

The Music Teachers' Association
Pasadena Branch

Presents

Judith Neszlenyi,
pianist in concert

Dedicated to the memory of her Mother,
Judith Vanyiska-Pfeiffer

at the Church of Our Saviour
535 W. Roses Road, San Gabriel, CA 91776

Sunday, September 23, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.



Ms. Neslery has been a distinguished member of the Pasadena Branch for the past 60 years. She has not only made a mark herself as a pianist - concertizing on four continents, but equally acclaimed by the critics and audiences for her large scale compositions.

Originally coming from the famous Liszt Academy and Bartók Conservatory in Hungary, she also studied with the world famous Zoltan Kodaly, Rosina Lhevine, and John Crown, among others.

She has been on the faculties at California State University at Los Angeles and presented Master Classes at several Universities. She is past president of the Pasadena Branch MTAC and former co-director of the Los Angeles International Liszt Competition.

She is also a recipient of many acknowledgements by the City of Pasadena and City of Los Angeles for her musical development and devotion to the community.

MTAC Pasadena's Concert Grand Piano

" ENCOIRES "

Sonata in A Major, Op. 120 Franz Schubert (1787-1828)

Allegro Moderato

Andante

Allegro

Ruralia Hungarica, Op. 32/a. Emo von Dohnanyi (1877-1960)

Lullaby

Mirage

Folk Song

Ballade

Barn Dance

* Valse Triste Ferenc Vecsey (1893-1935)

* Cascade Ferenc Vecsey

13th Hungarian Rhapsody Franz Liszt (1811-1886)

* Intermezzo Zoltan Kodaly (1893-1886)

* Arrangements for solo piano by Judith Neszlenyi

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Doors open at 1:45 p.m.

Reception Following

Donations for the Los Angeles International Liszt Competition will be accepted.

For information call: 626-798-1562 or 626-626-1481 (cell)

Steinway #243356, Model D, 8'11", ebony finish, was made in New York and finished on April 26, 1926. It was delivered on September 25, 1926, to Mrs. Leslie Reiland at 839 East 19th Street in Brooklyn, New York. By 1947, Mrs. Reiland had moved with her family and the piano to Pasadena, where she was listed in directories as a teacher and church organist. She passed away in October 1967 in Laguna Beach.

After the death of Mrs. Reiland, Steinway #243356 went to the West Los Angeles piano store of Bernard Comsky. And it is in 1969 that this piano enters the history of Pasadena Beach. It was in that year that the Pasadena Art Museum moved from Los Robles to the corner of Colorado and Orange Grove Avenues. The new building had an auditorium, which was to be available for use by the entire community. Seven Pasadena musical organizations raised money and purchased Steinway #243356 from Bernard Comsky for \$5775. The piano was placed in Crossett Auditorium at the Pasadena Art Museum and was used in various concerts, including Pasadena Branch events.

Unfortunately, on June 24, 1974, the Museum was closed due to financial problems and was bought by Norton Simon. When the museum reopened on March 1, 1975, it was clear that there were to be no more concerts at the museum; the piano had to find a new home.

In dealing with this problem, five of the seven donor musical organizations relinquished responsibility for the piano. The remaining two organizations – the Coleman Chamber Music Association and the Music Teachers' Association of California, Pasadena Branch – formed a piano committee with Harlow Mills as chair. The committee recommended that the piano be moved to Harbeson Hall at Pasadena City College. Eventually, Coleman also relinquished its interest, and the piano remained the responsibility solely of MTAC Pasadena. On April 27, 1986, the piano was dedicated to the memory of Harlow Mills.

And so, from 1975 to 2007, Steinway #243356 served the Pasadena musical community in Harbeson Hall at Pasadena City College. It had the reputation of being one of the finest concert instruments in the Los Angeles area. For these thirty-two years, it was the concert instrument for Pasadena City College, and in return MTAC Pasadena was able to hold eighteen events every year in Harbeson Hall.

During the 1990's, it became apparent that a major restoration of the piano was necessary. A fund-raising campaign was headed by the piano committee (Geraldine Keeling, chair; Judith Neszlenyi, Deborah Erftenbeck, and Dr. Susan Svrček) and raised over \$30,000. The restoration was done by David Vanderlip and his subcontractors and included the following: new action, pin block, pins, strings, soundboard, ivory keys, and case refinished. The dedication concert took place on February 4, 2001.

A few years later Pasadena City College received its own Steinway concert grand, and MTAC Pasadena was asked to move its piano. From 2007 to 2010, we housed our piano and held our events at the San Marino Masonic Lodge. Since 2010, our wonderful piano, Steinway #243356, has had its home in the sanctuary of Church of Our Saviour in San Gabriel.