

Young Pianists from around the World to Perform in Philadelphia in August

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Twenty gifted young pianists from around the world will perform, compete, and attend master classes at The 6th Philadelphia Young Pianists' Academy and International Piano Competition from Sunday, August 5, to Sunday, August 12. This year's Academy and Competition will be held at a new location, The Academy of Vocal Arts, 1920 Spruce.

World-renowned concert pianist and Center City resident Ching Yun Hu is the organizer and artistic director of this annual event. Simone Dinnerstein, best known for her highly rated recording of Bach's *Goldberg Variations*, will join the faculty this summer; Gary Graffman, Jerome Lowenthal, and Charles Abramovic will return.

Two guest presenters will talk to the students about the business side of career development: Jonathan Eifert, Founder, Jonathan Eifert Public Relations; and Pierre van der Westhuizen, Executive Director, Gilmore Keyboard Festival. For concert information, please go to <https://pypa.info/>



Young pianist performs in the Field Hall at the Curtis Institute of Music.

Courtesy of www.solhu.com

It's Academic

Multi-School Collaboration Yields a World Premiere of a New Work

By Lois Traub West

The Church of the Holy Trinity on Rittenhouse Square was the venue for the world premiere on May 11 of the cantata "The World Is Changing," the culmination of a unique creative collaboration among Temple Music Prep, Temple University's Boyer College of Music, The Philadelphia School (TPS), and the Chester A. Arthur School. The cantata, sung by Boyer College vocal students Megnot Toggia and Kyle Dunn, was conducted by TPS music teacher and string conductor Aaron Picht.

This musical collaboration began in the fall of 2017, when 16 middle-school students from the Chester A. Arthur School and The Philadelphia School came together under the guidance of TPS teachers Shannon Coulter and Ashley Opalka to write poetry based on their life experiences.

The students met once a week for 10 weeks, and on three occasions they met with Jon Paul Mayse and Timothy DelCollo, two student

composers from the Boyer College of Music. The middle schoolers and the composers shared their ideas about the sounds and musical textures the poems evoked. The composers selected lyrics from the wealth of poetry generated by the students, and composed eight songs for string orchestra, piano, soprano and baritone.

"The World Is Changing" was well received not only at its world premiere at the Church of the Holy Trinity, but also at concerts performed for fellow students at TPS and Chester A. Arthur. All those involved are looking forward to their next musical collaboration.



These students from The Philadelphia School participated in a unique musical collaboration with Temple Music Prep, Boyer College of Music, and Chester A. Arthur School.

Lois West