



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 28 - August 2, 2024
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 2024 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 2024 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 a piano solo competition of talented young pianists featuring pianists ages 7 through 18, and a recital on August 2 in Libby Gardner Concert Hall of which is one of the most outstanding performing venues in the U.S.

2024 marks the twelfth 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.

Thank you!

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 2024 HELEN TAYLOR JOHANNESSEN PIANO COMPETITION

The Helen Taylor Johannesen International Piano Competition offers young pianists the opportunity to compete for cash prizes as well as to expand musically and to enjoy the benefits of cultural and artistic exchanges. Winners perform a public recital 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

2024 Helen Taylor Johannesen International Piano Competition Jury Members

Dr. Frank Levy

Pianist Frank Lévy has been hailed by audiences and critics alike as an artist of rare poetic insight and communicative powers. A prize-winner in the Leeds and Clara Haskil international piano competitions, Frank Lévy has an international career as a recitalist performing on many of the world's great stages.

Award-winning educator, Frank Lévy joined the piano faculty at Stanford University in September 2023. He is also serving on the piano faculty at San Jose State University School of Music and Dance since 2015. Frank Lévy has served on the piano faculty of the Juilliard School Pre-College Division (1995-2008) and in the D.M.A. program at the City University of New York Graduate Center (2008-2014).

Mr. Lévy recorded the complete piano works of Schubert and Brahms for the Canadian label, Palexa, and the complete works of Chopin for MusOpen. Frank Lévy recorded the complete Brahms Sonatas for piano and violin with violinist Bin Huang.

Mr. Lévy's recent appearances include solo recitals in Mexico, Chile, Brazil, China, Russia, Kuala Lumpur, Switzerland, Italy, Canada and the United States. Frank Lévy has given numerous lectures and master classes at universities, conservatories and music festivals around the world. His recent lectures include "The Art of Practicing: From Concept to Sound," "From the Fortepiano to the Fazioli," "Schubert and the Suspension of Time," "Musical Offerings for a Monument: Masterpieces by Beethoven, Liszt and Schumann," "Practicing Piano Creatively" and "The School of Piano: Understanding the Interaction between the Piano Mechanism and the Human Body."

Frank Lévy, who grew up in Switzerland, entered the Geneva Conservatory at the age of fifteen and earned the bachelor's and master's degrees studying with renowned pianist and pedagogue Louis Hiltbrand, and the doctorate in performance studying with Maria Tipo. After winning the Kiefer-Hablitzel Prize, Frank Lévy went to study with Leon Fleisher at the Peabody Conservatory, from where he received the Artist Diploma. Mr. Lévy also studied with Emanuel Ax, Samuel Sanders, Margo Garrett and Dorothy Taubman in New York, Vlado Perlemuter in Paris, Maria Curcio, Radu Lupu and Murray Perahia in London.

Since 2011, Frank Lévy makes his home in Sunnyvale, California with his wife, Ilana, and their three children. For more information about Frank's upcoming concerts, please visit his website www.franklevy.com.

Dr. 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 North America, Asia, and Europe, among them Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, Boston Symphony Hall, Flynn Performing Arts Center, Jordan Hall, Calderwood Hall at Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Seoul Arts Center, Mozart Hall, Moscow Conservatory, University of Music and Theatre Leipzig, Rockport Chamber Music Festival, Busan Music Festival, Summer Institute of Contemporary Performance Practice, International Liszt Symposium, Korean-American Cultural Foundation, and MusicFest Canada.

Esther earned her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in Piano Performance from New England Conservatory and Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance and Literature from Eastman School of Music, with a minor degree in Accompanying and Chamber Music. Her teachers have included the late Russell Sherman, Wha Kyung Byun, Meng-Chieh Liu, Rebecca Penneys, Douglas Humpherys, Paul Biss, Gabriel Chodos, Donald and Vivian Weilerstein, and Jean Barr. She won numerous prizes and awards, including first prizes in Junior Chopin Competition, Harvard Musical Association Competition, Boston Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition, Busan Music Festival Competition, Ye-Eum Piano Festival, Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, Frances B. Lanier Award from New England Conservatory's Preparatory School, and Arnold C. Taylor Award from Walnut Hill School for the Arts where she graduated summa cum laude and was inducted to the National Society of High School Scholars. She was a guest artist at the South Korean launch of Steinway & Sons, the Ministry of National Defense in South Korea, and at the US-Korea Conference in New York City. Her performances have been broadcast on National Public Radio's From the Top and WSMR Classical. Equally at home with the traditional canon and music of our own time, Esther's advocacy of new music has led to working closely with such distinguished composers as Peter Maxwell Davies, Unsuk Chin, Rodney Lister, and Rand Steiger, and concertizing contemporary works, among them John Cage's Music of Changes, George Crumb's Makrokosmos, Jeff Tyzik's Images, John Harbison's Piano Quintet, Steve Reich's Double Sextet. She gave the world premiere of Amy Dunker's solo works written for the courageous people of Ukraine. In recent seasons, Esther has been invited to appear as a guest artist with the Edward J. and Cathy Gallagher Arts at Clarke Series, NOVA Chamber Music Series, NEXT Ensemble, Bonneville Chamber Music Festival, American Liszt Society, Korean-American Federation of Utah, Ogden Piano Festival, Browning Trio, two special gala celebrations for Walnut Hill School for the Arts, and as the inaugural pianist to be invited for the Sarah Elliott Visiting Pianist Series at the Christopher Newport University.

Additionally, she can be heard as a collaborative pianist on the recording of Thom Priest's original composition for Bassoon and Piano, "Running the Green." The 2023-2024 season included concerts in California, Florida, and throughout the state of Utah, including Saint-Saens' Piano Concerto No. 5 and Florence Price's Piano Concerto, recitals in Mississippi, Virginia, and North Carolina, gala performances at the Shalin Liu Performance Center in Rockport, Massachusetts and a celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Korean-American Alliance where she was awarded the Peace Prize, and a recording project with critically acclaimed tenor Michael Gonzalez.

As an artist-teacher, her passion lies in nurturing individual expression, human compassion, and unique talents from all walks of life. Esther currently serves as Assistant Professor of Piano at Weber State University, where she is also the Director of WSU Piano Festival and Accompanying area. In the summers, she is on the Artist Faculty of Bay PianoFest at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Additionally, she held the role of Program Assistant at the Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival at the University of South Florida for two seasons and was a faculty-mentor at Bravo Waukegan and American Music Centre. A sought-after adjudicator and clinician, she has been invited to judge numerous competitions and give masterclasses across the country. Esther is also Chair of the Music Teachers National Association Piano Performance Competition for the State of Utah and has served as the Chair of the Collegiate Program for the Utah Music Teachers Association. She previously taught at New England Conservatory and Eastman School of Music and served on the piano faculty at Clarke University.

Libby Gardner Concert Hall

July 28, 2024

Competition and Festival Opening Ceremony

10:00 am, July 28, 2024

Libby Concert Hall

Piano Try-out

11:00 - Natalie Sun

11:15 - Maxwell Ji

11:30 - Abigail Yang

11:45 - Emily Yang

12:00 - Andy Hu

12:15 - Amy Hu

12:30 - Kaylah Olivia Liu

12:45 - Olivia Jiang

1:00 - Crystal Jiang

1:15 - Annie Jia

1:30 - Zibo Wang

1:45 - Victoria Huang

2:00 - Tyler Burrup

2:15 - Samuel Lu

2024 Helen Taylor Johannesen Piano Competition

July 29, 2024

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Libby Gardner Concert Hall

Audience Allowed

Young Musicians aged 10 and under

Two contrasting standard piano works, memorized

10:00 Natalie Sun

Sonata in D Minor, K. 422

Domenico Scarlatti

(1685-1757)

Sparks, from Oeuvre, Op. 36, No. 6

Moritz Moszkowski

(1854-1925)

10:10 Maxwell Ji

Etude, Op. 10, No. 8

Frédéric Chopin

(1810-1849)

Prelude “General Lavine”, Excentric

Claude Debussy

(1862-1918)

10:20 Abigail Yufan Yang

Prelude 2, C Minor

Johann Sebastian Bach

and Fugue 2, C Minor

(1685-1750)

Waltz in E Minor, KK Iva Nr. 15

Frédéric Chopin

Junior Division aged 11 - 13

Two contrasting standard piano works, memorized

10:30 Crystal Jiang

Sonata in A Major, K. 331, First Mvt. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Etude Op, 25, No. 1 Frédéric Chopin

10:40 Andy Hu

Sonata in C, Hob. XVI/50 Joseph Haydn
(1732-1809)

Etude Op. 25, No. 2 Frédéric Chopin

10:50 Annie Jia

Sonata in C Minor, Op. 13, First Mvt. Ludwig van Beethoven

Etude, Op. 10, No. 8 Frédéric Chopin

11:00 Kaylah Olivia Liu

“The Lark” Mikhail Glinka
(1804-1857)
trans. M. Balakirew

WTC II Prelude & Fugue in C Minor, Johann Sebastian Bach
BWV 871

11:10

Toccata in D Major, BWV 912 Victoria Huang
Johann Sebastian Bach

10 Bagatelles, Op. 5 (1, 2, 4, 6, 10) Alexander Tcherepnin
(1899-1977)

11:20 Emily Yang

WTC II Prelude & Fugue in B-flat Minor Johann Sebastian Bach

Prelude “Les sons et les parfums tournent
dans l’air du soir” Claude Debussy

Break

Young Artist Division aged 14-18

Three standard piano works with at least two contrasting periods,
memorized

2:30 Amy Hu

Sonata in D, K. 311

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Prelude “Les Collines d’Anacapri”

Claude Debussy

Sonata Op. 7 in E Minor, First Mvt.

Edvard Grieg
(1843-1907)

2:45 Zibo Wang

WTC I Prelude & Fugue in B-flat Minor

Wolfgang Amadeus
Mozart

Abegg Variation, Op. 1

Robert Schumann
(1810-1956)

Etude-tableau Op. 33, No. 9

No. 1 Prelude, No. 3 Musette

Sergei Rachmaninoff
(1873-1943)

3:00 Olivia Jiang

Sonata in E-flat Major

H. XVI: 52, First Mvt.

Joseph Haydn

Etude Op. 10, No. 5

Frédéric Chopin

Sonata in A Minor, No. 3, Op. 28

Sergei Prokofiev
(1891-1953)

3:15 Samuel Lu

WTC I Prelude & Fugue in B-flat Minor Johann Sebastian Bach

Etude Op. 10, No. 1 in C Major Ludwig van Beethoven

Sonata No. 5, Op. 53 Alexander Scriabin
(1872-1915)

3:30 Tyler Burrup

Nocturne L. 82 Claude Debussy

Etude Op. 10, No. 12 Frédéric Chopin

Sonata No. 5, Op. 10, No. 1, Third Mvt. Ludwig Van Beethoven

3:30 Tyler Burrup

Nocturne L. 82 Claude Debussy

Etude Op. 10, No. 12 Frédéric Chopin

Sonata No. 5, Op. 10, No. 1, Third Mvt. Ludwig Van Beethoven

Schedule of Events of the 2024 Helen Taylor Johannesen International Piano Festival

Masterclasses with Guest Artist Angela Cheng
9:00 – 12:00 & 2:00 – 4:00
Dumke Recital Hall, July 29
Libby Gardner Concert Hall, July 30

Seminar: Prof. Jie and Ning's presentation
Dumke Recital Hall
11:00 – 12:00
Prof. Elizabeth Bird on Overcome the Stage Fright
Dumke Recital Hall
12:00 – 1:00
July 31

Piano Coaching with Prof. Jie & Ning Lu
Libby Gardner Concert Hall
Time TBA
July 31

Masterclasses with Guest Artist Douglas Humphreys
9:00 – 12:00 & 2:00 – 4:00
Libby Concert Hall
August 1st & 2nd

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, 2024.
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, 2024. 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:

Transportation - Yanqi Wang

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Piano Technician - Clinton Taylor

Program Booklet - Aidan McMillan and Michelle Coulam Addison

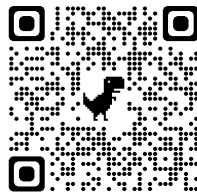
Administrative Officer - Michelle Coulam Addison

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

The University of Utah School of Music
cordially invites you to our upcoming events:

For more information please visit:

music.utah.edu



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