

The National Federation of Music Clubs, 1983-85

When I was an undergraduate student at the Mannes College of Music in the early 1980s, I began entering certain of my compositions in various competitions for young composers. Compared to the present multitude of such opportunities, there were fewer of these at that time, but one of those I annually entered from 1983 to 1985 was sponsored by the National Federation of Music Clubs.

I retained the flyers announcing the results of those NFMC competitions, and it is interesting to look at the names of some of the young winners. Certain of these composers have gone on to achieve major success, while others have had more modest careers or have disappeared entirely from the scene.

For example, in 1983, the second-place winner of a Victor Herbert/ASCAP Award was a 21-year-old Michael Torke. In the 1984 competition, Torke then won First Place in that category. Interestingly, Aaron Kernis and I both won Special Recognition Awards that year for our respective pieces.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS
MRS. DWIGHT D. ROBINSON, PRESIDENT ATHENS, OHIO

MRS. RUSSELL C. HATZ, Chairman
Young Composers Contest
Victor Herbert/ASCAP Awards
First and Second Prizes
Mt. Gretna, Pennsylvania 17064

August 1984

The 1984 NFMC Young Composers Contest Report

Twenty-seven compositions were entered from eleven states: Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Utah.

Winners in the 1984 NFMC Young Composers Contest sponsored by the National Federation of Music Clubs with Victor Herbert/ASCAP Awards; Devora Nadworney Awards, Special Recognition Awards, and Honorable Mentions were:

VICTOR HERBERT/ASCAP AWARDS

First Place \$1000

Michael Torke (22), 157 N. 88 Street, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. Student of Christopher Rouse, Eastman School of Music, Rochester, N.Y. Winning composition: "Homage to Prokofiev" for violin and piano.

Second Place \$500

James Legg (22), 45 Twig Lane, Levittown, N.Y. Student of Samuel Adler, Eastman School of Music, Rochester, N.Y. Winning composition: "Wedding Night", opera in one act for soprano, tenor, electric piano, flute, oboe, horn, 2 vls., vla., & cello.

Third Place \$500

Daniel Spector (22), 123 Irving Terrace, Kenmore, N.Y. Student of Christopher Rouse, Eastman School of Music, Rochester, N.Y. Winning composition: "Songs of the Sterile Honeycomb" for flute, viola, soprano, baritone, & piano.

DEVORA NADWORNEY AWARDS (for solo voice)

First Place \$150

Daniel Spector (22), 123 Irving Terrace, Kenmore, N.Y. Student of Christopher Rouse, Eastman School of Music, Rochester, N.Y. Winning composition: "Songs of the Sterile Honeycomb" for flute, viola, soprano, baritone, & piano.

Second Place \$75

K. Marc Hoffman (22), 624 Mitchell Ave., Salisbury, N.C. School of the Arts, Winston-Salem, N.C. Winning composition: "Childhood" for (undesignated voice & piano).

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS
(sponsored by Nancy B. and Russell C. Hatz)

Special Award \$50

Aaron Kernis (24), 3117 Addison Ct., Cornwells Heights, Pa. Student of Jacob Druckman, Yale School of Music, New Haven, Conn. Winning composition: "Music for Trio (Cycle IV) for flute/alto flute/piccolo, cello, & piano.

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Young Composers Contest
Victor Herbert/ASCAP Awards
First and Second Prizes
Mt. Gretna, Pennsylvania 17064

August 1983

The 1983 NFMC Young Composers Contest

had 21 compositions entered from 11 states: California, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Utah, and Wisconsin.

Winners in the 1983 NFMC Young Composers Contest sponsored by the National Federation of Music Clubs with Victor Herbert/ASCAP Awards; Devora Nadworney Awards, Special Recognition Awards, and Honorable Mentions were:

VICTOR HERBERT/ASCAP AWARDS

First Place \$1000

Daniel Spector (21), 123 Irving Terrace, Kenmore, N.Y. Student of Warren Benson, Eastman School of Music, Rochester, N.Y. Winning composition: "Three Songs on Poems of Arthur Axelrod" for baritone solo and piano; and "Texas" for violin & piano.

Second Place \$500

Michael Torke (21), 157 N. 88 Street, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. Student of Warren Benson, Eastman School of Music, Rochester, N.Y. Winning composition: "Ceremony of Innocence" for flute, clarinet, violin, cello, & piano.

Third Place \$500

Eric Dennen (25), 2825-B N. Cambridge Street, Chicago, Illinois. Student of William Karlins, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. Winning composition: "Magnificat" for SSAATTBB with tenor & soprano solos, trumpets, trombones, timpani, percussion, and organ.

DEVORA NADWORNEY AWARDS (Solo Voice)

First Place \$150

Daniel Spector (21), 123 Irving Terrace, Kenmore, N.Y. Student of Warren Benson, Eastman School of Music, Rochester, N.Y. Winning composition: "Three Songs on Poems of Arthur Axelrod" for baritone solo and piano.

Second Place \$75

Elizabeth Alexander (20), 1020 Coles Boulevard, Portsmouth, Ohio. Student of Dr. Jack Gallagher, College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio. Winning composition: "Five Songs on Texts by Carl Sandburg" for soprano solo and piano.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS
(sponsored by Nancy B. and Russell C. Hatz)

Special Award \$50

Jeremy Beck (23), 629 S. 17 Street, Quincy, Illinois. Student of David Loeb, Mannes College of Music, New York, N.Y. Winning composition: "Sonata for flute and piano".

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Special Award \$50

Jeremy Beck (24), 629 S. 17 St., Quincy, Ill. Student of David Loeb, Mannes College of Music, New York, N.Y. Winning composition: "Quartet" for piano, hn. & 2 vls.

HONORABLE MENTION AWARDS

Elizabeth Alexander (21), 1020 Coles Blvd., Portsmouth, Ohio. Student of Paul Schwartz, College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio. Winning composition: "Moon Song" for SATB & fl.

Jeremy Beck (24), 629 S. 17 St., Quincy, Ill. Student of David Loeb, Mannes College of Music, New York, N.Y. Winning composition: "Sonata #1" for piano.

Elling Benson (24), 509 East, Owen Grad Ct., East Lansing, Mich. Student of Jere Hutcheson, Michigan State U., East Lansing, Mich. Winning composition: "Tales from the Northwoods", song cycle for tenor, flute, bass trombone, & piano.

Bryan Burkett (22), Box 51, Aultman, Pa. Student of Salvatore Scarpa, Indiana U. of Pa. Winning Composition: "Beyond Nothingness" for piano.

Tamar Meiksin (25), 1900 Mulhatten St., Pittsburgh, Pa. Student of John Downey, U. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wis. Winning composition: "Sonata for vl. & pian.

Raymond Pickens (21), 50034 Smith Ferry Road, East Liverpool, Ohio. Student of Samuel Adler, Eastman School of Music, Rochester, N.Y. Winning composition: "Piano Sonata No. 2".

Judges determine awards considering creative ability, technical excellence, and special talent of the composer. Comments range from considerate commendation to constructive criticism - all intended directly or indirectly to encourage the composer and to stimulate ongoing experience in creative composition. Contest rules are stressed. If not observed compositions may be disqualified from contest or award. Unfortunately these otherwise talented composers do not receive consideration.

Favorable comments include: -- interesting invention--genuinely musical ideas--a real feeling for sonority and texture--"a young composer with decided potential"--a true lyric sense -- "the best notation of the contest"-- excellent tonal effects--shows real potential for the medium-- distinctive sonorities -- a definite aesthetic asserted and realized -- excellent craftsmanship -- well crafted work -- "obviously talented with real potential which warrants encouragement and requires careful guidance".

Generally speaking compositions need further growth and improvement in technical mastery, more melodic and rhythmic invention, understanding of range and tonal possibilities of voices and instruments, development of musical ideas, skillful use of rhythm, more attention to structure and proportion, and perspective of parts and dynamics as setting for melodies and counter-melodies.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to all composers of the 1984 Contest. Also grateful appreciation is expressed to the composer-judges who so graciously served. All young composers (age 18 through 25 as of March 1, 1985) are invited and encouraged to participate in the 1985 NFMC Young Composers Contest. The latest (6/83) Rules (YCL) and Application (YC2) may be procured from: the Student Adviser for your state; the Contest Chairman; or NFMC Headquarters, 1336 N. Delaware Street, Indianapolis IN 46202.

In the final year I entered, 1985, James Legg placed first in the Victor Herbert/ASCAP Award category. Like Michael Torke's ascent in the competition from 1983 to 1984, Legg had placed second in this category in 1984 before earning the top prize in this, the following year.

I knew Jim a little bit because we had both gone to Duke for our masters degrees, although at different times. He was doing quite well in New York following his graduation, often collaborating with his partner, stage director Jack O'Brien. Jim tragically died in New York City in 2000. Had his life not been cut short, one wonders if Jim's career trajectory also would have followed that of Mr. Torke.

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NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

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ATHENS, OHIO



URS RUSSELL C. HATZ, Chairman
Young Composers Contest
Victor Herbert/ASCAP Awards
First and Prize Awards
Mt. Carmel, Pennsylvania 17064

August 1985

The 1985 NFMC Young Composers Contest Report

Thirty-four compositions were entered from 24 composers in fourteen states: Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wisconsin.

Winners in the 1985 NFMC Young Composers Contest sponsored by the National Federation of Music Clubs with Victor Herbert/ASCAP Awards; Devora Nadworney Awards, Special Recognition Awards, and Honorable Mentions were:

VICTOR HERBERT/ASCAP AWARDS

First Place \$1000

James Legg (23), 45 Twigg Lane, Levittown, N. Y. Student of Samuel Adler, Eastman School of Music, Rochester, N. Y. Winning composition: "Settings" for mezzo and 10 instruments.

Second Place \$500

James Perla, (25) 3111 Broadway 5F, New York, N. Y. Student of John Corigliano, The Manhattan School of Music, New York, N. Y. Winning compositions: "Songs of the Ghost Dance" for chorus, organ, guitar, & Percussion and "Sonata for Flute and Piano".

Third Place \$500

Michael Alec Rose (25) 6000 W. Oxford St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19151. Student of Samuel Adler, Eastman School of Music, Rochester, N. Y. Winning composition: "Sonata for Cello and Piano".

DEVORA NADWORNEY AWARDS (for solo voice)

First Place \$150

Stephen M. Jones (24) 4904 Chalet Drive #11, Cincinnati, Ohio 45217. Student of Jonathan Kramer, U. of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Cincinnati, Ohio 45221. Winning composition: "Four Visions of the Latter-days" for soprano & piano.

Second Place \$75

Killing Benson (25) 14430 Spartan Village, East Lansing, Michigan. Student of Jere Hutcheson, Michigan State U. East Lansing, Michigan. Winning composition: "Wood" for tenor and three trombones.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

(sponsored by Nancy B. and Russell C. Hatz)

Special Award \$50

Jeremy Beck (25) 1315 Third Ave., New York, N. Y. 10021. Student of David Loeb, Mannes College of Music, New York, N. Y. Winning composition: "Sonata for Clarinet and Piano".

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