University of Texas at El Paso

From the SelectedWorks of Oscar Macchioni

February 1, 2014

University of Texas at El Paso Piano Competition

Oscar E Macchioni, University of Texas at El Paso

Available at: https://works.bepress.com/oscar_macchioni/161/
2014
UTEP
PIANO
COMPETITION

featuring
Christos Tsitsaros

January 31st – February 1st, 2014
Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall
Born in Cyprus, pianist/composer Christos Tsitsaros received his first formal instruction with Nora Karastik at the Greek Academy of Music of Nicosia. At the age of 13, he won first prize in the National Competition of the Conservatory of Athens. Upon graduating from high school, he moved to Poland where he studied at the Frédéric Chopin Academy of Warsaw. Two years later, as a result of winning the Gina Bachauer Institution Competition in Athens (1981), he continued his musical studies in Paris and graduated from the Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris, obtaining the Diplôme Supérieur d’Exécution with distinction. A scholarship from the A. O. Leventis Foundation enabled him to pursue further development at the School of Music of Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, where he received an Artist Diploma and a Master in Music degree (1989). Subsequently, he entered the School of Music of the University of Illinois where he attained a Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance (1993). His mentors include pianists Jan Ekier, Aldo Ciccolini, Germaine Mounier, Jean-Claude Pennetier, Leonard Hokanson, György Sebők, and Ian Hobson.

Christos is also quite active as a composer, having won the composition competition of the 1992 National Conference on Piano Pedagogy, which launched an ongoing relationship with Hal Leonard Corporation. His published works include Autumn Sketches, Poetic Moments, Songs Without Words, (Hal Leonard), Cinderella Suite, Songs and Dances, and Nine Tales (Frederick Harris Music). He has also written concert works, which he regularly performs in concert.

In addition, he is contributing composer for the Hal Leonard Student Piano Library and editor for the Schirmer Performance Edition. Several of his compositions have been selected by numerous examination systems, including the National Federation of Music Clubs, the RCM examinations of the Royal Conservatory of Music (Toronto), and the Gina Bachauer International Junior Piano Competition. In 2001, he was artist-in-residence at the Helene Wurlitzer Foundation of New Mexico; the same year, he gave his New York debut recital at Weill Carnegie Hall. He regularly appears in workshops and conferences as a performer and lecturer, and performs as soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician in Europe, the United States, Russia, and Canada. He has participated as a clinician and lecturer for the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy, the World Piano Pedagogy Conference, the Music Teachers National Association Conference, and the International Conference on European Music Education (St. Petersburg, Russia).

Christos Tsitsaros is currently Professor of Piano Pedagogy at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. He also serves as Piano Chair for the Illinois State Music Teachers Association.

High School Competition
Friday, January 31st, 2014, starting at 4:00 p.m.
Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall

Valse, Op. 64, No. 2
From Sonatina Humoresque
   III. Presto

   Clavel Candelaria

Preludio Voilante
Minstrels, from Preludes, Book I
ABEGG Variations, Op. 1
From Sonatina Humoresque
   III. Presto

   Samuel Barrón

Preludio XIV in F-Sharp Minor
From the Suite Bergamasque, "Clair de Lune"
Valse, Op. 64, No. 1
Love Song in the Rain

   Jennifer Kim

Sonata in E Minor, Hob. XVI
Love Song in the Rain

   Carmen Quesada

From Gaspard de la nuit, "Ondine"
From Songs Without Words
   Searching
   In the Mists
   IV. Presto

   Jing Chih Wang

Frederic Chopin
(1810-1849)
Christos Tsitsaros

Miloslav Kabeláč
(1908-1979)
Claude Debussy
(1862-1918)
Robert Schumann
(1810-1856)
Christos Tsitsaros

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)
Claude Debussy
(1862-1918)
Frédéric Chopin
(1810-1849)
Christos Tsitsaros

Franz Joseph Haydn
(1732-1809)
Christos Tsitsaros

Maurice Ravel
(1875-1937)
Christos Tsitsaros

Leos Janácek
(1854-1928)
Collegiate Competition
Saturday, February 1st, 2014, starting at 10:00 a.m.
Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall

Intermezzo in A Minor, Op. 76, No. 1

Sinfonia no. 13 in A Minor, BWV 799

Sonata in F Major, K. 280
Allegra assai
Nocturne in E Minor

Michelle Shaheen

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Prelude and Fugue in C Minor, from the WTC, Book I

Theme and Variations in G Major

Nocturne in G Minor, Op. 37, No. 1

Blackbirds at Ueno

Jesus Fuentes

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Sonata No. 27 in E Minor, Op. 90
Mit Lebhaftigkeit und durchaus mit Empfindung und Ausdruck

Nocturne in B Major, Op. 32, No. 1

Blackbirds at Ueno
The Tides of Manaunaun

Carlos Barba

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Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Christos Tsitsaros

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Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

Frédéric Chopin
(1810-1849)

Christos Tsitsaros

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Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

Frédéric Chopin
(1810-1849)

Christos Tsitsaros

Henry Cowell
(1897-1965)
From “Lyric Ballads”:
Album Leaf
Morning Tenderness
Sea Breezes
Rays of Hope

Tango Passionato (from “Cahier Tango”)

Three Preludes
1. Water Nymphs
2. Dance Mystique
3. Dionysian Rites

Christos Tsitsaros, composition and piano

From Iberia, Primer Cuaderno
Nu. 3. “Fete-dieu à Seville”

Isaac Albéniz (1860-1909)

Albéniz portrays the religious procession in Seville, Spain during the Corpus Christi Feria (Festival). Mourners, sinners and even penitent flagellants annually take to the streets, dressed in fraternal costumes, marching somberly, praying for forgiveness, and carry heavy, wooden platforms with statues of the Virgin Mary, Christ dying on the cross, and extravagant adornments of flowers, gold, silver, jewels and velvet. A vast, or piercing cry of ecstasy arises, as the prayers passionately elevate and majestically dominate the scene. And then...a contrast. The craziness stops. Albéniz asks the pianist to provide altered space and time, pushing and pulling the rhythm. Y entonces, otra vez: frenzy, frenzy, frenzy! The procession begins again and becomes even wilder!!! Albéniz asks the pianist to play as loudly as possible (lo más fuerte posible). And then...a quiet and reflective ending.

Do we know of any culture more dedicated to the confessions of guilty sins along side the wonderful pleasures of earthly life than that of Spain?

Dena Kay Jones, piano

From Preludes, Book I
I. Dancers of Delphi
III. The Wind in the Plain
VIII. The Girl with the Flaxen Hair
XII. Minstrels

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

Oscar Macchioni, piano
Student Bios

Carlos Barba is a Commercial Piano Major at The University of Texas at El Paso, who has performed numerous times at UTEP in the last two years (on average, at least once a month), in Piano Area recitals, as well as in Jazz Band and UTEP Choir concerts. He believes that this competition will help him when applying for other universities or future jobs, that any prize money awarded would help cover his current university expenses and will encourage him to enter other competitions outside El Paso. He studies piano with Dr. Oscar Macchioni.

Samuel Barron is fifteen years old and currently studies piano with Mrs. Anna Habicht in El Paso, Texas. He has performed numerous times at the Chaminade National Theatre, as well as participating in the El Paso Music Teacher Association’s Solo Festival, Irma Kluck Baroque Competition, the Sonata-Sonatina Festival and in Piano Solo Performance Contest. He plans to use any prize money to help with college tuition and currently attends Coronado High School.

Dereck Bartlett is eighteen years old and has been working with Mrs. Bethany Treway on piano since 2003. Recent performances include a solo piano recital at a local church, Solo Festival (where he earned a rating of I++), and All Region Jazz Band. He attends Franklin High School and is a master class participant in the 2014 UTEP Piano Competition.

Candelaria Clavel has been playing piano since she was eight years old. Her honors include: First place winner in the EPMTA Baroque competition for seven consecutive years, I+ ratings in the EPMTA Solo and Sonatina/Sonata Festivals, awarded medals for scoring 90 or above on the TMTA State Theory Tests, and numerous performances in Chaminade and Studio Recitals. She is eighteen years old and studies with Mrs. Charlotte Safi.

Jesus Fuentes is a sophomore in the Commercial Music Degree (emphasis, piano) at the University of Texas at El Paso, where he studies piano with Dr. Dena Kay Jones. Last year, Jesus performed an all-Baroque concert on harpsichord with the UTEP Virtuosi String Ensemble, participated in the UTEP Concerto and Aria Competition offering Gerald Finzi’s Elegy, Op. 10, and also has performed at the UTEP Gala Concert. He writes, “This competition will enable me to apply the skills I’m currently developing at UTEP. The prize will help me to pay my college tuition and finish my music degree.” Still maintaining a position on the Dean’s List, Jesus is an excellent academic student and he works well with his music peers within the UTEP Department of Music.

Jennifer Kim is eighteen years old and studies with Mrs. Julie Arras. Her recent performances, prizes and honors include a I+ rating at the Solo and Ensemble Competition, and 3rd place in the All-State Orchestra Piano Division. She attends Coronado High School and plans to use any competition prize to help in college next year, so that she may be able to pursue her studies and her love for music.
Carmen Quesada is eighteen years old, attends Coronado High School and studies piano with Mrs. Charlotte Safi. She has won 1st place in the Irma Kluck Baroque Competition, garnered 1+ ratings on Sonata and Solo Festivals, won 2nd place in the 2012 UTEP Piano Competition and has performed frequently within the Chamisa and Studio Recitals held at the El Paso Women’s Club. She recently decided to turn her passion for piano into her career path and will pursue a degree in Piano Pedagogy.

Eric Quezada attends the Edison Hope Christian Academy and has studied piano with Dr. Esequiel Meza from 2010-2014. Eric has performed on EPMTA Boys’ Recitals, EPMTA Student Affiliate Recitals, TMTA All Star Recitals and offered a solo Junior Recital. He plans to use any prize money to repair and tune his piano, which is in great need of repair. Eric is a master class participant in the 2014 UTEP Piano Competition.

Michelle Shaheen is a sophomore studying Music Education (French Horn, primary instrument) at the University of Texas at El Paso. Her piano teacher before coming to UTEP was Mrs. Gloria Flores and once on campus, Michelle was a typical music major – focusing on her horn playing and receiving class piano instruction. When her current teacher, Dr. Dena Kay Jones, noticed that Michelle was above and beyond the skill level required for Class Piano Instruction, the two discussed applied piano study options. The results have been a wonderful! Michelle has performed in Piano Area Recitals and now, is a competitor taking advantage of this opportunity. “As a French Horn major and a piano minor, I am taking a lot of ensemble classes and extra lessons. This has not been kind to my wallet and any prize would really help me pay for all the classes I need so that I can graduate on time and debt free.” Michelle plays French Horn in many UTEP music ensembles.

Jing Chih Wang is a senior at Coronado High School and studies piano with Mrs. Anna Habicht. “Bonnie,” as she is known, won first place in the El Paso youth Symphony Young Artist Piano Competition and also earned 1++ markings at the EPMTA Sonata Festival. She plans to use any competition prize money to buy more piano literature, expanding her knowledge and repertoire of music.

Best Wishes to all our competitors,
as they strive forward in their passions
regarding piano performance and education!
Dena Kay Jones has performed as soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States and in Spain, Italy, Mexico and Canada. Solo performances include recitals at El Centro Municipal de Las Artes in Juárez, Mexico; the Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber Music Concert Series (Canada); J Due Archi Music and Art Club in Vasto, Italy and the Myra Hess Concert Series (Chicago); an appearance as soloist with the University of Arizona Symphony and University of Texas at El Paso Symphony and Choirs; and performances for pianists Emanuel Ax and Peter Serkin at the Tanglewood Auditions in New York, Leon Fleisher at the Aspen Summer Music Festival and Russell Shermann at the Summer Courses in Santander, Spain. She offered her New York Debut at Merkin Hall in March 2003, participated in the Festival Internacional de Música de Tecla Española (FIMTE) of Almeria, Spain in 2007 and 2013 and presented at the Fifth International Conference on Design Practices and Principles, held in Rome, Italy (2011). In addition to maintaining a widely varied repertoire from the standard piano literature, Ms. Jones has focused her energies in performance and research of the Spanish piano repertoire. Her dissertation, "The Piano Works of Joaquín Rodrigo (1901-1999): An Evaluation of Social Influences and Compositional Style," in conjunction with a program featuring select solo piano pieces, contributed to the centennial celebration of this great composer's birth. As a result of this research, Dr. Jones was awarded a grant from the Spanish Embassy in conjunction with U.S. universities for a Spanish music CD recording project. Picked up by the classical recording label Centaur Records, her debut album entitled Luces y Sombras (Lights and Shadows: Piano Works by Joaquín Rodrigo was released in October 2007. A native of the Central Illinois area, Ms. Jones received both the Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in piano performance from the University of Illinois. Her principal teachers in Illinois were Lydia Arntziw, William Helles and Andrew DeGrado. In August of 2001, Dena Kay Jones completed the Doctor of Musical Arts program at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona, where she studied with Steinway artist Nohema Fernández. She joined the music faculty of the University of Texas at El Paso in 2002, where she is the Piano Area Coordinator and professor of applied piano and chamber music studies.

Oscar Macchioni, a native of Argentina, is an accomplished solo and collaborative pianist, professor, lecturer, author and adjudicator. He has been praised for his expressive phrasing and the amiable way in which he presents his programs. Oscar has performed extensively in his native Argentina, Italy, England, Poland, Serbia, Turkey, Mexico, and the USA, at notable locations such as Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Teacher's College at Columbia University, Steinway Hall, St James's Piccadilly in London, the Querceto International Piano Festival in Italy, and the National Conservatory in Argentina. His live performance in the esteemed Myra Hess Memorial Concerts at the Chicago Cultural Center has been broadcast on radio and television. Although he is a passionate performer of Latin American music, Oscar's repertoire includes a diversity of musical styles and composers of all periods, from Soler and Brahms to Piazzolla and Bolcom. At the present, Dr. Macchioni focuses on research and performance of the tango genre in art music. He enjoys research activities, and has presented lecture recitals and his presentations have been at the Piano Pedagogy Forum, the College Music Society, and the Society for Ethnomusicology. His book, *Tango in American Piano Music, Selected Tangos* was published in 2010, by the College Music Society series *Cultural Expressions in Music*. His debut CD *Mostly Tangos*. *Piano Music from the Americas* has been released with favor Classical Records in 2009. Upon graduating with three degrees in music from the Universidad Nacional de Tucumán, he received a scholarship from the Polish Government to study piano at the Krakow Academy of Music. He received his Masters in piano from Louisiana State University, and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in piano performance with a minor concentration in ethnomusicology from the University of Arizona in Tucson. He studied under the guidance of Lucia Herrera, Celina Lis, Ewa Bukojemska, Phyllis East, Michael Curt, Ana María Trenchi de Bottazzi, Nohema Fernández, and Tannis Gibson. In 2003, Dr. Macchioni joined the faculty at the University of Texas at El Paso. Oscar Macchioni is an International Steinway Artist.
Lora Deahl is Professor of Piano and Keyboard Literature at Texas Tech University. She was named U.S. Presidential Scholar from her native state of Hawaii under President Lyndon Johnson and was a National Merit Scholarship recipient at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. She received graduate degrees with highest honors from Indiana University and the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Deahl has appeared as concerto soloist with the Honolulu, Lubbock, Texas Tech University, and Southwest Symphony Orchestras and has performed numerous solo and chamber music concerts throughout the continental U.S., Canada, Hawaii, South Korea, Mexico, and Puerto Rico. She has published articles on topics related to piano literature and pedagogy in the International Journal of Musicology, Piano and Keyboard, College Music Symposium, American Music Teacher, and Keyboard Companion; presented papers on related topics at national and international meetings of the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, American Conference on Romanticism, European Biennial Conference on Nineteenth-Century Music, International Conference on Romanticism, Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities, World Piano Conference, College Music Society, and American Musicological Society; and given lecture-recitals at meetings of the Texas Music Teachers Association, Music Teachers Association of California, the Van Cliburn International Piano Institute, Music Teachers National Association, the New Mexico Music Teachers Association, and Texas Music Educators Association. In 1995, she was named Outstanding Collegiate Teacher of the Year by the Texas Music Teachers Association. She is also an elected member of Texas Tech University’s Teaching Academy, an honorary designation for master teachers of that institution.

Laura Spitzer is Associate Professor of Piano at New Mexico State University. Prior to coming to NMSU in Fall, 2000, she was a touring concert pianist for 16 years. She has performed under contract with the Community Concert Association, and appeared with symphonies such as the Los Angeles Concordia Orchestra, Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra, Reno Philharmonic, the Nevada Symphony, and the Owensboro Symphony. The recipient of four touring grants from the Nevada State Council on the Arts and the Nevada Humanities Committee, Laura Spitzer traveled with her Steinway grand packed into her truck from 1984 to 2003, bringing classical music to hundreds of rural communities and schools throughout the U.S. and western Canada. In recognition of this contribution, she was honored with the 1986 Nevada Governor’s Arts Award. She has been featured on ABC World News Tonight, NBC Nightly News, NBC Sunday Today, and The West nationwide, and in such publications as People, Time, Reader’s Digest, Mother Earth News, New York Times, Piano and Keyboard, Clavier, and Overdrive. Laura Spitzer attended Oberlin Conservatory for one year, and completed her undergraduate studies at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria, where she was awarded the Bösendorfer Stipend and graduated with distinction. After touring with the Austrian Ensemble for New Music, recording numerous programs for Austrian Radio and taking first prize at the Kurt Leimer Competition, she earned her Master’s Degree at the Peabody Institute. She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Southern California, where she served as Assistant Lecturer of Keyboard Studies and received the department’s teaching award in 1991. Her principal teachers have been Walton Ball, Hans Leygraf, Leon Fleisher, and John Perry. Dr. Spitzer served on the adjunct faculty at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas for five years, and has conducted master classes and workshops at colleges, conventions, and summer camps throughout the U.S. She teaches each year at the Idyllwild Arts Summer Program in Idyllwild, California.
Mission

The purpose of this event is to give all entering pianists the opportunity to perform in a competitive setting and to receive awards to be used for the recipients' education and career in classical music. Each year, the UTEPPC recognizes a living composer by including his/her work in the repertoire's requirements.

This year, the 2013-2014 UTEP Piano Competition, celebrates Christos Tsitsaros.

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