

The Ira F. Brilliant Center for Beethoven Studies at San José State University  
and the American Beethoven Society

present the

30TH ANNUAL

Celia Mendez  
**Young  
Pianists'**  
*Beethoven*  
**Competition**

with

**Jonathan Biss**

One of the finest pianists of his generation, critically acclaimed  
Beethoven interpreter, and creator of the immensely popular online lecture series  
"Exploring Beethoven's Piano Sonatas"

PROGRAM

**SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 2016**

**Beethoven and Schubert Recital**

7:30 p.m.

LE PETIT TRIANON

Jonathan Biss will perform Beethoven's great *Hammerklavier* Sonata, Opus 106, and Schubert's Sonata in A Major, D. 959. "A young virtuoso and poetic pianist of the first order" (*Chicago Sun Times*), Biss has been proclaimed as a "kindred soul" with Schubert and interpreter of Beethoven "marked by the highest musicality."

Mr. Biss's concert is a fund-raiser for the Center.

**Tickets: \$100 (including a reception with the artist), \$75, \$55, \$35,  
\$25 (students and seniors over 65)**

**A portion of the \$100 (\$80), \$75 (\$55),  
and \$55 (\$35) tickets is tax deductible.**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2016**

**Competition**

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

SJSU CONCERT HALL

The six finalists will perform their Beethoven sonatas. The judges will select three winners and announce the results at 12:30 p.m.

**Admission to the Final Competition is free**

**Masterclass**

2:30p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

SJSU CONCERT HALL

The three winners will participate in a masterclass with Jonathan Biss.

**Tickets: \$15 general admission  
\$10 students (under 25)  
and senior citizens (above 65)**

**Awards**

Three winners will be selected from the six finalists. Each winner will perform in the masterclass with internationally renowned pianist Jonathan Biss and receive a monetary prize of \$250. The three other finalists will each receive a \$100 prize. Upon request, finalists residing outside the San Francisco Bay area will be provided with accommodations. In addition, finalists from Southern California will be provided with airfare.

**Preliminary audition**

A screening panel of judges will select six finalists and one alternate to participate in the final competition. The six finalists and alternate will be contacted by telephone on Monday, March 21, 2016. The names of the six winners and one alternate will be posted on the Beethoven Center's website ([americanbeethovenociety.org/events/ypbc.html](http://americanbeethovenociety.org/events/ypbc.html)) on Monday, March 21, 2016. Comments from the three preliminary judges will be mailed to all contestants on Monday, March 21, 2016.

**Selection criteria**

The three winners will be chosen on the criteria of emotional expressiveness, individuality of interpretation, and stylistic understanding of how to perform Baroque works and Beethoven's music, which contains both Classical and Romantic styles. Emotional expressiveness will be valued higher than technical proficiency. Contestants are encouraged to study and/or perform from a critical edition.

**Committee**

Celia Mendez (Founder and Co-Chair), Ellen Tryba Chen, Debbie Davis, Ted Lorraine, Natalya Lundtvedt, William Meredith, Christine McLeavey Paine, Patricia Stroh (Co-Chair), and Namiq Sultanov.

**Finals Judges**

Frank Levy  
William Meredith  
Markus Pawlik

**Special thanks**

The competition is made possible through the generous contributions of The Horace Dodge Endowment Fund, Silicon Valley Creates, Office of Cultural Affairs of the City of San José, and Celia Mendez.

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**Jonathan Biss** is a world-renowned pianist who shares his deep musical and intellectual curiosity with classical music lovers in the concert hall and beyond. Growing up surrounded by music, Biss began his piano studies at age six, and his first musical collaborations were with his mother and father. He studied at Indiana University with Evelyne Brancart and at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia with Leon Fleisher. A member of the faculty of his alma mater, the Curtis Institute of Music, since 2010, Biss led the first massive open online course (MOOC) offered by a classical music conservatory, *Exploring Beethoven's Piano Sonatas*, which has reached more than 100,000 people in more than 160 countries. This season Biss launches his latest Beethoven project, *Beethoven/5*, for which the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra is commissioning five composers to write new piano concertos, each inspired by one of Beethoven's five concertos. Biss has embarked on a nine-year, nine-disc recording cycle of Beethoven's complete sonatas, and he reaches the halfway point in early 2016, when he releases the fifth volume.

The **Young Pianist's Beethoven Competition** is named after **Celia Mendez**, a piano teacher and musicologist in San José, California, who conceived of and founded the competition in 1987. In the spring of 2007, the Executive Board of the American Beethoven Society unanimously voted to name the competition after her in honor and recognition of her inspirational work in support of Beethoven's music and the many fine young pianists and their teachers throughout the state.

PHOTO BY BENJAMIN EALOVEGA.

**SJSU** SAN JOSÉ STATE  
UNIVERSITY

# ENTRY FORM

30TH ANNUAL  
Celia Mendez  
**Young  
Pianists'**  
*Beethoven*  
**Competition**

## Eligibility

Open to all California residents attending high school (grades 9-12) in the 2015-2016 school year.

## Repertory

1. J. S. Bach. Any prelude and fugue from *The Well-tempered Clavier*, Books 1 or 2.
2. Beethoven. Any complete piano sonata from Opus 2, no. 1, to and including Opus 90, but excluding Opus 49, nos. 1 and 2.

## Application requirements

Applications must include:

- A completed official entry form.
- Three (3) copies of a high quality compact disc of the works chosen from the required repertory played by the applicant. Please do not write on the CDs because they are evaluated anonymously. CDs that are edited will be eliminated from the competition. (DVDs are not allowed.) Students are requested to make a separate track for the prelude and fugue and for each movement of the sonata.
- A non-refundable registration fee of \$50, payable to the American Beethoven Society.

**Past winners are not eligible to participate.**

**In order to continue to maintain the educational purposes of this competition and because the number of entries has doubled in recent years, teachers may enter no more than three (3) students from their studio each year.**

## Deadline

All applications must be received at the Beethoven Center by **5:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 1, 2016**. In order to be fair to all contestants, late applications will not be considered.

## COMPETITION HISTORY AND INFORMATION

[americanbeethovensociety.org/  
events/ypbc.html](http://americanbeethovensociety.org/events/ypbc.html)

Inquiries may be sent to  
committee co-chair Patricia Stroh  
at [patricia.stroh@sjsu.edu](mailto:patricia.stroh@sjsu.edu)

PLEASE PRINT

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

AGE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

HIGH SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF PIANO TEACHER \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF PIANO TEACHER  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

MUSICAL AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES (ADD ATTACHMENT IF NEEDED)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**I hereby state that I am submitting 3 copies of an unedited CD. (CDs become part of the archives of the Beethoven Center.)**

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## REPERTORY

J.S. Bach. *Well-tempered Clavier*. Book \_\_\_\_\_ Prelude and Fugue \_\_\_\_\_

Ludwig van Beethoven. Sonata no. \_\_\_\_\_, Opus \_\_\_\_\_, (no.) \_\_\_\_\_

**Enclosed is my check for the entry fee of \$50,  
made payable to the American Beethoven Society**

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

**Return form with 3 copies of a CD and check to:**

The Ira F. Brilliant Center for Beethoven Studies  
San José State University  
One Washington Square  
San José, CA 95192-0171