music, illuminate the highest human virtues.

Nelly Berman's whole life exemplified her belief in the transformative power of classical music and her visionary ideas of music education. As an emigrant from Odessa, USSR in 1976 Nelly came to the US with only \$17 to her name and two children. She struggled with congenital heart disease since the age of three but went on to bring the Russian method of teaching to thousands of children in the US, where she founded the Nelly Berman School of Music. In 1995, Nelly wanted to further classical music in the US, and she founded the nonprofit NBS Classical Music Institute, with a mission to provide merit based scholarships to students as well as to bring high level classical music concerts to the community. In 2010, she wanted to reach even more children around the nation, and she founded the “Young Classical Virtuosos of Tomorrow,” which brought over 300 students from across the United States to the greater Philadelphia area.

This year's revival of the “Young Classical Virtuosos of Tomorrow” as the Nelly Berman Memorial Competition will honor and institutionalize her visionary work in music education. It will also provide a philanthropic means of recognizing her lifelong struggle with heart disease. The competition will draw hundreds of students from across the United States and provide several concerts by extraordinary young musicians to the greater Philadelphia community while giving a direct opportunity for young musicians to make a difference in the lives of others. The top 15 students in the Platinum division will be chosen to play at a large fundraising event for Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, where their playing can make a difference to the lives of many sick children with heart disease.

Please note, this competition is open nationally to all students. All judges are being invited from outside of the Nelly Berman School and the Nelly Berman School will not accept any participants as students.

*** The Nelly Berman School will not accept any competitors as students. ***

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please submit any inquires to youngclassicalvirtuosos@gmail.com. No phone calls please.

COMPETITION DATES

- **December 19th, 2016-** Applications must be submitted online. All fees and accompaniments must be postmarked.
- **January 6th, 2017-** All YouTube entries must be e-mailed to youngclassicalvirtuosos@gmail.com
- **January 22nd, 2017-** First Round of Auditions at the Nelly Berman School of Music, Haverford, PA
- **February 5th, 2017-** Final Auditions for selected students at the Nelly Berman School of Music, Haverford, PA
- **March 19th, 2017-** Concerts of Gold and Platinum Alternates/Silver Medalists at West Chester University
- **March 26th, 2017-** Concert of Silver Medalists at Radnor Middle School, Wayne, PA
- **June 18th, 2017-** Concerts of Platinum and Gold Winners at the Kimmel Center, Perelman Theater
- **DATES TBA-** Bronze Concerts at St Luke Church, Bryn Mawr, PA
- **DATE TBA-** Grand Prix Round by invitation and YouTube only to 1st place Platinum Winners.
- **DATE TBA-** Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Fundraiser Concert.

If students cannot make the date of their concert, they keep their award medal and perform as a guest artist at either West Chester University or Radnor Auditorium but forfeit their cash prize.

GUIDELINES

Overview: The competition will be open to students ages 7 through 25, for Piano, Strings, Winds, Brass, Voice, and Chamber Groups. Students will be placed in four divisions, Platinum, Gold (and alternates), Silver and Bronze. Additionally, 1st prize winners from the Platinum division will be invited to compete for a Grand Prix.

Audition Process: The "Young Classical Virtuosos of Tomorrow", held in memorial of Nelly Berman, will begin with the first round of competition on January 22nd, held on the premises of the Nelly Berman School of Music in Haverford, PA. For those students ages 7 to 18 who cannot attend the first round of auditions in person, we are accepting high quality YouTube recordings for the first round. The collegiate (ages 18-25) first round will be by YouTube only. All YouTube recordings must be received no later than January 6th, 2017.

- Students who place Silver after the first round of competition will be invited to perform at West Chester University on March 19th, 2017, or Radnor Middle School Auditorium on March 26th, 2017.
- Students who place Bronze after the first round will perform at St Luke Church, Bryn Mawr (dates TBA).
- The students with the highest scores will continue into the finals to be placed into Platinum, Gold or alternate for a chance to perform at the Kimmel Center on June 18th. If you cannot make the June 18th concert, you can keep your medal and certificate for your place in your category but forfeit your cash prize. You will be invited to play at West Chester University on March 19th, 2017 or Radnor Middle School on March 26th, 2017.
- Those students who make it to the finals and are not selected for the Kimmel Center performances will be awarded a title of alternate for the Kimmel Center Concert and will be invited to perform at West Chester University March 19th, 2017. (see below for alternate details)
- Grand Prix round: The top 15 students (1st prize in each category in Platinum) will be invited to perform at a private fundraising event for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, before an audience of community leaders in education, medicine, and business (date TBA). Additionally, these students will be invited to audition for a Grand Prix as a third round through YouTube submission only. To be eligible for the Grand Prix, the student must agree to play at Kimmel Center and the Fundraiser. If one of the top 15 cannot make the concert or fundraiser, we will ask the second place in that category to compete for the Grand Prix and play at the fundraiser.

Awards: Over \$10,000 in cash prizes will be awarded to the top two or three students in each category of Platinum and Gold divisions (see prize divisions below). All participants and their teachers will receive certificates of achievement as well as written feedback from our panel of renowned judges. The three top students in each category in Silver and Bronze will receive medals. The three top students in each category of Silver will be considered as alternates for the Gold concert if a performer from those categories cannot make the performance. Similarly, Gold winners will act as alternates for the Platinum division.

Alternates: If a platinum or gold student cannot make the Kimmel Center concert, they forfeit their cash awards but will play on another concert. If a Gold student plays on the Platinum concert he/she keeps the gold prize money and medal. If a Gold alternate/Silver winner moves into the Gold concert, he or she will keep their alternate medal/Silver winner but play on the gold concert.

*****The Judges reserve the right not to award a platinum or gold prize in a category if they feel that the level of performance is not up to the highest standards.*****

Audition Locations:

Live Auditions for the **First Round on January 22nd, 2017** will be held at:

The Nelly Berman School of Music
461 W Lancaster Avenue
Haverford, PA 19041

Internet Auditions for the Preliminary Round: Required for all collegiate (ages 18-25) students. Also available for students who live more than 3 hours away or cannot make the audition on January 22nd, 2017

All YouTube entries for the first round must be submitted via e-mail to youngclassicalvirtuosos@gmail.com by January 6, 2017.

Final Auditions on February 5th, 2017: By live audition only. Auditions will be held at:

1.) St Luke United Methodist Church
Lurwick Hall
568 Montgomery Ave,
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

2.) The Nelly Berman School of Music
461 W Lancaster Avenue
Haverford, PA 19041

Results:

First Round Results: Will be e-mailed to the students and teachers by Wednesday, January 25th, 2017.

Finals Results and Cash Prize Notification: Will be e-mailed by Friday, February 10th, 2017.

Application Procedure: All applications must be submitted online through the link at www.nbsmusic.com

The Competition strives to provide the following:

- Inspire young musicians to share their music with others in a festive and joyful environment.
- Opportunity to perform for their peers, family and friends on prestigious concert stages in Philadelphia.
- Set a goal towards which the students work to improve their technique and interpretation.
- Provide an opportunity to compete and get feedback from highly reputable musicians.
- Opportunity for young musicians to raise awareness and funds for juvenile heart disease at CHOP through their playing.

PARTICIPANT CATEGORIES (by instrument)

Students age 18 can play in the 14-18 category if still in high school, and in the collegiate category if they have already graduated high school. Chamber groups that have members in both age categories will be placed according to the majority age of members for groups of three or more, and for groups of two, we will take an average of the participant ages.

- o **Piano**
 - Ages 7-9
 - Ages 10-13
 - Ages 14-18
 - Collegiate (ages 18-25)
- o **Voice**
 - Ages 10- 13
 - Ages 14-18
- o **Strings**
 - Ages 7-9
 - Ages 10-13
 - Ages 14-18
 - Collegiate (ages 18-25)
- o **Woodwinds / Brass**
 - Ages 10-13
 - Ages 14-18
 - Collegiate (ages 18-25)
- o **Chamber (2 or more student performers)**
 - Ages 10-13
 - Ages 13-18

REPERTOIRE/TIME LIMIT GUIDELINES

- **Judges reserve the right to stop the student during the audition if they feel they have adequate information.**
- **Time limits at the concerts and auditions are strictly enforced**, as we have to pay overtime fees to the hall and judges if we go over; however, you are welcome to make cuts to the piece of your choice so that it fits within the time-limits.
- **Instrumental Students Ages 7-18:** Any one published solo piece (or movement of a piece) (or chamber piece if competing in the chamber division) from the 17th through 21st century that adheres to the time limits below. **If your piece is longer than the time limits, you are allowed to make cuts.** Please mark them clearly in the score.
 - o **Instrumental Students ages 7-9:** One piece no longer than 5 minutes
 - o **Instrumental Students Ages 10-13:** One piece no longer than 6 minutes
 - o **Instrumental Students ages 14-18:** One piece no longer than 7 minutes
- **Instrumental Collegiate Students (ages 18-25):** Any two published pieces from the 17th through 21st century: one not to exceed 12 minutes by YouTube only for the first round, and one less than 7 minutes for the final and the concert.
 - o Your YouTube piece will not be performed live, but will be posted on our website if selected for the finals.
- **Vocal students ages 10-18:** Any one published piece no longer than 5 minutes in length from the Classical (17th through 21st century) or Broadway repertoire.
- Students should bring the original score and one copy to present to the judges on the day of audition.
- Please mark any cuts in the score for the judge / accompanist
- All solo category pieces must be memorized.
- Chamber music groups can use the scores.
- We will only have one piano at all performance venues, so pianists should play solo repertoire and not concerto repertoire.

ACCOMPANISTS

- You can either bring your own accompanist, or the competition can provide one for you for a fee of \$100 which includes a 30 minute rehearsal the day of the competition or the day before.
 - **The \$100 fee must be postmarked by December 19th together with your application fee.**
 - **Please make all checks payable to the NBSCMI and mark them clearly with the applicants name, instrument and phone number.**
 - The accompaniment music (copy of score) must also be postmarked by December 19th together with your application fees.
 - The accompanist music must be marked clearly with any cuts.
 - All music must be mailed in taped and or bound in a booklet format. We will not be accepting PDFs, as we do not have the printing resources to prepare all music for the accompanists. We will not accept any loose pages.
 - **You will be required to provide one published score for the live performance as well as for the judges in the live round (plus one copy for the second judge).**
 - **Mailing Address:**
 - Young Classical Virtuosos
 - The NBS Classical Music Institute
 - 461 W. Lancaster Avenue
 - Haverford, PA 19041

SCHEDULE OFFEES

- Application / Adjudication Fees:
 - **Must be postmarked by December 19th, 2016**
 - **Mailing Address:**
 - Young Classical Virtuosos
 - The NBS Classical Music Institute
 - 461 W. Lancaster Avenue
 - Haverford, PA 19041
 - All checks should be payable to NBSCMI, and marked clearly with applicant first and last name, instrument and phone number.
 - **All application / adjudication fees are non-refundable**
 - **SOLO application fees**
 - \$100-- All solos categories and age groups.
 - **CHAMBER application fee** (if entering in chamber category)
 - \$60-- per participant if only entered as part of chamber group
 - If competing in both chamber and a solo category, standard solo fees apply, but the chamber fee will only be \$35.00.

CONCERT FEES -- You will be notified of a due date once you are placed in a concert. These fees are kept at a minimum to cover the partial rental of halls, pianos and tunings, as the fees do not cover the full costs.

- **BRONZE Concerts at St Luke United Methodist Church, Bryn Mawr.**
 - **Dates TBA**
 - \$50.00 performance fee – unlimited tickets
 - Participants will perform their audition piece within the allotted time-limits
 - Certificates will be given to each performer and their teacher
 - Medals will be awarded to the top three performers in each category
 - **SILVER performance**
 - **Radnor Middle School – March 26, 2017**
 - \$75.00 performance fee – unlimited tickets
 - Participants will perform their audition piece within the allotted time-limits
 - Certificates will be given to each performer and their teacher
 - Medals will be awarded to the top three performers in each category
 - **SILVER – GOLD / PLATINUM Alternate performances**
 - **West Chester University – March 19, 2017**
 - \$100.00 performance fee – 4 tickets included (Additional tickets = \$15 each).
 - Participants will perform their audition piece within the allotted time-limits
 - Certificates will be given to each performer and their teacher
 - Medals will be awarded to the top three performers in each category
 - **GOLD Performance**
 - **Kimmel Center – Perelman Theater – June 18th, 2017 10AM-1:30PM**
 - \$200 performance fee – 4 tickets included (Additional tickets = cost TBD)
 - Participants will perform their audition piece within the allotted time-limits
 - Certificates will be given to each performer and their teacher
 - Medals and cash awards will be presented
 - **PLATINUM Performance**
 - **Kimmel Center – Perelman Theater – June 18th, 2017 3:30PM-7:00PM**
 - \$200 performance fee – 4 tickets included (Additional tickets = cost TBD)
 - Participants will perform their audition piece within the allotted time-limits
 - Certificates will be given to each performer and their teacher
 - Medals and cash awards will be presented

○ **Chamber Music Performance Fees:**

- Please note that a Chamber Music group in any concert category can divide the standard performance fee amongst the group and receive 2 tickets per performer (additional tickets available at the costs listed above for Kimmel Center and West Chester only).
- If a winner plays in both a solo and chamber category, they must pay the standard solo fee and split the cost of the chamber group concert fee with other members of their chamber group.

Kimmel Center Platinum and Gold Concert/Prize Divisions

Grand Prix: Additional \$500 to be selected from Platinum 1st Prize Winners ages 10-25

<u>Platinum</u>	<u>Gold</u>
<p>Ages 7-9</p> <p>Piano: 1st -- medal and certificate 2nd -- medal and certificate</p> <p>Strings: 1st -- medal and certificate 2nd -- medal and certificate</p>	<p>Ages 7-9</p> <p>Piano: 1st -- medal and certificate 2nd -- medal and certificate</p> <p>Strings: 1st -- medal and certificate 2nd -- medal and certificate</p>
<p>Ages 10-13</p> <p>Piano: 1st -- \$125 2nd -- \$100 3rd -- \$75</p> <p>Strings: 1st -- \$125 2nd -- \$100</p> <p>Winds/Brass: 1st -- \$125 2nd -- \$100</p> <p>Voice: 1st -- \$125 2nd -- \$100</p> <p>Chamber: 1st -- \$200 (for group)</p>	<p>Ages 10-13</p> <p>Piano: 1st -- \$50 2nd -- \$35 3rd -- \$25</p> <p>Strings: 1st -- \$50 2nd -- \$35</p> <p>Winds/Brass: 1st -- \$50 2nd -- \$35</p> <p>Voice: 1st -- \$50 2nd -- \$35</p> <p>Chamber: 1st -- \$100 (for group)</p>
<p>Ages 14-18</p> <p>Piano: 1st -- \$300 2nd -- \$200 3rd -- \$100</p> <p>Strings: 1st -- \$300 2nd -- \$200</p> <p>Winds/Brass: 1st -- \$300 2nd -- \$200</p> <p>Voice: 1st -- \$300 2nd -- \$200</p> <p>Chamber: 1st -- \$400 (for group)</p>	<p>Ages 14-18</p> <p>Piano: 1st -- \$75 2nd -- \$50 3rd -- \$35</p> <p>Strings: 1st -- \$75 2nd -- \$50</p> <p>Winds/Brass: 1st -- \$75 2nd -- \$50</p> <p>Voice: 1st -- \$75 2nd -- \$50</p> <p>Chamber: 1st -- \$200 (for group)</p>
<p>Collegiate (ages 18-25)</p> <p>Piano: 1st -- \$550 2nd -- \$450</p> <p>Strings: 1st -- \$550 2nd -- \$450</p> <p>Winds/Brass: 1st -- \$550 2nd -- \$450</p>	<p>Collegiate (ages 18-25)</p> <p>Piano: 1st -- \$350 2nd -- \$250</p> <p>Strings: 1st -- \$350 2nd -- \$250</p> <p>Winds/Brass: 1st -- \$350 2nd -- \$250</p>

The Judging Panel Will Include:

- **Timothy Blair (piano)** – Dean of Fine Arts and Communication at West Chester University
- **Faina Lushtak (piano)** – Chair of the Piano Department at Tulane University and judge at many international competitions, including the Gina Bachauer and Cleveland International Piano Competitions
- **Marianna Prjevalskaya (piano)** – Gold medalist at over 20 international piano competitions, including the World Piano Competition in Cincinnati, OH, and judge at the New Orleans International Piano Competition
- **Paul Arnold (strings/chamber)** – Violinist with Philadelphia Orchestra
- **Ovidiu Marinescu (strings/chamber)** – International cello soloist/chamber musician and faculty at West Chester University
- **Sylvia Ahramjian (strings)** – International violinist/chamber musician and retired West Chester University Faculty.
- **Eduard Schmieder (strings/chamber)** – Head of the Violin Department at Temple University -- Conductor of iPalpiti Festival Orchestra in Los Angeles
- **Julian Milkis (winds)** – International clarinet soloist recently featured by UNESCO, and the only student of Benny Goodman
- **David Blumberg (winds)** – International clarinetist and pedagogue.
- **Ethan Bendorf (brass)** – 2nd Trumpet at the New York Philharmonic and faculty at the Manhattan School of Music.
- **Dr. Daniel Cherry (brass)** – Orchestral, solo and chamber Trombonist and faculty at West Chester University.
- **Maria Russo (voice)** – Winner of the 1984 ARD competition and international operatic soprano.
- **Jen Creed (voice)**- board of directors for the Vocal Institute