



SCHOOL OF
MUSIC

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS | THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

*Helen Taylor Johannesen
International Piano
Competition*

Sponsored in part by the
Brent and Bonnie Jean Beesley Foundation

July 31 - August 11, 2023
David P. Gardner Hall

FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Every piano player is a creator; through his and her playing, we discover their unique musical emotions in familiar repertoire.

Thank you so much for joining us at the 2023 Helen Taylor Johannesen International Piano Competition and Festival at the School of Music University of Utah. It is my pleasure, as artistic director, to welcome some of the finest young classical pianists in the Utah to the 2023 Helen Taylor Johannesen International Piano Competition on the campus of the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, Utah. This year, we are proud to present two competitions of talented young pianists: the Solo Competition featuring pianists ages 7 through 18, and the Concerto Competition featuring pianists with a concert with a live orchestra on August 12.

2023 marks the eleventh year of this event that I hope will continue to be an outstanding addition to the musical world of piano-playing. The Helen Taylor Johannesen International Piano Competition has been named for a gifted and accomplished musician who grew up in Salt Lake City, trained at Julliard, and married one of America's greatest pianists, Grant Johannesen. That musician is Helen Taylor.

Music is a universal language that brings people together across vast cultural and geographical divisions. It is my honor to provide this stage as a showcase for these young pianists who speak the language of music so expertly. Here, they can broaden their musical experiences and share their talents with an even wider audience.

To all the young pianists participating in this competition, I commend you for your skills and musicianship, for your hard work, and for your dedication to music. I wish each of you the very best. I hope this competition will be a rewarding experience and that it will help fulfill your musical dreams.

Ning Lu

Artistic Director

Helen Taylor Johannesen International Piano Competition

ABOUT HELEN TAYLOR JOHANNESSEN

Helen Taylor Johannesen was a gifted and promising Julliard-trained composer and the wife of pianist Grant Johannesen, who died tragically at age 34 in a car accident. Johannesen grew up in Salt Lake City, where she attended the McCune School of Music to study piano. She received her BM from the University of Utah in 1937, her MM from Columbia Teachers College in 1941 and her degree in composition from Julliard in 1945, where she completed a three-movement symphony. She also joined the Martha Graham Dance Company as a composition pianist. She and Grant had one son, David, with whom Grant collaborated in the 1990s to record all of Helen's work, including *Discovering Helen Taylor*, vols. 1 and 2. When she died, she was working on an opera, *David and Bathsheba*, from the Old Testament stories.

THE 2023 HELEN TAYLOR JOHANNESSEN PIANO COMPETITION

The Helen Taylor Johannesen International Piano Competition offers young pianists the opportunity to compete for cash prizes and a University of Utah scholarship, as well as to expand musically and to enjoy the benefits of cultural and artistic exchanges. Winners perform a public recital Wednesday, August 9th, 2023, 3:00 PM, in Libby Gardner Concert Hall on the University of Utah campus.

PRIZES BY DIVISION

Young Musician Division	Junior Division	Young Artist Division
1st prize - \$200	1st prize - \$300	1st prize - \$500
2nd prize - \$150	2nd prize - \$250	2nd prize - \$400
3rd prize - \$100	3rd prize - \$200	3rd prize - \$300

2023 Helen Taylor Johannesen International Piano Competition Jury Members

Andrew Staupe, jury president

Pianist Andrew Staupe is emerging as one of the distinctive voices in a new generation of pianists. With a Concerto repertoire spanning over 70 works, Andrew has appeared as soloist with many of the top orchestras throughout North America and in Europe, including the Baltimore Symphony, San Diego Symphony, Houston Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, Fort Worth Symphony, Colorado Symphony, Maryland Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony, the George Enescu Philharmonic in Romania, the Orquestra Filarmónica de Bogotá in Colombia, and many others. Deeply committed to teaching, Andrew is an Assistant Professor of Piano at the University of Houston, and formerly taught at the University of Utah. He is Artistic Director of the Young Artist World Piano Festival in Minnesota, and gives frequent master classes and lectures around the United States

Lei Weng

Steinway Artist Lei Weng enjoys a successful international career as an accomplished pianist, a dedicated teacher, and a sought-after adjudicator and clinician. Hailed as “a colorist of exemplary control” by the New York Concert Review for his sold-out Carnegie Hall debut, he has performed at prestigious venues around the world, and at such music festivals as the Tanglewood Festival, Messiaen Festival, MusicFest Perugia (Italy), Pianoforte-Fest Meissen (Germany), Sarasota Festival, Breckenridge Music Festival, and International Keyboard Odyssey & Festival. Weng is the Keyboard Area Head and Professor of Piano at the University of Northern Colorado.

Esther Jeehae Ahn

Lauded by the Boston Musical Intelligencer for her interpretive coherence and graceful realization, pianist Esther Jeehae Ahn has captivated international audiences with her rare blend of musical brilliance, sensitivity, and emotional depth. As a soloist and chamber musician, she has performed in major venues, series and festivals throughout the USA, Asia, and Europe, among them Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, Boston Symphony Hall, Shalin Liu Performance Center, Flynn Performing Arts Center, Jordan Hall, Calderwood Hall at Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Seoul Arts Center, Mozart Hall, Rockport Chamber Music Festival, International Mendelssohn Academy, Busan Music Festival, Summer Institute of Contemporary Performance Practice, International Liszt Symposium, Korean-American Cultural Foundation, and MusicFest Canada. Esther currently serves as Assistant Professor of Piano at Weber State University.

Cahill Smith

Pianist Cahill Smith has performed in major venues in the United States and abroad, including four programs at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, eleven cities in China, as well as Taiwan, the UK, Ireland, and Ukraine. His recordings have been broadcast on WQXR, New York, WCRB, Boston, and others. Cahill completed his DMA at the Eastman School of Music, and his MM at the University of Michigan. He joined the faculty of Utah State University in 2019, where he serves as Director of Graduate Studies in Music, and as artistic director of the USU Summer Piano Festival. He is co-faculty advisor for USU's MTNA Collegiate Chapter, which won the "National Collegiate Chapter of the Year" in 2022. Cahill is a Yamaha Artist.

Libby Gardner Concert Hall

August 6, 2023

Young Musicians (10 and under)

9:30 Crystal Jiang (10)

Sonata, Op. 2, No. 1, First Mvt

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

Chopin Nocturne, Op. 9, No. 1

Frédéric Chopin
(1810-1849)

9:37 Maxwell Ji (8)

Sonata in C, K 330, First Mvt

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Impromptus D 899, No. 2

Franz Schubert
(1797-1828)

9:44 Abigail Yang (9)

Beethoven Fur Elise, WoO 59

Ludwig van Beethoven

Polonaise in G minor, Op. posth., B1

Frédéric Chopin

9:51 Natalie Sun (7)

Sonata in C, K 330, First Mvt

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum
from *The Children's Corner*

Claude Debussy
(1862-1918)

Junior Division (11-13)

10:00 Frederick Pau (11)

Sonata Op. 10, No. 1 First Mvt

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

Etude Op. 25, No. 1

Frédéric Chopin
(1810-1849)

10:10 Amy Hu (13)

Prelude and Fugue in A-flat,
WTC Book I, BWV 862

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Scherzo No. 1, Op. 20

Frédéric Chopin

10:20 Emily Yang (13)

Sonata in C, Hob. XVI: 50 First Mvt

Joseph Haydn
(1732-1809)

Etude Op. 10, No. 5

Frédéric Chopin

10:30 Victor Young (13)

Sonata in D, Op. 10, No. 3, First Mvt

Ludwig van Beethoven

Etude Op, 25, No. 11

Frédéric Chopin

10:40 Forest Young (13)

Sonata Op. 13, 3rd Mvt

Ludwig van Beethoven

Etude Op. 10, No. 5

Frédéric Chopin

10 Minute Break

Young Artist Division (14-18)

11:00 Joyce Wang (17)

Sonata Op. 31, No. 2 First Mvt

Ludwig van Beethoven

(1770-1827)

Prelude and Fugue in B Minor,

WTC Book 1, BWV 893

Johann Sebastian Bach

(1685-1750)

Ballade No. 2, Op. 38

Frédéric Chopin

(1810-1849)

11:15 Angel Wang (18)

Sonata Hob. XVI/37, First Mvt

Joseph Haydn

(1732-1809)

Polonaise-fantasie Op. 61

Frédéric Chopin

Serious Variation, Op. 54

Felix Mendelssohn

(1809-1847)

11:30 Zibo Wang (14)

Sonata in C, Op. 2, No. 3, First Mvt

Ludwig van Beethoven

Abegg Variations Op. 1

Robert Schumann

(1810-1856)

Gargoyles, Op. 29, No. 1

Lowell Liebermann

(b. 1961)

11:45 Conrad Flake (17)

Chromatic Fantasie and Fugue, BWV 903 Johann Sebastian Bach

Sonata in D, K. 576, First Mvt

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

(1756-1791)

Fantasy in C, Op. 17, First Mvt

Robert Schumann

Young Artist Division continued

12:00 **Nina Zhu (16)**

Prelude and Fugue in C,
Book II, BWV 87

Johann Sebastian Bach

Sonata Op. 31, No. 2 First Mvt

Ludwig van Beethoven

Ballade No. 3, Op. 47

Frédéric Chopin

12:15 **Samuel Lu (15)**

Sonata in D, K 576, 3rd Mvt

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Sonata No. 5, Op. 53, First Mvt

Alexander Scriabin
(1872-1915)

Suit for Piano, Op. 25,
No. 1 Prelude, No. 3 Musette

Arnold Schoenberg
(1874-1951)

Break

2:00 **Kaden Elwood (16)**

Prelude and Fugue in E-flat,
WTC Book, BWV 876

Johann Sebastian Bach

Sonata, Op. 31, No. 1, First Mvt

Ludwig van Beethoven

Polonaise-fantasia, Op. 61

Frédéric Chopin

2:15 **Olivia Jiang (14)**

Sonata in C Minor, K 457, First Mvt

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Transcendent Etude, Gnomensreigen

Franz Liszt
(1811-1886)

Impromptus, D 935, No. 3

Franz Schubert
(1797-1828)

Young Artist Division continued

2:30 **Mike Zou (14)**

Prelude and Fugue in G,
WTC I, BWV 860

Johann Sebastian Bach

Sonata in D, Op. 10, No. 3 First Mvt

Ludwig van Beethoven

Reflet dans l'eau from Images I

Claude Debussy
(1862-1918)

2:45 **Annie Lin (14)**

Sonata in F Minor, K 466

Domenico Scarlatti
(1685-1757)

Sonata in A, Hob. XVI: 12

Joseph Haydn

Impromptus D 899, No. 2

Franz Schubert

15 Minute Break

Concerto Competition

3:15 Andy Hu (10)

Concerto in F Minor,
BWV 1056, First Mvt

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

3:20 Crystal Jiang (10)

Piano Concerto in C, K 246, 3rd Mvt Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

3:27 Olivia Jiang (14)

Piano Concerto in D Minor,
K 466, First Mvt

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

3:37 Annie Lin (14)

Concerto in D minor,
BWV 1052, First Mvt

Johann Sebastian Bach

3:43 Maxwell Ji (8)

Mozart Concerto in F,
K 459, 3rd Mvt

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

3:50 Snow Xu (11)

Mozart Concerto in D,
K 451, First Mvt

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

3:58 Frederick Pau (11)

Concerto in A, BWV 1055, First Mvt

Johann Sebastian Bach

4:05 Abigail Yang (9)

Concerto in F Minor,
BWV 1056, First Mvt

Johann Sebastian Bach

4:10 Enda Tong (11)

Piano Concerto in C, K 246, 3rd Mvt Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

4:16 Anni Tong (14)

Concerto in A, K 488, First Mvt

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

4:22 Natalie Sun (7)

Concerto in F, K 459, First Mvt

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

4:30 Forest Young (13)

Concerto in D, Hob. XVIII:11, First Mvt

Joseph Haydn
(1732-1809)

4:35 Lian Xue (College)

Concerto No. 3, Op. 37, First Mvt

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

COMPETITION REGULATIONS

In order to provide a shared vision for the important functions of the jury, the Competition Executive Committee is pleased to issue the following rules to manage all procedures during the competition.

Competition Regulations

1. No program changes will be allowed after July 15, 2023.
2. All pieces must be performed from memory. Repeats are not allowed.
3. Contestants should not have contact with any Jury Member during the competition period. Failure to observe this rule may lead to disqualification.
4. All decisions of the Jury are final and cannot be appealed.
5. All prize money is subject to tax under US taxation laws.
6. The performances will be open to the general public.

Special Regulations

1. All rounds of the Competition may be broadcast live, recorded or streamed, by the Competition Administration. The Competition will be partially or fully available for viewing via the Internet.
2. The Competition Administration may use any audio or video, recorded during the Competition, at its own discretion. Participants will not be compensated.
3. The Competition Administration does not provide contestants and/or other accompanying persons with any kind of insurance.
4. By signing the Application form, the applicant confirms acceptance of all conditions and rules of the Competition.
5. In case the competition cannot be held, due to force majeure, the Organizing Committee shall bear no liability.
6. All information posted on the official website of the Competition is correct at the time of publication. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to make changes, if circumstances so require, but not later than July 15, 2023. For accurate information, please refer to the official website.

The Helen Taylor Johannesen Piano Competition is proud to acknowledge the assistance of the following individuals:

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Program Booklet - Micah Kenney and Michelle Coulam Addison

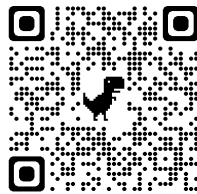
Administrative Officer - Michelle Coulam Addison

*Thanks to the University of Utah, College of Fine Arts, School of Music,
Colleagues, Staff and Students.*

The University of Utah School of Music
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