July 15–17, 2016

Official Program
Dear Friends,

There is no better opportunity in San Diego to hear and meet thirty of the most outstanding amateur pianists from all over the world than during these three days of the San Diego International Amateur Piano Competition for Outstanding Amateurs. Ranging in age from 26 to 80, our competitors come to us from ten states, as well as China and France. Each of them have tirelessly prepared for months in advance to deliver their finest possible performance for you this weekend. Whether as a competitor or a member of the audience, we are united by our shared love and appreciation of classical piano music.

I will never forget my first amateur piano competition in Paris, France in 1999. Many years later, I still cherish the priceless memories, unique opportunities and life-changing friendships that came from my participation.

Five years ago, I founded AmateurPianists in San Diego to provide a unique opportunity for adult pianists from all walks of life to experience performing on stage in a concert setting for a supportive and appreciative audience. Since then, we have added masterclasses, lectures on a myriad of piano-related topics, a Concert-Chat series, and the well received "PianoPalooza," a popular, countywide piano festival.

As you join us today for our first biennial competition, you bear witness to the culmination of many years of hard work—work we love! Through the support of our Competition Committee, Board of Directors, Advisory Board, volunteers, donors and audience members such as yourself, we have grown to become the Largest Piano Meetup Group in the World.

I believe that we don't just play piano for ourselves, but to share this enjoyment with others. As the famous quote says, "Music expresses what words cannot." Through the notes of Bach, Beethoven, Chopin and others, I invite you to share this journey with us.

Sincerely yours,

Glenn Kramer
Founder and Board Chair
Schedule of Events

Crill Performance Hall, Cooper Music Building
Point Loma Nazarene University
San Diego, California

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Friday, July 15</th>
<th>9:00 a.m.–4:45 p.m.</th>
<th>Preliminary Round</th>
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<td>10:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Break (15 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch (one hour)</td>
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<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Break (15 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>5:45 p.m.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Announcement of Semi-Finalists</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>Saturday, July 16</th>
<th>1:00 p.m.–5:15 p.m.</th>
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<tr>
<td>2:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Break (40 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>6:00 p.m.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Announcement of Finalists</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</table>
| **8:00 p.m.**     | **Evening Concert Featuring**
|                   | Paul Romero, *piano*
|                   | Brock Summers, sax
|                   | Miki Yamashita, vocals |

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<tr>
<th>Sunday, July 17</th>
<th>10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.</th>
<th>Competitors’ Recital</th>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Final Round</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Break (30 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>6:00 p.m.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Award Ceremony</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>6:30 p.m.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Celebration Reception</strong></td>
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</table>

All times shown above are approximate, except for the start time each day.
ALEVTYNA DOBINA IS ONE OF THE MOST DISTINGUISHED AND BRIGHTEST YOUNG PIANISTS from Ukraine. Born in Kiev into a family of musicians, Alevtyna is proud to represent two countries—Austria and Ukraine. Alevtyna has recently received several honorary awards of distinction. For special achievements in music and contribution to culture, she has been bestowed by the President of Ukraine with the exclusive title of “Scholar of President.” Alevtyna is also a recipient of a special grant for merits in culture from the charitable foundation “Open Ukraine,” which is guided by the Prime Minister of Ukraine, Arseniy Yatsenyuk. She won accolades at the Salzburg Festival, PianoTexas International Academy & Festival, and in competitions in Paris and Estonia.

Alevtyna actively performs as soloist and chamber musician in Europe, USA, Brazil, as well as her native country of Ukraine. For more information, please email alevtina-musicquest@mail.ru.

INDONESIAN–BORN PIANIST INES IRAWATI HAS RECEIVED MANY TOP AWARDS, INCLUDING the Marilyn Horne Foundation Best Vocal Pianist Award, D’angelo International Piano Competition, and La Jolla Young Artists Competition. She was granted a fellowship at the prestigious Music Academy of the West where she studied with Marilyn Horne and Warren Jones. She has soloed with Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Institute of Music, the La Jolla Symphony & Chorus, and Orchestra Nova. She has performed in venues such as Severance Hall and Carnegie Hall.

An avid vocal coach, Ines has spent her summers acting as the pianist and vocal coach for The Institute for Young Dramatic Voices, founded by Dolora Zajick. She is the vocal coach and the collaborative piano faculty at Point Loma Nazarene University. Irawati is the founder of MusiKamar, a music series which brings exquisite chamber music concerts into smaller and intimate spaces. For more information, please visit www.inesirawati.com.

ISABELLE OEHMICHEN DRAWS UPON HER FRENCH HERITAGE AND UNUSUAL MUSICAL training in her delicately nuanced and technically exquisite performances as a soloist, or in orchestral or chamber music throughout France, Great Britain, USA, Canada, Poland, Romania, Czech Republic, Finland, the Netherlands, Germany and Hungary.

As a young musician, Isabelle won First Place in the Milosz Magin International Piano Competition in 1989 and the George Cziffra Competition in 1993. She studied with Milosz Magin and George Cziffra, a Hungarian virtuoso pianist who was renowned for his dazzling performances of Liszt. Under Cziffra, the tradition of European pianistic virtuosity was handed down to Isabelle.

Isabelle has recorded 13 CDs and has performed in radio and television recitals. She also teaches masterclasses and lectures in a seminar series on “Musical Heritage,” a conference of the Sorbonne University on the subject of romantic interpretation of the piano. For more information, please visit www.isabelle.oehmichen.free.fr.

VIOLETA PETROVA IS A VERSATILE PIANIST, KNOWN FOR HER EXPRESSIVITY AND virtuosity. She has been in demand as a solo recitalist, chamber pianist and orchestral performer throughout the world. Born in Lom, Bulgaria, she started her piano studies at the age of 5. At age 8, she gave her first solo concert, and then as a teenage prodigy she performed for the great composer Dmitri Shostakovich.

Since that time, Professor Petrova has performed and recorded all over the world. She has toured extensively as a soloist, chamber pianist and accompanist throughout Europe, Russia, and Japan. Though well-versed in nearly all the early and late Classical and Romantic piano repertoire, Professor Petrova has a great love for the music of 20th century Russian composers, including Prokofiev, Shostakovich, Mussorgsky, and Stravinsky.

In 2014, Professor Petrova moved to Vista, California where she has established her piano studio. During her first year in California, Violeta was recognized with the Paul Harris Award given by the Rotary International Carlsbad Chapter, of which she is a member. In addition to teaching privately, she is available as an adjudicator and to present master classes, lectures, and workshops. For more information, contact Violeta at Violeta.Petrova@gmail.com.
## Preliminary Round

**Friday, July 15, 2016**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>OPENING REMARKS</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:10 A.M.</td>
<td>Megumi Vogt</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:22 A.M.</td>
<td>Kate (Rung-Kuang) Lo</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:34 A.M.</td>
<td>Philip Mandel</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:46 A.M.</td>
<td>Thomas Maurice</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:58 A.M.</td>
<td>Alexandra Nica</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:10 A.M.</td>
<td>Sandra Baumgarten</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:22 A.M.</td>
<td>Robin Stephenson</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:34 A.M.</td>
<td>Tessa Knipe</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:46 A.M.</td>
<td>BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 A.M.</td>
<td>Anqi Wang</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:12 A.M.</td>
<td>Barbara Taylor</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:24 A.M.</td>
<td>Carl Rosser</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:36 A.M.</td>
<td>Roberto Vereza</td>
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<td>11:48 A.M.</td>
<td>Judy Darst</td>
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<td>12:00 P.M.</td>
<td>Yiran Wang</td>
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<td>12:12 P.M.</td>
<td>Edward Fritz</td>
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<td>12:24 P.M.</td>
<td>Yvonne Tsai</td>
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<td>12:36 P.M.</td>
<td>LUNCH BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:40 P.M.</td>
<td>Robert Berkowitz</td>
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<td>1:52 P.M.</td>
<td>Lynn Killingsworth</td>
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<td>2:04 P.M.</td>
<td>John Gutheil</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:16 P.M.</td>
<td>Marilaine Jones</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:28 P.M.</td>
<td>Yue Qi</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:40 P.M.</td>
<td>Edna Nerona</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:53 P.M.</td>
<td>Zachary Weiner</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:05 P.M.</td>
<td>BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:20 P.M.</td>
<td>Ardith El-Kareh</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:32 P.M.</td>
<td>Yun Liang</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:44 P.M.</td>
<td>Andrew Celentano</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:56 P.M.</td>
<td>Andy Liao</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:08 P.M.</td>
<td>Doris Matthews</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:20 P.M.</td>
<td>Sunhyoung Han</td>
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<td>4:32 P.M.</td>
<td>David Hibbard</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:44 P.M.</td>
<td>JURY DELIBERATION</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:45 P.M.</td>
<td>ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR TWELVE SEMI-FINALISTS</td>
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### Awards

**First Prize**—$2000 cash, *funded by AmateurPianists*
Performance opportunity with California Chamber Orchestra in 2016–17 season

**Second Prize**—$1000 cash, *funded by Del Mar Rotary Club*

**Third Prize**—$500 cash, *funded by Monique Kunewalder in memory of Tony Kunewalder*

- Best Baroque Period Award
- Best Classical Period Award
- Best Romantic Period Award
- Best Modern/Contemporary Award
- Best Programming Award
- Press Favorite Award—Selected by XLNC1 Classical music radio station for San Diego/Baja California, 104.9 FM
- Audience Favorite Award—Selected by Audience during Final Round
- Spirit of the Competition Award—Selected by Competition Committee

For all competition rounds, please hold your applause until each competitor finishes their repertoire. Please silence your cell phones and other recording devices. Video and photography is permitted (without flash).

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ESCONDIDO
Felicita Junction Shopping Center
1603 S. Centre City Parkway; (760) 489-7755

4S RANCH
4S Commons Town Center
10511 4S Commons Drive; (858) 432-7755

DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO
Westfield Horton Plaza
92 Horton Plaza; (619) 308-7755

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AmateurPianists.org
Sandra Baumgarten
Brush Prairie, Washington
USA
Sandra fell in love with the piano when she first started playing at age eight. There have been very few days of her life that she has not played. In addition to the piano, Sandra enjoys singing gospel music and musical theater songs, sacred choral music, and conducting. She is a stay-at-home mom to her three children, and very active in her church. Preparation for this competition has inspired her to prove to herself that she is not a “has-been” pianist from college, but an artist who continues to grow and perfect her skills. Sandra is excited about this competition as an opportunity to perform and to show that artistry as a musician doesn’t end with an age number.

PRELIMINARY ROUND
Ballade in A-flat major, Op. 47, No. 3, Frederic Chopin

SEMI-FINAL ROUND
Fantasy in C minor, bwv 906, Johann Sebastian Bach
Sonata in F major, K 332, Mvt. 3, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Étude in D-flat major, S. 144, No. 3, “Un sospiro,” Franz Liszt

FINAL ROUND
Sonata in E major L23, Domenico Scarlatti
Cancion y Danza, No. 6, Frederic Mompou
Rhapsody, Op. 79, No. 1, Johannes Brahms
Rhapsody, Op. 79, No. 2, Johannes Brahms

Robert Berhowitz
Natick, Massachusetts
USA
Robert was born and raised in Los Angeles, the only child of European parents who survived the Holocaust. By the time he was born, his father was quite ill. Visiting him in a hospital was Robert’s first memory. When Robert was eight years old, his father was placed in a nursing home.

Around that time, Robert remembers his mother mentioning that she had been engaged to someone else prior to meeting his father. His mother’s suitor was a Hungarian pianist-composer named Lajos Delej who didn’t survive the Holocaust. Stories about him significantly contributed to Robert’s decision to study piano.

In school, Robert excelled in mathematics and eventually majored in math in college, but the emotional pull of attending to his father’s illness competed with Robert’s interests in math and music. After attending graduate school in mathematics for a couple of years, the call of medicine became irresistible to him. He went to medical school and then surprised himself when he chose to pursue post-graduate medical training in psychiatry. He now enjoys being a psychiatrist in full-time private practice. His life partner, Bev, a psychiatric nurse practitioner, works in a similar way. Together, they enjoy traveling, attending concerts and musing about their life and work over candlelit dinners.

Robert’s mother is now a San Diego resident and this competition affords an opportunity for her to hear him play publicly for the first time in 35 years. Just recently, new information has emerged about her original fiancé, Lajos Delej. Last year, a recording of his Scherzo for Cello and Piano, played by his friend Janos Starker, was released on the Warner Label. Through a remarkable series of events, Robert began corresponding with Lajos Delej’s living relatives in the United States. They gave him the sheet music written by Delej, which Robert will play in this competition.

PRELIMINARY ROUND
Mazurka in C-sharp minor, Op. 50, No. 3, Frederic Chopin
Preludio from the Partita No. 3 in E major for Unaccompanied Violin, Bach–Rachmaninoff

SEMI-FINAL ROUND
Prelude and Fugue No. 16 in G minor, bwv 861 (wtc 1), Johann Sebastian Bach
Ballade No. 4 in F minor, Op. 52, Frederic Chopin

FINAL ROUND
Three Pieces, Lajos Delej
Sonata for Piano, Op. 26, Samuel Barber
Andrew Celentano
Stoneham, Massachusetts
USA
Andrew is an entrepreneur who sold his Interactive Agency (SkyWorld) to his employees and is now a Senior Innovation Consultant at Boston Engineering. He played violin from the age of ten through college and performed at Carnegie Hall with the MIT Orchestra under the direction of David Epstein. He started piano at 13 and was largely self-taught until 12 years ago when he took formal lessons with Aimee Tsuchiya, Randy Hodgkinson, Wanda Paik and Roberto Poli. His classical repertoire includes compositions from the likes of Debussy, Ravel, Chopin, Glass, Tchaikovsky, and Gluck.

In his spare time, he sits on the boards of the Thoreau Society and the Boston Piano Amateur Association. This season, he plays every Saturday at the BSO Café at Symphony Hall and sometimes plays some of his own material from his CD called "Wanderer in Dreamland." More information can be found at www.ThoreauCD.com. Proceeds from CD sales directly benefit the Thoreau Society.

PRELIMINARY ROUND
Concert Étude, S. 144, No. 3, "Un Sospiro," Franz Liszt
Mazurka in A minor, Op. 17, No. 4, Frederic Chopin

SEMI-FINAL ROUND
Nocturne in B-flat minor, Op. 9, No. 1, Frederic Chopin
Berceuse, Op. 57, Frederic Chopin
Theme from Orpheus, Gluck/Sgambati

FINAL ROUND
Pavane for a Dead Princess, Maurice Ravel
Nocturne in F minor, Op. 55, No. 1, Frederic Chopin
Arabesque No. 1, Claude Debussy
Reverie, Claude Debussy
Reflets Dans L’eau, Claude Debussy

Judy Darst
Bend, Oregon
USA
Judy wanted to be a veterinarian but women were discouraged in the days of yore. Presently, much of her life revolves around caring for and loving animals; which include three cats, one dog, and one horse. Judy showed in the Hunter Division (over fences) for years. She no longer shows, but enjoys caring for a very spoiled pet horse. Judy taught line dancing and still loves it. After moving to Bend, Oregon from the Seattle region, she has been participating in amateur competitions, as the opportunities for performing in Bend are nothing like in Seattle. Judy has met so many wonderful people from all over, and has grown musically as well. She started a performing group in Bend and they have soirées every so often. Judy looks forward to participating in the amateur competitions as long as she is able.

PRELIMINARY ROUND
Prelude in C-sharp minor, Op. 45, Frederic Chopin
Sicilliana Ancient Airs and Dances, Ottorino Respighi

SEMI-FINAL ROUND
Romance F-sharp major, Op. 28, No. 2, Robert Schumann
Étude, Op. 25, No. 1, Frederic Chopin
Moment Musicale, No. 3 in F minor, Franz Schubert
Nocturne, Op. 86, Xaver Schafrwenka

FINAL ROUND
Sonata, K 330, Mvt. 1, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Mazurka in A minor, Op. 17, No. 4, Frederic Chopin
Prelude, Op. 28, No. 17 in A-flat major, Frederic Chopin
Prelude, Op. 13, No. 3 in G major, Alexander Scriabin
Prelude, Op. 32, No. 5, Sergei Rachmaninoff

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Bach Birthday Celebration
March 2015

AmateurPianists.org
Ardith El-Kareh

Tucson, Arizona
USA

Ardith has been an amateur pianist since age 18, although her career and children have made it difficult or impossible to practice during some periods of her life. Before age 18, her instrument was the violin, which she still sometimes plays. Her favorite composer is Chopin (who converted her to the piano), but she also loves Schubert and many other classical composers. One of her long-time goals (though she is not there yet) has been to master the Chopin études. Ardith greatly enjoys playing chamber music and four-hand piano, but she remains in love with solo piano repertoire. Music has been her number one hobby nearly all her life. She also enjoys playing tournament chess.

Ardith entered this competition because playing for serious, critical listeners is by far the best motivator she has found for improvement. She practices and memorizes pieces much more effectively when she is preparing to perform. For this reason, she seeks any possible opportunity to play for an audience, especially since such opportunities are limited for amateurs. Another important reason she was interested in this competition is that she greatly enjoys meeting other musicians and learning from them.

Her degrees are in chemical engineering (a B.S. from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and a Ph.D. from Caltech). Since graduation, Ardith has worked for the University of Arizona. Her current position is as an Associate Research Professor, whose research is mainly in the area of mathematical modeling of cancer treatment.

Since her 20s, Ardith has struggled with carpal tunnel syndrome, which causes difficulties in practicing and performing. She cannot span a tenth (and neither can 87% of women, according to Pianists for Alternatively Sized Keyboards, a group that she supports) which makes it hard to play some works of 20th century composers. She remains undiscouraged by these obstacles.

**PRELIMINARY ROUND**
Barcarolle in F-sharp major, Op. 60, Frederic Chopin

**SEMI-FINAL ROUND**
Étude in G-sharp minor, Op. 25, No. 6, Frederic Chopin
Étude in C major, Op. 10, No. 1, Frederic Chopin
Scherzo No. 2 in B-flat minor, Op. 31, Frederic Chopin

**FINAL ROUND**
Prelude and Fugue No. 9 in E major, (wtc 1), Johann Sebastian Bach,
Ballade in F minor, Op. 52, No. 4, Frederic Chopin
Keyboard Sonata in C minor, Domenico Cimarosa

Edward Fritz

Mesa, Arizona
USA

Edward Fritz is a native of Cleveland, Ohio. He began his piano studies at age seven with Harold Swingle until his graduation from the prestigious Hawken School, and with Daniel Winter at the College of Wooster. Though not a music major, he was allowed to perform a senior recital as part of his Independent Study requirement at the college. He completed his dental degree at Case-Western Reserve University in Cleveland in 1978.

Dr. Fritz began his professional career as a dentist with the United States Air Force in Arizona where he served until 1981. He then began his private practice in Mesa, Arizona, where he continues to live and practice.

Dr. Fritz was inspired by the documentary film “They Came to Play” in 2013 which motivated him to seriously resume practicing the piano. He has competed at the Chicago Amateur Competition in 2014, and the Boston Amateur Competition in 2015. In the past year he began studying with Dr. Baruch Meir at Arizona State University.

When not practicing the piano or dentistry, Dr. Fritz loves movies, theater, reading, Asian foods and, most of all, spending time with his son Mason.

**PRELIMINARY ROUND**
Nocturne in C minor, Op. 48, No. 1, Frederic Chopin
Gretchen Am Spinrade, Liszt–Schubert

**SEMI-FINAL ROUND**
Moment Musicale, Op. 16, No. 5, Sergei Rachmaninoff
Cantique d’Amour, S. 107, No. 10, Franz Liszt

**FINAL ROUND**
Prelude in B minor, Op. 32, No. 10, Sergei Rachmaninoff
Sonata, K 141, Domenico Scarlatti
Ballade, Op. 52, No. 4 in F minor, Frederic Chopin

Puget Sound Music Foundation
The 2016 San Diego International Piano Competition for Outstanding Amateurs
AmateurPianists.org
John Gutheil  
La Jolla, California  
USA  
John recently returned to the piano after a long absence. In 1997, John and his wife moved to San Diego to work in the biotech industry. He eventually worked as the CEO of a private biotech company. In 2013, with the help of two partners, John started a company that conducts clinical trials for patients with cancer. Shortly thereafter, he renewed his interest in the piano after learning about this AmateurPianists group in San Diego.

PRELIMINARY ROUND  
Sonata in F minor, No. 1, Op. 2, No. 1, Mvt. 1, Ludwig van Beethoven  
Étude in C minor, Op. 25, No. 12, "Oceans," Frederic Chopin

SEMI-FINAL ROUND  
Étude No. 3 in D-flat major, "Un Sospiro," Franz Liszt  
Rhapsody in B minor, Op 79, No. 1, Johannes Brahms

FINAL ROUND  
Prelude and Fugue No. 2, C minor, BWV 847 (WTC I), Johann Sebastian Bach  
Prelude in B minor, Op. 39, No. 1, Sergei Rachmaninoff  
Ballade in A-flat major, Op. 47, No. 3, Frederic Chopin  
Nocturne, Posth. 1, No. 16 in C sharp, Frederic Chopin  
Waltz, Op. 64, No. 1 in D-flat "Minute Waltz," Frederic Chopin

Sunhyoung Han  
San Diego, California  
USA  
Sunhyoung is a data scientist who tries to find patterns and information from big data. Her daily life involves lots of mathematics and programming and is far from music in nature. Although her job is not close to music, she finds relaxation and peace when she plays beautiful music; it helps her to keep thinking creatively. Sunhyoung would like to thank AmateurPianists for organizing this competition and for giving her this great opportunity.

PRELIMINARY ROUND  
Moments Musicaux, D. 780, No. 1 and No. 2, Franz Schubert

SEMI-FINAL ROUND  
Spanish Dances, No. 2, No. 4, and No. 5, Enrique Granados

FINAL ROUND  
Grand Polonaise Brillante, Op. 22, Frederic Chopin

David Hibbard  
Fort Worth, Texas  
USA  
Thirty-four years after his last formal musical study, David entered the first Competition for Outstanding Amateurs in Fort Worth, Texas, advancing to the Semifinal Round. Since then, he has participated in other competitions including the one in New York, where in 2003 he won the Gold Medal and Press Jury Award.

By participating in this competition, David hopes to share some of his favorite music with a supportive audience as well as meet new people of similar interests.

PRELIMINARY ROUND  
Daisies, Op. 38, No. 3, Sergei Rachmaninoff  
Étude-Tableau in D minor, Op. 39, No. 8, Sergei Rachmaninoff  
Étude-Tableau in C minor, Op. 39, No. 1, Sergei Rachmaninoff

SEMI-FINAL ROUND  
Prelude in B minor, Bach-Siloti  
Sonata in F major, Hob. XVI:23, Joseph Haydn

FINAL ROUND  
Prelude for the Left Hand, Op. 9, No. 1, Alexander Scriabin  
Nocturne for the left hand, Op. 9, No. 2, Alexander Scriabin  
Polonaise-Fantaisie in A-flat, Op. 61, Frederic Chopin

Marilaine Jones  
Dallas, Texas  
USA  
Marilaine is a retired school psychologist. Since retirement, she has more time to devote to the piano and she meets monthly with a group of friends to play for and encourage each other. Besides playing the piano, Marilaine is interested in issues related to conservation and the environment. She is a volunteer at the Trinity River Audubon Center in Dallas and leads bird walks and teaches environmental education to elementary school children.

PRELIMINARY ROUND  
Fugue in F-sharp minor, BWV 859, Johann Sebastian Bach  
"The Alcotts," from Piano Sonata No. 2, Charles Ives

SEMI-FINAL ROUND  
Impromptu in G-flat major, Op. 90, No. 3, Franz Schubert  
Ballade, Op. 46, Samuel Barber

FINAL ROUND  
Sonata in E major, No. 9, Op. 14, No. 1, Ludwig van Beethoven  
Intermezzo in G-flat major, Op. 117, No. 1, Johannes Brahms  
Intermezzo in B-flat minor, Op 117, No. 2, Johannes Brahms
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Lynn Killingsworth

Murrieta, California
USA

Lynn’s grandmother, a church musician, introduced her to the piano at age five. In spite of Lynn’s natural attraction to piano music, the world of classical ballet consumed her for years, necessitating a long deferment of formal studies at the piano. It wasn’t until her college years that she enjoyed the privilege of studying with pianists of high calibre. With their guidance and encouragement she was able to make up for lost time building classical repertoire and technique. During a fairly brief period in which office work became Lynn’s means of financial support, the piano became even more important to her as a way of restoring balance and giving her a very necessary outlet for artistic expression. Later, teaching the piano became an important way of reaching and influencing young students.

Marian McPartland’s “Piano Jazz” on public radio every Saturday became a program Lynn seldom missed during the ’80s and ’90s. She grew to appreciate “The Great American Songbook” more and more, having realized the greatness of American songwriters of the ’30s and ’40s in particular. She became intrigued with the harmonic possibilities contained in these well-crafted tunes and much later ventured into writing her own piano jazz arrangements as a hobby. Writing and playing these personalized piano jazz arrangements of her favorite standards continues to be a pastime. Very few have heard them yet.

Lynn believes in the importance of awakening the public’s awareness of musical greatness in stark contrast with the mediocrity and vulgarity of today’s pop music culture. She believes that winning this piano competition would be validating and helpful in moving toward her personal “reinvention” as one who might find more performing outlets for disseminating both classical piano music and her highly stylized piano jazz arrangements.

PRELIMINARY ROUND
Rhapsody in G minor, Op. 79, No. 2, Johannes Brahms
Prelude in G-sharp minor, Op. 32, No. 12, Sergei Rachmaninoff

SEMI-FINAL ROUND
Intermezzo in B-flat minor, Op. 117, No. 2, Johannes Brahms
Wedding Day at Troldhaugen from Lyrical Pieces, Op. 65, Edvard Grieg
Mazurka No. 13 in A minor, Op. 17, No. 4, Frederic Chopin

FINAL ROUND
Ritual Fire Dance, from “El Amor Brujo,” Manuel de Falla
Sonata No. 3 in F major, Op. 46, I. Allegro con moto,
II. Andante cantabile, III. Allegro giocoso, Dmitry Kabalevsky

Tessa Knipe

San Diego, California
USA

Born in Cape Town, South Africa, Tessa Knipe achieved much pianistic success from ages eight to 18. Highlights included performing on the “Young South Africa” show at age nine, performing the first movement of the Kabalevsky Piano Concerto No. 3 with the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra at age eleven, and, at age 17, receiving a four-year undergraduate scholarship to the Royal College of Music in London—one of just eight offered internationally per year. Instead of furthering her musical pursuits, Ms. Knipe turned the scholarship down to forge a career in law. Now a Deputy Attorney General for the Department of Justice in California, she has returned to music after 35 years, realizing how central the piano is to her life. A mother of two grown daughters, Ms. Knipe is a lover of the performing arts, movies, and books, as well as a fan of good food and wine.

PRELIMINARY ROUND
Partita No. 2 in C minor, bwv 826, Sinfonia, Johann Sebastian Bach
Rhapsody in C major, Op. 11, No. 3, Erno Dohnányi

SEMI-FINAL ROUND
Douze Études d’exécution transcendante, S139, No. 5 “Feux Follets,” Franz Liszt
Scherzo No. 2 in B-flat minor, Op. 31, Frederic Chopin

FINAL ROUND
Sonata No. 21 in C major, Op. 53, Mvt. 1, Ludwig van Beethoven
Jeau d’Eau, Op. 11, No. 3, Maurice Ravel
Ballade No. 3 in A-flat major, Op. 47, Frederic Chopin
Suite Española, Op. 47, No. 7 Castilla (Seguidillas), Isaac Albeniz
Yun Liang

Ann Arbor, Michigan
USA
Yun Liang grew up in Beijing, China. She received her B.S. in Biology from Tsinghua University in 2007, and a Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences from the University of California, San Diego in 2013. Currently, she is a scientist who studies skin diseases at the University of Michigan. She began her piano studies at age of seven, and she studied with Chun Pan and Yevgeny Morozovl. She won First Prize in the 2014 Chopin Amateur Competition in Texas.

PRELIMINARY ROUND
Étude in A-flat major, Op. 25, No. 1, Frederic Chopin
Sonata in D major, K. 311, Mvt. I, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

SEMI-FINAL ROUND
Sonata Reminiscenza, Op. 38, No. 1, Nikolai Medtner

FINAL ROUND
Sonata in D major, Op. 10, No. 3, Ludwig van Beethoven
Barcarolle in F-sharp major, Op. 60, Frederic Chopin

Andy Liao

Brookline, Massachusetts
USA
Andy Liao graduated from the University of Iowa with a B.M. in piano performance and a B.S. in Actuarial Science. Andy was a Semi-Finalist at the 2013 Boston Amateur Piano Competition. Recently, he won third prize at the 2015 Washington International Piano Arts Council (WIPAC) Amateur Piano Competition.

PRELIMINARY ROUND
Nocturne in E-Flat minor, Op. 33, No. 1, Gabriel Fauré
Allegro Barbaro, Béla Bartók

SEMI-FINAL ROUND
Six Variations on a Duet "Nel Cor Più Non Mi Sento" from La Molinara, WoO 70, Ludwig von Beethoven
Nocturne in C minor, Op. 48, No. 1, Frederic Chopin
Jeux d’eau, Op. 30, Maurice Ravel

FINAL ROUND
Estampes (1. Pagodes, 2. La Soiree dan Grenade, 3. Jardins sous La Pluie), Claude Debussy
Hungarian Rhapsody No. 12 in C-sharp minor, S 244/12, Franz Liszt
Kate (Rung-Kuang) Lo

Austin, Texas
USA
Kate was born and raised in Taipei, Taiwan. She came to Texas for graduate school and has lived there ever since. Although she earned science degrees and she now works as an engineer, her heart still lies with music and playing piano, and she enjoys challenging herself with a varying repertoire. She joined the competition to push herself to the next level. Life without music would B flat!

PRELIMINARY ROUND
Fantasia, Benjamin Lees

SEMI-FINAL ROUND
Sonata in E minor, No. 34, Mvts. 1, 2 and 3, Joseph Haydn

FINAL ROUND
Sonata in E minor, K. 263, Domenico Scarlatti
Faschingsschwank aus Wien, Op. 26 V. Finale, Robert Schumann

Philip Mandel

Beverton, Oregon
USA
Philip is thrilled to finally have both the time and the means to enter a piano competition for the first time in his adult life!

He started taking piano lessons at the ripe young age of five. After a few years with neighborhood piano teachers, his parents found the late concert pianist, Adam Kapuscinski, near their home in Great Neck, New York. Kapuscinski dug deep into Philip's soul and dragged the talent out.

Terribly shy for the most of his life, Philip is finally out of his shell and no longer fears performing. In fact, he loves it! Carrying the legacy of "Mr. Kapu" and wonderful classical music forward is both an honor and a responsibility. After playing a public recital in 2014 at Portland, Oregon to a packed house that gave him not one, but two standing ovations, he decided to hire a recording engineering and produced his "Pathétique" CD. The support has been most gratifying, and Philip is happy to say that he broke even and, in fact, turned a small profit on the production!

His goals for the competition are to practice well and perform passionately; not flawlessly, but passionately! This will help him find out where his weaknesses are so he can work on them. If he is lucky enough to make it to the Semi-Final Round, he will be thrilled! He looks forward to the opportunity to be around dozens of other talented musicians, and finds it truly heartwarming!

PRELIMINARY ROUND
Prelude and Fugue in C minor, bwv 847, Johann Sebastian Bach
Prelude from "Le Tombeau de Couperin," Maurice Ravel
Odeon (Tango Brasileiro), Ernesto Nazareth

SEMI-FINAL ROUND
To Spring, Op. 43, No. 5, Edvard Grieg
Sonatine, Maurice Ravel

FINAL ROUND
Holberg Suite, Op. 40, Edvard Grieg
Doris Matthews

San Diego, California
USA
Doris retired in 2000 and began to think about what her next career would be. The answer was simple: she always loved the piano so she sought to be a teacher. During her search, Doris found the Presto Piano club, which meets monthly to play for each other. The bonus was that she could see that there were others experiencing the same anxiety as she did. Doris was determined to overcome her nerves. She read a lot, did yoga breathing, and with the help of fine and patient teachers, she conquered her demons - the world was now hers! All she had to do was practice, practice, and practice. In 2007, Doris gave her first solo recital.

During the past 16 years, she has learned a great deal of music which she never expected to have the ability to play, and she has performed publicly many times. She feels she is on a mission to share her playing with anyone who will listen. So far, she has not been turned down. The piano is almost a religion to her, and practice is like meditation; it is the most fulfilling activity of her life. By playing for others, she wishes to set an example by saying, “you CAN teach an old dog new tricks.”

Participation in this competition is an exciting opportunity to communicate wonderful music to the best of her ability and take another step forward for the cultural life of San Diego.

PRELIMINARY ROUND
Sonata L. 383, “Andante,” Domenico Scarlatti

SEMI-FINAL ROUND
Arabesque No. 1, “Andantino con moto,” Claude Debussy
Sonata No. 7 in F major, K. 332, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

FINAL ROUND
Papillons, Op. 2, Robert Schumann
Romanian Folk Dances, Béla Bartók

Thomas Maurice

Baltimore, Maryland
USA
Canadian pianist, Thomas Maurice, was the Senior Program Manager (Government Contracts–Procurement) for General Dynamics Information Technology in Baltimore, Maryland. As a former Network Engineer, he also holds many technology certifications from Microsoft, Cisco and Novell. He has been a prize winner in several amateur competitions, including those in Washington, Boston, Chicago, Colorado and Vienna, and was a Semi-Finalist in both the Cliburn and Paris competitions. He has a great interest in pianos, and is currently working with his technician on restoring a historic 1926 Steinway B and learning the trade of piano tuning. Mr. Maurice and his partner open their doors as a registered Safe House for lost or abused felines and work with the local trap/spay-neuter/release program. Currently under the care of several pain specialists, Mr. Maurice suffers from an inoperable, progressive degenerative disc disease, but continues to practice and perform for as long as he is able—*For the Love of Music!*

PRELIMINARY ROUND
Nutcracker Suite: Andante Maestoso, Tchaikovsky–Pletnev
Toccata in C major, Op. 7, Robert Schumann

SEMI-FINAL ROUND
Prelude and Fugue in G minor, bwv 885, Johann Sebastian Bach
Ballade No. 4 in F minor, Op. 52, Frederic Chopin

FINAL ROUND
32 Variations in C minor, WoO 80, Ludwig van Beethoven
Intermezzo, Op. 116, No. 4, Johannes Brahms
Mephisto Waltz, No. 1, Franz Liszt
Edna Nerona

Escondido, California
USA

When Edna was a senior in high school, she received the most unusual award. Her English teacher announced the senior class popularity awards, "Edna, your classmates have selected you as the person with the best laugh!" Edna was shy and she thought, "What will my strict Filipino parents make of this?" She was a straight-A student but wasn’t awarded "Most Likely to Succeed." She had been playing piano for ten years but didn’t get "Most Musically Talented." To become even more focused, her parents agreed that she should take a break from piano (and forget about her "Best Laugh" award). She majored in journalism and minored in economics with the goal of becoming the Filipino version of Connie Chung, the first Asian female network journalist. She never became the next Connie Chung but she did become a successful graphic artist and public speaker. She did not play the piano for decades. In 2014, she started taking lessons. She participated in recitals and volunteered to perform at local retirement homes. What could she do to validate that teenager who received the "Best Laugh Award?" In 2015, Edna became a standup comedian. With piano and comedy, she is able to move, entertain and inspire people to explore the creative and whimsical side of themselves.

Preliminary Round
Prelude No. 3, bwv 999, Johann Sebastian Bach
Autumn Sketch, William Gillock
Sonatina 4, Opus 26, Mvt. 1, Muzio Clementi
Zinc Pink, Dennis Alexander

Semi-Final Round
Arabesque, Friedrich Burgmuller
Musette in D major, bwv 126 from "The Notebook for Anna Magdalena," Johann Sebastian Bach
Rush Hour, Lorna Paterson
Chinese Kites, Gem Fitch

Final Round
Theme from the Overture (from the opera Raymond), Ambroise Thomas
Ivan Sings "Children's Pieces," Aram Khatchaturian
18th Variation from "Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini," Sergei Rachmaninoff (arranged by Philip Keveran)
Funny Puppy, Anne Crosby Gaudet

Alexandra Nica

Coralville, Iowa
USA

Even though Alexandra’s professional career took her in the direction of academics in the field of Economics, piano has always remained her passion. It helped her through the happiest, as well as the most difficult moments of her life, whether they were professional or personal ones. It has been a constant presence in her life, always rewarding and always patient, even when she had to be away from it for longer timespans. Alexandra could not imagine life without being able to play piano.

She wants to offer her audience the same joy and peace of mind that music, and especially piano playing, brings her.

Alexandra comes from a family of amateur artists. Her mother and aunt are vocal artists and were the first Romanian folkloric duet in the country. Her father is a folkloric dancer and choreographer. Their thirty years in the amateur "Poienita" Folkloric Ensemble from Brasov has brought them many wonderful memories, as well as prestigious awards from their participation in national and international festivals. Consequently, music and dance have always surrounded her and led her to two distinct paths. One was following in her parents’ footsteps with the “Poienita” Ensemble for more than a decade. The other was her own path, as she is the only pianist in her family.

As years started rushing by, Alexandra found herself once again craving the indescribable excitement that comes from performing on stage.

Her competition goal is both selfish and altruistic. On one hand, she would enjoy performing alongside so many wonderfully talented artists and absorbing the tremendous energy of such an event. On the other hand, she hopes that everyone in the audience will delight in the sheer beauty of piano music in all its wonderful varieties.

Preliminary Round
Joc Tiganesc (Gypsy Dance), Tudor Ciortea
Etude, Op. 25, No. 1, Frederic Chopin
Les Fleurs Sauvages, Paul de Seneville
Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum (from Children Corner’s Suite), Claude Debussy

Semi-Final Round
Prelude from Piano Suite No. 1, Op. 3, "Dans le style ancien," George Enescu
"Lamentations of the Heart" from the Album "Dark Night of the Soul," Philip Esley
Polonaise Militaire, Op. 40, No. 1, Frederic Chopin

Final Round
Sonata No. 14, Op. 27, No. 2 "Quasi una Fantasia," Ludwig van Beethoven
"Ballade Pour Adeline," Paul de Seneville
Toccata "Joc Dobrogean," Paul Constantinescu

The 2016 San Diego International Piano Competition for Outstanding Amateurs
AmateurPianists.org
Yue Qi
Beijing
China
Yue began piano lessons at the age four, studying with Qiu Feng-chun. Four years later, Ms. Qiu introduced her to Professor Zhang Zuo-Quan, of Central Conservatory of Music, with whom she studied for ten years. In 1994, she won Third Prize at the First Sino-France "Mi Duo" Piano Competition. In 2001, while visiting the United States with the school's art groups, she played Chinese folk songs in the concert hall of MIT. In 2002, she was awarded the prize for "Excellent Piano Accompaniment" in the competition of High School Choir Festival. In 2003, she won First Prize at the Identify Test for National Students by playing the first movement of Chopin's B-flat minor Sonata. In 2005, she performed the piano accompaniment in Hong Kong for the Tsinghua University Choir. In 2007, she performed the first movement of Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto in C Minor. In 2013, she performed the second movement of Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto in C Minor with the RMO Symphony Orchestra.

In 2007, Yue received her bachelor degree of journalism from the School of Journalism and Communication in Tsinghua University, with the dissertation ranked 1st in SJC. In 2009, she received her masters degree in the school of Public Policy and Management in Tsinghua University, with GPA 4.0/4.0. From 2009, she worked in the headquarters of State Nuclear Power and Technology Corporation. In 2013, she joined the general management team of IGW International Culture Development Co., Ltd.

Since 2015, she has played in amateur competitions with Anqi Wang. They met many friends who have balanced life between music and daily work. She has been to San Diego several times and would like to visit here again.

**PRELIMINARY ROUND**
Ballade No. 1 in G minor, Op. 23, Frederic Chopin

**SEMI-FINAL ROUND**

**FINAL ROUND**
Scherzo No. 1 in B minor, Op. 20, Frederic Chopin
Gaspard de La Nuit: Ondine, Maurice Ravel
Piano Sonata in B-flat minor, op.35 (excerpts), I. Grave – Doppio movimento, IV. Finale (Presto), Frederic Chopin

Carl Rosser
Ellensburg, Washington
USA
Carl remembers the precise instant when he decided he wanted to take piano lessons. He was about 7 years old when suddenly he heard the sound of his family’s piano being played from the basement. "Who’s playing the piano?" he asked his mother—for though they had a piano down there, nobody had ever played it.

"Oh,” she replied casually. "Did I forget to tell you? Your older brother is receiving his first piano lesson today."

Oh, the pangs of jealousy he felt! Sad though it may be to confess, this was his first motivation to learn to play the piano.

And in the next year, Carl also began taking lessons. Luckily, his motivation to play soon went beyond jealousy, and he found that he truly loved the sound of the piano. As a result, piano playing has been one of the great passions in his life ever since.

He had other interests as well, especially literature and languages, so he went on to study American and British literature in college, as well as German. Eventually, Carl received a Master’s degree in teaching English as a Second Language (ESL), and then a Ph.D. in English at the University of Iowa. But along the way, he continued to take piano lessons and used his piano playing for fun, therapy, and for something deeper—spiritual growth.

Carl is also interested in photography. His father was a photographer, and his mother a painter. He believes he inherited his love of the visual arts from his parents. During the last five years, he has taken many photographs, especially landscapes, and even done a bit of exhibiting.

What does Carl hope to achieve by entering the San Diego Competition? First, he enjoys meeting other pianists. It is nice to get out and meet other people who are perhaps as oddly piano-obsessed as he is. Second, he relishes the opportunity to push himself to the limits of his ability by polishing and memorizing a whole program of well-loved pieces.

**PRELIMINARY ROUND**
Siciliano, Op. 42, No. 2, Moritz Moszkowski
Nocturne in B major, Op. 9, No. 3, Frederic Chopin

**SEMI-FINAL ROUND**
Sonata No. 12 in F major, K. 332, Mvt. 1, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Impromptu in G-flat major, D. 899, No. 3, Franz Schubert

**FINAL ROUND**
Selections from "Children's Corner Suite" (Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum, Serenade for the Doll, Golliwog's Cakewalk), Claude Debussy
Nocturne in E major, Op. 62, No. 2, Frederic Chopin
Valse Brillante in A-flat major, Op. 34, No. 1, Frederic Chopin
Robin Stephenson

Avilly Saint-Leonard
France

Robin Stephenson started playing the piano at the age of seven, after one year of taking violin lessons. It was at the age of 15, after his meeting with French concert pianist Olivier Cazal, that the piano became his main instrument.

After taking the baccalauréat in 2005, he started studies in mathematics, which led him to being admitted in the Ecole Normale Supérieure of Paris in 2007 and then pursuing a Ph.D. at Paris-Dauphine University. He is currently a post-doc researcher at the university of Zürich.

Robin has never stopped playing the piano during his studies, and tries to perform as often as possible and share his love of music around the world. He actively takes part in amateur competitions and has notably won First Prize in the Paris International Competition for Outstanding Piano Amateurs in 2011, and the Piano Bridges competition in St-Petersburg in 2013. He also often performs chamber music works with his chamber group "Ensemble Philéa."

Preliminary Round
Sonata No. 6 in F major, Op. 10, No. 2, Mvt. 1, Ludwig van Beethoven
Liebesleid, Fritz Kreisler/Sergei Rachmaninoff

Semi-Final Round
Italian concerto, bwv 971, Mvt. 1, Johann Sebastian Bach
Ballade No. 4 in F minor, Op. 52, Frederic Chopin

Final Round
Gaspard de la Nuit, Maurice Ravel

Barbara Taylor

Coronado, California
USA

Broadly speaking, Barbara is interested in the arts. Specifically, she enjoys the performing arts (music and theatre), the visual arts (drawing and painting), literature, and film. She is also interested in language, travel, and other cultures. And she loves to walk.

These interests have a common thread: a contemplative component. Studying classical piano has brought together so many aspects of learning for her, and it has deepened her understanding of what it means to truly contemplate something of beauty.

In entering the San Diego International Piano Competition for Outstanding Amateurs, Barbara hopes to be able to express this inner part of herself, to communicate to others her own perspective of each work. To do this with grace, and some level of competency, is the goal.

When Barbara began studying with Jeeyoon Kim, a little more than one year ago, she knew she was embarking on the greatest musical journey of her life. Together, they have scaled peaks and traversed valleys, with lots of plains and vistas along the way. The idea of “a journey” best captures how Barbara views the learning and internalizing of a piece of music. It is fraught with false starts and stumbles, culminating in a (hopefully) smooth and expressive adventure.

The actual playing of the music may be only minutes, but the interior landscape remains with us indefinitely. A lovely picture to contemplate, and one she hopes to bring to her performance.

Preliminary Round
Prelude from Suite Bergamasque, Claude Debussy

Semi-Final Round
Nocturne, No. 4, Op. 54, Edvard Grieg
Prelude, No. 15, Op. 28 in D-flat Major, Frederic Chopin
Reverie, Claude Debussy

Final Round
Prelude, No. 4, Op. 28 in E minor, Frederic Chopin
Fantasie, KV 397 in D minor, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Menuet from Suite Bergamasque, Claude Debussy
"Claire de Lune" from Suite Bergamasque, Claude Debussy
Passepied from Suite Bergamasque, Claude Debussy
**Yvonne Tsai**  
La Palma, California  
USA  

Even though Yvonne is a pediatrician, playing the piano has always been a big part of her life. As life gets busier and busier with a career and a family, she seems to have less and less time to play the piano. By giving herself a goal to apply to amateur piano competitions, it pushes her to practice regularly and to learn new repertoire. In addition to playing the piano, she enjoys taking dance lessons. Over the years, she has taken dance lessons in Chinese Classical Dance, Chinese Ethnic Dance, Ballet, Jazz, Ballroom Dance, Line Dancing and Flamenco. Yvonne is not very flexible, so dancing helps her with stamina and posture, which in turn hopefully improves her stage presence. Yvonne is a proud mom who enjoys accompanying her son, who started oboe lessons a year ago and just passed his Level 3 Certificate of Merits test.

**PRELIMINARY ROUND**  
Sonatina En Sol Menor, I. Allegretto, II. Lento muy expresivo, III. Presto, Carlos Guastavino

**SEMI-FINAL ROUND**  
Forgotten Tunes, Cycle I, Op. 38, Sonata Reminiscenza, Nikolai Medtner

**FINAL ROUND**  
Symphonic Études, Op. 13, Robert Schumann

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**Roberto Vereza**  
San Diego, California  
USA  

Roberto Vereza was born in 1975 in Vitoria, Brazil. He started to play the piano at the age of 12 with his grandmother and was admitted to the State Conservatory just one year later. At the State Conservatory, Roberto studied with Celia Ferraz and later with the pianist Celia Ottoni, a major influence of his musical formation. At the age of 16, Roberto was admitted to both the engineering and music colleges, and decided on engineering in Rio de Janeiro.

Despite studying engineering, Roberto always tried to remain faithful to his passion for classical music by taking classes with professors Miguel Proença, Luiz Henrique Senise and Marisa Rosana Lacorte.

Roberto now has a B.Sc./M.Sc. in Electrical Engineering (Electromagnetics), and is pursuing his Ph.D. in Communications Systems and works as an Engineer for Qualcomm Inc. in San Diego, where he studies piano with the pianist Tina Chong.

**PRELIMINARY ROUND**  
Prelude and Fugue in F-sharp major, bwv 858, Johann Sebastian Bach  

**SEMI-FINAL ROUND**  
Piano Sonata No. 35 in C major, 2nd & 3rd Mvts., Joseph Haydn  
Moments Musicaux, Op. 16, No. 3, Sergei Rachmaninoff

**FINAL ROUND**  
Nocturne in E minor, Op. 72, No. 1, Frederic Chopin  
Valle D’Obermann, Franz Liszt  
Confidencias, Ernesto Nazareth
Megumi Vogt
San Diego, California
USA
Megumi was born in Hiroshima, Japan. She took piano lessons as a child. She married a United States marine and have three children who are now in their 20s. Megumi's ambition has been that her children grow up as Christians and become bilingual in English and Japanese. After a long absence from music education, she attended Mesa College as a music major. She has one more class to take to obtain an associate degree. Over the past year, she have spent six months in Japan taking care of her 97 year-old grandmother. She loved their time together. Last summer, she did not practice for three months and forgot her repertoire. This time, she rented a Yamaha Clavinova and practiced at her grandmother's house. Megumi enjoys belonging to the praise and worship team at her church. She enjoys transcribing the songs that a church member makes and recording them. She has already made 30 songs and her team recorded them all last year. Megumi has never entered a piano competition before, but is excited to perform at the first amateur competition here in San Diego. She hopes that both she and the audience enjoy the performance.

PRELIMINARY ROUND
Songs Without Words, Op. 39, No. 1, Felix Mendelssohn

SEMI-FINAL ROUND
Sinfonia No. 2, bwv 788, Johann Sebastian Bach
Milonga del angel, Astor Piazzolla

FINAL ROUND
Sonata in A minor, K. 310, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Janice Wang
Beijing
China
Auqi began playing piano at the age of four, studying with Professor Can Shen of Central Conservatory of Music. He majored in Mechanics and Aerospace Engineering at School of Aerospace Engineering, Tsinghua University and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Engineering. After working as a Product Manager at Reuters China, he attended EDHEC Business School and graduated with a Master's Degree in Finance in 2013. Auqi is currently working as an Asset Manager at a fund company in Beijing. He has been doing public performances in his spare time. He has played piano solo works of Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, Schubert, Brahms, Rachmaninov, Scriabin, and Prokofiev. In addition, he performed with local orchestras on Bach's piano concertos and chamber works of Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Dvorak, Carl Bohm, Rachmaninov, Shostakovich, and other composers.

It’s very important to him to meet many candidates in the amateur competitions. Everyone works in different industries while enjoying their passion of playing piano. It needs talent, as well as endeavour. He would also like to take this chance to visit beautiful San Diego, which he has wanted for a long time because of its great views and climate.

PRELIMINARY ROUND
Prelude and Fugue No. 2 in C minor, bwv 847, Johann Sebastian Bach
Jeux d’eau, Maurice Ravel

SEMI-FINAL ROUND
Liebesträume in A-flat major, "Oh Lieb, so lang du lieben,” S. 541/3, Franz Liszt
Ballade No. 3 in A-flat major, Op. 47, Frederic Chopin

FINAL ROUND
Piano Sonata No. 13 in A major, D. 664, I. Allegro moderato, II. Andante, III. Allegro, Franz Schubert
Yiran Wang

White Plains, New York
USA

Born in Beijing, China, Yiran Wang began his piano study with Ling Jiang at the age of eight. He showed great interest and enthusiasm about the piano at an early age. Although having chosen engineering and finance as his majors, Yiran never stopped pursuing his study in music and regularly performed at universities in Beijing. In 2009, Yiran came to the United States and attended Cornell University for graduate education, where he continued his piano study with Professor Xak Bjerken. During his time at Cornell, Yiran actively engaged in concerts, projects, and music festivals, including “Schoenberg’s Playlist” at Cornell. In 2013, Yiran played in the Seattle International Piano Festival, where he won the Gold Medal Award, as well as the Audience Favorite Award, Teachers’ Favorite Award and Best Performance of a Work by Franz Liszt Award. As an amateur pianist, he has played in master classes with renowned artists including Claudio Martinez-Mehner and Marino Formenti. Yiran currently works for a United States asset management firm as a portfolio manager and continues his piano study with pianist Assaff Weisman in the evening division at Juilliard School. He is a performer in residence at New York Piano Society.

PRELIMINARY ROUND

6 Klavierstücke, Op. 118: I. Intermezzo, II. Intermezzo, 
Johannes Brahms

Étude in C major, Op. 10, No. 1, Frederic Chopin

SEMI-FINAL ROUND

Schafe können sicher weiden (Sheep may safely graze), 
Bach–Petri

Scherzo No.2 in B-flat minor, Op. 31, Frederic Chopin

FINAL ROUND

Piano Sonata in A major, D. 959, 1st Mvt., Franz Schubert
Mephisto Waltz No. 1, S. 514, Franz Liszt

Zachary Weiner

Berkeley, California
USA

Zachary was fortunate to begin studying piano with Natalie Maynard who, in over 14 years, installed piano as an important component of his identity. He was always interested in math and technology. In 2007, pianist Frederic Chiu introduced him to a book called Gödel Escher Bach by Douglas Hofstadter, which draws parallels between formal logic and the fugal works of Bach. At Stanford, this fascination grew into his major, an interdisciplinary program called Symbolic Systems that combines Computer Science with Philosophy, Psychology, and Linguistics. Meanwhile, Zachary continued his piano studies with Thomas Schultz, who piqued his intellectual and pianistic interests in modern works, including participating in masterclasses and performances in Vienna at the Arnold Schoenberg Center.

After graduation, he joined a Computer Science professor’s early stage technology startup called Timeful. Unfortunately, without a piano, his practice flagged. In May of 2015, Timeful was acquired by Google, where Zachary currently works as a software engineer. He has taken this opportunity to resume his piano studies with John McCarthy of the San Francisco Conservatory.

Competitions have always brought out the best in him in terms of preparation and motivation. He is hoping that the San Diego Outstanding Amateurs Piano Competition can kick start his return to piano. For Zachary, the most rewarding part of piano (and in tech, too) has always been sharing his work with an audience. He is excited to perform, and hopes the San Diego audience enjoys what he has to share.

PRELIMINARY ROUND

Musical Toys: VI. “Song of the Fisherman,” Sofia Gubaidulina
Gaspard de la Nuit: I. Ondine, Maurice Ravel

SEMI-FINAL ROUND

Sonata in A minor, D. 845, I. Moderato, Franz Schubert

Étude No. 6, Automne à Varsovie, Gyorgy Ligeti

FINAL ROUND

Partita No. 5 in G major, bwv 829: I. Praeambulum, IV. Sarabande, VII. Gigue, Johann Sebastian Bach
Sonata in B-flat minor, I. Andantino, Mili Balakirev
Musical Toys: XIV. “Musicians in the Forest,” Sofia Gubaidulina
Sonata Op. 1, Alban Berg
Music from the Movies
Sunday evenings at 6:00 PM
June 5th - August 21st 2016

July 17th: Tan Dun's Martial Arts Trilogy
July 24th: Luis Enriquez Bacalov’s Il Postino
July 31st: Disney’s Frozen
August 7th: John Barry’s Out of Africa
August 14th: Howard Shore’s Lord of the Rings The Fellowship of the Ring
August 21st: John Williams’ Star Wars

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