Pianist Paul Lewis has received worldwide acclaim for his cycles of core piano works by Beethoven and Schubert, and multiple awards for his recordings, including the complete Beethoven piano sonatas, concertos, and the Diabelli Variations. He studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, and later with Alfred Brendel. He is currently co-chair of the Leeds International Piano Competition.

In this first appearance in San José, he continues his enchanting recital series that explores connections between the sonatas of Haydn, the late piano works of Brahms, and Beethoven’s Bagatelles and Diabelli Variations.

Photograph by Molina Visuals.

"[Lewis] combined muscularity, tenderness and intelligence with unshowy dexterity to create interpretations of great insight and power" – The Guardian

"Paul Lewis’ intelligent, immaculate delight of a piano recital" – Alan Artner, Chicago Tribune

Awards

Three winners will be selected from the six finalists. Each winner will perform in the masterclass with Paul Lewis 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 ($200 maximum).

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 11, 2019. The names of the six winners and one alternate will be posted on the American Beethoven Society’s website (americanbeethovensociety.org/events/yplc.html) on Tuesday, March 12, 2019. Comments from the three preliminary judges will be mailed to all contestants on Wednesday, March 13, 2019.

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 honorary member), Amy Bhatnager, Erica Buurman, Ellen Tryba Chen (co-chair), Ted Lorraine, Natalya Lundtvedt, Marilyn Sefchovich, Patricia Stroh (co-chair).

Finals Judges

Susan Bruckner (Cabrillo College)
Nicholas Matthew (UC Berkeley)
Yu-Chi Tai (Steinway Ensemble Artist)

Special thanks

This 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, Music Village, and Celia Mendez.

The Young Pianist’s Beethoven Competition is named after Celia Mendez, a piano teacher and musicologist formerly from 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.
Entry Form

33rd Annual
Celia Mendez
Young Pianist’s
Beethoven Competition

Eligibility
Open to all California residents attending high school (grades 9-12) in the 2018-2019 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. Friday, February 15, 2019. In order to be fair to all contestants, late applications will not be considered.

Competition History and Information
americanbeethovensociety.org/events/ypbc.html

Inquiries may be sent to committee co-chair Patricia Stroh at patricia.stroh@sjsu.edu

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

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE BEETHOVEN CENTER
BY 5:00 P.M. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2019