Pittsburgh Concert Society
2018 - 2019 • 76th Season

The sound of Pittsburgh’s artists
Major Auditions
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 three concerts, generally during September, October, and November following the auditions.

Major Auditions are open to all candidates who are eighteen (18) years or older, live within a 75-mile radius of Pittsburgh and who meet the PCS program requirements. Each winner receives an award of $1000 from the William and Eleanor Benswanger Memorial Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation.

Young Artists Auditions
The Young Artists Auditions are held in March and are also judged by nationally known adjudicators. Instrumentalists must be under the age of 19, vocalists under 22 by June 30 of the audition year, and must live within a 75-mile radius of Pittsburgh.

Young Artists Winners are presented in concerts, in March and April. Each winner of the Young Artists Auditions receives a $500 award from the Benjamin and Anna Perlow Scholarships Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation, designated for the furtherance of his/her music studies.

Alumni Concert
The annual June Alumni Concert features “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. Outstanding artists are invited to perform in venues throughout the city, with a special emphasis on reaching young audiences. These performances are arranged by the officers of the Society, working in close collaboration with organizations such as the Children’s Museum, Chamber Music Pittsburgh, Saturday Light Brigade, Johnstown Concert Series, Tiffany Concert Series, assisted living communities, Pittsburgh and suburban school districts, colleges, and other local arts organizations. The PCS outreach programs are made possible in part by a generous grant from the Piston Family Foundation.

The PCS Homer Wickline and Conrad Seamen Grants
The PCS Homer Wickline and Conrad Seamen Memorial Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation provides grants awarded annually that 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
Membership Application

I wish to be a member of the Pittsburgh Concert Society. I understand that each FRIEND membership includes ONE season ticket valid for all concerts of the Society’s 2018 - 2019 season and that each PATRON, SPONSOR, or BENEFACOT membership includes TWO season tickets.

Name _______________________________ Phone __________________________
Address ______________________________________________________________________
City _______________________________ State _____ Zip __________
Email _______________________________

Does your employer match contributions?   Yes☐   No☐

Employer: _____________________________________________________________________

Contributing membership levels:
☐ Friend (minimum $60.00)       ☐ Sponsor (minimum $250.00)
☐ Patron (minimum $100.00)      ☐ Benefactor (minimum $500.00)

Please make checks payable to the Pittsburgh Concert Society and mail to: Pittsburgh Concert Society • P.O. Box 14843 • Pittsburgh, PA 15234

Or, you may apply for membership on the PCS website: pittsburghconcertsociety.org

The Pittsburgh Concert Society is a non-profit and equal opportunity organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent permissible by law.
Alumni Concert
SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2019

Gerald Lee, piano
Major winner 2009

GERALD LEE is Professor of Piano at West Liberty University (West Liberty, West Virginia), where he has been a full-time faculty member since 2002. He won the 2007-08 Excellence in Professional Activity Award at WLU. He earned three piano performance degrees: Bachelor of Music, Master of Music, and Doctor of Musical Arts from Illinois Wesleyan University, Indiana University, and the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, respectively.

In addition, he won 1st place in the 2002 National Society of Arts and Letters Piano Competition (Lansing, Michigan), 2nd place in the 2002 National Finals of the MTNA (Music Teachers’ National Association) Collegiate Artists’ Piano Competition (Cincinnati, Ohio), and 3rd place in the 2003 International Beethoven Piano Sonata Competition (Memphis, Tennessee).

He enjoys maintaining an extensive schedule of solo and chamber music performances, the latter including recitals with such artistic luminaries as Faith Esham, soprano, John Rommel, trumpet, Jeremy Black, violin, and Erina Laraby-Goldwasser, viola. Solo recitals have been performed throughout the U.S. on numerous concert series, at colleges and universities, and for chamber music societies. His 2010 solo recital for the Charleston (West Virginia) Chamber Music Society was lauded by the Charleston Daily Mail as an “overwhelming musical success…Gerald Lee upheld the Charleston Chamber Music Society’s reputation for bringing top-rated artists to their Christ Church United Methodist venue.”

He is dedicated to and passionate about piano teaching. Dr. Lee has presented numerous master classes at venues such as Mercyhurst University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Mary Baldwin College, Duquesne University, Mansfield University, Marshall University, Fairmont State University, and Shepherd University among others. He is pleased and proud of his students’ accomplishments, which include 1st place awards in the 2013, 2014, and 2015 West Virginia Music Teachers’ Association’s Mountain State Collegiate Piano Competition. Dr. Lee is the recipient of the 2017 WVMTA (West Virginia Music Teachers’ Association) Distinguished Leader of the Year Award. He currently serves WVMTA as 2nd Vice President, and during 2013-15, he served as Chair of Competitions.

He is a frequent adjudicator for piano competitions, such as those held by MTNA at both the state and division levels. Passionate about the works of Alexander Scriabin, he has presented lecture-recitals featuring Scriabin’s piano sonatas at numerous College Music Society conferences, including the 2014 National Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. He is forever grateful to the following artist-teachers for their unconditional support, vast wisdom, and artistic guidance: Virginia Sandford, the late Lawrence Campbell, Andrew Cooperstock, Reiko Neriki, Logan Skelton, Arthur Greene, and the late Distinguished Professor György Sebök.

Joseph Gaines, tenor
Major winner, 2011

JOSEPH GAINES is a highly versatile and increasingly sought-after operatic and concert artist. He has been praised for his beautifully-sung and well-acted 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 Glimmerglass Opera, Sarasota Opera, and Central City Opera, he recently appeared with the Pittsburgh Opera, Central City Opera and the Grammy-nominated period ensemble Ars Lyrica Houston. Future engagements include Ars Lyrica Houston, Pittsburgh Opera, and Opera Company of Philadelphia.

Gaines made his Lincoln Center debut in 2010 with New York’s Teatro Grattacielo, and returned this past May for the company’s 2011 double-bill of one-act verismo operas by Umberto Giordano (Il re) and Primo Riccitelli (I compagnacci). He was named a Major Winner of the Pittsburgh Concert Society in 2010.

Joseph’s commercially-available recordings include Ars Lyrica Houston’s CD of Alessandro Scarlatti’s music, distributed by Naxos Records, and St. Thomas Church Fifth Avenue’s Messiah: The Mozart Orchestration.

A native of Houston, Gaines currently resides in Pittsburgh.
The Pittsburgh Concert Society (PCS) promotes the finest Pittsburgh-based classical musicians, all selected by adjudicators of national stature, providing each winner with a formal recital opportunity as well as a financial award.

Founded in 1943, the PCS is a non-profit, equal opportunity organization. All artists appearing in the PCS programs must live within a 75-mile radius of Pittsburgh. To ensure fairness and impartiality of the selection process, the PCS auditions are adjudicated by invited musicians from outside the Pittsburgh area.

The PCS is proud of its history and its contribution to the arts in the Pittsburgh area. It is an organization of dedicated officers and board members, all volunteers consistently working to maintain the highest level of musicianship in their concert presentations.

Schedule of Events
2018 - 2019 Season

All events are at 2:00 p.m. at Kresge Recital Hall, Carnegie Mellon University. A “Meet the Artists” reception follows each concert. Tickets can be purchased at the door, by phone at 412-279-2970, or online at pittsburghconcertsociety.org:

Adults $15 - Seniors $10 - Students Free

MAJOR WINNERS RECITALS
Sunday, September 23, 2018
Major Artists
Emily Hopkins, Soprano with Mark Carver, Piano
James Burns and Anoush Tchakarian, Piano Duo

Sunday, October 21, 2018
Major Artists
John Rose, Piano
Catherine Bell, Soprano with Raymond Blackwell, Piano

Sunday, November 4, 2018
The Besozzi Trio
Daniel Muller and Xiang Ji, Saxophone
Hyun Joo Park, Piano

The Besozzi Trio
Tanying Dong, Soprano with James Lesniak, Piano

Saturday, March 9, 2019
Young Artist Auditions
Adjudicator, Alan Fletcher, Aspen Music Festival and School president and CEO

Sunday, March 24, 2019
Young Artists Concert

Sunday, April 14, 2019
Young Artists Concert

Friday, April 12 and Saturday April 13, 2019
Major Auditions
Adjudicator, Alan Fletcher, Aspen Music Festival and School president and CEO

ALUMNI CONCERT
Sunday, June 2, 2019
Gerald Lee, Piano
Joseph Gaines, Tenor
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2018

Major Artists

Emily Hopkins, soprano with Mark Carver, piano

Noted for her “strong, brilliant voice, particularly impressive in its upper register, and a smooth sense of legato that allowed her to soar to the higher flights with ease,” (Pittsburgh in the Round) soprano Emily Hopkins is the 2015 winner of the Marilyn Horne Rubin Award. Originally from Hurricane, WV, she is currently pursuing her Masters of Music in Vocal Performance at Carnegie Mellon University, where she studies with Maria Spacagna. She graduated from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in 2015 where she sang roles such as Gretel in Humperdinck’s Hänsel und Gretel and Anna Maurrant in Kurt Weill’s Street Scene with the Oberlin Opera Theater. In 2014 she made her international performing debut in the role of Magda in Oberlin in Italy’s production of Puccini’s La Rondine at the Teatro Signorelli in Cortona, Italy. She was last heard in two of Carnegie Mellon’s opera productions as Pamina in Die Zauberflöte and Elisetta in Il Matrimonio Segreto. In Summer 2018, she will join the Pittsburgh Festival Opera as a Featured Artist, singing the role of Wellgunde in Das Rheingold.

James Burns and Anoush Tchakarian, piano duo

James Burns has been a frequent performer with such groups as The Opera Theater of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Ballet Theater, The Mendelssohn Choir, and The Bach Choir. As a pianist for the Civic Light Opera he has performed in over 100 musical theater productions. He has had the pleasure of bringing music to young students through his work with educational outreach programs for Gateway to Music and Pittsburgh Opera. Mr. Burns holds piano performance degrees from Oberlin Conservatory of Music and The Juilliard School, and a Masters degree in Sacred Music from Duquesne University. He is currently the organist at Westminster Presbyterian Church and Temple Emanuel.

In 1997 Anoush Tchakarian graduated with excellence in Piano Performance and Piano Pedagogy from the National School of Music “Lyubomir Pipkov”, Sofia, Bulgaria, and in 2001 obtained her Bachelor Degree in Piano Performance from the National Music Conservatory “Pancho Vladigerov”, as a pupil of Professor Marina Kapatsinskaya. She is a laureate of the 1997 National Competition for German and Austrian Music, winning Second Place and the Special Prize of His Excellency the German Ambassador in Bulgaria for best performance of Schubert’s Piano Variations in F major D. 156.

In 2004 Anoush graduated the Mary Pappert School of Music at Duquesne University with a Master’s Degree in Piano Performance and an Artist Diploma. She won the Western Pennsylvania Steinway Society Piano Competition in 2006, and an Award of Excellence for her performance of Ravel’s Ondine from Gaspard de la Nuit in the Global Music Awards Competition, La Jolla, California in 2013.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2018

Major Artists

John Rose, piano

John Alan Rose has been performing as pianist and composer since the age of 14. Acclaimed European pianist Andreas Haefliger once played from John’s sketchbook and was so taken with his music that he predicted his future as a composer/performer. In November of 2015, John performed his piano concerto with the Moravian Philharmonic in Olomouc, Czech Republic, followed by a collaboration with the same orchestra on a major recording project of his four concerti (cello, piano, violin and voice). His music has also been performed by the Dubrovnik Philharmonic Orchestra, the St. Petersburg State Symphony Orchestra (Russia), and the Lugansk Philharmonic (Ukraine).

In addition to large scale orchestral works, John has also composed a full length opera, major choral work, and many pieces for chamber ensemble and piano solo. At the age of eighteen he played the complete Chopin Etudes in concerts throughout Ohio and West Virginia. He has studied piano at Duquesne University, Indiana University and Baldwin-Wallace University; teachers include David...
Catherine Bell, soprano with Raymond Blackwell, piano
Praised by the Broad Street Review in Philadelphia for her “lovely lyric voice,” soprano Katherine Bell has performed across the Eastern US and abroad. Recent engagements include performances as Despina in Mozart’s Così fan tutte with Charleston Symphony Orchestra, Adina in Donizetti’s L’elisir d’amore, and Susanna in Mozart’s Le Nozze di Figaro, both productions with Opera Libera in Philadelphia.

In addition to traditional repertoire, Katherine champions new music and appeared as Maren of Vardø: Satan’s Bride by Jeff Myers with Philadelphia’s Vulcan Lyric Opera.

Active in competition, Katherine was awarded second place in the NATS Competition, MD/DC region. Among her concert performances, Katherine toured Italy as the soprano soloist in Vivaldi’s Gloria with New Jersey’s Jubilate Deo Chorale and Orchestra; a US performance took place at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia.

Katherine earned the Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance with a concentration in Voice Pedagogy from Peabody Conservatory, and her Bachelor of Music degree from Temple University.

Katherine currently lives in Pittsburgh and along with performing, enjoys sharing her love of music through teaching private lessons to students of all ages and experience levels.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2018

The Besozzi Trio
Daniel Muller and Xiang Ji, saxophone
Hyun Joo Park, piano

Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, saxophonist Daniel Muller is currently enrolled in the Advanced Music Studies program at Carnegie Mellon University. He holds an M.M. from Duquesne University and a B.M. from Baldwin Wallace University. He has studied with James Houlik, Keith Young, and Greg Banaszak, and has played in masterclasses with Tong Yang, Olli-Pekka Tuomisalo, and Doug Masek. He has also studied jazz and composition and is proficient on flute and clarinet. Muller has worked with the Mana Quartet at the 2014 National Music Festival in Chestertown, Maryland and presented his lecture-recital, “The Saxophone and the Third Reich”, at the 2018 Navy Band Saxophone Symposium at George Mason University. Outside of music, he also enjoys learning foreign languages, geography, and birdwatching.

Xiang Ji was born and raised in Beijing, China. Since starting on the saxophone at eight years old, he has performed as a soloist and chamber musician in many cities across China, Europe, and Southeast Asia. After earning his Bachelor’s Degree from the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, he received his Artist Diploma from Duquesne University, and is now studying at Carnegie Mellon University with Professor James Houlik. In 2015, he premiered “The Strange Library” by Benoit Granier with the Sostenuto Saxophone Ensemble at the 17th World Saxophone Congress in Strasbourg, France. The same year, he won the third prize in the adult division of Macedonia’s Ohrid Pearls International Competition of Young Musicians.

Born in Seoul, South Korea, Hyun Joo Park graduated with an Artist Diploma at Duquesne University, Doctorate and Master’s Degrees at Penn State University, and a Bachelor’s Degree with highest honor at Sookmyung Women’s University in Korea. Since her Carnegie Hall debut, she has given recitals in prestigious venues in Korea, France, and the United States. Park holds awards from the Piano Academy of Korea, the Seoul National Orchestra Concerto Competition, the Pennsylvania Music Teachers Association Competition, and the American Protégé International Piano and String Competition. She has won concerto competitions at every university she attended. In Pittsburgh, she is active as a private teacher and accompanist, recently serving as a judge for the Pittsburgh International Piano Competition.

Sopranos Tanying Dong, soprano with James Lesniak, piano

Soprano Tanying Dong studied vocal performance in New York City and has sung in recitals, concerts, and operas in New York, Chicago, France, and Austria. She is an alumna of the esteemed Martina Arroyo Prelude to Performance young artist program in Manhattan, and a first place winner of the De Vive Voix Festival in France. In Pittsburgh, Ms. Dong was a student of mezzo soprano Kara Cornell. She presently studies with Sari Gruber.

Ms. Dong moved to Pittsburgh two years ago when her husband took a job as a physician at UPMC Children’s Hospital.