

The Students of Liz Elliot Present

The Spring 2021 Recital



www.lizelliot.com

Facebook: Liz Elliot Music

On Zoom

Sunday, May 16 – 6:00pm

Saturday, May 22 – 6:00pm

A few words about zooming with us:

Everybody but the performer should mute themselves during each performance. If you're not the performer, please turn your video off. Clapping out-loud is meant to occur only after each performer's last piece just to keep things simple, but feel free to use the "reaction emojis" and chat during performances (be respectful, please!) Finally, we are at the mercy of our imperfect technology. Please be patient and bear with us and we'll do our very best to entertain you! The recital will be recorded on zoom and performance clips will be available to students in the coming weeks.

Sunday, May 16 6:00pm

Alice Nickel, 7 – piano

Animals at School
You and Me
“Let it Go” from *Frozen*

Traditional
Barden, Kowalchuk & Lancaster
Kristen Anderson-Lopez & Robert Lopez



Alice has played the piano for a year, and just started taking lessons with Liz about 6 weeks ago. She's finishing 1st grade at Marengo Elementary, where she likes Mandarin best. She also likes roller blading, softball, piano, swimming, and horseback riding, and plays a bit of ukulele. She's the best in the world at not brushing her hair, and the best thing in the world, to her, is weekends! She wants to be a scientist some day and feels the world would be a better place if there were more plants and animals.

She most admires her mom and would like to have a conversation with one of her grandmothers. With her best friend, she likes to go horseback riding and play on the internet afterwards. She relieves her anger and frustration by having food or taking a nap. She loves “Let It Go” and she loves the sounds that the piano makes. Her goal as a pianist is to play any piece she really likes. This is Alice's first recital!

Gus Brandow, 13 – piano

“Wet Hands” from *Minecraft*
Op 27, No. 13, “A Little Joke”
Gymnopedie No. 1

Daniel Rosenfeld
Dmitri Kabalevsky
Erik Satie



Gus is finishing 7th grade at Marshall and has played the piano for 7 years. He loves baseball, playing video games with friends, reading, eating,

sleeping, playing board games, and playing the piano. He likes math and lunch at school, and he's best at hanging out. He really admires his parents and Barack Obama, and he'd love to have had a conversation with Steve Jobs. He thinks the world would be a better place with free food and water for everyone. When he's upset or angry, he sometimes gets a water bottle, puts a bunch of ice in it, and eats the ice to calm himself. His bff is respectful and he likes that a lot. When he grows up, he wants to be a movie producer or cinematographer. So far his

favorite piano piece is “Wet Hands”, and he's played a lot of piano duets with neighbor and fellow piano student, Theo. He has also participated in Tuesday Musicale Juniors of Pasadena. Gus feels it's interesting to see how music evolves over different periods, and what the recurring themes are in each of those periods. His favorite music is by Ludwig Goransson and C418 (Daniel Rosenfeld). His goal is to be able to learn basically any piece he wants and play it well. Gus has earned Student of the Month 5 times over the years.

Harper Miller*, 7 – piano

Lightly Row
This is Not Jingle Bells
Skipping in Space
“Lava” from *Lava*

Traditional
Faber & Faber
Faber & Faber
James Ford Murphy



Harper is in 2nd grade at American Martyrs School in Manhattan Beach. She’s

played the piano for 1-1/2 years and likes sewing, piano, art, sketching, going to the beach, and playing games. Her best subject in school is art and it’s the thing she’s best at in the world. She thinks the world would be a better place without motorcycles and smoking, and she relieves stress by squeezing her stress ball or hugging her stuffed animals. She most admires Taylor Swift and would love to have a conversation with her great

grandmother. She wants to be a famous fashion designer someday! Her bff is really nice and respects her choices. She says playing the music well sounds so nice, and her goal is to end up really good and have fun playing her pieces. Her favorite singer is Taylor Swift, and her favorite pieces so far have been “Lava” and “Skipping in Space”. Harper earned Student of the Month for her first time in January.

Kuba Clemons*, 13 – piano

Poet’s Lament
Whirlwind

Jon George
Jennifer Eklund



At Chandler, where Kuba is in 7th grade, he enjoys history

class. He also likes playing video games, playing basketball with his family, soccer, skateboarding, and piano. He’s really good at dreaming of higher achievements and has played piano for just 2-1/2 years. Social justice would make the world a better place, and he’d like to be a neurosurgeon or conservationist someday. The best thing in the world is Kuba’s dog, he admires himself, and he’d really like to converse with his ancestors. Listening to music helps his stay calm and

anger-free. Eminem is one of his favorite artists, and he has really liked playing “May the Force Be with You”, “Whirlwind”, and “Poet’s Lament”. He thinks the best thing about music is how awesome it is to be able to interpret some dots on a page and make music of it. He wants to be able to sight read any piece someday. Kuba was our Student of the Month for the first-time last June.

Oliver Nickel, 9 – piano

Ode to Joy
“Imperial March” from *Star Wars*

Ludwig von Beethoven
John Williams



Oliver has played piano for about a year and is finishing 3rd grade at Marengo Elementary. He's best at sports and video games, as evidenced by his love of baseball, video game playing, piano, baking, and reading. He really wants to be a major league baseball player someday. He believes the world would be a better place without plastic, and baseball is the best thing in the world. He likes social studies best at school and most admires his best friend, who is funny. He'd love to have talked to Jackie Robinson, and he calms himself by fighting with a

pillow. Ode to Joy is his favorite piano piece so far. He says it's fun when he plays something very well, and his goal is to be able to play any piece of music he wants to. This is Oliver's first recital with us, and he just started taking lessons with Liz about 6 weeks ago.

Ozzie Clemons, 10 – piano

Op. 40, No. 1, “My First Waltz”
Drifting Clouds
Little Chief Red Feather

Björne Rolseth
Jon George
Elisabeth L. Hopson



Ozzie is finishing up 4th grade at Chandler, where he likes social studies best. He also likes playing with his dog, skateboarding, soccer, reading, and piano, but he doesn't think he's best at anything in particular. Ozzie most admires his dog, and would love to have a conversation with King Louis the I. His bff is nice sometimes, and when he grows up, he'd like to be an archaeologist. He keeps himself calm and happy by

reading. The best thing in the world to Ozzie is his mom, and he'd really like to end global warming. He has played the piano for 4 years and so far, his favorite piece was “March of the Gnomes”. He loves that you get to learn and it gives you an opportunity to grow up and be a musician. He likes Mozart, and his goal is to spread his music around so people can enjoy it.

Pallas Kim*, 15 – cello

Suite No. 1 for Unaccompanied Cello in G Major, BWV 1007
3. Courante
6. Gigue
Concerto No. 2 in D Major: 3. Rondo

Johann Sebastian Bach

Jean Baptiste Breval



Pallas spends his days as a 9th grader in the music department

of CS Arts in Duarte. He's played cello for 5 years and likes Dungeons & Dragons, Tae Kwon Do, cello, playing in a piano trio with Ramya & Theo through CYMG, playing video games, and watching media. At school, he likes math, and he's best at eating and at math. The best thing in the world is food, and he believes the world would be better by more people becoming informed. He admires his sister the most, and his bff is very considerate and understanding. He'd love to have had a conversation with Jacqueline DuPre and he calms himself by eating food, laying down, sleeping, or playing a

game. Pallas loves to see his progress as he gets better, and to listen to his own playing, which is also quite painful a lot of the time. His favorite piece so far is "Allegro Appassionato", he likes Tchaikovsky, and one day, he'd like to play one of the major concertos like Saint-Saens or Shostakovich. Pallas has been a member of Tuesday Musicale of Pasadena and played in piano trios with several of Liz's other students. When he grows up, he'd like to be a physician, engineer, or professor. Pallas has earned Student of the Month twice in the 3 years he's been studying with Liz.

Raluca Tudusciuc, 13 – piano

River City Blues
Prelude, Op. 24, No. 6 in B Minor
Fantasia in D Minor, K. 397

Martha Mier

Frederic Chopin

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart



Raluca has played the piano for nearly 10 years and is finishing 9th grade at South Pasadena

High School, where she likes English best. She likes reading, piano, writing, and watching movies and believes she is average at everything. She also plays the domra (the Romanian equivalent of the mandolin) in the Los Angeles Balalaika Orchestra, participated in a piano trio with two of Liz's other students, and played for Tuesday Musicale Juniors. Chocolate is the best thing in the world, and she believes the world would be a better place if there were less people. She most admires her mom, and she'd love to have a conversation with Jane Austen.

When she grows up, she wants to be happy, and she loves how non-judgmental her two best friends are. Her favorite composer is Frederic Chopin, and she's loved playing his music and looks forward to much more of it. To her, music is an outlet for creativity that is more fun than sitting at a laptop or on a couch doing something. It's more engaging, and she uses it to calm her when she's angry or upset. Her musical goal is just to have fun, because if it's not fun, why do it? Raluca has earned Student of the Month 6 times.

Rondo in D Major
Gipsy Air
Air Varie No. 24



This winter, when Ramya went to Cauer's to get herself a Carnatic violin, she ended up buying one of Liz's old violins she had traded back to the shop for her current violin! Ramya has played violin for 4 years and is finishing 7th grade at McKinley. She likes singing, violin, Carnatic violin,

"Scherzetto", Op. 125, No. 5
Horizon Variations
"Novelette", Op. 27, No. 25



Theo has played the piano for 8 years and also plays the trombone at Blair MS, where he's in 7th grade. He loves playing in advanced band at

Ramya Bangaru*, 13 – violin

board games, gardening with her mom, and playing in the piano trio with Theo & Pallas through CYMG. She has also participated in Tuesday Musicales Juniors of Pasadena. Her best subject at school is math, and she is best in the world at annoying her brother, who she admires most in the world. She wants to be a violin-playing doctor someday, and she knows the world would be a better place if the pandemic didn't exist. She would love to have a conversation with Malala, and she either talks to her mom or does yoga when she's upset or angry. Her bff is the total opposite of her, even though

Theo Sitzman*, 13 – piano

school, he plays in a piano trio with Ramya and Pallas through CYMG, and does lots of piano duets with his neighbor, Gus. He's participated in Tuesday Musicales Juniors of Pasadena for a few years. His favorite piano pieces so far are "Maple Leaf Rag" and "Death Waltz", which Theo learned by ear. His goal is to be able to play any piece he hears by ear no matter how complicated it is, and his perfect pitch will help him a lot in that goal! He likes the music of Lena Raine, and feels that once he gets his piano pieces down well, they're fun to play. Theo also likes to play video games, theme parks, Terraria, music, piano,

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Pablo de Sarasate
Charles deBeriot

they have the same hobbies, so they balance each other out and are awesome together! When she figures out the right timing for a piece, she gets so happy and excited (like Felix when someone plays), and this really came together for her on her favorite piece, "Sarabande". Her goal is to someday play one of the Ysaÿe solo violin sonatas, as he is her favorite composer. Ramya has been Student of the Month three times, including last December, and has placed in the top five in the points challenge every time since she started lessons.

Stephen Heller
Max Richter
Dmitri Kabalevsky

piano trio, Boy Scouts, cooking, and bouldering. He's best at piano and video games and the best thing in the world to him is Terraria. He most admires his grandmother and would love to have a conversation with Andrew Spinks. He thinks the world would be a better place with less factory farming, and someday, he'd like to live within walking distance of Cedar Point Park. To calm himself, he lies down in the hammock and listens to some music, and his bff has a lot of similar interests and hobbies as he does. Theo has been Student of the Month 3 times, including last August

Saturday, May 22 6:00pm

Brandon Domantay, 16 – viola

Where the Heather Grows

Suite No. 1 for Unaccompanied Viola in G Minor, BWV 1007

3. Courante

Katherine and Hugh Colledge
Johann Sebastian Bach



Brandon is a junior at Loyola High School who has played the viola for 6 years, and played piano for a few years prior to viola. He likes science best at school and wants to be a rich doctor when he grows up. He likes cooking, baking, surfing, swimming, playing viola & piano, driving, hiking, and listening to music. He's best at sleeping and the best thing in the world to him is chocolate milk after he swims. He thinks the world would be a better place if everyone got the vaccine, and he most

admires his family. To calm himself, he listens to music, and he loves how long he is able to talk with his bff. His favorite viola piece so far the Telemann Double Viola Concerto, and he loves the music of Anderson Paak. He really likes hearing a piece finally come together, and his goal is to play the Prelude from Bach's Unaccompanied Suite No 1, which he will start this summer. Brandon has earned Student of the Month 4 times over the years.

Duet No. 16
Livi's Blues

Elizabeth Phillips, 10* – cello

Sebastian Lee
Elliott W. Cheney



Ellie is finishing 4th grade at San

Rafael Elementary, where she likes science best. She's played the cello for 2-1/2 years and also likes art, playing outside, riding her bike, diving and playing the cello. She most admires her mom and would like to be a judge or lawyer someday. She'd love to have a conversation with her teacher, who talks often about random science facts, and she also believes ending world hunger would make the world a better place. The best thing in the world is family, and her bff is

funny! When she needs to calm herself, she goes outside and sits on the swing. Her favorite piece so far is "Ode to Joy", and it's fun to be able to learn more things and play pieces well. Her goal is to be able to play any piece she likes. She is Student of the Month this month for the second time.

Op. 100, No 18 "Inquietude"
Spanish Serenade
Red Rose Rendezvous



Kate Ma*, 11 – piano

Friedrich Burgmuller
Lynn Freeman Olson
Martha Mier

Kate is finishing 6th grade at La Canada Elementary, where she likes language arts best. She has played the piano for 3-1/2 years and her favorite piece so far is Brahms' Lullaby. When she finishes a piece, it feels really good, and she wants to be able to play any piece that's put in front of her. When she grows up, she wants to be successful, but for now, she really enjoys soccer, playing piano, basketball, reading, art,

sleeping and eating, and she is best at being herself. The best thing in the world is family, she most admires her dad, and she'd love to have a conversation with Snoopy. She feels the world would be a better place if everybody was nice to each other. When Kate feels angry or upset, she likes her alone time and her bff is funny. Kate has earned Student of the Month three times, including last October.

Cloud Watching
Polonaise in G Minor
Joy



Matthew Ma*, 14 – piano

Joey Talbot
Frederic Chopin
George Winston

Matthew, who is finishing 8th grade at LC 7-8, puts a pillow over his face when he needs to calm himself down. He's very good at sleeping, and his favorite subject at school is math. He's played piano for 3-1/2 years and he also likes basketball, playing games with his family, eating, reading Manga, ping-pong, playing piano, tennis, and playing with his friends. He most admires his grandpa and the best thing in the world to him is family. The world would be a better place if

people actually thought things through. When he grows up, he wants to be satisfied. With his bff, there's trust. Playing piano is enjoyable because it can take his mind off things and he always wants to be able to play music he enjoys. His favorite piece so far is "Joy" and he really loves George Winston's music. Matthew has been Student of the Month three times, including last November.

Moto Perpetuo
Ambato Tierra de Flores



Nathan is a sophomore at Arcadia High School who

Nathan Lopez, 15 – viola

has played the viola for about five years and just started taking lessons with Liz this spring. He's played some cello and piano in the past, and he thinks music is the best thing in the world. At school, he likes lunch best, and he also likes skateboarding, video games, playing viola, hanging out with his friends and being a cool person: real rad. He's best at being slightly average and he thinks if there was no world, the world would be a better place. When he grows up,

Katherine and Hugh Colledge
Carlos Rubiera Infante

he'd like to not be homeless or dead. Nathan most admires his chameleon and would love to have conversations with animals. His bff is all right, and when he's upset or angry, he simply chooses not to be. He likes playing viola because it takes away time from his day and gives him something to do when he's bored. He liked playing "Jupiter" at school and he likes a wide variety of music from Drake to T-Wayne. His goal is just to be able to play viola decently.

Minuet No. 3
"Hedwig's Theme" from *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

Siddhi Karthikeya, 11 – violin



Siddhi just started taking lessons with Liz in January, and has been playing the violin for 3 years. She also

studies Carnatic violin, and enjoys sketching, basketball, knitting & crocheting, playing with her dog, writing and reading, and playing the violin. She's finishing 6th grade at First Avenue, where she likes science and English best, and she's very good at making friends easily. After she exercises, she loves taking a long cold or hot bath, and she calms herself with the distraction of things she likes or playing with her dog. She most admires her dog, she'd love to converse with Michelle

Johann Sebastian Bach
John Williams

Obama, and she believes the world would be a better place with less partisanship. Her bff can take a joke, and someday, Siddhi wants to have a job she enjoys where she can help others and bring them joy. She played "Santa Baby" at school, which she's liked best so far. She likes how music makes her feel and can unwind, and she wants to be able to play any piece and get into her high school orchestra.

Thom Calderón* – cello

Suite No. 2 in D Minor, BWV 1008
5. Minuets Nos. 1 and 2



Thom is a film editor who has played the cello for 9 years and also plays the guitar. He likes watching television, playing cello, reading the New York Times, biking, hiking, and walking, and when he was in school, he really enjoyed history class. He is best at raising a family (Thom's now adult kids were once Liz's students). He thinks the world would be a better place with more empathy and the best things in the world are babies of any species. When he grows up, he wants to be a cellist! He

Johann Sebastian Bach

most admires anybody who can live without fear and would really like to be able to have a conversation with Jesus Christ. If he's angry or upset, he tries to breathe and stay quiet, and with his best friend, he can laugh. His favorite piece so far is "Song of the Birds", and he really enjoys the music of David Byrne. Playing music helps him better discover who he is, and his goal is to play with expression and freedom. Thom has earned Student of the Month 4 times, including this past February.

Just Struttin' Along
Cradle Song
Off to the Races
The Gathering Storm

Uma Chakraborty*, 10 – piano

Martha Mier
Carl Maria von Weber
Judy East Wells
Valerie Roth Roubos



Uma is a 4th grader at Monterey Hills who loves

playing video games, baking, composing, playing the piano, running around and playing. She likes math best at school and has played piano for 4-1/2 years. She's best at making banana bread and wants to be a paleontologist and a mother when she grows up. The best thing in the world is family (but not her sister), although she admires her sister more than anyone else. She'd love to have a conversation with Walt Disney. She believes we should rid the world of global warming via eliminating

fossil fuels so we have less pollution. Uma calms herself by playing the piano, and her bff is different from her, but she's like the same as her. Uma's favorite piece so far is "The Gathering Storm", and she really loves Disney music. The best thing about piano is learning new pieces, and she wants to be able to sight read well. Uma was Student of the Month last September for her first time.

Students of the Month

Harper Miller-7, piano – January 2021
Thom Calderon, cello – February 2021
Terri MartinLujan, cello – March 2021
Charlene Patton, piano – April 2021
Ellie Phillips-10, cello – May 2021
Kuba Clemons-12, piano – June 2020

Pallas Kim-14, cello – July 2020
Theo Sitzman-12 – August 2020
Uma Chakraborty-9, piano – September 2020
Kate Ma-11, piano – October 2020
Matthew Ma-13, piano – November 2020
Ramya Bangaru-13, violin – December 2020

* Student of the Month in the past year. Students are chosen as Student of the Month for their diligent practicing, love of music, devotion to success in their studies and support of their families. They are awarded a framed certificate, 10 extra points and a page on the website for one month. Students must have been studying with Liz for six months before they are eligible for Student of the Month and can earn this honor once each year.

The Points Challenges

Points challenges are conducted in the Fall, Spring and Summer, with brief breaks in between. Students receive points each week according to how well they complete their assignments and for extra credit, like listening to music, attending concerts and researching composers. If all of their assignment is completed satisfactorily and on time, they are awarded a 5-point bonus. At the end of each challenge, certificates are presented to the students with the top 5 average scores. The current average (as of May 22, 2021) for the studio is 22.162 with averages ranging between 16.923 and 34.000. Our current challenge ends May 27th. The Summer Challenge will begin in late June.

In-person Lessons

Once families feel comfortable with having lessons in-person again, they should resume as soon as possible. Only students who live outside of Pasadena, Arcadia, Altadena, South Pasadena or La Canada will be allowed continue with online lessons indefinitely. I have been fully vaccinated, but am perfectly willing to wear a mask, remain 6 feet away from students, and hold lessons outdoors when preferred (and possible). Please talk to me about the possibility of resuming in-person lessons as soon as you feel comfortable.

The Summer schedule begins Monday, June 7.
There are no lessons June 16-23, July 4, and July 11-17.

Liz Elliot – cello, viola, violin, piano



Liz Elliot grew up in Minneapolis and graduated from Augsburg College. She has studied all of the instruments she teaches privately with very fine teachers! She plays cello in *Lyzia Duo* and the *Duende Piano Trio*, Tuesday Musicales of Pasadena, and freelances. She also plays first violin in Crown City Symphony. Coaches chamber music for Crescendo Young Musician's Guild, and is a regular and advisory board member of the So Cal Chamber Music Workshop each summer.

She's been the soloist with Crown City Symphony (Rococo

Variations) and the Northeast Orchestra (Kabalevsky Concerto) and played with the BBC Symphony, Aqualung, Michelle Bloom, Alan Bernhoft, Tamara Silvera, Brook McCarter, Prince, and on the soundtrack for *With Great Power* (the Stan Lee story). She also worked for Fein Stringed Instruments and Robert Cauer Violins. She's taught strings and piano privately for 29 years and has written and arranged 16 books on string technique and beginning string playing, 13 of which are for sale on her website. She is currently working on a project to write a comprehensive music theory method for string players that does not utilize the piano.

Liz likes acting, writing, directing, dogs, theater, movies, television, comedy, hiking, swimming, and traveling. The best thing in the world to her is her dog, Felix. She is best at acting and playing chamber music. She thinks the world would be a better place if we all recognized that there is only one race on Earth - the human race. When she grows up, she wants

to be an actress. She most admires Michelle and Barack Obama and Stacey Abrams and would have loved to have a conversation with Carrie Fisher, but since she's passed, she'd like to talk to Felix. When she's frustrated or angry, she goes to sleep to calm herself. Her bff is a good listener and he makes her laugh a lot.

Her favorite piece so far is Brahms Sonata for Cello and Piano Op. 99, her favorite thing about music is playing chamber music, and her goal is to play better in tune!

Liz is actively looking for more students and teaching, playing and coaching opportunities. She teaches at her home in Pasadena and at students' homes in the Pasadena area (when it is safe to do so), and online! She coaches chamber music, orchestral sectionals on all strings, does arranging, and freelances on cello and occasionally violin and viola. She can also do school demos on all strings! Please send referrals to her website and give them her contact info!

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