



Steinway Piano Society

Newsletter

Breaking News: FGCU Bower School of Music to Become All-Steinway School!

The Bower School of Music has signaled their intention to become an All-Steinway School, joining the ranks of Juilliard, Curtis, Yale and 72 other leading Conservatories and Music Schools by purchasing Steinway, Boston, and Essex Pianos to replace instruments they formerly had on a loan from another supplier. The school had previously purchased Boston Studio Pianos and a Steinway Concert Grand from Steinway Piano Gallery. They also had Steinway rebuild a vintage Steinway Grand Piano which had been donated to them by a patron.

In side by side comparison, under extreme conditions, the Steinway and Boston pianos simply outperformed all other pianos. Dr. Michael Baron visited the Gallery in July to select two model B Grands and three Boston and Essex Studios. The instruments were delivered in August for the fall term. Dr. Baron said, "The Bower School of Music is thrilled to have received 5 new Steinway Pianos. Our students come from all over the world to study at the highest level of musicianship. With the acquisition of these pianos they will be able to refine their craft on the finest pianos available."



The Bower School of Music is expected to take delivery of an additional 7 pianos this fall and about 15 more, including another Concert Grand, when the new music school building opens in January of 2011. Legacy naming opportunities for both the building and the pianos are available by contacting Judy Cassidy at FGCU.



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New FGCU Scholarship Recipient Selected

The Steinway Piano Society is delighted to announce the new recipient of the Steinway Piano Society FGCU Collegiate Scholarship, Hyae-jin Hwang. Hwang is a piano performance major at the Bower School of Music, where she studies with Dr. Michael Baron, Head of Piano Studies.

Hwang is a native of South Korea and has been successful in many competitions including National Winner in the American Association of Christian Schools. She recently performed as soloist with the orchestra in Fort

Lauderdale as the national winner of the Ars Flores National Concerto Competition.

With the support of the Steinway Piano Society, this promising young artist will have the resources she needs to pursue her educational dreams. Please join us on Thursday, November 5th at 7:00 pm for a special performance featuring Hyae-jin Hwang, where you will also have the opportunity to meet and get to know this



Hyae-jin Hwang

talented young woman. Please RSVP, 239-498-9884.



The Steinway Piano Showcase



Tuesdays
7:00 pm
Comcast Cable
Television
Channel 14

Greg's Corner: The Power of the Piano Bank Program

Every human endeavor starts with a certain amount of optimism. Especially if you have been cursed with enough entrepreneurial spirit to cause you to become a merchant. While the Steinway Piano Society of Southwest Florida is the envy of piano stores everywhere, most of our programs have come up just a little short of initial expectations. That is why I was so gratified to see Julian Gonzales win an award in this year's FGCU/Steinway Piano Competition. Julian first started playing the piano in our after school group piano program taught by Professor Joanne Smith at our old Gallery on 91st Street in Naples. He was also one of the first students to qualify for a practice piano from our Piano Bank. Seeing him win 3rd place among the Junior group in this year's competition was especially sweet. Though the after school program has been suspended, the Competition and the Piano Bank are the principal vehicles we use to encourage and support young

pianists. We are currently working with the FGCU Bower School of Music to create a program where their pedagogy students can earn college credit while gaining practical experience teaching young people at several locations throughout our area. There are several logistical and financial issues to resolve. Stand by for more information and let us know if you'd like to help.

Julian is living proof that our work is paying dividends. He is exactly what you would hope to see in a young man. He has a big smile and a kind nature. He's a good student and a fine citizen. Music is having a profound influence on his life, and the members of the Steinway Piano Society are helping him achieve his goals. Congratulations Julian and Professor Joanne Smith! Congratulations to all of our generous members and sponsors.



Greg & Sara Billings, Julian Gonzales, Meghan Brachle, Professor Joanne Smith, Dr. Michael Baron

"... I was gratified to see Julian Gonzales win an award in this year's FGCU/Steinway Piano Competition"
-Greg Billings



Second Annual Pastors' Talent Show Kept the Faith



Sara Billings, Rev. Ed Gray, Sherry Break, Pastor Bob Petterson.

On Saturday, April 25th in the Gulf Coast High School Auditorium, 12 local pastors sang, danced, played, clowned around and even did stand-up comedy to raise funds for the Neighborhood Health Clinic and the Steinway Piano Society's Piano Bank.

The event was sponsored by Steinway Piano Society and Praise FM, and was co-produced by Greg Billings and his wife Sara, a registered nurse.

To back up the Pastors, Billings re-united his

11 piece band, "Throat Culture," which included some of Naples' finest musicians who donated their time and talent to support the cause.

According to Nina Gray, CEO of the Neighborhood Health Clinic: "The gifted performers brought the audience to its feet clapping and cheering. . . it was a magical evening. Psalm 100 best describes it: *Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness.*"



FGCU's Bower School of Music's First Graduate!

Faith Lanctot Sam graduated cum laude from FGCU on May 15, 2009. Faith was the first graduate from the Bower School of Music, and she also holds a special place in the hearts of the Steinway Piano Society, as our first collegiate scholarship recipient.

This past year has been quite an adventure for Mrs. Sam, she got married and then had a baby 10 months later, all the while being a full-time student, winning major prizes, and giving many concerts!

She and her husband have relocated to Albuquerque, New Mexico. Dr. Michael Baron, who has taught Faith since she was 9 years old, commented "I am very proud that the very first graduate of the Bower School of Music is an outstanding pianist who has brought much honor to the school with her brilliant, prize-winning performances. I am grateful to the Steinway Piano Society for their support in allowing Faith to pursue her education."



Faith Sam, Dr. Michael Baron, Debra Hess, Ph.D.

5th Annual Physicians' Talent Showcase


The Steinway Piano Society will once again present local Doctors performing at the Sugden Theatre in Naples for the 5th annual Physicians Talent Showcase planned for Tuesday night, October 20th.

See your doctors as you've never seen them before; singing and playing in this special, one-of-a-kind program. There are always sur-



2008 finale

prises in store, and the show is preceded by a silent auction. Proceeds will benefit The Neighborhood Health Clinic and our Scholarship Fund.

View more information and photos from last year's show at www.steinwaynaples.com. Tickets are available at the Sugden Theatre Box Office, 239-263-7990. 

FGCU/ Steinway Piano Society Competition

On May 16th & 17th, local students aged 6 through 18 participated in the 8th annual FGCU/ Steinway Piano Competition, co-sponsored by FGCU's Bower School



Competition winners pose with their awards.

of Music. The 16 winners were awarded trophies, certificates, and cash scholarships courtesy of the Steinway Piano Society and our generous sponsors—The FGCU


Stone. There were also numerous individual donations made to the scholarship fund.

The Awards Recital was held on

Foundation, Shell Point Retirement Community, Drs. Richard & Maria Linden, Marguerite Scribante, William & Anne Kinsley, Jeannette Boucher, Tom & Fran Myers, and Deb & Jerry

Saturday, May 30th in the FGCU Student Union Ballroom. The students played their winning pieces before Dr. Michael Baron, Director and Meghan Brachle presented the awards. According to Brachle, "the contestants were well-prepared and enthusiastic which was evident in their playing." The event was emceed by Rob Meads.

For more information, please visit our website: www.SteinwayPianoGallery.net

The winning students will perform at Steinway Piano Gallery on Thursday, December 3rd at 7:00 pm. Please RSVP, 239-498-9884. 

Pain-free Piano!

Back by popular demand, David Higginson will return to Steinway Piano Gallery this November to present his free "Piano Without Pain" Seminars!

Higginson will demonstrate an easier way to play the piano without having to read music, as well as some of the secrets the professionals use to play so beautifully. The method is exciting and rewarding enough for an experienced musician, yet easy enough for a beginner. For more information, visit www.pianostar.com

Seminars will take place on:

Tuesday, Nov. 10th: 11:00 am & 3:00 pm and
Wednesday, Nov. 11th: 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

Seats fill up fast, please RSVP—239-498-9884. 



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By phone:
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By e-mail:
Meghan@steinwaynaples.
Com

2009-2010 Calendar of Events

October 20, 2009	Fifth Annual Physicians' Talent Showcase, Sugden Theatre 6:30 pm
November 5, 2009	Hyae-jin Hwang of Florida Gulf Coast University, Recital Hall 7:00 pm
November 10 & 11, 2009	David Higginson's "Piano Without Pain" Seminars, 11:00 am & 3:00 pm
November 19, 2009	Ashley Ball, Recital Hall 7:00 pm
December 3, 2009	FGCU/ Steinway Piano Competition Winners' Recital, Recital Hall 7:00 pm
January 7, 2010	Eleonora Lvov, Recital Hall 7:00 pm
January 21, 2010	Mingshan Kong & Family, Robb & Stucky Naples Showroom 7:00 pm
February 18, 2010	Lidia Doroshina, Recital Hall 7:00 pm
March, TBD	Belina Kostadinova, Recital Hall 7:00 pm
March 4, 2010	Tao Lin & Katherine Lan, Recital Hall 7:00 pm
April 1, 2010	Piano Ensemble featuring Dr. Baron & FGCU Music Students, Recital Hall 7:00 pm
April, TBD	Third Annual Pastors' Talent Showcase, Gulf Coast High School Auditorium TBD
April 15, 2010	Ed Vodicka Trio, Recital Hall 7:00 pm
May, TBD	FGCU/ Steinway Piano Competition & Awards Recital, TBD

Please renew or begin my/our Southwest Florida Steinway Piano Society membership:

Circle one: Renewal New Membership Single \$95.00 Family \$125.00

Please accept my tax-deductible contribution to the scholarship fund: \$ _____

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I authorize the amount(s) listed above, plus gift membership to be charged to my Visa or MasterCard account listed below:

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You may renew or begin your membership by calling

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Via Fax

(239) 498-6028

Or by mail:

**28751 S. Tamiami Trail
Bonita Springs, FL 34134**

Please make payable to
**Southwest Florida Steinway
Piano Society**