

## MICHAEL DAVIDMAN

Born 1997 in New York City, pianist Michael Davidman started piano lessons at *Greenwich House Music School* at five years old with Michiyo Morikawa (2002-2004), then with Efreim Briskin (2005-2015) at *Manhattan School of Music*, conducting with Jonathan Strasser (2009-2015) and conducting with David Gilbert (2013-2015). Michael completed his Bachelor's degree with Robert McDonald at the *Curtis Institute of Music*, and is currently pursuing his Master of Music degree at the Juilliard School with renowned pianists Jerome Lowenthal and Stephen Hough.

Prodigiously gifted from early childhood, in his precollege studies at the Manhattan School of Music, Michael won First Place in the Precollege Concerto Competition in all three age categories: first at age ten, then at twelve, and again at age sixteen. At age thirteen, he was chosen by Lang Lang's management to perform in the 2010 Lang Lang masterclass at Manhattan School of Music; his rendition of Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 10 was warmly praised by Lang Lang: "You play beautifully and are technically brilliant!"

A dedicated and disciplined young musician, Michael has gone on to win numerous piano competitions, including first prize of the 2019 Juilliard Gina Bachauer Competition; first prize 2018 New York International Piano Competition chamber ensemble; first prizes in both soloist and concerto categories at the 33rd Ithaca College of Music Piano Competition; Grand Prize at the LISMA Foundation 9th International Music Competition; and first place in the 2011 Mary Smart International Concerto Competition. Michael also received a four year scholarship from the Chopin Foundation of the United States.

As soloist, he has performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Symphoncity, Monterey Symphony, Millikin-Decatur Symphony Orchestra, Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra, Ithaca College Orchestra, Manhattan School of Music Philharmonic Orchestra, Summit Music Festival Orchestra, Bronx Arts Ensemble Orchestra, New York Concerti Sinfonietta, Doctor's Orchestra of NY, the NY Chamber Orchestra and the West Point Band. He has performed as soloist and chamber player at Alice Tully Hall in Lincoln Center, Carnegie Recital Hall, the Kimmel Center, Sandler Center, Symphony Space, Merkin Concert Hall, given recitals in Spain at the Burgos International Music Festival, in Italy at Teatro Alfieri, in St. Petersburg Russia with the International Academy of Music, and at numerous music festivals, including the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival (Yale), the Music Academy of the West, Kneisel Hall, Summit Music, and Music@Menlo. Michael has also performed on WHY Y "Curtis On Stage", WQXR McGraw Hill Young Artist Showcase - "The Robert Sherman Show", WSKG-FM radio Expressions Series, NPR's radio program "From the Top."

An exceptional presence on the concert stage, Michael has repeatedly earned glowing reviews in the press: "The standout twenty year-old Michael Davidman ... a talent to watch. His account of Rachmaninoff's complex and quirky sonata ... was electrifying for its sweeping yet refined sentimentality and pyrotechnical prowess of which he tossed off fiendishly difficult passagework with great finesse – and a few gasps were even heard from the spellbound audience." (The Classical Music Journal); "He performed the final movement so magnificently ... it brought the audience to its feet with wild applause." (Peninsula Reviews, Mozart Piano Concerto No. 21); Monterey Symphony); "a high level of playing ... the incredible facility of pianist Michael Davidman." (Philadelphia Enquirer Daily News, Kimmel Center Curtis Symphony performance of Ravel's opera *L'enfant et les Sortilèges*); and "Violinist Steven Waarts and

Michael Davidman ... two 11-year-old prodigies, and I rarely apply that term, and never loosely ... the best of the best.” (San Mateo Journal).

Michael has performed and given interviews on WHY? “*Curtis On Stage*”, has been a frequent performer on WQXR McGraw Hill Young Artist Showcase - “The Robert Sherman Show”, WSKG-FM radio *Expressions Series*, Cable News 12, NYC, NPR’s radio program “*From the Top*”, and the AADGT (*American Association for the Development of the Gifted and Talented, Inc.*).

He has performed in master classes with such notables as Gary Graffman, Lang Lang, Jerome Lowenthal, Stephen Hough, Oxana Yablonskaya, Johnathan Biss, Jeremy Denk, Robert Levin, Pavel Nersessian, Jeffrey Swann, Boris Slutsky, Alexander Braginsky, Robert Levin, Ignat Solzhenitsyn, Vladimir Viardo, Ian Hobson, Alexander Kobrin, Adam Kent, Susan Star, and Sara Davis Buchner.

As a chamber music player, Michael has been coached by many noted musicians such as: Aaron Rosand, Jefferey Kahane, David Finckel, Wu Han, Pamela Frank, Joel Krosnick, Jonathan Biss, Daniel Matsukawa, Gilbert Kalish, Dmitri Berlinsky, Arnold Steinhardt, Ricardo Morales, Meng-Chieh Liu, Wei-Yi Yang, Jane Coop, Laurie Smukler, Vladimir Viardo, Carol Wincenc, Jonathan Strasser, Fawn Wiener, Adam Kent, Nicholas Canellakis, Tatiana Goncharova, Wendy Sharp, Colin Carr, Paul Watkins, Robert Uchida, Cordelia Hagmann, Sharon Moe, Theo Noll, and Dmitri Atapine.

An opera enthusiast from a very young age, Michael delights in uploading historical and rare opera recordings to his YouTube channel called PucciniMD and in accompanying opera singers on special occasions on "opera night" at a New York City restaurant.

## Awards and Accomplishments:

- **2019:** First place winner, *2019 Juilliard Gina Bachauer International Piano Scholarship Competition*; Michael received full scholarship at *The Juilliard School*, a solo recital in *Paul Hall* and an appearance on WQXR’s *McGraw Hill Young Artist Showcase* hosted by Robert Sherman, September 2019
- **2019:** Accepted on full scholarship to Yale School of Music’s Norfolk Chamber Music Festival in Norfolk, CN, July-August 2019
- **2019:** Called back after a previous concerto engagement in 2017, to perform Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue* with *Symphonicity*; Daniel W. Boothe, conductor, Sandler Center, Virginia Beach, VA, May 5, 2019
- **2018:** *Summit Music Festival*, employed as faculty member to perform solo and chamber music recitals as well as accompaniment and chamber music coaching, July-August 2018
- **2018:** Performed Rachmaninoff’s *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Op. 43*, Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue* and a solo recital with the *Millikin-Decatur Symphony* in Decatur, IL, September, 2018
- **2018:** *The Ninth New York International Piano Competition - The Melvin Stecher and Norman Horowitz First Prize One-Piano, Four Hands Ensemble*, June 2018
- **2018:** Invited to perform with the *Monterey Symphony* at the *Sunset Center* in Carmel, CA, *Mozart Piano Concerto No. 21 in C major, K.467*, March 18 and 19, 2018; received rave review in the *Monterey Peninsula Reviews* and was invited back for a solo recital

- **2017:** *The Philadelphia Orchestra*, “Grand Piano” part with click track to the film “Amadeus”, Richard Kaufman, conductor; Michael Davidman, soloist; *Mendelssohn Club of Philadelphia*, Paul Ardin, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor, Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, September 21, 22, 23, 2017, 7:00 PM; Playbill states “Twenty-year old pianist Michael Davidman makes his Philadelphia Orchestra debut with these performances:” Mozart: *Allegro, from Piano Concerto No. 15 in B-flat major, K. 450, Allegro from Piano Concerto No. 22 in E-flat major K. 482, Allegro from Piano Concerto No. 20 in D minor, K. 466, and Adagio, from Piano Concerto No. 20 in D minor, K. 466* as well as other pieces.
- **2017:** Hired to substitute for Mikael Eliason, Artistic Director of the Curtis Opera Theater, to perform on four days’ notice the 46 brief songs in Hugo Wolf’s song cycle *Italianisches Liederbuch* (“Italian Songbook”) performed as a mini-opera featuring Ashley Robillard (soprano); Dennis Chmelensky (baritone); and Michael Davidman (piano), *Athenaeum Music and Arts Library*, San Diego, CA; October 21, 2017
- **2017:** “Composer Portraits” concert, with prolific award-winning contemporary music composer Chen Yi as part of “Curtis on Tour”, pianist with the *Curtis 20/21 Ensemble*, *Miller Theatre, Columbia University School of the Arts*, December 2, 2017
- **2017:** Rave review by Leonne Lewis in *Miroirs CA, The Classical Music Journal* from the Jerome Lowenthal masterclass at *The Music Academy of the West*, Hahn Hall, Santa Barbara, CA performance of *Rachmaninoff Sonata No. 2, Op. 36 (1931)* on June 22, 2017
- **2017:** Performed on From The Top NPR radio program, live taping at The Music Academy of the West, Hahn Hall, Santa Barbara, CA; performing *Rachmaninoff Sonata No. 2, Op. 36 (1931)* recorded June 15, 2017 – will air October, 2017
- **2017:** Full scholarship to *Music Academy of the West Summer Festival*, Santa Barbara, CA
- **2017:** Featured performer on WHYH “Curtis On Stage” videos: Liszt: “Sonetto 104 del Petrarca,” from *Années de pèlerinage, deuxième année: Italie*, Liszt: *Mephisto Waltz No. 1* (“Der Tanz in der Dorfschenke”), and Mendelssohn: *Concerto in E minor, Op. 64*; *Stephen Kim*, violin; *Michael Davidman*, piano, March 2017
- **2017:** Performed with *Symphonicity*, Sandler Center, Virginia Beach, VA; *Rachmaninoff: Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini, Op. 43*, March 26, 2017, *Sergey Bogza*, conductor
- **2017:** Performed with *Symphony in C Virtuosi Series*, Collingswood, NJ
- **2017:** Featured performer on FM and HD radio WWFM *The Classical Network*, “Curtis Calls”; the Classical Network is Philadelphia’s only all-digital, all classical, all-the-time station covering Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York City
- **2016:** Invited to perform a third time with *Classical Pianists of the Future* with guest audience at WSKG for radio/TV broadcast, Binghamton, NY
- **2016:** Performed a second time with the *Curtis Symphony Orchestra* at the Kimmel Center/Verizon Hall for the Performing Arts, under conductor *Corrado Rovaris*; Michael was mentioned in the review “...the incredible facility of pianist Michael Davidman...”; *Peter Dobrin*, Culture Writer, *Philadelphia Inquirer Daily News* – October 1 0<sup>th</sup>, 2016

- **2016:** Full scholarship to *Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival*; performer and coach/mentor to the *Program for Maine Students*
- **2016:** Featured performer, *McGraw-Hill Financials Young Artists Showcase*; *The Robert Sherman Show* (WQXR) performing Liszt's *Piano Concerto No.1 in E-flat major* with the *Manhattan School of Music Precollege Philharmonic Orchestra* (recorded May 16, 2015); aired January 27, 2016
- **2015:** Freshman year participated in over forty performances in Philadelphia and at Curtis consisting mainly of chamber music, solo, opera accompaniment, instrumental accompaniment, and appearances as part of the *Curtis Symphony Orchestra*
- **2015:** *Curtis Symphony Orchestra* at the *Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts* in Verizon Hall; Prokofiev: *Symphony no 5 in B flat major, Op. 100*, under the baton of conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Michael played Celeste and Piano, October 18, 2015
- **2015:** Chose to attend *Curtis Institute of Music* *Curtis Institute of Music* studying piano with Robert McDonald since fall 2015; all students at Curtis receive merit-based full-tuition scholarships, and Michael was awarded the William R. Stensrud Annual Fellow for 2015-2016
- **2015:** Accepted to *Curtis Institute of Music*, *Juilliard School of Music*, *Columbia University*, *Yale School of Music*, *Peabody Institute*, *NYU Steinhardt School of Music*, *Manhattan School of Music*, and *Mannes School of Music*; most at full scholarship
- **2015:** Graduated from *Hunter College High School*, Spring 2015
- **2015:** *The Chopin Foundation of the United States Scholarship* - Awarded scholarship for completing his fourth and final year; only 4% of recipients complete all four years
- **2015:** Graduated from *Manhattan School of Music Precollege* with special citation and award for maintaining an "A" average over the four high school years – one of only four students to receive this honor; he also maintained an A average over his ten years at MSM
- **2015:** First Place *2015 Manhattan School of Music Chamber Music Competition* (senior division), Antonin Dvorak: *Piano Trio in F Minor, Op. 65*
- **2015:** YoungArts National Winner - Classical Music (Instrumental)/Piano; recognition for exceptional artistic achievement
- **2014:** First Place *2014 Manhattan School of Music Precollege Concerto Competition* senior division with Liszt's *Piano Concerto No.1 in E-flat major* resulting in a performance with the *Manhattan School of Music Precollege Philharmonic Orchestra*; Michael has the distinction of having won first place in all three age categories during his ten years at the *Manhattan School of Music Precollege* -(2008, 2010, 2014)
- **2014:** Awarded the 2014-2015 *Rosetta Goodkind Scholarship* – *Manhattan School of Music*
- **2014:** Review by Donald Isler for *Classical Concert Reviews* of Michael's July 30<sup>th</sup> *Summit Music Festival* Solo Recital performance of Chopin: *Nocturne in D flat major, op. 27, No. 2*, Ravel: *Gaspard de la nuit*, and special praise for Liszt's monumental *Piano Sonata in B minor, S.178*; proclaiming "This young man is already and Artist"
- **2014:** *Global Music Award*; Silver medal for outstanding achievement - *Summit Music Festival* performance of Franz Liszt's *Piano Sonata in B minor, S. 178*
- **2014:** Awarded scholarship - *The Chopin Foundation of the United States, Inc. (3rd year of four)*

- **2014:** First place, *2014 Williams Chorale Bacardi Fallon Performing Arts Scholarship Competition*
- **2014:** Featured soloist with the *Doctors Orchestral Society of New York* in a special celebration of American composers, performing Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with the *Doctors Orchestra* under the baton of Kyunghun Kim
- **2014:** Winner *21st Annual West Point Band Young Artist Concerto Competition* performing George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with the West Point Band at Eisenhower Hall Ballroom, United States Military Academy, West Point, NY
- **2014:** First Place *2013-2014 Inaugural Manhattan School of Music Chamber Music Competition* (senior division); Bedrich Smetana: *Piano Trio in G Minor, Op. 15*
- **2014:** Featured performer on the McGraw-Hill Financials Young Artists Showcase; The Robert Sherman Show (WQXR) performing Verdi-Liszt: "Rigoletto Paraphrase"; January 29th
- **2014:** *YoungArts National Winner* - Classical Music (Instrumental)/Piano; recognition for exceptional artistic achievement – Participated in the NYC Regional Program with performances at the Baryshnikov Center, NYC
- **2013:** Awarded scholarship - *The Chopin Foundation of the United States, Inc. (2nd year of four)*
- **2013:** Kaufmann Center Winners Recital recorded at Merkin Hall and heard on the *McGraw-Hill Financial Young Artists Showcase; The Robert Sherman Show* (WQXR); Franz Liszt's "La Campanella"; October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013
- **2013:** Special Fundraiser Event sponsored by "*Classical Pianists of the Future, Inc*", Binghamton, NY - "*Opera for Piano and Voice - Transcriptions and Arias*" - The program consisted of various difficult operatic transcriptions, such as Bizet-Horowitz "Carmen Fantasy", Gounod-Liszt "Waltz from Faust, Concert Paraphrase," S.407, and accompanying internationally acclaimed soprano, Mary Burgess, and other singers in works such as the Rigoletto quartet, the Sextet from Lucia di Lammermoor, and other pieces of highly virtuosic content; later aired on radio.
- **2013:** *WKSJ's Expressions - Classical Series* - Live recorded recital performance with guest audience in sound stage recording studio including interview and radio broadcast (WKSJ-FM)
- **2013:** Soloist, *Bronx Arts Ensemble Orchestra* performing Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 21 in C major, K. 467* at the *Annual Memorial Day Holiday Concert*, Van Cortlandt Park, NYC with the Bronx Arts Ensemble Orchestra; conductor David Gilbert
- **2013:** Awarded the 2013-2014 *Hansoree Scholarship Award - Manhattan School of Music*
- **2013:** *Kaufman Music Center International Youth Piano Competition*; Finalist and *Faust Harrison* award for "Best Performance of a Virtuoso Etude"; Franz Liszt's "*La Campanella*"
- **2013:** Soloist, *Bronx Arts Ensemble Orchestra* performing Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 21 in C major, K. 467*; annual Memorial Day holiday concert at Van Cortlandt Park, NYC; conductor David Gilbert; assistant conductor of the New York Philharmonic from 1970 to 1979
- **2013:** Featured performer on the *McGraw-Hill Young Artists Showcase; The Robert Sherman Show* (WQXR) performing Franz Liszt: "*Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2*"; Enrique Granados: "*Quejas, o la maja y el ruiseñor*", (*The Maiden and the Nightingale*); May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013

- **2013:** Performed at the *Steinway Factory*, Queens, NYC as part of the Manhattan School of Music's *Constance Keene Piano Scholarship Award*
- **2012:** First prize *33rd Ithaca College of Music Piano Concerto Competition*; performing *Saint-Saens Piano Concerto No. 2 in G minor, op. 22* with the Ithaca College Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Patrick Valentino
- **2012:** First prize *33rd Ithaca College of Music Solo Piano Competition*
- **2012:** Grand prize *LISMA Foundation 9<sup>th</sup> International Music Competition - Senior Division (17-23 year old category at age 15)*
- **2012:** *Constance Keene Scholarship Precollege Piano Award* for the 2012-2013 Precollege Division school year
- **2012:** Professional engagements with the *Bronx Arts Ensemble* performing solo and chamber music recitals with faculty member from *Manhattan School of Music*
- **2012:** Awarded highly competitive scholarship - *The Chopin Foundation of the United States, Inc. (1st year of four)*
- **2012:** Career Grant from the *Joyce Dutka Arts Foundation (JDAF)*
- **2012:** First place, *2012 FAOS Concerto Competition*; performing Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor, op. 23* with the Yonkers Philharmonic at a special concert, "*Concerto Time at the Philharmonic*" under the baton of James Sadewhite with *Master of Ceremonies*, Robert Sherman of WQXR
- **2012:** *The 2012 American Prize in Piano Performance*, youngest competitor in both Solo and Concerto high school divisions (ages 14-18); competition based on DVD submission; won third prize in both Solo and Concerto categories
- **2012:** Winner of Tri-state Public High School Chamber Music competition; Michael's ensemble from Hunter College High School was selected by *The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center* to perform in the *29th Annual Young Musicians Concert* at Lincoln Center-Alice Tully Hall
- **2012:** Scholarship award with stipend for recital with "*Classical Pianists of the Future, Inc.*" at the Tri-cities Opera Center in Binghamton, NY – Solo recital including Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor, op. 23*; recorded live with accompanist for radio broadcast
- **2011:** First place, *2012 MTNA Junior-Kawai New York State Piano Competition*
- **2011:** First place, *Mary Smart International Concerto Competition* at the *Summit Music Festival* performing Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor, op. 23*
- **2011:** Appeared on NPR's radio program "*From the Top*" featuring the nation's most gifted young classical musicians; recorded live at the *Sandler Center for the Performing Arts*, Virginia Beach, Virginia
- **2010:** *Lang Lang Master Class* at the Manhattan School of Music - was youngest of two auditioned from the precollege by Lang Lang's management to perform with the pianists from the college. As a result, Michael appeared in a photo with Lang Lang in the *Steinway Chronicle* fall/winter 2010 periodical
- **2011:** Winner, *First Annual NY Chamber Orchestra Competition*, consequent solo engagement with orchestra performing Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor, op. 23*

- **2010:** Selected as one of 15 finalists out of 400 contestants in the 2011 *From the Top Carnegie Hall online Big Break Contest*
- **2010:** Won second place in the *Mary Smart Concerto Competition* at the *Summit Music Festival*, Junior Division
- **2010:** First place in the *Manhattan School of Music 2010 Precollege Concerto Competition*, 12 through 15 year old category and performed Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto no. 2 in C minor; op. 18* with the *Manhattan School of Music Precollege Philharmonic Orchestra*
- **2010:** Gold medal at the AADGT (*The American Association for the Development of the Gifted and Talented, Inc*) and performed at Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall, Bechstein Hall, and Steinway Hall; as a result Michael was offered a management contract with international performances
- **2010:** Invited to appear on New York's "Shining Stars," sharing the stage with renown clarinetist Charles Neidich as guest conductor in a performance of Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto
- **2009:** First prize at the *2009 LISMA International Piano Competition* in the ten through fifteen year old category
- **2009:** Grand Prize in the *2009 Wagner College Young Musician's Competition*; Michael was the youngest competitor
- **2009:** First Prize in the *2009 Bradshaw & Buono International Piano Competition* followed by a performance at *Weill Hall* in *Carnegie Hall*
- **2008:** First prize in the *Second Connecticut International Young Artist Competition*
- **2008:** Assistant Conductor to Fawn Wiener (2008-2010), *Manhattan School of Music Concert Orchestra*; included substituting for instrumentalists by transposing parts on piano for all instruments as well as being available to conduct rehearsals
- **2008:** First place in the *Manhattan School of Music 2008 Precollege Concerto Competition*, under eleven years old category and performed Mendelssohn's *Piano Concerto No.1 in G minor, Op. 25, I. Molto allegro con fuoco* with the *Manhattan School of Music Precollege Repertory Orchestra*
- **2008:** Winner of the *2008 Young Artists Piano Showcase* followed by a performance at *Weill Hall* in *Carnegie Hall*
- **2008:** Awarded the *Dianne Danese Flagello Scholarship* at the *Manhattan School of Music Precollege Division*; his scholarship performance included one of his compositions
- **2007:** First place in the *10th NY Music Competition* followed by a performance at being available to conduct rehearsals
- **2006:** Performed in a star studded benefit for the *Greenwich House Music School* at the Minetta Lane Theater entitled "*Broadway High Note – Theater Stars Go Classical*"
- **2006:** First place in the *Young Pianist Competition* at the Music School of Westchester