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News

June 25, 2025

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6th Fujairah International Piano Competition: Shigeru Kawai SK-EX chosen as official piano for prestigious competition



The 6th Fujairah International Piano Competition was held in Fujairah, UAE, from January 18th to 30th and the Shigeru Kawai SK-EX full concert grand piano was chosen as the official piano for the competition.

Kawai has begun to provide support starting from this edition.

One of Kawai's most esteemed piano technician, MPA (Master Piano Artisan) Kiyotoshi Yokoyama from Kawai Japan, also played a pivotal role at the Fujairah International Piano Competition. He diligently worked on not only crafting the sound, but also contestant support through active communication.



Mr. Ichiro Matsuda (Kawai Japan) and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad Al Sharqi, Crown Prince of Fujairah
(Chairman of the Academy's Board of Trustees)

The 6th Fujairah International Piano Competition: Final Results

Category A (~10 years old)

1 st Prize	Elena BATHAIEE	UK
2 nd Prize	Gleb HADRIN	Russia
3 rd Prize	Moyi CHEN	Hong Kong



Category A 1st Prize winner: Elena BATHAIEE

Category B (11~13 years old)

1 st Prize	Adriana VASILSKI	Germany
2 nd Prize	Yulianna BEZIAZYCHNA	Ukraine
3 rd Prize	Nguyen Minh VIET	Vietnam



Category B 1st Prize winner: Adriana VASILSKI

Category C (14~17 years old)

1 st Prize	Nguyen Duc KIEN	Vietnam
2 nd Prize	Tianyu LI	China
3 rd Prize	Stefan BOUCABEILLE	France



Category C 1st Prize winner: Nguyen Duc KIEN

Category D (18~ years old)

1 st Prize	Zhiqiao ZHANG	China
2 nd Prize	Khadizha ISRAPIL	Russia
3 rd Prize	Nikita STETENKO	Russia
4 th Prize	Dominik YODER	USA
5 th Prize	Faruk KALAYCL	Turkey
6 th Prize	Alexander DECLERCQ	Belgium



Category D 1st Prize winner: Zhiqiao Zhang

Comments from 1st Prize winner: Zhiqiao Zhang

- How did you feel about winning the prize?

I am very grateful to being selected as a finalist in this time Fujairah competition. To being a finalist in such an important international competition needed a lot of luck too. This time in Fujairah I met so many great people like a Kawai's piano technician, I feel so supportive, which influenced my way of playing in good way. To be a finalist, the people you met, how you play, the program you choose are all very important. This time I feel everything that is important for me comes together. For the concerto that I played in the final round (Chopin concerto No.1) is actually my first time to play this piece with the orchestra, so it is a very memorable and fresh experience for me.

- What are your impressions of the SK-EX full concert grand piano?

To be honest, Shigeru Kawai grand piano is always my top choice as a concert grand piano. In the competition, as I expect for Shigeru Kawai SK-EX full concert grand piano, the touches of the keyboard is so sensitive that it can always transfer directly my feeling into the sound. The sound of the Shigeru Kawai grand piano is very singing and projective, even in such a dry acoustic hall, the sound can directly spread to the last row of the audience. This experience in Fujairah competition reinforces my idea of having Shigeru Kawai as my top choice of the piano.

About the 6th Fujairah International Piano Competition

The 6th Fujairah International Piano Competition is a prestigious international piano competition for young pianists, organized by the Fujairah Fine Arts Academy in the UAE and held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad Al Sharqi, Crown Prince of Fujairah. The competition was first launched in 2019, and its sixth edition took place at the end of January 2025.

Official website: <https://www.ffaa-fuj.com/>

About the Shigeru Kawai SK-EX full concert grand piano

Unveiled in 2001 as the flagship instrument of the Shigeru Kawai line, the SK-EX concert grand piano is hand-crafted in limited numbers following a unique 'prototyping' creation process. In order to achieve the supreme range of expression required in a concert piano, each instrument utilizes a variety of carefully selected materials, with premium aged spruce soundboards. Shigeru Kawai instruments adopt the advanced Millennium III keyboard action, featuring extended wooden keys and advanced ABS Carbon action parts, providing superior speed and responsiveness than conventional wooden action parts, allowing pianists to express a greater range of feeling and emotion in their performance.

Official website: <https://www.shigerukawai.jp/en/>

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<https://www.kawai-global.com/news/6th-fujairah-international-piano-competition/>

Chopin with Cherries

Looking for Chopin and the beauty of his music everywhere - in concert halls, poetry, films, and more. In 2010 we celebrated his 200th birthday with an anthology of 123 poems. Here, we'll follow the music's echoes in the hearts and minds of poets and artists, musicians and listeners... Who knows what we'll find?

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025

"Timeless Dialogues" - American Debut of Paulina Tomczuk with Dominik Yoder (Vol. 16, No. 2)



On 20 May 2025 at the Martin Luther King Auditorium of Santa Monica Public Library, the Helena Modjeska Art and Culture Club presented a wonderful concert of two young musicians, Paulina Tomczuk, violin, and Dominik Yoder, piano. They played a set of pieces for violin and piano, after showing off their talents in solo sections of the well-received concert.



Chopin with Cherries Anthology

Maja Trochimczyk - Editor

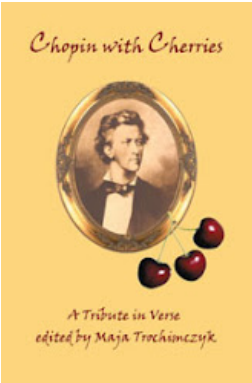
Moonrise Press - Publisher

Review by Alison Ross

Review by Christopher Woods

Review by John Guzlowski

CHOPIN WITH CHERRIES



ABOUT ME



Maja Trochimczyk

As an author of seven scholarly books and hundreds of articles and book chapters, I'm well established in the music history world, with two main specializations: Polish music of the 19th and 20th centuries, and 20th-century contemporary music. A former Poet Laureate of Sunland-Tujunga and current member of Village Poets and the Westside Women Writers, I have published over 300 poems in various journals and anthologies. I also wrote five volumes of poems and edited three poetry anthologies. I'm the Acting President of California State Poetry Society, President of Helena Modjeska Art and Culture Club, President of Moonrise Press, and

Born in Zielona Gora, Poland, Paulina Tomczuk is a graduate of Fryderyk Chopin Music University in Warsaw (2024) where she is currently continuing her Masters' studies with Agata Szymczewska. Simultaneously she studies at Hochschule der Künste Bern in Switzerland with Professor Bartłomiej Nizioł. A young soloist's path to fame leads through the thorns of countless competitions, and Ms. Tomczuk has participated in about 70, winning numerous honors. Three recent ones are: the 4th Prize at the 6th Wanda Wiłkomirska International Polish Music Violin Competition in Częstochowa (Poland, 2024), the 1st Prize at the 1st Miniature Competition in Warsaw (Poland, 2022), the 1st Prize at the Kyoto International Music Competition (Japan, 2021), the Grand Prix at the 2nd Wiłkomirski National Chamber Music Competition in Łódź (Poland, 2021), and the 1st Prize at the ISCART International Music Competition (Switzerland, 2021). She has performed as a soloist and in chamber ensembles in Poland, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Germany, France, the Netherlands, and Turkey. This concert was her American debut and it truly revealed her talent.



For the solo violin portion of the concert, she selected three pieces from different time periods - Johann Sebastian Bach's contemplative and polyphonic Andante and Allegro from Sonata for Solo Violin No. 2, BWV 1003, followed by pensive and chromatic first movement, subtitled L'Aurore from Eugène Ysaÿe's Sonata for Solo Violin No. 5, Op. 27 and ending with brilliant and sparkling with vitality Caprice No. 1 by Polish composer Grażyna Bacewicz. I forgot to ask what violin she played, but it sounded exquisite, filling the auditorium with rich, honeyed tones. Being a classical music weirdo, I used to listen to Bach's solo violin sonatas (that I much prefer to those for solo cello) both as "little night music" at home and while driving, to calm myself down amidst the chaos of Los Angeles freeways. Once I got into the mood of the Andante, I found the peace and serenity of pure musical dialogue - a difficult feat to perform on a solo instrument with four strings and one bow. Yet, Tomczuk was able to bring out the inner voices and maintain apparent continuity of intertwining melodies.

Board Secretary and Communications Director of the Polish American Historical Association. I also belong to the American Musicological Society, and the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences. The Moonrise Press published 17 books of poetry and music history. I received fellowships and awards from the Canadian & Polish governments, USC, PAHA, City/County of Los Angeles, and American Council of Learned Societies. In 2016, I received PAHA's Creative Arts Prize for two books of poems inspired by WWII experiences of Polish civilians and children.

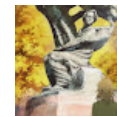
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POPULAR POSTS



A Tour of Chopin's Paris - Square d'Orleans, Salle Pleyel, and Musee de la Vie Romantique (Vol. 5, No. 9)

A visit to Paris in the spring cannot be complete without taking a tour of Chopin's traces in the City of Love... With a noted Chopin sp...



The Forest Piano - The Magic of Chopin's Music in Japan, Anime-Style (Vol. 11, No. 1)

Kai Ichinose arrives in Warsaw's Park and visits Chopin Monument, Episode 9 The more challenging, personal, inspirational, and sens...



Chopin and The Karate Kid (Vol. 1, No. 4)

"You have to play the pauses" – says the distraught American teacher to his scatterbrained Chinese student, after she rushed through a beau...



Chopin's Valentines and His Letters (Vol. 3, No. 3)

The association of Chopin's music with romance and love stories of all sorts is so profound that it is hard to imagine how mundane and t...



Grande Valse Brillante - Tuwim, Konieczny, Demarczyk and Chopin (Vol. 10, No. 3)

Ewa Demarczyk Do you know the Grande Valse Brillante? The original magical waltz by Chopin? Here's a recording by Valentina Lisitz...

[Szymanowska and Chopin in Paris \(Vol. 2, No. 13\)](#)



The Belgian, late Romantic Ysaÿe is violinists' perennial favorite, yet somehow left me lukewarm. We do not have to like all the world's music, even though I'm sure the young violinist performed this dark piece very well. However, Bacewicz's Caprice in stunning interpretation of Paulina Tomczuk aptly made up for this disappointment - it was so vivacious and brilliant that it seemed that sparks were flying from the musician's bow. Bacewicz was a professional, prize-winning violinist and knew the instrument exceptionally well. This is a gem in contemporary repertoire, with its virtuosic staccatos, spizzatos, flying arpeggios and shifts of register and texture. What a fantastic piece and what an extraordinary performance! Looking for words, here, to stop repeating adjectives. Oh, I found it, in the magical vocabulary of Mary Poppins: *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!*



Unlike Paulina Tomczuk, whom I have seen and heard for the first time, I've had the pleasure of witnessing the artistic growth of Dominik Yoder over many years. As former Director of USC Polish Music Center I often lent scores from our collection to Roza Kostrzewska Yoder, a Polish music fan who does the most to promote Polish music in California of all musicians and officials that I know. She finds age-appropriate music by Polish composers for all her students, including her three sons, Kacper, Dominik and Lukasz. It must be hard to be the middle child in any family, let alone a family of two pianist parents and three pianist siblings. The good thing, there is excellent music heard and played in that cultural oasis of a home every hour of every day. . . The challenge is to find one's individuality and personal style amidst such competition.



I went to Paris in September, came back changed in October. An astounding city, full of history and charm. My purpose was to talk

about Mari...



Celebrating Van Gogh's Mulberry Tree and Endless Summers (Vol. 9, No. 2)

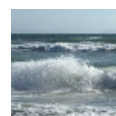
Van Gogh, La

Méridienne où La sieste, d'après Millet Could Chopin ever be friends with Vincent Van Gogh? If thinking of their per...



Finding More Chopin Sites in Warsaw (Vol. 7, No. 8)

Inspired by the "eye of an aspen tree" found in one of Warsaw's parks, I went on to seek more traces of Chopin in Warsa...



Chopin's Nocturnes in Poetry: Stillness, Nostalgia and Moonlight (Vol. 12, No. 4)

After a day trip to see the ocean, I drove back home in the metallic daze of the full moon. I remembered the Nocturnes, and the many poets ...



Chopin - A Research and Information Guide from Routledge (Vol. 6, No. 4)

<http://www.tandf.net/bo>

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Hardback : \$150.00 ISBN: 978-0-415-99884-0 Publication Date: June 23rd 201...

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Kasper, Dominik, Lukasz Yoder with their parents and the Board of the Modjeska Club at the Wojciech Kocyan Residence in Baldwin Hills, CA, September 2019.

And Dominik Yoder did exactly that. As his official bio notes "he directed unusual passion and determination toward music from a very young age, beginning piano studies at the age of two on his own initiative." If his older brother was playing, Dominik wanted to play as well... When he performed for the Modjeska Club in 2019 along with his two brothers, the audience was impressed with their impeccable technique, virtuosity, and musicality. At that time, Dominik stood out because he was not just a pianist, but also a composer. He played one of his pieces - in a somewhat post-romantic, post-Rachmaninoff style that had little to do with the dissonances and complexities of contemporary modernism, but a lot more in common with the spiritual and emotional world of Romanticism. A beautiful and inspired miniature of dense chords and poignant melodies. Well done! That's what I thought then.



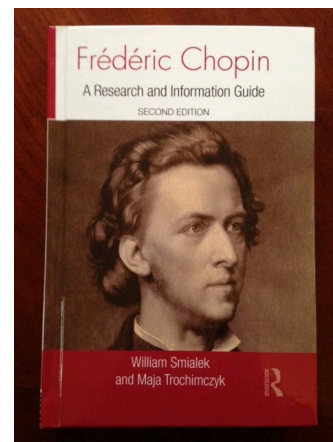
Since that time, Dominik spent hundreds of hours at the keyboard and traveled to numerous competitions, expanding both his impressive technique, the pianistic repertoire, and the expressive range of music he could comfortably interpret and make his own. To return to the list of his achievements he recently won the Beverly Hills International Auditions and the New York Music Guild Competition. Earlier, "he received Second Prize in the 2025 Hartford International Chopin Competition, Fourth Prize in the 2025 Fujairah International Piano Competition, Second Prize in the 2024 Los Angeles International Liszt Competition, the Gold Medal in the 2018 Kosciuszko Foundation Competition for Young Pianists in Washington, D.C., and the Grand Prize in the 2018 Redlands Competition, thanks to which he performed with orchestra. He has been awarded First Prize in more than a dozen local, regional, and state competitions. In 2022, Dominik received the Wybitny Polak ("Outstanding Pole") award from the 'Teraz Polska' Foundation at the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Los Angeles."

- 2016 (10)
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A ROMANTIC CENTURY IN POLISH MUSIC



FREDERIC CHOPIN - A RESEARCH AND INFORMATION GUIDE



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For the solo piano portion of the concert, Dominik Yoder selected Franz Liszt's most popular Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 in C-sharp minor, followed by Chopin's Nocturne Op. 62 No. 1 in B major, filled with nostalgia and musical filigrees of delicate arpeggios, the dramatic and passionate Étude-Tableau Op. 39 No. 6 in A minor by Sergei Rachmaninoff and concluding with Sergei Prokofiev's virtuosic and boisterous Sonata No. 3 in A Minor. The Hungarian Rhapsody is a very difficult choice - since every classical music listener has heard it countless times, and those into popular music treat it as a soundtrack to a Disney cartoon. Alas, in being ridiculed by cats and mice chasing each other, the timeless music does lose its allure. But, luckily, in Yoder's interpretation it gains back its status of a celebrated masterpiece and more. His pianistic technique is impeccable, with hands flying over the keyboard with astounding velocity and accuracy. The key to technique is to make all keys, all fingers even - so many pianists who do not practice enough after becoming "professional" lose the ability to even-out the dramatic arpeggios and scales, so suddenly there are holes in them when one finger is slightly too weak and "off." Not so, in Dominik Yoder's interpretation! His hands are a joy to behold and the fruit of their work a joy to hear! Virtuosity and brilliance in a Liszt piece is a given. What impressed me the most while listening to Yoder's interpretation of the "timeless chesnut" was how he brought out the inner voices, the sonorous details, the shifts of tempo, mood and touch... These highlights changed and enriched the music, making it sounds fresh and original. So I completely forgot about the cats and mice that stubbornly invaded my mind at the beginning.... Thank you, Dominik, for saving the music from desecration by popular entertainment! Bravo.

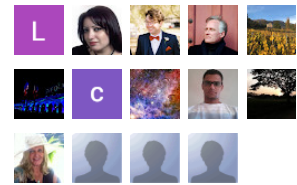


He was no less brave in following the Hungarian Rhapsody by one of Chopin's best known and beloved Nocturnes. At one of his home concert I was not happy because the shift from one, fast and dramatic piece to another, slower one was made too fast. It is one thing to practice, and another to completely enchant and delight the audience. In the Nocturne, Dominik Yoder displayed the "unbearable lightness of being" - the delicate, ephemeral arpeggios, the sweet, slightly sorrowful melodies - the audience was still, almost holding their breaths, so focused on anticipating and hearing the next note, the next climax of a heavenly ascending phrase. . . If I

nostalgia pianist piano poetry poets
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continue, I'll end up writing too much purple prose, so let's return to the program. The two Russian works, Rachmaninoff's Etude and Prokofiev's Sonata were written by pianists for pianists, with such overabundance and density of chords, scales, arpeggios, contrasts, forte fortissimo accents, that the audience was completely transfixed by this sonic onslaught. The pianist fully revealed his serious, intense, dramatic side - as a Romantic virtuoso prima facie.

Thus, when I read comments from Ewa Solinska and Prof. Adam Wibrowski claiming that Dominik Yoder is ready to compete in the Chopin International Piano Competition in Warsaw, I was not surprised. He said he does not know enough Chopin by heart yet, so he will wait another five years. Let's wish that in those years, his talent and musicality expand even further, so he reaches the podium of this most important Piano Competition in Poland.



For the "dialogue" portion of the concert, the willowy young violinist changed into a stunning red dress. She brought out some technology on stage - a tablet with the music and a pedal to press on to change the pages. How does the world change! Oh my, oh my... At least she does not have to haul a suitcase of paper around the world when going to concert. On the other hand, who could forget the cosmic vision of harpsichord soloist Elizabeth Chojnacka, with a crown of red curls above a tight silver uniform straight from outer space as she threw to the floor gigantic sheets of music glued to purple cardboard. When the music was over - Xenakis, Boulez et al. - the stage was covered with the music. This was one of my most favorite memories from Warsaw Autumn Festivals...

Our flame-red violinist and somber black-clad pianist first ventured into the classical territory. The Sonata for Violin and Piano in E-flat major, K. 302 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was composed in 1778 in Mannheim and published as the composer's Opus 1, known as one of his "early" sonatas. The work consists of two movements, Allegro and Andante grazioso. The challenge of Mozart lies in the apparent textural simplicity and transparency of his textures. Here's the melody, here's the accompaniment... But the real challenge is the precision of rhythm, phrasing, the delicacy of touch. And, with two musicians, the challenge is to hear their impeccable coordination. One is the soloist, the other accompanies, then there is a switch and the roles reverse. Paulina and Dominik met this challenge head on and conquered that mountain! Bravo. It was a real delight to follow their musical dialogues and interchanges. When I listen to Mozart, it seems the music always dances a minuet in a crinoline and a wig. But it dances in the center of a vast ballroom, so each stumble, each step is clearly seen. Luckily, this time, there were no stumbles.



I did not remember Claude Debussy's *Beau Soir* for violin and piano from my music history studies and rightly so - it is an arrangement for violin and piano of a song first published in 1891 and setting a lovely verse by Paul Bourget:

, Lorsque au soleil couchant les rivières sont roses
Et qu'un tiède frisson court sur les champs de blé,
Un conseil d'être heureux semble sortir des choses
Et monter vers le cœur troublé.

Un conseil de goûter le charme d'être au monde
Cependant qu'on est jeune et que le soir est beau,
Car nous nous en allons, comme s'en va cette onde :
Elle à la mer, nous au tombeau.

*When at sunset the rivers turn pink / And a warm tremor rustles the
wheat fields, / An advice to be happy seems to arise from the world /
and ascend towards the troubled heart.*

*It is an advice to savor the charm of being in the world / while we are
young and the evening is beautiful / For we are leaving, like this wave
that goes out / to the sea, so we go out to the tomb.*

Debussy was not even 30 years old, and his choice of this melancholy text - "carpe diem" or else - seems indicative of youthful angst. Around that age people suddenly realize that they are not immortal, they will not be forever young, and there is a next generation already chasing after them. The music is appropriately sweetly delightful and somewhat nostalgic, even more in the violin-piano version. When the violin reached the continually ascending while fading notes in pianissimo, the audience was transfixed into silence that was followed with an audible "aaach" afterwards. That's the magic of classical music - to so enchant and entrance the audience, to so take them into cosmic spheres of beauty, that they cannot help but sigh, when the music ends. This was one of my most favorite pieces on the program.



Sergei Rachmaninoff's Vocalise is the last of his Songs op. 14, written in 1915 without words, and sung in that way by many world-famous sopranos. It was also arranged for many instruments that imitate the voice, in the ebb and flow of its flowing melodies. A charming, romantic piece, allowing the violinist to showcase the emotional versatility. I must say, having heard it many times before I was struck by the number of repetition of the same melody in the music. If someone is not romantically inclined, is it still as beautiful? Or just repetitive? The difference between deep romanticism and shallow sentimentality is difficult to maintain. While the musicians gave justice to the music, the piece itself seemed too tedious to me. But what can I say? Could I even sing or play it? It is easy to criticize and complain while sitting on the sidelines...

Luckily the fantastic, perfectly structured and played Scherzo by Johannes Brahms from the F A E Sonata brought the listeners back to the highest level of Romantic artistry. Brahms wrote this movement for a work composed jointly with Robert Schumann and Albert Dietrich in 1853 for the virtuoso violinist Joseph Joachim, with the intention of having him play the sonata, but he never did. Instead he premiered Brahms's Violin Concerto. The work is based on a motive outlining the German phrase that was Schuman's personal motto: "Frei aber einsam" ("free but lonely"). Luckily, the repetitions and recurrences of this phrase in the Scherzo never become as tedious as those of the theme in the Vocalist. Brahms's Scherzo, as interpreted by two astounding virtuosos was truly a perfect ending to this concert. I was grateful to hear classical music so alive and so well under the fingers of these talented young musicians.

The encore was another treat - Henryk Wieniawski's Romance from Violin Concerto No. 2, Op. 22, with the orchestra reduced to the piano. Again, the two musicians displayed their artistry, seamless collaboration, musicality and sensitivity in the most expressive phrases... Overall, the audience greatly appreciated their versatility, musicality, technique, and poise. The applause only ended because the guards were urging everyone to leave, as it was way past the Library's closing time!

It will be great to follow the young virtuosos' careers and see how far they will go. Meanwhile, what the listeners took home was another set of unforgettable memories of high art, high class, high society... The Western civilization has such treasures to share...



Modjeska Club's President Maja Trochimczyk, Treasurer Anna Sadowska, Dominik Yoder, Paulina Tomczuk, and Secretary Beata Czajkowska

Posted by [Maja Trochimczyk](#) at [5:49 PM](#) 

Labels: [Bacewicz](#), [Brahms](#), [concert review](#), [Debussy](#), [Dominik Yoder](#), [Paulina Tomczuk](#), [Rachmaninoff](#), [Timeless Dialogues](#), [violin and piano](#), [Wieniawski](#)

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2018 CHOPIN COMPETITION FOR YOUNG PIANISTS

2018 LAUREATES

Category 1

First Prize: Antoni Kleczek
Second Prize: Oscar Pas-Suaznabar
Third Prize: Matthew Chang
Honorable Mention: Michelle Wang

Category 2

First Prize: Dominik Yoder
Second Prize: Angeline Ma
Third Prize: Madeline Xu
Honorable Mention: Stephanie Draughon

Category 3

First Prize: Ryan Soeyadi
Second Prize: William Tang
Third Prize: Junhao Wang
Third Prize: Lukasz Yoder



Winners Recital At The Embassy of Poland Washington DC

**Kosciuszko Foundation Special Prize
For The Best Performance Of A Work By Karol
Szymanowski**

Ryan Soeyadi

Madeline Xu

2018 JURY

Krzysztof Jablonski, Poland/Canada
President Of The Jury

Martin Labazevitch, Poland/United States

John O'Connor, Ireland

Stanislav Khristenko, Ukraine

2018 CONTESTANTS

Category 1: Contestants 12 years of age and under

Anna Bray, VA, Student of Wen-Yin Chan

Danielle Carr, DE, Student of Bonnie Kellert

Matthew Chang, MD, Student of Kuei-I Wu

William Ge, PA, Student of Natalie Zhu

Antoni Kleczek, VA, Student of Anna Ouspenskaya

Emma Liu, NJ, Student of Eunju Kim

Gina Park, NJ, Student of Eunju Kim

Oscar Paz-Suaznabar, VA, Student of Marjorie Lee

Rachel Robbins, VA, Student of Jason Solounias

Michelle Wang, MD, Student of Olga Kuperstein

Kalan Warusa, VA, Student of Marjorie Lee

Kasper Yoder, CA, Student of Roza Kostrzewska Yoder

Category 2: Contestants 13 to 15 years of age

James Bennett, VA, Student of Marjorie Lee

Gloria Cai, MD, Student of Yuhua Gu

Stephanie Draughon, VA, Student of Miyoko Lotto

Thomasz Kleczek, VA, Student of Anna Ouspenskaya

Angeline Ma, PA, Student of Susan Starr

Uyen Nguyen, NY, Student of Amy Gustafson

Nathan Mo, VA, Student of MiHyang Joo

Maki Nientao, NY, Student of Roberto Hidalgo



Winners Concert At Kosciuszko Foundation New York City



Jury And Staff

Tan Nguyen, VA, Student of Marjorie Lee
Sarah Ouyang, NJ, Student of Yelena Ivanov
Trung Nguyen, VA, Student of Marjorie Lee
Cao Linh Pham, VA, Student of Cecilia Cho
Ha Tran (Moon), DC, Student of Martin Labazevitch
Michael Zhou, PA, Student of Anna Kislitsyna
Madeline Xu, MD, Student of Irena Orlov
Patricia Zhuge, PA, Student of Susan Starr
Dominik Yoder, CA, Student of Roza Kostrzevska Yoder
Andrew Zhang, VA, Student of Marjorie Lee

Category 3: Contestants 16 to 18 years of age

Robert Argasinski, NJ, Student of Sophia Agranovich
Junliang Li, MD, Student of Irena Orlov
Shichu Liu, WA, Student of Ivona Kaminska-Bowlby
Anton Nelson, VA, Student of Edvinas Minkstimas
Ryan Soeyadi, NY, Student of Julian Martin
William Tang, NY, Student of Miyoko Lotto
Junhao Wang, UT, Student of Jack Winerock
Anqi Xu, NJ, Student of Miyoko Lotto
Lukasz Yoder, CA, Student of Roza Kostrzevska Yoder

PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Kosciuszko Foundation Special Prize for the best performance of a work by Karol Szymanowski totaling \$1,500.
- Winners Concert Performance at the Embassy of Poland in Washington, D.C.
- Recital at the Kosciuszko Foundation in New York City May 19, 2018
- Scholarships and performance opportunities at the 2018 Puerto Rico International Piano Festival in San Juan.
- Cash Prizes totaling up to \$7,000.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS WHO HELPED MAKE THE 2018 COMPETITION POSSIBLE

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Alex and Jenny Sherowski
World Bank-International Monetary Fund Polish Club

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Malgorzata & Krzysztof Bochenek

Renata Greenspan

Cecilia Larkin

Jolanta Stefanska

\$1-\$499

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Beata Debek

Alicja & Wojciech Fizyta

Hang Hoang

Barbara Kaminska

Danuta Konefal

Justyna Milton

Wanda O'Brien Trefil

Elzbieta Vande Sande

Jan Walecki

Jowita Allen

Irena Blaszkiewicz

Krzysztof Bledowski

Aneta Burczynska

Anna Firlej

Mira Kuczynska

Joanna Rich

Katarzyna Drucker

Ewa Doan

Edwarda Buda

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Artistic Director



Jason Solounias

Competition

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<https://www.chopincompetitiondc.org/competition-1>



This event has passed.

Dominik and Kasper Yoder, Piano, at Penn Alps

June 28 @ 7:00 pm

Music at Penn Alps is pleased to present brothers Dominik and Kasper Yoder playing piano at the Penn Alps Great Hall on June 28 at 7:00 PM. Tickets are available for \$20 at the door, in the gift shop at Penn Alps Restaurant, or online at <https://www.musicatpennalps.org/tickets>. [Persons 19 and under are admitted free.]

Dominik Yoder was at Music at Penn Alps for an impromptu recital recently. That was received so well that we decided to invite him back for a full concert. He offered to include his brother, Kasper, so the program will include not only solos by each but a 4-hands piece.

Dominik Yoder directed unusual passion and determination toward music from a very young age, beginning piano studies at the age of two on his own initiative. His playing has been described as “authoritative and lyrical, a powerful technique spiced with an impish sense of humor.” He is a winner of the 2025 Beverly Hills National Audition and First Prize Winner of the 2025 New York Concert Guild Competition. He received Second Prize in the 2025 Hartford International Chopin Competition, Fourth Prize in the 2025 Fujairah International Piano Competition, Second Prize in the 2024 Los Angeles International Liszt Competition, the Gold Medal in the 2018 Kosciuszko Foundation Competition for Young Pianists in Washington, D.C., and the Grand Prize in the 2018 Redlands Competition, which he performed with orchestra. He has been awarded First Prize in more than a dozen local, regional, and state competitions. In 2022, Dominik received the Wybitny Polak award from the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Los Angeles.

Kasper Yoder began playing piano at the age of three, and received First and Second Prize in the 2018 and 2022 International Chopin Competition in Hartford, Connecticut, respectively, Second Prize in the 2022 MTAC State Solo Piano Competition, First Prize in the 2021 National Young Artists competition, First Prize in the state level of the 2021 CAPMT Contemporary competition, First Prize in the 2019 MTAC State Piano Concerto Competition, First Prize in the James Ramos International Video Competition, First Prize in the 2017 Pasadena Theme Festival, Second Prize in the 2015 San Jose International Piano Competition and a special jury prize, Golden Cup in the 2012 Junior Festival, Second Prize in the 2012 Lianna Cohen Festival, Gold Medal in the 2013 California Junior Bach Festival, First Prize in the Dance Theme Festival MTAC

Pasadena, and Superior rating in the 2010 Junior Festival. He also performed as one of 8 semi-finalists in the Yamaha Senior division of the 10th Bösendorfer and Yamaha USASU International Piano Competition 2023, and received Honorable Mention in the 2022-2023 MTNA National Competition. He has performed for Polish television and has frequently concertized in Poland and Germany. Kasper’s primary piano studies were at Chopin Piano International with Roza Yoder and Edward Wolanin. He also received instruction from Dina Yoffe, Natalia Troull, Eteri Andjaparidze, Antoinette Perry, and Dmitri Rachmanov. Currently, he is studying with Inna Faliks at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music.

Program

Kasper Yoder

- Sonata in A minor, K. 310, Allegro — W.A. Mozart
- Etude in A flat major, Op. 25, No. 1 — F. Chopin
- Etude in C minor, Op. 10, No. 12 — F. Chopin
- Prelude in B minor, Op. 32, No. 10 — S. Rachmaninoff
- Toccata, Op. 11 — A. Prokofieff

Dominik Yoder

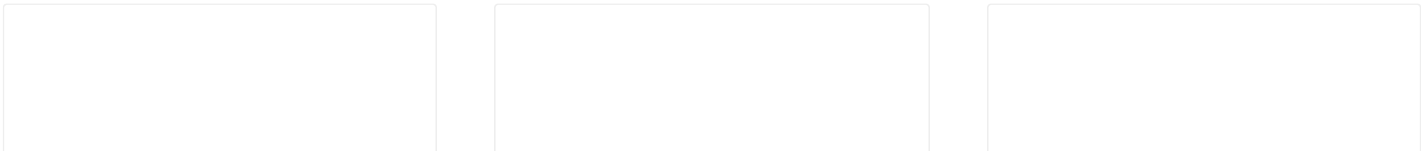
- Sonata No. 21 in C major, Op. 53, Allegro — L. Beethoven
- Etude in A minor, Op. 25, No. 11 — F. Chopin
- Etudes Tableaux, Op. 39 — S. Rachmaninoff
- Sonata No. 3 — S. Prokofieff

Dominik and Kasper

- Hungarian Dance No. 1 in G minor (duet) — J. Brahms

DETAILS	VENUE
Date:	Penn Alps Restaurant &
June 28	Craft Shop
Time:	125 Casselman Rd
7:00 pm	Grantsville, MD 21536-
	2003 United States +
Event Categories:	Google Map
Community, Entertainment	

<https://deepcreektimes.com/event/dominik-and-kasper-yoder-piano-at-penn-alps/>



https://www.wvnews.com/garrettrepublican/news/music-at-penn-alps-to-present-dominick-and-kasper-yoder/article_71ad8e09-e6a7-4872-bd95-043cc768081b.html

Music at Penn Alps to present Dominick and Kasper Yoder

From Staff Reports

Jun 24, 2025



Brothers Dominick and Kasper Yoder will perform on Saturday.

Submitted photo





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On Sunday, **January 16 at 3 P.M.** we will host the Paderewski Music Society private home soiree in Baldwin Hills Estates. Come enjoy an indoor/ outdoor reception and music by Chopin, Beethoven and Rachmaninoff performed by Dominik and Lukasz Yoder (bios below). By attending this event, you will be supporting the upcoming American International Paderewski Piano Competition, which will take place in March 2022 at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles.

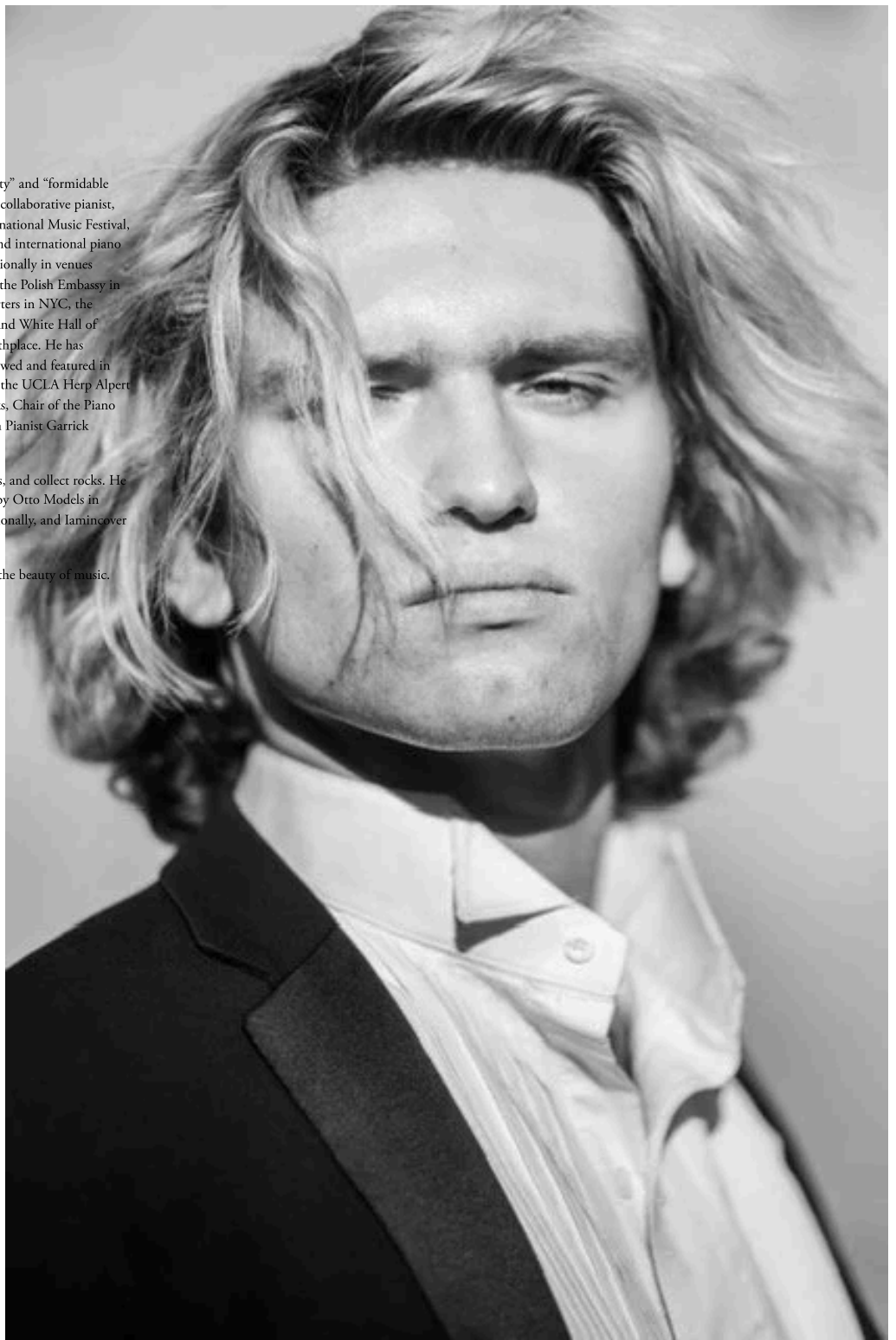
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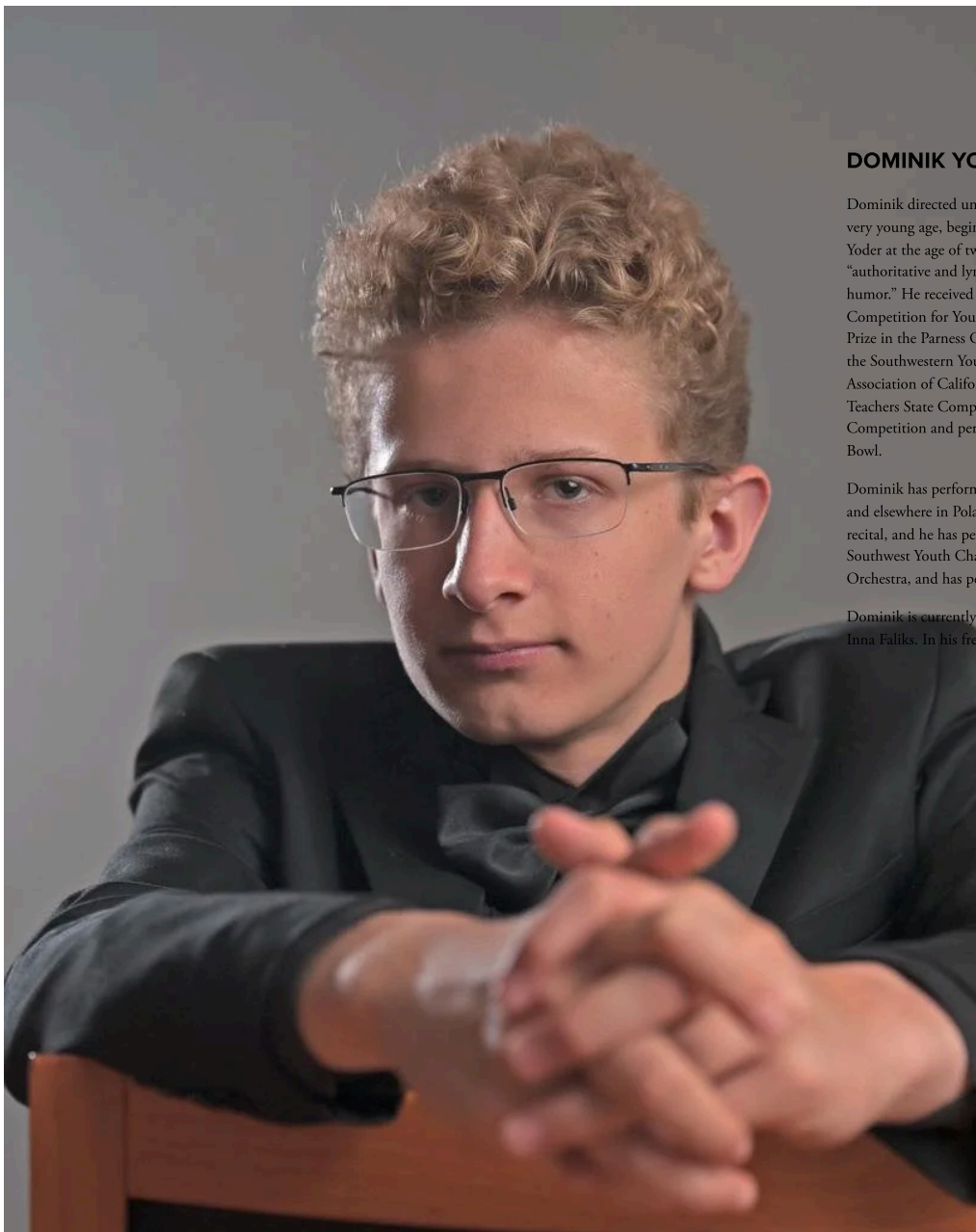
LUKASZ YODER

Praised by the Los Angeles Opus for his “liquid sensitivity” and “formidable power” as a soloist, and for his “discreet exactitude” as a collaborative pianist, Lukasz is the Grand Prize Winner of the Landsum International Music Festival, and a top prizewinner of the numerous state, national and international piano competitions. He has performed nationally and internationally in venues including Zipper Hall of the Colburn School of Music, the Polish Embassy in Washington DC, the Kosciuszko Foundation's headquarters in NYC, the Steinway Society of Puerto Rico, the Dzialynski Palace and White Hall of Poznan, Poland, as well as Zelazowa Wola, Chopin's birthplace. He has recorded for Polish Radio and Television, and been reviewed and featured in the press internationally. Lukasz is currently studying at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music, under the tutelage Professor Inna Faliks, Chair of the Piano Department. He continues to be mentored by American Pianist Garrick Ohlsson.

When not playing piano, Lukasz loves to surf, play chess, and collect rocks. He is also a published fashion model currently represented by Otto Models in Southern California, Main Line Models and Talent Nationally, and Iamincover in Latin America.

As a pianist, his ultimate goal is to bless others through the beauty of music.





DOMINIK YODER

Dominik directed unusual passion and determination toward music from a very young age, beginning piano studies with his mother Roza Kostrzewska Yoder at the age of two on his own initiative. His playing has been described as "authoritative and lyrical, a powerful technique spiced with an impish sense of humor." He received the Gold Medal in the 2018 Kosciuszko Foundation Competition for Young Pianists in Washington, D.C. and he was awarded First Prize in the Parness Concerto Competition, the Long Beach Mozart Festival, the Southwestern Youth Music Festival Competitions, and the Music Teachers Association of California and the California Professional Association of Music Teachers State Competitions. Recently he won the Grand Prize in the Redlands Competition and performed with the Hollywood Orchestra in the Redlands Bowl.

Dominik has performed in Żelazowa Wola (the birthplace of Frederic Chopin) and elsewhere in Poland, Puerto Rico, Germany, and the United States in solo recital, and he has performed with the Culver City Symphony Orchestra, the Southwest Youth Chamber Music Festival Orchestra, and the Hollywood Orchestra, and has performed on Polish television and radio.

Dominik is currently studying piano performance at UCLA with Professor Inna Faliks. In his free time he enjoys surfing, skateboarding, and photography.

Sunday, January 16, 2022

3:00 pm: Reception

4:00 pm: Recital

\$100 per guest minimum suggested donation

Seating is limited. Please reserve early.

All donations are tax deductible.

Proof of vaccination required. Masks are mandatory.

RESERVE SEATS (/SUPPORT-SPONSOR- ATTEND)

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The Paderewski Music Society in Los Angeles is a Section 501(C)(3) charitable non-profit organization.

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<https://paderewskimusicsociety.org/private-piano-salon-with-lukasz-dominik-yoder>



Knox Piano Trio: Irene Lee, cello; Dominik Yoder, piano; Audrey Park, violin

Knox Piano Trio

Irene Lee has been recognized as a “talented virtuoso with a sound that truly captivates” (Bellflower Citizen). She is a frequent and integral member of the winners’ circle, taking first place in competitions such as the Bellflower Symphony Concerto Competition, ASTA Pomona Regionals and LA Finals, JCM Concerto Competition, and SYMF Baroque Open. Subsequent solo appearances with orchestras such as the Bellflower Symphony and Orchestra Collective of Orange County spotlight her emerging career as a soloist. She also received second prize at the 47th Edith Knox Performance Competition, Classics Alive National Auditions, and the Culver City Parness Concerto Competition. As a freshman, Irene served as principal cellist of the 2019 CASMEC All-State High School Symphony Orchestra. She also performed with Pacific Symphony Santiago Strings in 2016, and as principal and soloist in the 2017 season. In November, she joined the 2019 All Nationals Honor Symphony Orchestra in Orlando, Florida. Irene has performed for Midori, the Philharmonic Society of OC and IUSD’s Board of Education. Also an avid chamber musician, Irene was part of the Meisl Trio, which received Second Prize and the Beethoven Award at the Pasadena Conservatory National Chamber Music Competition. Irene is currently studying with Prof. Joon Sung Jun and has also received private instruction from Prof. Hans Jørgen Jensen. Irene attends Northwood High School and spends her free time reading philosophy.

Dominik Yoder directed unusual passion and determination toward music from a very young age, beginning piano studies at the age of two on his own initiative. His playing has been described as “authoritative and lyrical, a powerful technique spiced with an impish sense of humor.” He received the Gold Medal in the 2018 Kosciuszko Foundation Competition for Young Pianists in Washington, D.C. and he was awarded First Prize in the Parness Concerto Competition, the Long Beach Mozart Festival, the Southwestern Youth Music Festival Competitions, and the Music Teachers Association of California and the California Professional Association of Music Teachers State Competitions. Recently he won the Grand Prize in the Redlands Competition, playing with the Hollywood Orchestra in the Redlands Bowl.

Dominik has performed in Żelazowa Wola (the birthplace of Frederic Chopin) and elsewhere in Poland, Puerto Rico,

Germany, and the United States in solo recital, and he has performed with the Culver City Symphony Orchestra, the Southwest Youth Chamber Music Festival Orchestra, and the Hollywood Orchestra. He has performed on Polish television and radio, and has participated in master classes with Edward Wolanin, Professor of the Chopin University of Music in Warsaw. In the 2019 Art of Piano Festival Dominik studied with Alexander Korsantia, Boris Berman, Jura Margolis.

Dominik enjoys surfing and rock climbing and physics. He studies with Róża Kostrzevska Yoder.

Audrey Park, 17-year old virtuoso violinist, has been praised for her “nice, rich sound [and] excellent rhythmic drive” (violinist.com).

Her solo appearance at the “First Fridays at First!—fff” recital, presented by Classical Crossroads Inc left a glowing review: “Park’s formidable talent will flower in years to come” (laopus.com).

Audrey has appeared as a soloist with the Santa Clarita Philharmonic, San Fernando, Antelope Valley Symphony Orchestras, Peninsula Symphony, and Curtis YASP Orchestra. She will perform with the Culver City Symphony Orchestra in 2020. Receiving many accolades at numerous competitions, Audrey was the first prize winner of the Great Composers International Music Competition and James Ramos International Video Competition. In addition, she was the winner of the Santa Clarita, San Fernando Valley, Gail Newby, Parness, Curtis YASP Concerto Competitions, and the Edith Knox Performance Competition. More recently, Audrey was recognized as a 2019 National YoungArts Winner. She was selected to participate in NPR's nationally syndicated program From the Top and was featured on KHTS AM 1220 Radio News. As an avid chamber musician, she was a winner of the ENKOR International Music Competition as a part of Zenith Quartet. In addition, she won silver at the PCM National Chamber Music Competition and was named a semi-finalist at the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition as a part of Piacere Trio.

She has spent her summers traveling to many music festivals. Park was chosen to be one of the ten student artists for the prestigious 2019 Starling-DeLay Symposium at The Juilliard School. She was invited to participate in Ray Chen’s, Glenn Dicterow’s, Cho-Liang Lin’s, and Jan Sloman’s masterclass.

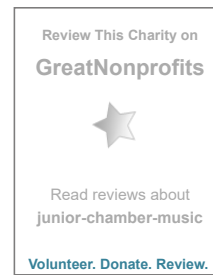
Executive Director, Dr. Susan Boettger
310.266.0790

Director of Operations, Aimee Mezo
aimee@juniorchambermusic.org

Calendars

Frequently Asked

Questions



<https://www.juniorchambermusic.org/knox-piano-trio>

Tehachapi Symphony Orchestra Spring Concert featuring Dominik Yoder

By KAREN BUDAI Contributing writer
Feb 25, 2021



Dominik Yoder
Courtesy of Rosalind Guder

The Tehachapi Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Dr. David Newby, will perform Sunday, March 7 via livestream on the Tehachapi Symphony Facebook page. It will begin at 4 p.m.

Sergei Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini will feature pianist Dominik Yoder, who directed unusual passion and determination toward music from a very young age, beginning piano studies at the age of 2 on his own initiative. His playing has been described as "authoritative and lyrical, a powerful technique spiced with an impish sense of humor."

He received the gold medal in the 2018 Kosciuszko Foundation Competition for Young Pianists in Washington, D.C., and he was awarded first prize in the Parness Concerto Competition, the Long Beach Mozart Festival, the Southwestern Youth Music Festival Competitions, and the Music Teachers Association of California and the California Professional Association of Music Teachers State Competitions. Recently he won the grand prize in the Redlands Competition, playing with the Hollywood Orchestra in the Redlands Bowl.

Yoder has performed in Żelazowa Wola (the birthplace of Frederic Chopin) and elsewhere in Poland, Puerto Rico, Germany and the United States in solo recital, and he has performed with the Culver City Symphony Orchestra, the Southwest Youth Chamber Music Festival Orchestra, and the Hollywood Orchestra in Redlands Bowl. He has performed on Polish television and

radio, and has participated in master classes with Dina Joffe, Eteri Andjaparidze, Dmitry Rachmanov, Wojciech Kocjan, Antoinette Perry, Edward Wolanin, Professor of the Chopin University of Music in Warsaw.

In the 2019 Art of Piano Festival, Dominik studied with Alexander Korsantia, Boris Berman, and Jura Margolis. He performed as part of the Knox Piano Trio during the 19-20 JCM season. He will compete in the Gina Bachauer Young Artists International Piano Competition.

Yoder has been homeschooled his whole life and is now in the 12th grade. He enjoys surfing, rock climbing and astrophysics. He studies piano with Róża Kostrzewska Yoder. He claims that the pros to having your parent as your teacher is that you can have a lesson every day and it's more personal. He does admit to liking to argue even though he realizes that his mother knows everything.

Due to the county's COVID-19 restrictions, our March 7 concert cannot be attended in person. Instead we plan to livestream it on Facebook at 4 p.m., so you can watch it from the comfort of your own home.

Although all Tehachapi Symphony Orchestra concerts are free to the community, donations are still welcome. For more information, see tehachapiorchestra.com or call 821-7511.

Karen Budai is the director of publicity for the Tehachapi Symphony Orchestra.

https://www.tehachapinews.com/lifestyle/tehachapi-symphony-orchestra-spring-concert-featuring-dominik-yoder/article_00bf5318-778e-11eb-9f2d-e3ffbf588081.html

The Winning Touch

By **Brett Callwood** - October 27, 2017



Photo by Matthew Hetz

Dominik Yoder plays Prokofiev, Piano Concerto, No. 3, at the Oct. 15 Parness Concerto Competition for 2017. Yoder won the Junior Division, which was for students ages 14 and younger. Winners in the Intermediate Division (ages 15-18) were Andy Park on the viola, and Victor Shluakhtenko on piano. The competition was held at the Steinway Piano Gallery in Beverly Hills, and hosted by store manager David Ida. Judges were Frank Fetta, Marina Manukian, Tania Fleischer and Chika Inoue. Sponsored by the Culver City Symphony Orchestra, SoCal Symphony Society. Director Matthew Hetz performed the tie-breaker .

<https://www.culvercitynews.org/the-winning-touch/>

Brett Callwood

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CULTURAL ARTS



Concerts



Art Night



Youth Piano Concerto

Weds@Noon: Dominik Yoder

FREE CONCERT

Date: 07/30/2025 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Location: Encinitas Library
[Community Room](#), [540 Cornish Drive](#)
[Encinitas, California 92024](#)

Dominik directed unusual passion and determination toward music from a very young age, beginning piano studies at the age of two on his own initiative. His playing has been described as “authoritative and lyrical, a powerful technique spiced with an impish sense of humor.

Dominik Yoder, recently won very prestigious national auditions, which many try to participate in, that give great opportunities for performing professional concerts - the Beverly Hills Auditions. He also won the college category in the New York Artist Guild International Music Competition and performed at Lincoln Center on June 27, 2025, competing for the Grand Prize.

He received Second Prize in the 2025 Hartford International Chopin Competition, Fourth Prize in the 2025 Fujairah International Piano Competition, Second Prize in the 2024 Los Angeles International Liszt Competition, the Gold Medal in the 2018 Kosciuszko Foundation Competition for Young Pianists in Washington, D.C., and the Grand Prize in the 2018 Redlands Competition, thanks to which he performed with orchestra. He has been awarded First Prize in more than a dozen local, regional, and state competitions.

In 2022, Dominik received the Wybitny Polak (“Outstanding Pole”) award from the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Los Angeles.

Dominik has performed in Żelazowa Wola (the birthplace of Frederic Chopin) and elsewhere in Poland, Puerto Rico, Germany, and the United States in solo recital, and he has performed with the Culver City Symphony Orchestra, the Brentwood Symphony Orchestra, the Southwest Youth Chamber Music Festival Orchestra, and the Hollywood Orchestra for Redlands Bowl.

He has performed on Polish television and radio, and he has participated in master classes with Natalia Troull, Dina Joffe, Eteri Andjaparidze, Edward Wolanin, Alexander Korsantia, Boris Berman, Dmitry Rachmanov, Wojciech Kocjan, Jura Margolis, and Antoinette Perry.

He studies piano with Róża Kostrzevska Yoder.

Doors open at 11:30am.

[Return to full list >>](#)

<https://www.encinitasca.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/4077/244>