

Biography of László Holics, concert pianist

Studies

- He was born in 1980, in Budapest, Hungary.
- He began his piano studies in 1986.
- In 1991, he was admitted to the Preparatory Class of Extraordinarily Gifted Children at the Ferenc Liszt University of Music in Budapest, where he became a student of *Zsuzsa Esztó*, and *Kornél Zempléni*.
- In 1998, he was admitted to the **Liszt University of Music in Budapest**, where he studied with *Balázs Szokolay*, *Kornél Zempléni* and *Attila Némethy*.
- In the Spring Semester of year 2000, he studied in **Fort Worth, USA, at Texas Christian University**, with the Cliburn Competition-winner *José Feghali*.
- He received the **Masters Degree in Piano Performance and Teaching at the Liszt University in 2005**.
- In 2005, he was admitted to the **Doctoral School of the Liszt University**, which, after 3 years of postgraduate education, may give the „Doctor of Liberal Arts” degree to its graduating students.
- In his student years, Mr. Holics has received lessons on international masterclasses from several renowned piano professors such as *Berry Douglas*, *John Owings*, *José Feghali*, *Christopher Elton*, *Mikhail Voskressensky* („Van Cliburn Institute”, Fort Worth, Texas, USA); *Valdis Krastins*. (Karjaa, Finland); *Tamás Ungár*, *Dieter Arens*, *Péter Frankl*, *Livia Rév*, *Tamás Vásáry*, *Imre Rohmann*.(Budapest, Hungary).

Results on Competitions

- 1993, Italy, town Senigallia: *Distinctive Acknowledgement*.
- Czech Republic, town Ústí nad Labem, „*Virtuosi Per Musica Di Pianoforte*” Competition:
 - 1992: **II. Prize**,
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 - 1994: **II. Prize, and Special Prize for the Best Liszt Interpretation**, given by the *American Liszt Society*
- 1995, Spain, city of Barcelona,
„*Concours Internacional Maria Canals de Barcelona*”: **II. Prize**.
- 1995, Japan, town Takasaki,
„*The Third International Ervin Nyíregyházi Piano Competition*”: **I. Prize, and Special Prize**.
- 1996, Morocco, town Meknes,
„*Concours International de Jeunes Pianistes*”: **II. Prize, and Special Prize for the Best Beethoven Interpretation**.
- 1996, Czech Republic, town Tabor,
„*South Bohemia Piano Competition*”: **III. Prize**.
- Texas, city of Fort Worth, „*Concerto-Competition*” of the masterclass „*Van Cliburn Institute*”:
 - 1998: **Selected to play** with the Fort Worth Chamber Orchestra
 - 1999: **Selected to play** with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra
- 1998, Hungary, city of Budapest, local competition organized by the *Yamaha Music Foundation of Europe*, for students of the Liszt University: **I. Prize**.

Other Acknowledgements

- From 1996, he is supported by *Foundation Cziffra*. He was given the *Cziffra-Diploma*, the official acknowledgement of the Foundation.
- In 1996, he received the first *Sári Bíró Memorial Award* at the Liszt University.
- In 2008, he was given the Piano Accompanists' Special Prize at the II. National József Gregor Voice Competition at Székesfehérvár, Hungary

Stage Appearances in Hungary

In Budapest, both as a soloist and chamber musician he has appeared at

- the Large Hall of the Liszt University of Music (2002, 2003, 2004)
- the Festival Theatre of the Palace of the Arts (2009)
- the Concert Hall of the Hungarian Radio,
- the Festival Hall of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences,

...and other recognized cultural institutions such as the French Institute, the Thália Theater or the Bartók Memorial House.

He has given performances in several major Hungarian cities like Debrecen, Nyíregyháza, Szeged, Pécs, Kecskemét, Gödöllő, Keszthely, Kőszeg, Veszprém etc...

He has been chamber music partner and accompanist of such nationally acknowledged artists as Miklós Szenthelyi (violin), Kristóf Baráti (violin), Katalin Halmai (mezzo-soprano), Andrea Csereklyei (soprano), and Ferenc Cserhalmi (bass).

Broadcasts

In the past decade he has appeared in several programs of the Hungarian Radio and Television. Among these there are solo recitals, studio recordings of new contemporary pieces, and verbal participations in programs with the aim of popularizing classical music. Several of these were live broadcasts.

Concerts Abroad

- Italy ————— **Rome** (1994, solo recital), **Ariccia** (1995, solo recital)
- The Netherlands — **Haag** (1994, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2005)
- Austria ————— **Vienna** (1995, 1999, 2001, 2003; 2004 – solo recital; 2008 – two solo recitals)
- Croatia ————— **Zagreb** (2009)
- France ————— **Paris** (1996), **Senlis** (1997), **Chaise Dieu** (1998)
Ajaccio (1999), **Lyon** (2001, solo recital)
- Germany ————— **Berlin** (1998), **Weikersheim** (1999), **Starnberg** (2001, solo recital)
Bad Nennsdorf (2003, concert with orchestra), **Uttenreuth** (2006 and 2007)
- The United States — **Berkeley, California** (1995, solo recital)
- The United States — **Fort Worth, Texas** (1998, 1999, concerts with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra)
- The United States — **Chicago, Illinois** (2008 – solo recital and lecture recital)

Creative Activities

- On his stage appearances, besides piano playing he undertakes the **narrator**'s role as well. He believes that the composers and their music should often be introduced also in words — with the aid of verbally formed thoughts the audience can establish an even closer and richer relationship with music.
- He frequently plays his own music in successful poetry readings presented by professional actors. He **composes** and **improvises** musical interludes between, and musical background for the poems. Among these musical passages there are some for chamber and vocal ensembles as well.
- He has made **transcriptions** from several symphonic and choral works, and played them on his concerts, in solo piano, two-piano and chamber music settings.
- Upon request of the internationally renowned pianist **Lívía Rév**, he **composed a cadenza** for Mozart's Piano Concerto in C minor, which Ms. Rév performed in April of 2007. in the Large Hall of the Liszt University of Music, Budapest.
- In 2007, 2008 and 2009 he **composed symphonic stage music** for three theatre pieces including Goldoni's comedy The Liar. The music was made with the aid of both real players and high quality computer synthesis. The pieces were presented by the Theater Group of St. Imre High School in Budapest with impressive success.

Teaching Activities

- On the Summer of 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008, **he took part on the International Piano Masterclass at Town Tamási, Hungary, as a teacher.** The masterclass was held for pupils of age 14-20, with internationally recognized teacher-personalities like *Lívía Rév* from France, *Dr. Ludmila Lazar* from Roosevelt University of Chicago and *Mariann Ábrahám*, from the Béla Bartók Conservatory of Budapest.
- In the Spring Semester of 2006, **Mr. Holics became a temporary assistant piano teacher at the Piano Department of the Liszt University of Music in Budapest**, substituting Professor Balázs Szokolay during his journey abroad. From September 2008, he also teaches piano as a minor subject at the Folk Music Department of the Liszt University.
- From September 2008, he is a full time **piano teacher and accompanist of the László Hermann Conservatory of Music in Székesfehérvár, Hungary.**
- He has made several **lecture recitals** about topics related to music history and music psychology. The last one he held was in **Roosevelt University of Chicago, USA**, entitled "Brainwave Entrainment in Music and Its Influence on the State of Mind".

This biography is written in May 2009.

A photocopy of a concert review can be found on the next page.

ENCORE

THE LATEST IN ENTERTAINMENT
NEWS AND REVIEWS

Concert reflects growth of TCU Cliburn Piano Institute

By WAYNE LEE GAY
STAR-TELEGRAM CLASSICAL MUSIC CRITIC

FORT WORTH — Two teenage pianists from Hong Kong and one from Hungary underlined the growing international significance of the TCU Cliburn Piano Institute in the final concert of the 1998 institute last night at Ed Landreth Auditorium on the Texas Christian University campus.

Selected in competitive auditions on June 18, the three performed last night with the Fort Worth Chamber Orchestra and guest conductor Geoffrey Simon in one of the few events outside of the competition circuit in which students have the opportunity to perform with a professional orchestra.

The most impressive performance of the evening came first, from Laszlo Holics, 18, a student at the Liszt Academy in Budapest. He highlighted the cheerful brilliancy of the piece without betraying its solid underpinnings, and portrayed a rare natural ease with Mozart's style — with just the right combination of intellect and virtuosity.

Mozart provided two spots for cadenzas in this work; during Mozart's era, the soloist would improvise at that point, though nowadays, most use a pre-writ-

ten "cadenza." For this concerto, Holics has written his own cadenzas — both of which were stunning examples of originality combined with insight into the style.

Mozart would have approved and probably would have been pretty impressed with Holics' inspired reflections on the existing material, including a particularly adept and ear-catching modulation in the second cadenza.

Man-shap Yap, 19, of Hong Kong followed with Saint-Saens' Piano Concerto No. 2, a nonstop showcase of pianistic effects and grandiose but enjoyable gestures. Yap had the stamina this piece demands and had her finest moments showing off lightninglike octaves.

Yap and the third soloist of the evening, Amy Sze, 19, study with the same teacher, Gabriel Kwok, in Hong Kong. Sze closed the concert with Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2 in F minor, nicely holding together the sometimes problematic structure of the piece — Chopin had not yet hit his stride here — and displaying a velvety, songlike tone in the nocturnelike middle movement.

Wayne Lee Gay, (817) 390-7756
wlgay@star-telegram.com