



Arthur Houle, Founder & Artistic Director
Evelyn Billberg, Program Director
Luke Rackers, Executive Director, Abundant Silence
www.pianofestival.org

Written Composition Finalists & Rackers/Duncan Program

Classic Pianos
1332 S. Broadway, Denver, CO 80210

Thursday, June 7, 2018
7:00 P.M.

Suggested donation: \$5 for all attendees

All works are awarded "Finalist: Best Written Composition"

Decisions re: additional prizes, if awarded, will be announced at the Saturday evening Awards Ceremony.

Composers will introduce and tell us about their pieces prior to each performance. Some selections may be played twice; by a judge or clinician (as listed below) and, if they opt to do so, by the composer.

Freedom in Resolution.....Zachary Freeman (b. 2002)
Inspired by Consolation by Felix Mendelssohn.

Martha Hill Duncan & Luke Rackers, pianists

Northern Lights.....Jacob Hon (b. 2000)
This piece flows and build up as it progresses. It is inspired by movie soundtracks – in particular, scores by Hans Zimmer (b. 1957) and Eric Whitacre (b. 1970). They both have a way of expressing strong emotions through music, which also comes through in this work.

Wynn-Anne Rossi, pianist

Retrospection.....Jiyang Zhou (b. 2001)
The composition structure is influenced by contemporary pop and blues. Rhythmically, this work incorporates Latin American styles. Melodically it is inspired by a variety of contemporary electronic and hip-hop music (artists such as Zedd, the Chainsmokers, and Logic) as well as 1980s disco and 1990s rock. The composer's goal is to collaborate with singers to tell stories through songs.

Evan Mazunik, pianist

Valse Scherzando.....Leslie Wilburn (b. 2001)
The recurring motive – "A^b – B^b/C[♯] – G[♯] – A^b – E[♯]" – was originally conceived as a string sextet chorale. It evolved, however, in unexpected ways and was ultimately joyously cast as a waltz with characteristics of a scherzo and mazurka.

John Salmon, pianist

From the Limestone Etchings Series*:

**Limestone Etchings is a collection of piano solos and duets composed by Martha Hill Duncan and paired with original pencil drawings by artist Spencer Hope. This musical and visual collaboration honors the picturesque and historic city of Kingston, Ontario.*

The War Memorial (2008)

With our country's Memorial Day only a mere 10 days ago, it seems fitting to feature this evocative work expressing kindred remembrance. Inspired by Canada's National War Memorial on the shore of Lake Ontario in Kingston, Ontario, this solo has a Celtic flavor with distant drums, cannons, church bells and lush pedal effects honoring the fallen.

Kingston Mills Locks (2008)

This expressive "cinematic" solo depicts the past and present of Kingston Mills Locks, the most southerly component of the Rideau Canal System (known unofficially as the Rideau Waterway), which connects Canada's capital city of Ottawa, Ontario, to Lake Ontario and the Saint Lawrence River at Kingston, Ontario. Cross keyboard runs, rapid repeating notes and a haunting underwater scene underscore this beautiful, poignant and important historical landmark.

The severity of the cut into the Pre-Cambrian core speaks to the hardships and lives lost in the building of the canals. Exhibited in the protruding and angular character of the locks themselves is evidence of the determination to succeed. Here is manifested the resolve of the settlers to create a new homeland.

Martha Hill Duncan, pianist and composer

On the Table

Evan Mazunik, pianist and clinician

Biographies – 2nd half of the program (see Friday program for other bios):

Martha Hill Duncan is Abundant Silence's Featured Composition Educator. A Texas native, she began piano lessons at the age of eight and later received a diploma in vocal music in the first graduating class of The Houston High School for Performing and Visual Arts. She earned a degree in composition from The University of Texas at Austin studying composition with Donald Grantham and piano with Gregory Allen, Danielle Martin, and Errol Haun. In Ithaca, New York she worked with pianist Trudi Borden and composer Robert Palmer and in 1982, moved to Canada with her husband, astrophysicist Martin Duncan. In Toronto she continued her musical studies at the Royal Conservatory of Music with composer Sam Dolin. Martha resides in Kingston, Ontario; in recognition of her adopted country, many of Martha's vocal and choral works are set to Canadian texts. Some of these songs have won awards in both American and Canadian choral and art song competitions. In addition to her vocal writing, Martha is also known for her piano compositions, many of which were inspired by places where she has lived or visited. A piano examiner for The Royal Conservatory of Music, Martha is also a clinician and frequent adjudicator.

Evan Mazunik plays contemporary and improvised music as a composer, keyboardist, and musical director in the Denver, CO area. Fluent in Soundpainting, a sign language for live composition, Mazunik is composer/director for ZAHA, his NYC-based ensemble. Mazunik has performed with Carla Bley, Anthony Braxton, and Robin Eubanks, and has played at creative music venues such as Roulette, The Stone, and Dazzle.

As an educator, he founded the Sunnyside Piano Academy while in New York, and has collaborated with Jeffrey Agrell for master classes and workshops at Colorado Mesa University, University of Indiana, University of North Texas, Southern Mississippi University, the Royal Academy of Music in London, and many others. Evan currently serves as Director of Worship, Music & Arts at Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church.

We need and appreciate your generous support! Donations have tax benefits.
If you would like to make a donation to the Festival for Creative Pianists, please see:
<https://abundantsilence.kindful.com/?campaign=271714>

Upcoming:

• Judges and Director Recital

Tomorrow evening, Fri., June 8: 7:00 P.M., Rockley Community Recital Hall (\$15/\$10/\$5)

• Celebration of Students' Best Recitals & followed by the Awards Ceremony

Sat., June 9: 3:45 PM, 5:00 PM, & 7:00 PM Rockley Community Recital Hall (\$15/\$10/\$5)

Many thanks to our donors, sponsors and volunteers. This festival would not be possible without you!

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Special thanks to all of the Columbine Music Teachers for organizing and providing food for our Saturday potluck and providing other support throughout the festival...we could not do this without your support!

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...and anyone else we may have inadvertently forgotten to mention 🙌