


MUSIC AT  ST. PHILIP & **H T M C**  
HOUSTON TUESDAY MUSICAL CLUB  
— *established in 1911* —

present



**A Houston Tuesday Musical Club Piano Recital**

*featuring past winners of the Rochelle Liebling Kahan Competition  
for Child Piano Prodigies*

Sunday | **October 13, 2024** | 3:00 p.m.

# ABOUT THE COMPETITION:

Rochelle Liebling Kahan was many things, all of them memorable. She was introduced at the Houston Tuesday Musical Club luncheon on May 14, 2002, as she completed her presidency of the club.

Here is a quote from that introduction:

“Each person who serves as HTMC President brings to the job a background, perspective and viewpoint unlike any other, This is one of the great strengths of our organization. Some are brilliant, some are funny, some are compassionate, some are well-organized, some are superb, highly-trained and discerning musicians, some are detail-oriented, some are people-oriented, some always seem to find the time to help any member with a problem or concern, some have a far-reaching vision for the future...but hey, wait a minute! I just described our President, Rochelle Kahan!”

Rochelle was a daughter, a sister, a wife, a mother, and a loyal friend. She was also a child piano prodigy, who played concertos with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at the age of 9, and again at the age of 13. In her ‘spare time’ she became a tax attorney. But best of all, she was a real mensch, a human being of kindness and compassion. When she passed away unexpectedly and far too soon on June 4, 2002, her family and friends were deeply saddened. But out of that loss was born a wonderful idea: the creation of a competition for prodigies like herself, named for her!

The Liebling/Kahan family established The Rochelle Liebling Kahan Memorial Fund Competition for Child Piano Prodigies in her memory. Because of Rochelle’s love for HTMC, they honored our organization by entrusting the running of the contest to us. In 2005 the first competition was held, and it soon became a great success with children, parents and teachers. It is now in its twentieth season, and seems to be more respected and popular than ever. It is inspiring to see such talented and hard-working children play music that seems far beyond their years!

Many of our former winners and contestants have continued their musical training. Some have gone on to win other major competitions, including the Ima Hogg Competition, sponsored by the Houston Symphony Orchestra, and many more. Many of our talented ‘alums’ have performed in concert halls around the world. One was featured on National Public Radio. There could be no more fitting and appropriate tribute to our dear friend Rochelle than this joyous competition.

## **Co-Chairmen**

Susan Fischman  
Suzanne Marion

## **2024 Judges**

Cynthia Blackwell  
Bonner Cutting

# PROGRAM

**Sonata in D** Hob.XVI-37,  
I: Allegro

Franz Joseph Haydn (1732–1809)

**Flight of the Bumblebee**

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844–1908)  
arr. Rachmaninoff

*Joyce Cao, pianist*

**Sonata**, Op.49 No.1,  
I: Andante

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

*Lilian Chen, pianist*

**Variations On a Theme of Paganini**

Issac Berkovich (1902–1972)

*Julian James, pianist*

**Etude**, Op. 25, No. 2

Frederick Chopin (1810–1849)

**Les Sylvains**, Op. 60

Cécile Chaminade (1857–1944)

*Elias Yuen, pianist*

From **Ten Pieces from Romeo and Juliet**, Op. 75  
4. Young Juliet  
8. Mercutio

Sergei Prokofiev (1891–1953)

*Olivia He, pianist*

**Sonata No. 3**, Op. 46

Dmitry Kabalevsky (1904–1987)

*Biyun Jiao, pianist*

**Prelude from English Suite No. 3**

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

**Abegg Variations**

Robert Schumann (1810–1856)

*Carl Rubly, pianist*

**Sonata in E minor**, Hob. XVI:34  
I. Presto

F. Haydn

**Etude in G-flat Major**, Op. 10 No. 5 “Black-Key”

Frederick Chopin

*Wendy Zhou, pianist*

**Ballade No. 1 in G minor**, Op. 23

Frederick Chopin

*Zide Chen, pianist*

# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

## **Joyce Cao** | Kahan Third Place 2024 | Age 10

Joyce Cao began playing piano at the age of 5. She made her debut by performing a piano duet with her sister at the Southeast Texas Suzuki Association (STXSA)'s 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Ribbon Festival in December 2020. In 2021, she received an Honorable Mention at the Houston International Music Competition. In 2022 and 2023, she won silver medals at the Houston

Music Teacher Association Competition. In 2024 she achieved Third Place in The Rochelle Liebling Kahan Competition. Joyce has also achieved Merit in ABRSM Piano Performance Grade 5 and passed the ABRSM Music Theory Grade 5. Since 2023 she has been a member of The Music of Harmony, a volunteer group that brings music to local nursing homes and other places. She has performed at Mason Creek Transitional Care of Katy, Legacy at Falcon Point, and Colonial Oaks Assisted Living and Memory Care. Currently she is a 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Tom Wilson Elementary School. She lives with her parents, an elder sister, and two cats in Katy, TX. In her spare time, she enjoys playing with her cats and reading books.

Teacher: **Xi Tin**

## **Lilian Chen** | Kahan Second Place 2024 | Age 8

Lilian Chen is currently a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader at Falcon Pass Elementary. She started studying piano with Dr. Ying Zhang at the age of 5. Lilian is the Second Place winner of the 2024 Rochelle Liebling Kahan Competition. Besides piano, Lilian likes playing violin, drawing, and dancing. Every month Lilian goes to various nursing homes and performs for the elderly people living there. She looks forward to this every month because she loves sharing her music with others.

Teacher: **Dr. Ying Zhang**

## **Julian James** | Kahan First Place 2024 | Age 10

Julian James, a 5<sup>th</sup> grader, embarked on his piano journey at the age of 4. He has won several awards, including second place in the Houston Forum Young Artist Competition in 2024; first place in the HMTA Contest for the age 8 group; and first place in The Rochelle Liebling Kahan Memorial Fund Competition for Child Piano Prodigies in 2024. He attended the Aegio International Piano Competition at the ages of 7 and 8, earning him the Special Talent Prize twice. He also participated in the Vivaldi International Music Competition when he was 7 and won First Prize with Excellence Nomination. At the age of 8 Julian was invited to the 7<sup>th</sup> BAMA International Music Festival in Poland, where he performed with the Polish Kameralna Orchestra. Julian is currently under the guidance of Mr. John Weems. Julian is a versatile and dedicated musician. In addition to piano he plays the flute, cello and drums. He is also a skilled swimmer and qualified for the Gulf Age Group Championships at just 9. In his free time Julian enjoys Legos, robots and exploring the world. He dreams of becoming an astronaut, scientist or pianist. Julian speaks both English and Chinese as his native languages.

Teacher: **John Weems**

## **Elias Yuen** | Kahan First Place 2023 | Age 11

Elias Yuen studies piano with Dr. Matthew Loudermilk. His musical accolades span numerous First Prize awards in competitions, including the Gold Medal in the 13<sup>th</sup> International Chopin Youth Competition, the Rochelle Liebling Kahan Competition for Child piano Prodigies in 2023, HMTA Piano Contest, and Houston Forum Young Artists Competition. Most recently he won the HMTA Concerto Competition and is thrilled to be making his orchestral debut with the Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra in late October. Along with solo repertoire, Elias also enjoys playing piano duets and received first prize in the HMTA Chamber Music and Piano Ensemble Contest. He aspires to grow in maturity (and hand size) so that he can one day play Liszt's "La Campanella." In addition to piano, Elias loves playing golf, singing in his school choir, and playing chess with his grandfather.

Teacher: **Dr. Matthew Loudermilk**

## **Olivia He** | Kahan First Place 2022 | Age 11

Olivia He began studying piano when she was 4 years old and has always been passionate about music and playing piano. She is currently a student of Dr. Matthew Loudermilk. Last year she won the Gold Medal in the International Chopin Youth Competition. Other notable awards include First Place in the 2022 Rochelle Liebling Kahan Memorial Fund Competition for Child Piano Prodigies and winner at the 2022 HMTA Baroque competition. In 2023 Olivia was selected for the International Music Academy's Showcase concert and performed a concerto with string orchestra at the Hobby Center in downtown Houston. Additionally, she volunteers at the 'Music of Harmony' monthly concert series and performs at senior living centers regularly. She was part of the NEHS (National Elementary Honor Society). In addition to playing piano, Olivia loves reading and playing tennis, and has won numerous awards in spelling bees, Math League competition and the UIL+ Music Memories contests.

Teacher: **Dr. Matthew Loudermilk**

## **Biyun Jiao** | Kahan Second Place 2021 | Age 12

Biyun Jiao, student of Dr. Matthew Loudermilk at the International Music Academy since 2018, has won top prizes in multiple competitions, including First Prize in the 2024 Blinn College Young Pianist Competition, where she was also Grand Prize runner-up. She was a silver medalist in the 2023 Chopin International Youth Competition. Earlier prizes include First Prize in the 2022 Houston Music Teachers Association Concerto Competition and Second Place in the 2021 Rochelle Liebling Kahan Competition for Child Piano Prodigies. One of her favorite piano performances was playing J.S. Bach's Keyboard Concerto in F minor with a string quartet at the Hobby Center in downtown Houston. In the summer of 2019 Biyun traveled to Moscow, Russia as part of an International Music Academy student exchange program. She took lessons with a Russian teacher and performed in a concert along with Russian and American piano students. Biyun loves to play piano and wishes to become a professional pianist. Her favorite composers are Bach and Chopin. Besides playing piano, Biyun likes to spend time drawing and reading.

Teacher: **Dr. Matthew Loudermilk**

## **Carl Rubly** | Kahan First Place 2021 | Age 13

Carl Rubly started playing piano at the age of 4, nurtured by the guidance of his mother and grandmother, who were instrumental in igniting his passion for music. As he grew, so did his love for music, which has flourished over the years. By the age of 9 Carl had performed in renowned venues such as Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall and has won numerous accolades both nationally and internationally. Carl won first places in the Golden Classical Music International Piano Competition in 2019; London Grand Prize Virtuoso International Music Competition in 2020; The Rochelle Liebling Kahan Competition for Child Piano Prodigies in 2021; IMTA piano competition in 2022 and 2023; KMTA's Jazz Festival in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023; the University of Houston Forum of Young Artists in 2022; Critique's Corner in 2022; KMTA's Sonatina Festival in 2020 and 2022; the Blinn College Piano Competition in 2023; 13<sup>th</sup> International Chopin Youth Competition in 2023; and North Texas Young Artist Piano Competition in 2024. He also received a second place in the Texas Music Teachers Association (TMTA) competition in 2024. Carl is currently studying piano with Richard Marshall at the Shepherd School of Music's Prep Program at Rice University. Whenever Carl has an opportunity, he enjoys performing at senior facilities in Houston. Beyond his musical achievements, Carl has a variety of interests. He is an avid reader, chess player, and enjoys activities such as ping pong, swimming and fishing. Carl possesses a compassionate and kind nature, evident from his election as the leader of the school community service committee, where he actively contributes to making a positive impact in his community.

Teacher: **Richard Marshall**

## **Wendy Zhou** | Kahan First Place 2020 | Age 11

Wendy Zhou is a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student at Tays Junior High School. She began her piano study at age five. Currently she is studying with Dr. Matthew Loudermilk. She received lots of awards from several competitions. Her major achievements in music include 1<sup>st</sup> place in Texoma piano competition (2024); 1<sup>st</sup> place in Houston Forum Competition (2024); winner of Clear Lake Youth Concerto Competition for the Junior Piano Division (2023); Gold Medalist in the 12<sup>th</sup> International Chopin Youth Competition for Elementary Division (2021); and 1<sup>st</sup> Prize winner of The Rochelle Liebling Kahan Memorial Fund Competition for Child Piano Prodigies in 2020. Besides piano, Wendy also likes to swim and enjoys drawing.

Teacher: **Dr. Matthew Loudermilk**

## **Zide Chen** | Third Place 2019 | Age 14

Zide Chen is a 9<sup>th</sup> grader at Clear Lake High School. He started studying piano with Dr. Ying Zhang at the age of 7. Zide has won many top awards at competitions, including Third Place at The 2019 Rochelle Liebling Kahan Competition; Second Place at the 2018 and 2019 Steinway Piano Competition; First Place and best performance of the hardest piece at the 13<sup>th</sup> Chopin Youth Competition; and First Place in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade age group at the 2023 TMTA Conference. Outside of piano, Zide likes math and swimming. He is on the school's varsity swim team this year.

Teacher: **Dr. Ying Zhang**



MUSIC AT  ST. PHILIP

# Eternal Light:

A REQUIEM BY HOWARD GOODALL

**Sunday, November 3 | 5:00 pm**

Honoring the saints through song and spoken word. Featuring music by Mahler and Goodall.

**Free Admission** | **St. Philip Presbyterian Church**  
4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056 | [saintphilip.net](http://saintphilip.net)

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**Music at St Philip**



## UPCOMING MASP EVENTS

**Sunday November 3 at 5pm**

"Eternal Light"

All-Saints concert featuring choir and orchestra  
performing music by Gustav Mahler and Howard Goodall

**Saturday, November 16 at 7:30 pm**

"This Sky"

Houston Chamber Choir

**Sunday, December 8, at 5 pm**

Festival of Carols

**Wednesdays in December, at 12 pm**

Advent Meditations

Make sure to join us during Advent for a weekly offering of music and spoken word every Wednesday at noon. Each service will feature different Houston-area musicians with lunch available afterwards in the gathering area.

**Wednesday, December 4** — Ruslan Baiazitov, piano

**Wednesday, December 11** — Ingrid Gerling, violin & Andreea Muț, piano

**Wednesday, December 18** — Hope Cowan, harp

# HOW TO DONATE AND SUPPORT MUSIC AT ST. PHILIP PROGRAMS:

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[ CONTRIBUTIONS ]

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