



## Steinway Scholarship Competition April 6,7 2019



### Judges Biographies.

**Dr. Denitsa VanPelt** holds degrees in piano performance from the University of Cincinnati College – Conservatory of Music (DMA and BM summa cum laude) and Bowling Green State University (MM). As a performer, Dr. VanPelt has won numerous piano competitions and has performed hundreds of solo and chamber music concerts in Europe and USA. With her husband Michael, a classical saxophonist, she explores contemporary repertoire and music of living composers. As a pedagogue, Dr. VanPelt believes in the importance of early childhood music instruction. Her experience as a child pianist as well as her cosmopolitan music education has led her to explore various methods for teaching children. She believes strongly in the Suzuki piano method and completed her training with the world renowned Suzuki trainer Mary Craig Powell. Dr. VanPelt' students regularly receive highest recognition in achievement programs such as the Royal Conservatory and perform at Carnegie Hall.

**Elizabeth Wolff** has developed a large following both as a chamber musician and as a soloist. Ms. Wolff is recipient of numerous awards and sponsorships including the Pro Musicis Foundation's International Award, The Belsky Music Award, a Music at La Gesse Fellowship, and The Jerome Foundation debut recording grant. In New York, she was presented as recitalist on The Distinguished Artist Series at The Tisch Center of the 92nd Street 'Y', by Pro Musicis at Merkin Concert Hall and Florence Gould Hall, by The Metropolitan Museum of Art for their instrument collection, and at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. Ms. Wolff's affinity for and love of the piano works of Rachmaninoff have garnered special notice. She was guest soloist on WQXR's "Russian Nights" special broadcast, and she has conducted master classes as well as performed in recital at the renowned Rachmaninoff Institute in Tambov, Russia. Elizabeth Wolff's commitment to teaching is demonstrated through the broad range of her educational activities. She was seen on CBS '60 Minutes' in a segment featuring her student, the prodigious young composer Jay Greenberg. She has been on faculties and given master classes for numerous colleges. Ms. Wolff received a Bachelor of Music degree from Northwestern University and a Master of Science degree from The Juilliard School where she was a scholarship student of Rosina Lhevinne.