Pittsburgh Concert Society

2011-2012 • 69th Season

The sound of Pittsburgh’s artists
The Major Auditions, held each spring, are judged by nationally known adjudicators, including deans and faculty of leading schools of music. Candidates audition anonymously and are judged solely on the level of their performance and the quality of their program. Six Major winners are presented in concerts, generally during September, October, and November. Major Auditions are open to all musicians who meet the program. Each winner receives an award of $1,000 from the William and Eleanor Benswanger Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation.

The Young Artists Auditions receive a $500 award from the Benjamin and Anna Perlow Scholarships Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation. Young Organists Auditions are held in January and are also judged by nationally known adjudicators. Instrumentalists must be under the age of 19, vocalists under 22, and must live or study within a 75-mile radius of Pittsburgh. Each winner of the Young Artists Auditions is presented in a concert, with a special emphasis on reaching young people. These performances are arranged by the officers of the Society, working in close collaboration with organizations such as the Children’s Museum, the Children's Hospital, the Heinz History Center of Pittsburgh, the Carnegie Library, assisted living communities, Pittsburgh and suburban school districts, colleges, and other local arts organizations. Major winners are featured annually on the Johnstown Chamber Music Series. These outreach programs are funded, in part, through a generous grant from Freda Silberman.

Young Organists Auditions are held in March. Organists must be under the age of 23 and must live or study within a 75-mile radius of Pittsburgh. The Young Organists Winner is presented in a concert, generally in April or May. The winner of the Young Organists Auditions receives a $500 award designated to the furtherance of his/her musical studies.

The annual June Alumni Concerts feature “return performances” by former Pittsburgh Concert Society winners who have achieved distinguished careers in the field of music.

Outreach Performances. In addition to its formal concert activity, the Pittsburgh Concert Society reaches out into the community and beyond. Outstanding artists are invited to perform in venues throughout the city, with a special emphasis on reaching young people. These performances are arranged by the officers of the Society, working in close collaboration with organizations such as the Children’s Museum, the Children’s Hospital, the Heinz History Center of Pittsburgh, the Carnegie Library, assisted living communities, Pittsburgh and suburban school districts, colleges, and other local arts organizations. Major winners are featured annually on the Johnstown Chamber Music Series. These outreach programs are funded, in part, through a generous grant from Freda Silberman.

The mission of the Pittsburgh Concert Society is to encourage and develop local musical talent by providing an opportunity for artists to perform in formal concerts and by offering them financial rewards—an opportunity to be found in only a few American cities. The Pittsburgh Concert Society includes benefactors, sponsors, patrons, and friends, who are musicians, music teachers, or supporters interested in the advancement of music in Pittsburgh.

Founded in 1943, the Pittsburgh Concert Society is a non-profit, equal opportunity organization that promotes music in Pittsburgh by discovering and assisting musicians living or receiving their musical education within a 75-mile radius of Pittsburgh. All artists appearing on the Society’s programs are chosen by audition. To afford each candidate a fair opportunity, a judge of national reputation, from a city other than Pittsburgh, adjudicates.

The PCS Homer Wickline and Conrad Seamen Grants are awarded annually and are designated to provide financial assistance to instrumentalists and vocalists, individuals or groups, in the classical field, who are working to further their careers or their performance opportunities.

CONTACT INFO: 412-279-2970 pittsburghconcertsociety.org info@pittsburghconcertsociety.org

The annual June Alumni Concerts feature “return performances” by former Pittsburgh Concert Society winners who have achieved distinguished careers in the field of music.

The Pittsburgh Concert Society is to encourage and develop local musical talent by providing an opportunity for artists to perform in formal concerts and by offering them financial rewards—an opportunity to be found in only a few American cities. The Pittsburgh Concert Society includes benefactors, sponsors, patrons, and friends, who are musicians, music teachers, or supporters interested in the advancement of music in Pittsburgh.

Founded in 1943, the Pittsburgh Concert Society is a non-profit, equal opportunity organization that promotes music in Pittsburgh by discovering and assisting musicians living or receiving their musical education within a 75-mile radius of Pittsburgh. All artists appearing on the Society’s programs are chosen by audition. To afford each candidate a fair opportunity, a judge of national reputation, from a city other than Pittsburgh, adjudicates.

The PCS Homer Wickline and Conrad Seamen Grants are awarded annually and are designated to provide financial assistance to instrumentalists and vocalists, individuals or groups, in the classical field, who are working to further their careers or their performance opportunities.

CONTACT INFO: 412-279-2970 pittsburghconcertsociety.org info@pittsburghconcertsociety.org

The following events are at 2:00 pm at Konger Recital Hall, Carnegie Mellon University. A “Meet the Artists” reception follows each concert. Tickets are available at the door and online at pittsburghconcertsociety.org.

Adults - $15, Seniors - $10 and Students - Free

MAJOR WINNERS RECITALS
Sunday, September 25, 2011
Joseph Gaines, tenor
Luke Fitzpatrick, flute

Sunday, October 16, 2011
Ju Young Lee, piano
Leah Edmondson Dyer, soprano

Sunday, November 13, 2011
Kimberly Kong, piano
Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton, harp

YOUNG ARTIST WINNERS RECITALS
Sunday, March 11 and Sunday, March 18, 2012

ALUMNI CONCERT
Sunday, June 3, 2012
Sean Duggan, piano
Aron Zelkowicz, cello

SEASON AUDITION DATES
Young Artists Auditions Saturday, January 7, 2012
Thomas Novak, Dean of the College of New England Conservatory, adjudicator

Major Auditions Friday, April 20 and Saturday, April 21, 2012
Thomas Novak, Dean of the College of New England Conservatory, adjudicator
Major auditions are open to instrumentalists, vocalists, and chamber music ensembles of any age who live or study within a 75-mile radius of Pittsburgh and who meet PCS program requirements. This season’s auditions were held on April 15 and 16, 2011; the adjudicator was John Mangan, Vice President and Dean of the Curtis Institute of Music. The following artists are the winners of the 2011 auditions.

Joseph Gaines, tenor

Joseph Gaines is a highly versatile and increasingly sought-after operatic and concert artist. He has been praised for his singing and for his well-developed interpretations of tenor character roles. Opera News has raved about several of his performances, including Indianapolis Opera’s productions of Falstaff, The Magic flute, and Ariadne auf Naxos. A 2007 winner of the prestigious Sullivan Foundation Awards, and a recent finalist in the Charles A. Lynam Competition, he has been a featured soloist with The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, The Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and a number of chamber ensembles internationally. A past apprentice at Tanglewood, Gaines most recently appeared with the Pittsburgh Opera, Central City Opera and the Grammy-nominated period ensemble Ars Lyrica Houston. Future engagements include The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, The Aspen Music Festival and the Chautauqua Music Festival. Eaton was born in New York City. He has been a featured soloist with the Eastman Philharmonia Orchestra, and various summer festivals. In 2010, he toured with the Eastman Wind Ensemble as principal flute. He has attended the Music Academy of the West, the Aspen Music Festival and the Chautauqua Music Festival. Eaton was born in New York City. He received his Bachelor of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music where he studied with fluteist Bonita Boyd, and is currently pursuing a master’s degree in flute performance at Carnegie Mellon University, where he studies with Jeanne Baxtresser and Alberto Almarza, internationally renowned flutists and pedagogues.

Luke Fitzpatrick, flute

Luke Fitzpatrick is a rising flutist who has performed as soloist in recital and as principal in several ensembles. In high school he was a member of the National Symphony Orchestra Youth Fellowship Program, and was principal flute with the Maryland All-State Orchestra. He was a finalist in the 2005 National Symphony Orchestra Young Soloists Competition, and in 2009 was the winner of the Rochester Flute Association’s Emerging Artist Competition. Luke’s orchestra experience includes performing with the Eastman Philharmonia Orchestra, and various summer festivals. In 2010, he toured with the Eastman Wind Ensemble as principal flute. He has attended the Music Academy of the West, the Aspen Music Festival and the Chautauqua Music Festival. Eaton was born in New York City. He received his Bachelor of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music where he studied with fluteist Bonita Boyd, and is currently pursuing a master’s degree in flute performance at Carnegie Mellon University, where he studies with Jeanne Baxtresser and Alberto Almarza, internationally renowned flutists and pedagogues.

Leah Edmondson Dyer, soprano

Leah Edmondson Dyer made her Carnegie Hall debut as soprano soloist at the New York Pops Holiday Concert 2006, and is currently a Young Artist with Pittsburgh Opera Theater. Leah’s operatic roles include Euridice (Orfeo ed Euridice), Pamina (The Magic Flute), Calisto (La Calisto), and Anna (La traviata). Her oratorio work includes the requiem of Brahms, Faure, and Mozart, Haydn’s Paukenmesse, the Doel & Salabat Mater, and the Bach Magnificat. She was a Resident Artist at Pine Mountain Music Festival in Michigan in 2010. Leah has sung in master classes and lectures with well-known artists John Martin, Michael Hampson, Jessica Rivera, and Renée Fleming. She received her Bachelor degree at Texas Christian University and Master of Music at Ohio State University. She is currently pursuing her master’s degree in music performance at Carnegie Mellon University, where she studies with Douglas Alstadt.

Kimberly Kong, piano

Korean-American pianist Kimberly Kong made her Carnegie Hall debut with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra at age nine. Since then she has appeared frequently as a soloist with the orchestra under the baton of Marin Alsop. She has also performed solo recitals at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., Heinz Hall in Pittsburgh, PNC Bank Recital Hall at Duquesne University, and the Puccini Theatre in Italy. Kimberly has been garnering awards since a young age, including the grand prize at the Cincinnati World Piano Competition in 1998, second prize at the 20th Bartok-Prokofiev-Kahalevsky Competition in 2000, first prize at the Helen Clay Frick Scholarship Competition in 2003, first prize at the National Symphony Orchestra Young Soloists Competition in 2005, and second prize at the Music Teachers National Association Piano Competition in 2006. Ms. Kong was also the winner of the Kosciuszko Chopin Piano Competition in New York City in 2007, and grand prize winner of the Margaret A. Guthman Keyboard Competition in 2008. Ms. Kong, a native of Pittsburgh, received her Bachelor of Music degree from the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University, studying with Yong Hi Moon. She received her Master of Music degree from the Juilliard School, where she studied with Julian Martin, and will attend the Peabody Institute to pursue her doctorate. Ms. Kong was a winner of the Pittsburgh Concert Society Young Artist Auditions in 2002.

Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton, harp

Harpist Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton is one of the most accomplished solo, chamber and orchestral musicians of her generation, as indicated by her recent appointments as principal harpist of both the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. She has performed with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and as principal harpist with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra. Actively participating in USA and international competitions, Heidi was awarded first place in the Young Professional Division of the American Harp Society National Competition in June of 2009. She was a winner of the Anne Aulans Awards (2010), held in Texas, as well as the Victor Sabaté Awards (2008) held in Chicago. She is also a past winner of the Pittsburgh Concert Society’s Young Artists Auditions (2003), winner of the 2004 Lennox Young Artist Competition, and winner of the 2005 Juilliard School Concerto Competition. In 2004, she was the first prize winner of the American String Teachers Association National Solo Competition. She was invited to be a guest lecturer and master class clinician at the 2012 National Conference in Atlanta. Heidi was born in Pittsburgh, and began her studies with Pittsburgh Symphony principal harpist Gretchen Van Hoesen. She earned two degrees in harp performance from The Juilliard School of Music under the tutelage of Nancy Allen, and has also studied with Anne Marguerite-Michaud and Elizabeth Fontan-Binoche. She has been a member of the Sun Valley Summer Symphony (ID) since 2001, and has been a participant in the St. John Chamber Music Festival at Steamboat Springs, Colorado, National Repertory Orchestra, and at summer festivals at Aspen, Tanglewood and Interlochen. She has been featured twice as a soloist on From the Top on NPR. She has performed with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra as principal harpist and second harp on recordings and on national and international tours.
ARON ZELKOWICZ, CELLO
1991 YOUNG ARTIST WINNER AND 1997 MAJOR AUDITIONS WINNER

With a broad career as a cellist, performer, teacher, and administrator, Aron Zelkowicz has cultivated a repertoire both familiar and obscure. He is the Founder and Director of the Pittsburgh Jewish Music Festival, which presents rare and diverse works from Jewish musical traditions to Pittsburgh audiences every spring. Currently in its ninth annual season, the Festival features renowned ensembles and guest artists from the orchestral, chamber, early music, rock, and world music genres in innovative and thematic programs. Under his guidance the Festival has commissioned several works from established composers, received major grants and mainstream critical acclaim, and has been featured in full-length radio and cable television broadcasts.

Aron has performed at the Tanglewood, Banff, Aspen, Sarasota, Chautauqua, Colorado, Sunflower and Cactus Pear music festivals, the New York String Orchestra and Juilliard Quartet Seminars, with members of the Emerson and Cleveland Quartets, and on European and American tours with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. As a teacher and coach to young string players, Mr. Zelkowicz has given master classes at universities and colleges throughout the U.S. and served on the faculties of Point Counterpoint Chamber Music Camp in Vermont and the Brevard Music Center in North Carolina.

Born in Ottawa, Canada, Aron grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and received degrees from the Eastman School of Music. He has also been a graduate professor of piano at Eastman School of Music. He has been a guest artist and adjudicator at the Chautauqua College in Louisiana and was director of music and organist at St. Joseph Abbey.

In September, 1983 he won first prize in the Johann Sebastian Bach International Competition for Pianists in Washington, D.C., and again in August, 1991. Having a special affinity for the music of Bach, in 2000 he performed the complete cycle of Bach’s keyboard works eight times in various American and European cities. For seven years he hosted a weekly program on the New Orleans NPR station entitled “Bach on Sunday.” He is presently in the midst of recording the complete cycle of Bach’s keyboard piano works which will comprise 24 CDs.

Before he joined the Benedictine order he was pianist and assistant chorus master for the Pittsburgh Opera Company for three years. He has performed with many orchestras including the Louisiana Philharmonic, the Buffalo Philharmonic, the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, the Leipzig Baroque Soloists, The Prague Chamber Orchestra, The American Chamber Orchestra and the Pennsylvania Sinfonia. From 2001 to 2004 he was a visiting professor of piano at the University of Michigan. Currently he is associate professor of piano at SUNY Fredonia. During the fall semester of 2008 he was also a guest professor of piano at Eastman School of Music. He has been a guest artist and adjudicator at the Chautauqua Institute for several summers, and is a faculty member of the Golandsky Institute at Princeton, New Jersey. He continues to study the Taubman approach with Edna Golandsky in New York City.

ARON ZELKOWICZ, CELLO
1991 YOUNG ARTIST WINNER AND 1997 MAJOR AUDITIONS WINNER

With a broad career as a cellist, performer, teacher, and administrator, Aron Zelkowicz has cultivated a repertoire both familiar and obscure. He is the Founder and Director of the Pittsburgh Jewish Music Festival, which presents rare and diverse works from Jewish musical traditions to Pittsburgh audiences every spring. Currently in its ninth annual season, the Festival features renowned ensembles and guest artists from the orchestral, chamber, early music, rock, and world music genres in innovative and thematic programs. Under his guidance the Festival has commissioned several works from established composers, received major grants and mainstream critical acclaim, and has been featured in full-length radio and cable television broadcasts.

Aron has performed at the Tanglewood, Banff, Aspen, Sarasota, Chautauqua, Colorado, Sunflower and Cactus Pear music festivals, the New York String Orchestra and Juilliard Quartet Seminars, with members of the Emerson and Cleveland Quartets, and on European and American tours with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. As a teacher and coach to young string players, Mr. Zelkowicz has given master classes at universities and colleges throughout the U.S. and served on the faculties of Point Counterpoint Chamber Music Camp in Vermont and the Brevard Music Center in North Carolina.

Born in Ottawa, Canada, Aron grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and received degrees from the Eastman School of Music (BM), Indiana University (MM), and SUNY Stony Brook (DMA), where his major teachers included Anne Martindale Williams, Paul Katz, Steven Doane, Janos Starker, and Colin Carr. He blogs at www.cellobello.com.

For more information: www.aronzelkowicz.com and www.pjmf.net