

2017 BAY STATE CONTEST
JUDGES BIOGRAPHIES

Sully Hall

Laura Kargul

Pianist Laura Kargul has appeared as a soloist, chamber musician, adjudicator, lecturer and master class technician throughout Europe and the USA, as well as in Canada and the West Indies. Her solo performances have been greeted with critical acclaim in venues such as the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, the Diligentia Theater in Den Haag, the Schleswig-Holstein and Nordhessen music festivals in Germany, the Liszthaus in Weimar and the Lesvos Arts Festival in Greece. Collaboration with ensembles such as the Lark, Da Ponte and Portland String Quartets has taken her to the Aspen Music Festival in Colorado, Music Mountain in Connecticut, the Music Festival of Lucca in Italy, and the Evian Music Festival in France. She has recorded for PBS national radio and television in the USA, and also for radio in France, Germany and the Netherlands. She has lectured at national and international conferences for the European Piano Teachers Association, the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers, and the National Music Teachers Association in the U.S. Her solo CD, "Liszt and Ravel: Transcriptions for Piano," was recorded by Grammy Award winner Bob Ludwig, and includes the world premiere recording of excerpts from the solo piano arrangement of Ravel's "Daphnis et Chloé," as well as Ravel's solo piano version of "La Valse."

Dr. Kargul received a DMA from the University of Michigan under Leon Fleisher and Theodore Lettvin, and served as an assistant to conductor Gustav Meier. She also studied with Nelita True at the Interlochen Center for the Arts. She is the Director of Keyboard Studies at the University of Southern Maine and lives in Freeport, Maine.

Victor Cayres

Brazilian pianist **Victor Cayres** has earned praise for concerts with the Sine Nomine string quartet in Switzerland and as a soloist with such orchestras as the Boston Pops and Brno Philharmonic in the Czech Republic. A recent winner of the 8th Iowa Piano Competition and the 18th Leoš Janáček Competition, he has been a guest artist at Banff Center for the Arts, Canada, Interlochen Center for the Arts, MI, and Boston University Tanglewood Institute. He has released CDs for Albany Records (works by David Owens), Parma Records (works by Joseph Summer and Charles Ives), and Centaur Records (works by John H. Wallace). In recent years Mr. Cayres performed in Brazil, Europe, and in prestigious concert halls across the U.S., such as Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall, Preston Bradley Hall in Chicago, Jordan Hall and

Symphony Hall in Boston. He currently serves on the piano faculty at Boston University School of Music.

B.M., University of São Paulo, with Gilberto Tinetti and Eduardo Monteiro; independent studies at Staatliche Hochschule für Musik in Karlsruhe, Germany; M.M. and G.D., New England Conservatory, with Wha Kyung Byun, chamber music with Richard Stoltzman; D.M.A., Boston University, with Anthony di Bonaventura and Boaz Sharon. www.victorcayres.com

Houston Hall

Siu Yan Luk

Siu Yan Luk is currently a staff pianist at Boston University, Boston University Tanglewood Institute, and Unitarian Universalist Area Church-First Parish in Sherborn. She recently joined the piano faculty at South Shore Conservatory in Hingham, MA. Graduated from Eastman School of Music with Doctor of Musical Arts in Performance and Literature (Piano) and Master of Arts in Music Theory Pedagogy, she previously held adjunct faculty positions at Rochester Institute of Technology, Opus Ithaca, Hochstein School of Music and Dance, and Monroe Community College. Siu Yan studied with prestigious teachers such as Barry Snyder, Ann Koscielny, Lillian Kallir, and Claude Frank.

As an active collaborative pianist, Siu Yan is featured in Eastman Virtuosi concert and Faculty Artist Series concert with world known soloists such as Alan Harris and Bin Huang. Siu Yan is also a member of the Shuhan-Luk Trio. The Shuhan-Luk Trio has been invited to perform in various universities in the United States. Their recent appearances include the International Horn Society conference at Ithaca College, NY, Coburn School of Music, LA, and National Flute Association in DC.

Siu Yan has also held positions as staff accompanist and accompanying assistant at The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Eastman School of Music, Ithaca College, Hochstein School of Music and Dance, Monroe Community College, the International Viola Congress 2012, 2013 Northeast Regional Tuba & Euphonium Conference, and 2016 International Horn Symposium.

Gregory Slowik

In Europe and the United States, Gregory Slowik is familiar to audiences as a piano soloist, chamber musician, and teacher. He has lectured in many European music capitals, including; Vienna, Prague, and Salzburg, where he performed a solo piano recital at the Mozarteum. A much sought-after soloist and collaborator, he has lectured and performed at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum numerous times and in the Koch Gallery of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Professor Slowik was invited to give the premiere of *New England Sketches*, a composition commissioned

for the 110th anniversary season of the Chromatic Club of Boston. As part of the Gardner Museum's lecture series celebrating the centenary of the creation of the museum, Slowik was invited to present a lecture/performance exploring Mrs. Gardner's role as a patron of music. Receiving a very enthusiastic response, the lecture was encored at the Museum's request. His writings about music have been published in the *Journal of the Haydn Society of Great Britain* and *Abafazi: A Journal of Women of African Descent*. Research concerning Isabella Stewart Gardner as a patron of music continues while he is exploring Joseph Haydn and the impact female patrons in Vienna and London had upon his keyboard compositions during the 1780s and 1790s.

Gregory Slowik received his Bachelor of Music degree from Mansfield University in Pennsylvania. His Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees are from Boston University. He has been on the faculty of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Longy School of Music. He is currently a Professor of Music and Director of Musical Activities at Simmons College, Boston.

T401

Fan Li

Fan Li, a native of P. R. China, graduated from Shanghai Conservatory of Music with M.M. China and Artist Diploma from Longy School of Music, Cambridge MA. he has been performed as a soloist at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center in New York City, Boston Symphony Hall, Jordan Hall as well as Beijing Concert Hall in Beijing China. His Piano solo CD "Chinese Piano Music" by Label Centaur has been selling very well in North America and Europe by amazon.com and other major sellers. Fan Li has been very active piano teacher and has produced many talented young pianists who entered all top Universities such as Harvard, MIT, Yale, Stamford etc. His own piano concert series "Young Piano Talents" has been lasting more thirteen year in which many major piano repertoire has been performed twice such as Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No1, Rachmaninoff No3, 2, Chopin Piano concerto No 1, 2 etc. Fan Li lives in Newton Ma with his family.

Laura Villafranca

Mexican born pianist Laura Villafranca is an active soloist and chamber musician. After playing her debut with the Mexico City Chamber Orchestra at the age of thirteen, she won a scholarship to continue her musical studies in the United States of America. Ten years later she won the Silver Medal at Mexico's National Piano Competition "Angélica Morales- Yamaha" where she was also given the prize for best interpretation of a work by Bach. Other awards include first prize at The Boston Conservatory Concerto Competition, Honorable Mention in the Corpus Christi International Competition and the A.R.T.S Competition where she was

selected for the Who's Who Among American High School Students, the Oberlin Conservatory's Dean's Scholarship, the Wilfred Churchill Competition and the Benjamin Kasser scholarship which earned her full tuition at The Boston Conservatory.

Ms. Villafranca has performed with the Mexican National Symphony Orchestra at the Palacio de Bellas Artes, the Querétaro Philharmonic Orchestra, the Mexico City Chamber Orchestra, The Boston Conservatory Orchestra in Harvard's Sanders Theatre and the Sinfonia Perusina in Italy. Her collaboration with conductors include Juan Carlos Lomónaco, Jose Guadalupe Flores, Catherine Comet, Enrico Marconi and Miguel Bernal Matus. Recent appearances include chamber recitals at the Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City, live broadcasted performances in Mexican classical music stations Radio IMER and Radio UNAM. Currently, she continues to perform during the musical seasons hosted by the National Institute of Fine Arts in Mexico City, with solo and chamber music performances.

Laura Villafranca began her piano studies with Benjamin Valdés Aguilar, continuing at the Interlochen Arts Academy, The Oberlin Conservatory and The Boston Conservatory under the tutelage of Angela Cheng, Michael Lewin, Victoria Mushkatkol and Stephen Perry.

Opera Studio 406

Kallin Johnson

Kallin Johnson has been Director of Music at Notre Dame Academy since 1989 and is the current Director of Music/Organist at the First Church of Christ, Lancaster, MA. He holds a Master of Music degree from New England Conservatory and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Utah State University. Mr. Johnson has been on the faculty of numerous colleges and universities including Clark University and Harvard University. He was the Founder/Executive Director of the Pakachoag Community Music School in Auburn, MA and Director of Music at the Performing Arts School of Worcester. Mr. Johnson is also a past president of ARTSWorcester and the Massachusetts Music Teachers Association. He is the recipient of many awards including the 1994 *Worcester Telegram & Gazette's* Vision 2000 Cultural Enrichment Award. Mr. Johnson is currently a member of the Board of the Hanover Theatre for the Performing Arts and the President of First Night Worcester.

Alex Poliykov

www.poliykov.com, Ukrainian Pianist, Conductor and Pedagogue.

Alex received his education from National Music Academy of Ukraine, named after P.I.Tchaikovsky, having separately completed B.M., M.M. degrees in Piano performance/Music Education and Orchestral conducting; and, from the Boston Conservatory, finishing with an Artist Diploma program in Piano.

Alex is actively playing in concerts all over the world, performing solo recitals, chamber music and collaborating with symphony orchestras in some of the best concert halls. He gives masterclasses, concert lectures, and engages in music educational programs with elementary schools and other institutions. He frequently judges piano competitions in the U.S and participates in various festivals and music competitions, such as 14th International Van Cliburn Competition. Alex has received awards from more than 15 international piano competitions.

Currently Alex resides in Boston, teaches at M.Steinert & Sons Piano Academies in Boston and Natick and holds the Staff Pianist position at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee.

Studio T406

Mila Filatova

Mila Filatova has been an award-winning pianist since the age of seventeen, when she was chosen by composer D. Kabalevsky in a national competition as the best performer of his piano compositions. She graduated with highest honors from the prestigious Sobinov Conservatory of Music in Russia. Mila is a student of Prof. A. Tarakanov, pupil of the legendary Henryk Neyhaus, and her master class experience includes work with many respected artists including L. Naumov and D. Bashkirov.

As a highly distinguished concert pianist in both Russia and the United States, her credits include numerous performances on Russian television and radio, solo performances with Symphony Orchestras, and Concertmaster of the Saratov Drama Theater.

Since coming to the United States in 1999, Mila has played numerous solo concerts throughout New England, including chamber music festivals with the Metropolitan Chamber Ensemble, Metropolitan Wind Ensemble, and as a featured artist at the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester, NH. She has performed multiple piano duet concerts with the renowned American pianist Frank Glazer.

Mila's teaching experience is extensive spanning more than 30 years. Her unique approach to teaching piano technique and performance brings her students continued success and international awards.

Mila is founder of Mila Filatova's Piano Academy in Manchester, NH. She also teaches piano at St. Paul's School in Concord, NH.

Stephanie Emberley

Dr. Stephanie A. Emberley, pianist, received her DMA degree in piano performance, pedagogy and literature from James Madison University and has her teaching certification in the Lister-Sink Method of Piano Technique and Injury Retraining. Ms.

Emberley enjoys an active career as soloist, collaborative pianist, and teacher. Her performances have taken her throughout the United States, Australia, Canada, and France. Ms. Emberley has received numerous scholarships and awards for her performances, including the Alpha Kappa Alpha Educational Advancement Scholarship as well as the Anna Sosenko Assist Trust Grant. Ms. Emberley particularly enjoys organizing and performing concerts that allow for audience interaction. Many of her concerts have been to raise funds for local organizations and charities. Her interests include studying natural movement patterns and blogging about how that applies to playing the piano. Pianists with whom Ms. Emberley has studied include Lori Piitz, Barbara Lister-sink, Eric Ruple, and David Lehman.

Piano Studio 306

Fredericka King

Fredericka King, pianist, made her debut at Carnegie Recital Hall and has performed in the United States, Europe and South America. Appearing in recital at Boston's historic Jordan Hall, the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard University, and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, she has been the featured artist on television and public radio stations such as WGBH in Boston, WVPR in Vermont, and WGMS in the Washington, D.C. area. She has performed as soloist with several New England orchestras, and as soloist and collaborative artist at the National Gallery of Art, Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, and the Millennium Stage at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

Ms. King earned a Bachelor of Music degree at Boston Conservatory, a Master of Music degree at New England Conservatory and pursued doctoral studies at Boston University. She was awarded a Teaching Diploma by the Royal College of Music in London, England, and also studied at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria.

Miss King is Senior Music Historian-in-Residence at Emerson College, a member of the piano faculty at New England Conservatory of Music Preparatory School, and maintains a private piano teaching studio.

Rebecca Plummer

Rebecca Plummer, one of Boston's leading free lance artists, began her musical training at an early age, showing exception talent at the age of 4. Having studied with teachers in England and Taiwan, she later received degrees from Virginia Commonwealth University and Boston University.

Both a solo pianist and accompanist, she has displayed her versatility in Boston playing with many groups, including the Boston Ballet Orchestra, Alea III, Boston

Landmarks Orchestra, Symphony New Hampshire and Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra. Her many chamber music performances include concerts with member of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. In addition, she is a leading synthesizer player in the pit orchestras of the touring Broadway shows that come to Boston.

Rebecca has served as a faculty member at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, Phillips Exeter Academy and currently is on the faculty of Phillips Andover Academy, the Manchester Community Music School in Manchester, NH and maintains a private studio in her home.

Room 303

Choah Kim

Choah Kim, a native of Seoul, South Korea, has performed many notable solo recitals and chamber concerts in various venues throughout the United States and South Korea. Ms. Kim obtained her Bachelor's degree from Seoul National University, where in 2011, she graduated with Summa Cum Laude. Ms. Kim then moved to Baltimore, Maryland where she pursued graduate studies in piano performance under the tutelage of Alexander Shtarkman at the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University. Having received merit-scholarships from the institutions, she also won numerous piano competitions such as Music Education Newspaper Competition, Haneum Music Competition, the Bradshaw & Buono International Piano Competition, and Aaron Richmond Competition in Boston, etc. Ms. Kim now continues her studies at Boston University as a Doctor of Music Arts with Pavel Nersesyan, teaching music major and non-music major students at Boston University and performing as a solo pianist and a chamber musician.

Ioana Flonta-Randall

Originally from Romania, Ioana Flonta-Randall is a passionate pianist and teacher. In 2011, she moved to the US, where she earned her Certificate and Master's Degree in Piano Performance on a full tuition scholarship at Bowling Green State University, Ohio, studying with Dr. Laura Melton. As a graduate assistant at BGSU, Ioana taught group piano lessons for college level music majors. She started specializing in piano at the age of 7, attending the "Sigismund Toduta" Music School for grades 1-12 and continuing with her Bachelor's Degree in Piano Performance at the Gheorghe Dima Music Academy in Romania. Guided by her former teacher, Dr. Vera Negreanu, Ioana began teaching private piano lessons to children and adults of all levels. She performed numerous recitals and competitions in Europe and the United States, winning several prizes, both as a soloist and accompanist.

