

Feline Groovy

A benefit concert for Purrfect Pals featuring the award-winning students and faculty of Issaquah's Chopin Academy of Music in Issaquah. Generously presented by cat lovers and founders of the Chopin Academy of Music, Dr. Ivona Kaminska Bowlby and Dr. Christopher Bowlby. **All proceeds benefit Purrfect Pals!**

SATURDAY, APRIL 28 at 5:30pm

Forest Ridge School of the Sacred Heart
4800 139th Ave SE, Bellevue, WA

TICKET INFO: \$15.00: Adults | **\$5.00:** Children
Tickets are Available at purrfectpals.org/felinegroovy



CONCERT PROGRAM



TRAVIS LEE

"Cat and Mouse" by Aaron Copland

Travis Lee is a seventh grader at Evergreen Middle in Redmond. He started learning piano at age seven at the Chopin Academy of Music with Dr. Ivona Kaminska Bowlby. In 2013, during his first piano competition, he was a prize winner in the Classical Viennese Festival. Since then, every year he has won numerous awards in the local Seattle International Piano Festival & Competition's (SIPF) Bach Festival, Classical Viennese Festival, and Virtuoso Festival. He was also a gold medalist at the Sixth Seattle International Piano Festival & Competition in 2015 in the category 9 and under and performed at the Benaroya Hall. In 2016, he was invited to play at the Carnegie Hall for the Young Pianists of the Northwest. The next year, he was the gold medalist for the Crescendo International Competition and again performed at the Carnegie Hall. Recently, he earned first place at the SIPF's Bach Festival. He is also an active clarinet player in the school. Besides music, Travis loves reading,

playing soccer and playing video games with his friends. He is also a brown belt student at Trinity Martial Arts.



DAVID SHICHU LIU

"Kitten on the Keys" by Schulhoff/ Confrey

Born in Beijing, China, Shichu (David) Liu started his piano adventure at the age of five in the class of Ms. Ma Zhu, and later continued with Ms. Jijia Shi, a pianist and professor at the China Central Conservatory of Music. In 2013, David performed as a soloist and in a piano trio in the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara. He appeared as a pianist twice on Chinese National Television.

David has won numerous prizes in piano competitions both in China as well as later in US, including the ZhongSin International Music Competition in Singapore in 2012 and first prize winner of Beijing Xiwang Piano Competition in 2014 in China.

After his move to Seattle, he joined the Chopin Academy of Music and continued making remarkable progress while studying with Dr. Ivona Kaminska Bowlby. He continued his competition endeavors and was awarded First Prize in 2015 and 2016 Bach Festivals, First Prize in the 2016 Virtuoso Festival, First Prize in the 2017 Chopin Festival of the Northwest, Second Prize in 2017 Simon Fiset Competition, Third Prize in the Outstanding Artists Competition of Washington State, and many other accolades. In November 2017, David won the first prize in the Outstanding Artists' Competition in Washington State, and just recently won a second prize in the Seattle Simon Fiset Competition 2018. Aside from piano, David also plays Bassoon in the Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra, enjoys playing the guitar in his spare time.



ANEESHA NEEDAMANGALA (voice)
"I Bought Me a Cat" by Aaron Copland

Aneesha Needamangala (age 12), enjoys singing, dancing and acting in youth musical theater. She is an intermediate level Tap and Hip Hop dancer and has acted in several plays at Studio East since the age of nine.

Aneesha is thrilled to have started voice lessons at the Chopin Academy and wants to thank her teacher Dr. Raluca Marinescu for all the support and guidance. She also thanks her family for helping her pursue her interest in the performing arts.



AISLIN ALANCHERIL AND GUEST
"Cat Duet" by Rossini

Aislin Alancheril (age 14) is a freshman at Issaquah High School. She first became interested in singing at age eight when she observed an opera singer on television. A few months later, she started singing lessons, and from there she developed a love for singing and the opera style. Since then, she has participated in choirs, many musicals, and recitals. Aislin is a student of Dr. Raluca Marinescu.

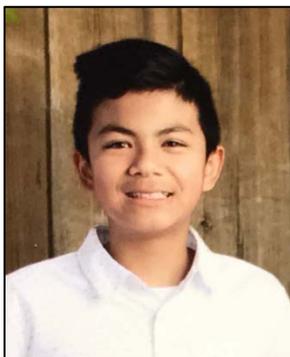


DR. RALUCA MARINESCU AND MS. CAROL HARTOON
"The Monk and His Cat" by Barber

For more than 20 years, pianist Carol Hartoon has delighted the Northwest with her dazzling performance mastery and her exceptional ability to teach music to all ages and levels. A favorite pianist throughout the region, Hartoon concertizes regularly as a soloist and as a chamber music specialist. Her most recent years have been enriched through collaboration performances with some of the area's best vocalists.

Hartoon completed her Bachelor of Music and Master of Arts in Piano Performance at Washington State University as a student of Rulby Bailey Ronald. During that time, she was a winner of the Washington Idaho Symphony Young Artist Competition. Nearing the completion of her graduate studies she heard internationally acclaimed pianist, composer and teacher Andrej Dutkiewicz perform in concert. It was a life-changing experience. Awestruck by his dazzling abilities as a musician and communicator, she went on to continue postgraduate studies with the legendary artist at the International Frederick Chopin Academy of music in Warsaw, Poland.

A past president of Eastside Music Teachers Association, Hartoon has maintained a large piano studio in the Bellevue area since 1994. Recognized by many as one of the region's most experienced teachers and adjudicators, she has realized her lifelong dream of sharing her expertise and musical philosophy with individuals of all ages and levels.



NOAH MARTINEZ
"Pussycat Waltz" by William Bolcom

Noah Martinez is the only child of grateful parents, Don and Edzel Martinez. He comes from a very musical family where he inherited his love and gift of music from his late grandfather, Dr. Abelardo Inocentes. Noah began his piano lessons at the age of seven and has played numerous recitals in Seattle including Benaroya Hall with Stephanie Reese and the Maydenbauer Center for Performing Arts with renowned Filipino song writer Cecile Azarcón. He also volunteers his time and talent by performing in nursing homes and community centers. Noah is in seventh grade at St. George Catholic School in South Seattle where he has maintained top academic honors since fourth grade. He is also a competitive swimmer and was selected to compete at the state championship this year.

Noah is blessed and privileged to be part of this fundraising concert and would like to extend his gratitude to his piano mentor Dr. Ross Salvosa from the Chopin Academy of Music for recognizing his talent and believing in him.



KEVIN YIP

"Cat Fugue" by Domenico Scarlatti

Kevin Yip is an 11th grader attending Bellevue College as a running start student. He has loved to listen to classical music since he was four years old. When he was six years old, he started playing the piano under the instruction of Lauren Marone. He made great advancements and in 2010, decided to study at the Chopin Academy of Music under Dr. Christopher Bowlby. From then on, he has strived to improve his music and was selected to perform at an honors recital in Carnegie Hall in 2012, along with a few other students from the Academy. Kevin has won first place in numerous competitions, including Classical Viennese Festival, Performing Arts of the Eastside, Northwest 2016 Chopin Festival, and Virtuoso Festival. Aside from piano, Kevin enjoys reading books and keeping up with technology.



MR. MIODRAG VESELINOVIC AND DR. IVONA KAMINSKA BOWLBY

Solos for piano and violin from the musical "Cats"

Miodrag Veselinovic, a native of Belgrade, Serbia, has been living in Seattle for the last 17 years. During that period, he attended graduate studies at the University of Washington and has been continually working as a violin teacher and a performer. As a faculty member of Chopin Academy of Music since its very creation more than a decade ago, Mr. Veselinovic has had the privilege of teaching many young and talented students in his violin studio. He is married to his wife Helen, enjoys playing soccer quite badly, and is best friends with a fluffy tiger called Ding Ding.

A native of Warsaw, Poland, **Dr. Ivona Kaminska Bowlby** holds the highest level of pianistic education with four graduate-level degrees from three countries: Poland, Canada and USA. Combining the best teaching characteristics of the old European traditions with modern American pedagogy, she has helped generations of students achieve national and international success. She excels in taking beginners and transfer

students to international achievement and recognition. She is adored by students for her unlimited devotion to them, support, passion, as well as straightforwardness and sense of humor.

Due to her extensive experience in the field of teaching and academia, many of her students are bestowed generous scholarships in festivals and for undergraduate college degrees. Her students perform regularly as laureates of competitions at Carnegie Hall, Salle Cortot in Paris, Conservatori del Liceu in Barcelona, and several other prestigious centers. Dr. Kaminska Bowlby also provides masterclasses and other opportunities to her students to coach with such eminent guest artists, including Julian Martin from the Juilliard School of Music, Logan Skelton from the University of Michigan, Francesco Nicolosi, Italy, and many more guests. Her students are regularly winners of competitions on local and international levels, and in 2016 her pupils took all three top prizes in the Outstanding Artist Competition in the state of Washington.

Dr. Kaminska Bowlby also enjoys contributing to the world music community by directing the Seattle International Piano Competition and Festival, which was recognized by Wall Street Journal as one of the most inclusive piano competitions of our times. She is also the founding director of the Chopin Academy of Music, in Issaquah, which she developed with her husband, Dr. Bowlby, in 2005.

Dr. Kaminska Bowlby holds a Masters of Arts Degree from the prestigious Chopin University in Warsaw, Poland as well as the Post-Graduate Artist Performance Diploma. She has broadened her European education at the Mozarteum Festival in Salzburg as well as Schleswig-Holstein Festival in Lübeck, Germany. As a recipient of many scholarships herself, she also was awarded a Masters of Music Degree from the University of Nebraska, and Doctorate in Piano Performance from the University of British Columbia, Canada.



*Dr. Christopher Bowlby and
Dr. Ivona Kaminska Bowlby*

Before devoting herself fully to the pre-college teaching, Dr. Kaminska Bowlby worked as an instructor at the University of British Columbia, Shoreline College and Cornish College of the Arts. She has also been invited to teach in the Tsar's Village Festival in St Petersburg (2013), University of Southern Oregon, Cornish College Piano Institute, and Barcelona Piano Academy in Spain. She enjoys a vibrant performing career as a duo pianist with her husband, Dr. Christopher Bowlby. The duo performed in several countries, including Italy, France, Spain and Poland, aside from regular concerts in the USA.

DR. CHRISTOPHER BOWLBY

"Tabby Cat Rag" by William Bolcom

Since arriving in Seattle in 2002, Dr. Christopher Bowlby has established himself as one of the most sought-after piano pedagogues, lecturers and adjudicators. Aside from his successful career as an instructor of highly-accomplished piano students, Dr. Bowlby is also director and vice-president of the world-renowned Seattle International Piano Festival and Competition, as well as program director of the Chopin Academy of Music in Issaquah. As an accomplished teacher of many award-winning students, in 2012, Dr. Bowlby was invited with Dr. Kaminska Bowlby to present on a joint panel, the "Secrets of Winning a Competition" during the Music Teachers' National Conference in New York City.

Having performed in such prestigious musical centers as the Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall in New York City; Salle Cortot in Paris, France; and Benaroya Hall and Meydenbauer Center in Seattle, among others, his playing has been acclaimed for its warmth and integrity.

Previously a winner of several young artists' and concerto competitions, he has been featured several times on Public Radio (both in the Midwest and in Hawaii), both as a speaker as well as a pianist, including a live performance of Bach's Partita No. 4 in D Major, BWV 828 on King FM in Seattle. His extensive repertoire shows his expertise both in the monumental romantic masterworks such as Brahms' "Handel Variations" and Schumann's "Symphonic Etudes," as well as new works by living composers, including John Corigliano, Jeff Junkinsmith, Laura Kaminsky, David Mitchell, and Owen Bloomfield. Equally at home with chamber music literature, Mr. Bowlby performed Beethoven's Sonata in A major with cellist, Yo-Yo Ma and frequently performs four-hand and duo piano music with his wife, Dr. Ivona Kaminska Bowlby. Throughout his international studies, he has coached with such eminent artists as Marek Jablonski, Henri-Paul Sicsic, Eugene Skovorodnikov, Mark Clinton, Boris Berman, Stéphane Lemelin, Patricia Michaelian, and Craig Sheppard.

His secondary academic interest in music theory led him to study with some of today's most prominent theorists, including Henry Klumpenhouwer, Richard Kurth, John Rahn, and Jonathan Bernard. Dr. Bowlby's research led him to new discoveries of religious symbolic conveyance in Olivier Messiaen's *Vingt regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus*.

Formerly, Dr. Bowlby was on the faculty of Mount Royal College in Richmond, Canada; University of British Columbia; Shoreline Community College; and University of Washington, as well as the Ashland International Piano Institute in the University of Southern Oregon. In 2013, Dr. Bowlby also shared his pianistic passion and knowledge with students of the Tsar's Music Festival Summer Master Class Program in St. Petersburg, Russia. His recent engagements include performances at the prestigious SOU piano series in Oregon and Southern Louisiana Piano Festival and numerous lecture recitals. Dr. Bowlby is often judging various competitions, such as the 2014 and 2016 Thalberg International Piano Competitions in Naples, Italy.



CLARA AND ANTONIO

Dr. Kaminska Bowlby and Dr. Bowlby adopted these two wonderful kitties from Purrfect Pals in 2013.

Clara and Antonio are both very musical kitties and have lovely singing voices!

PurrfectPals
Because every cat matters