

James Saverio Ruccolo Award

Few people arrived in mid-to-late 20th Century America equipped to accept the title of the complete musician more than James Saverio Ruccolo. Born in Akron, Ohio, James displayed exceptional gifts in music from early childhood, playing accordion, clarinet, and trombone. The piano and its potential particularly captured his heart and mind at age 13, and the synergy they produced was wonderful to behold. His talent matured into extraordinary skills in both the classical and jazz genres. He played with equal skill, respect and insight, with dazzling technique and musical prowess received by enthusiastic audience applause. His skills as a classical pianist and jazz artist are well documented with rave reviews throughout career performances and recordings. His distinctive interpretations of jazz improvisation were living affirmations of his opinion that jazz was meant to be played freely at the moment of conception, rather than as a learned skill such as in classical music literature. He stated that jazz required playing this style of music spontaneously, while it was actually being created. In addition to piano and jazz performance, he wrote music in several composition genres. Collectively, they express a unique combination of his life-experiences, his education and tremendous gifts as a creative person. Each composition allows the listener to intimately know this man as a complete musician and creator. James' musical curiosity and probing intellect emerged and expanded, leading to world-class educational opportunities and culminating in an impressive list of achievements in performance, composition, and teaching. Most notably, his education included an Eastman School of Music Bachelors Degree in Music as a Rochester National Scholar, graduating second in his class. He then earned a Masters Degree in Music Composition, Summa Cum Laude, from Arizona State University, followed by a Doctorate in Musical Arts Degree in Piano, Summa Cum Laude, as a National Defense Education Act Fellow from the University of Arizona. Dr. Ruccolo's education further included study with many notable piano artist teachers such as Grant Johannesen, Cicile Genhart, Jose Echaniz, Armand Basile, Dalles Franz, and Ozan Marsh, along with published composition teachers Clifton Williams, Robert Muzynski, and Grant Fletcher. Dr. Ruccolo held the position of Artist-in-Residence and Music Program Director at Prescott College for four years. Until his death in 1985, he served as Professor of Music in Piano at Arizona State University. During his tenure, he taught piano majors, served as a Coordinator of Keyboard Studies, and conducted state and national master classes, adjudicated piano competitions, performed and recorded from live concerts. James Ruccolo's success in performance, recording, and composition, enhanced by an appointment as an Artist representative of the United States Cultural Embassy Department, are living proof that he learned from others while relying heavily on that which is spirit-born. The Ruccolo Award is graciously donated to the ASMTA Honors Recital by Dr. Margaret Roebke Ruccolo.

Pee-Yaw Lim Wilkes Endowment Award

Pee-Yaw Lim Wilkes was a graduate of the Royal College of Music in London, where she earned her LRSM, LRAM and ACRM diplomas. Pee-Yaw is remembered for her wonderful talent as a concert pianist and for producing the highest caliber, competitive level students. She was also much sought after as a piano adjudicator and as a national and international piano pedagogue and lecturer. She held many leadership roles such as: Northern Arizona Music Teachers Association president, Arizona State Music Teacher Association president, and Music Teachers National Association Southwest Division president. These organizations honored her with many awards including a Music Teachers National Association 50- Year Member Award and the Arizona State Music Teachers Association Honorary Lifetime Member Award. The Pee-Yaw Lim Wilkes Endowment Award has been established to promote support and encouragement to promising, up and coming talented young pianists.

Adjudicators

Dr. Mandarin Cheung-Yueh
Dr. Cathal Breslin
Dr. Elias-Axel Pettersson
Dr. Michelle Wachter
Dr. Dani Shraibman
Astrid Morales Torres



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Arizona State Music
Teachers Association

Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association

James R. Anthony
Honors Recital

Winners Concert

Saturday, June 3, 2023
5:00 PM

Hilton Phoenix Resort at the Peak

Program

Elementary 1 Piano

Dreamcatcher -Dennis Alexander

Evelina Sensakovic, 3rd place
Rong Lucchesi, teacher

Sonata in C major, Hob. XVI: I. Allegro -Haydn

Nicholas Wang, 2nd place
Yali Luo, teacher

Sonata in C major, Hob.1 III. Menuet -Haydn

Austin Fan, 1st place, Pee-Yaw Lim Wilkes Endowment Award
Yuerong Gong, teacher

Elementary 2 Piano

Greenwich Witch -Zez Confrey

Landon Frolov - 3rd place
Qingqing Ye, teacher

Sancta Dorothea S.187 -Liszt

Kaili Dai - 2nd place
Natalya Thran, teacher

Arabesque Op.61 -Chaminade

Lucy Lu - 1st place, Pee-Yaw Lim Wilkes Endowment Award
Yuerong Gong, teacher

Intermediate 1 Piano

Caprice Espagnol Op.37 -Moszkowsky

Daniel Rakes - 3rd place
Natalya Thran, teacher

The Cat and the Mouse -Copland

Alexis Dyche - 2nd place, Pee-Yaw Lim Wilkes Endowment Award
Ji-Young Kim, teacher

Keyboard Sonata No.12, V. Gavotte -Giovanni Battista Martini

David Li - 1st place, James Saverio Ruccolo Award
Natalya Thran, teacher

Piano Duet

Ballet from Orphee et Eurydice -Christoph W. Gluck
Arr. by Greg Anderson

Fayfay He & Katherine Li, 2nd place

Natalya Thran, teacher

Intermediate 2 Piano

Sonata Op.27 No.2, III. "Presto Agitato" -Beethoven

Jessica Frolov - 3rd Place, Pee-Yaw Lim Wilkes Endowment Award
Qingqing Ye, teacher

Etude de Concert S.144 No.2, "La Leggerezza" in F minor -Liszt

Mia Lucchesi - 2nd Place
Rong Lucchesi, teacher

Six Preludes, Op.6 I. Vivace, II. Lento, III. Allegro giocoso, IV. Allegretto meno mosso, V. Moderato, VI. Allegro Marcato -Muczynski

Kyle Gu - 1st Place, James Saverio Ruccolo Award
Yuerong Gong, teacher

Advanced 1 Piano

Danzas Argentinas, III. Danza del gaucho matrero -Ginastera

Bryan Zhang - 3rd place
Kyungsun Choi, teacher

Etude Op.10 No.1 in C major -Chopin

Yobin Cha - 2nd place, James Saverio Ruccolo Award
Soo Yoen Kim, teacher

Legend No.2, S.175 "St. François de Paule marchant sur le flots" -Liszt

Patrick Carter - 1st place, Pee-Yaw Lim Wilkes Endowment Award
Natalya Thran, teacher

Advanced 2 Piano

Elegy in E flat minor, Op.3 -Rachmaninoff

Noelle Chang - 3rd Place
Tatyana Elderidge, teacher

Piano Variations Op.41 -Kapustin

Brayden Wagner - 2nd Place, James Saverio Ruccolo Award
Natalya Thran, teacher

Hungarian Rhapsody No.8 in F sharp minor, S.244/8 -Liszt

Milton Lin - 1st Place, Pee-Yaw Lim Wilkes Endowment Award
Jessica Yam, teacher