



SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

STEINWAY *Piano Society*

Volume 8, Issue 2

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View more photos online:
www.steinwaypianogallery.net/socevents.html

*"Niles truly captured the essence of the Steinway Factory and its people."
-Greg Billings*

"NOTE BY NOTE" THE PRIVATE SCREENING

Independent Film producer Ben Niles has created a wonderful feature-length documentary that follows the creation of a Steinway Grand from factory floor to Carnegie Hall. His film "Note By Note" has been showing at prestigious film festivals around the world. Ben was in Naples visiting family over the holidays and presented a special private screening to Steinway Piano Society members on December 23rd in the Recital Hall.

Society Founder Greg Billings, who has visited the New York factory many times, felt that

Niles "truly captured the essence of the Steinway Factory and its people."

The screening was followed by an informal question and answer session and members had a chance to meet Ben and get his autograph.

The movie premiered in November in New York City and will continue to premiere at select locations throughout the country. For more information about the film including upcoming screening locations, visit the movie's website: www.notebynotethemovie.com.



Anna-Marie Mozzicato, Ben Niles and Jeannette Boucher.



Question & Answer Session



THE MUSIC OF FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY

The FGCU Bower School of Music provides an innovative musical experience to not only the FGCU community, but to the greater community as well.

For the enjoyment of Steinway Piano Society members, there are two upcoming concerts featuring FGCU music students and their Professor, Dr. Michael Baron.

Faith Lanctot has studied piano with Dr. Michael Baron since she was nine years old. Last year she won the MTNA Collegiate Artist Competition for the state of Florida and was also the first student to

perform at the Bower School of Music. Faith is currently a Junior. She will perform in the Recital Hall on **January 17th at 7:00p.m.** Please RSVP, 239-498-9884.



Faith Lanctot

Dr. Michael Baron, Associate Professor of Music, heads the piano studio of Florida Gulf Coast University.

His students have won or placed in numerous competitions including Competition International, Music Teacher's National Association, Maurice S. Thomas Memorial Competition and Four Corners Piano Competition. He is a popular teacher and presenter for music teacher association workshops. Baron co-directs the Corsi Internazionali di Musica Summer Music Festival at the University of Urbino, Italy (www.urbino.beadlam.us) and is Artistic Director of the Rocky Mountain Music Alliance Concert Series in

Colorado Springs, Colorado. Dr. Baron will present several two-piano pieces with piano majors from the Bower School of Music at Florida Gulf Coast University on Thursday, **February 21st, 7:00p.m.** at Steinway Piano Gallery. Please RSVP, 239-498-9884.



Dr. Michael Baron & Faith

The 2008 Steinway Piano Competition will take place on Friday, May 16 and Saturday May 17th in the Recital Hall. Visit www.SteinwayPianoGallery.net for the latest information.

SEASON OPENS WITH ITALIAN FLAIR!

Our 2007-2008 concert season began a little earlier this year with opening events held in mid-October. Sebastiano Brusco came to us all the way from Rome, Italy. On Tuesday October 16th, Sebastiano oversaw a masterclass—a public piano lesson of sorts—with piano major students of Florida Gulf Coast University. The masterclass gave all who attended the opportunity to hear the students play, listen to insightful feedback from Mr. Brusco—notwithstanding the language barrier—and then experience the dramatic improvement in the students’ performance. The following evening Brusco returned to Steinway to perform a more formal concert for the members of the Steinway Piano Society.

He delighted the audience on both occasions and Society members not only enjoyed his performance, but also the opportunity to meet him after the concert. Brusco stayed to chat with the members and posed for photographs with them. View more photos on-line at <http://www.steinwaypianogallery.net/socevents.html>.



Dr. Baron, Greg, Sebastiano & Students



Greg & Sara with Sebastiano



Masterclass in progress



Bill & Anne Kinsley with Sebastiano

PHYSICIANS’ TALENT SHOWCASE!

On October 30, ten of Naples’ finest physicians forwent the “art of healing” and embraced the “art of performance,” all for the benefit of two local charities. The sold-out event took place at Sugden Theatre and was emceed by ABC -7 News co-anchors Stacey Deffenbaugh and Len Jennings. More than \$30,000 was raised to benefit the Neighborhood Health Clinic and the Steinway Piano Society

Scholarship Fund.

The evening began with a silent auction reception and featured performances by Dr. Anderson, Dr. Heisler, Dr. Rumberger, Dr. Cohn, Dr. David, Dr. Cugini as well as the physicians pictured below. These physician pianists, guitarists and vocalists were backed up by the band “Throat Culture,” composed of Steinway Piano Society founder Greg Billings on bass and other society members.

A special treat of the evening was the performance by Joseph Lang, Jr., winner of the coveted Mary Jane Schneider Award graciously donated by the Ron R. & Mary Jane Schneider Family Foundation.



Dr. Joseph Lang & son, Joseph Jr.



“Everyone had a great time and we were able to raise a substantial amount for two great charities.”
Jeff Davis



Clockwise from top: 1. Dr. & Mrs. William Lascheid, Sara & Greg Billings; 2. Performers pose with check to Neighborhood Health Clinic; 3. Gary & Joyce Tice, Jeff Davis; 4. Dr. Brooks, aka “Billy Ray”; 5. Dr. Kae Ferber; 6. All performers onstage for the finale

HUSBAND AND WIFE DUO TO PERFORM

Hubband and wife team Gordon and Carol Bleich came to Florida six years ago from Farmington Hills, Michigan. High school sweethearts from the age of 16, this year will mark their 31st wedding anniversary.

They uniquely combine their gifts in vocal and piano artistry and have worked a total of 37 years in public education and church music positions.

Presently, Gordon is Principal Pianist at The First Baptist Church of Naples. Together they direct the children's choir

program and minister to all ages.

Gordon holds a Bachelor of music degree from the University of Michigan, as well as his Master's degree in Orff Pedagogy from Oakland University. He is a certified Orff music teacher and has won national honors for his work. He taught vocal music for 25 years and has been worship director at several churches including the music/worship department at Ward Presbyterian Church in Michigan and his leadership in

worship at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Naples. Carol taught elementary and middle school for 12 years prior to the birth of their son. She uses her musical gifts in the classroom and the church. Her leadership skills have allowed her to administrate children's church school programs and choirs. Most recently, Gordon and Carol have taught classes at Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando on worship and the millennial generation.

They will perform at Steinway Piano Gallery on **January 31st at 7:00pm**. Please RSVP, 239-498-9884



Gordon and Carol Bleich

NAOMI NISKALA



Naomi Niskala

Pianist **Naomi Niskala** has appeared as soloist and chamber musician in Europe, the United States, Canada, and Japan, and her performances have been broadcast on BBC Radio and NPR's *Performance Today*. Her competition awards have included first prize at the 1996 Kingsville International Isabel Scionti Solo Piano Competition and a top prize at the International Stravinsky Awards

Competition in Illinois. A fellow for two summers each at Tanglewood's Music

Center and Ravinia Festival's Steans Institute, Niskala toured on the first "Musicians from Ravinia's Steans Institute" tour with violinist Miriam Fried. She was later invited by Zarin Mehta to Israel, Turkey, and Greece to perform chamber music for a Ravinia Festival benefit. Niskala is known for her performance of the piano works of American composer Robert Helps (1928-2001). Her release of the first complete recordings of Helps' solo piano works on two discs with Albany Records in 2007 was met with high acclaim and the first volume was chosen by *Classics Today* as one of the twenty best discs released in 2007. Upcoming performances include the San Francisco Symphony Chamber Series and Spectrum Concerts Berlin.

Niskala holds degrees from the Yale School of Music, Stony Brook University, and the New England Conservatory of Music. She received her Master and Doctoral degrees with Gilbert Kalish at Stony Brook, and an Artist Diploma with Claude Frank at Yale. Niskala taught at Wesleyan University and was Assistant Professor of Piano at the University of South Florida School of Music. Niskala is currently Visiting Assistant Professor of Piano at the University of North Dakota.

Niskala will perform at Steinway Piano Gallery on **March 6th at 7:00pm**. Please call to RSVP, 239-498-9884



PAINLESS PIANO SEMINARS!



David Higginson has taught thousands of people the secret of how to play piano without reading music. Higginson will return to the Steinway Piano Gallery once again this February to present his free "Piano without Pain" Seminars!

He will demonstrate an easier way to play without having to read music and secrets to how the professionals play!

David Higginson

Seminar Schedule:

Tuesday, February 12th & Wednesday February 13th;
11a.m. & 3p.m.

Tuesday, February 12th; 7 p. m. (Special program for members)
Seating is limited. Please call to RSVP at 239-498-9884.

The Steinway Piano Showcase

Hosted by Rob Meads & Jennifer Fey



Wednesday 7p.m.

Friday 7:30p.m.

Sunday 9:30p.m.

Comcast Cable TV
channel 35



**Scott "The Piano Guy"
Houston!**

**Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.
on WGCU TV**

**Underwritten by the
Steinway Piano Gallery**



2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 3	2007 Steinway Piano Society Piano Competition Winners Concert , Steinway Piano Gallery, 7 pm
January 17th	Faith Lancot , Steinway Piano Gallery, 7 pm
January 31st	Gordon & Carol Bleich , Steinway Piano Gallery, 7 pm
February 12th	Piano Without Pain (Special program for members), Steinway Piano Gallery, 7pm
February 12th & 13th	Piano Without Pain , Steinway Piano Gallery, 11am & 3pm
February 21st	Dr. Baron & FGCU Music Students , Steinway Piano Gallery, 7 pm
March 6th	Naomi Niskala , Steinway Piano Gallery, 7 pm
March 27	Belina Kostadinova , Steinway Piano Gallery, 7 pm
April 3	Ed Vodicka Trio , Steinway Piano Gallery, 7 pm
May 16th & 17th	FGCU/ Steinway Piano Society Competition , Steinway Piano Gallery
May 31st	FGCU/ Steinway Piano Society Competition Awards Recital , FGCU Student Union Ballroom

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

Circle one: Renewal New Membership Single \$50.00 Family \$75.00

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

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ Business Phone () _____

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

Number _____ Exp. _____

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You may renew or begin your membership by calling

(239) 498-9884

Via Fax

(239) 498-6028

Or by mail:

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

If paying by check, please make payable to Southwest Florida Steinway Piano Society