

French-American Piano

2014
Annual Report

January 5th 2015



Over the 2014-2016 period, our goal is to award ten young French pianists grants to participate in prestigious international piano competitions in the United States, and we have successfully started in 2014.

A successful launch

French-American Piano, Inc. is a non-profit association designed to promote cultural exchange, education, and networking between France and the United States, with a special focus on pianists.

Inspired by a select group of the finest French and American pianists during the 14th edition of the International Keyboard Institute and Festival in July 2013, our “Piano Competition Scholarships” quickly shaped up late 2013 with the support of French diplomatic bodies , the prestigious Conservatoire de Musique de Paris and a small group of motivated corporate sponsors and members.

Three Scholarship have been awarded in 2014 to Matthieu Accar, Maroussia Gentet and Nathanael Gouin.

The Scholarships fund 100% of their participation to the two week International Keyboard Institute and Festival. Funding includes transatlantic flights, housing on the campus of Columbia University for two weeks and the Festival tuition fees.

Three Benefit Recitals have been organized to raised funds and build an audience and membership to support our Mission.

I am extremely grateful to the many patrons who have joined us in supporting the 2014 Scholarship Program. Their presence at our side will enable the success of our upcoming seasons

Mathieu Petitjean, Ph.D.

Founder and Director

Mathieu.petitjean@french-american-piano.org

Honorary Board, 2014

S.E. Bertrand Lortholary

Consul General of France in New York

Bruno Mantovani

French composer, Paris

Directeur, Conservatoire national supérieur de musique et de danse de Paris

Jerome Rose

American pianist, New York

Founder and Director, International Keyboard Institute and Festival

Susan Wadsworth

Director and Founder, Young Concert Artists, Inc, New York

Hélène Tysman

French pianist, Paris

First Prize IKIF 2012 MacKenzie Award

Executive Team

Mathieu Petitjean, Ph.D.

Founder and Director, New York

Michele Amar

Director, New York Office, French Music Export Office , New York

Gretchen Amussen

Director of External Affairs and International Relations

Conservatoire national supérieur de musique et de danse de Paris

Elizabeth Olson

Marketing and Artist Relations, New York

2014 Highlights

January to March 2014:

- French-American Piano Inc. is formed as a non-profit.
- Digital and Social Media presence are launched.
- The 2014 Honorary Board is formed, and readies to be the catalyst of the 2014 program.
- S.E. Bertrand Lortholary, Consul General of France in New York, chairs our Honorary Board and opens the Music Room at the Consulate of France for the 2014 recitals.
- Pianist H el ene Tysman pledges her time and talent to support our cause at our first Benefit and Inauguration Recital.
- Initial funding (30% of target) is gathered.

April to June 2014

- Benefit and Inauguration Recitals are organized.
- An ecosystem of promotional partners decide to support our cause and promote our first recitals .
- Air France become our exclusive Airline Partner.
- Young Pianists compete for the Grant program and three are selected by The Conservatoire de Musique de Paris.
- Pianist H el ene Tysman gives two Benefit Recitals in Philadelphia and Princeton , and our Inauguration Recital in New York.
- Promotional Partners organize several public interviews of Pianist H el ene Tysman , who launches her new CD in the U.S.
- 100% of the Grant Funding is gathered.
- Ambassador of France to the U.S., S.E. Francois Delattre, praises our program and actively supports it.

July to December 2014

- Scholarship Winners travel to the U.S. for IKIF 2014 and give their first recital in the U.S. on July 11th 2014.
- Fran oise No el-Marquis, Director of the Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris, joins our Honorary Board
- Honorary Board and Executive Team prepare for 2015.



Pianist Hélène Tysman, at the French-American Piano Society Inauguration Recital of May 6th 2015 at the Consulate of France in New York.



2014 Piano Competition Scholarship Recipients after their first public recital in the U.S., at the Consulate of France in New York. From left to right: Nathanaël Guoin, Maroussia Gentet and Matthieu Accar

2014 Program

Benefit Recital

Saturday, May 3rd at 5:30pm, Princeton Theological Seminary
“Chopin and the French Impressionists ”
Hélène Tysman, Pianist

Inauguration Recital

Tuesday, May 6th at 6:30pm, Consulate of France in New York
“Chopin and the French Impressionists ”
Hélène Tysman, Pianist

Benefit Recital

Wednesday, May 6th at 6:00pm, Jacobs Music, Philadelphia
“From Bach to Ravel ”
Hélène Tysman, Pianist

Award Ceremony and Recital

Friday, July 11th at 6:30pm, Consulate of France in New York
“2015 Young Pianists Scholarship Recital”
Matthieu Acar, Pianist
Maroussia Gentet, Pianist
Nathanaël Guoin, Pianist

We are exceedingly grateful to the many corporate and individual patrons who have joined us in supporting our 2014 Program.

We are off to a great start, and your committed presence at our side will guarantee our continued success in 2015 and 2016 !



The Competition

Scholarships Grants

Why ?

Young French pianists are under-represented in US-based piano competitions because of lack of funding, not lack of talent. Our goal is to reverse this trend, offering new professional opportunities to French artists and an enhanced experience to American audiences.

Objective

Starting in July 2014 and for a period of three years, we will sponsor ten young French pianists through our Scholarship Grant Program, thus allowing them to participate in New York's International Keyboard Institute and Festival.

Grant

The grant covers round-trip transportation from Paris, tuition fees for the International Keyboard Institute and Festival (usually in July) and housing during the two-week festival. The program also includes a public recital at the France's New York Consulate in July as well as audition fees to the Young Concert Artists' Paris auditions in September.



Hélène Tysman

2014 Featured Artist

Hailed as "poetic" by The Daily Telegraph, praised for her Chopin interpretation which "mixed excitement with eloquence" by the Gramophone Chopin Express, French pianist Hélène Tysman first broke out onto the international music scene as a finalist of the 16th International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw. A few years earlier she had been awarded First Prize at Darmstadt Chopin Piano Competition and was prizewinner of several international competitions in England, Germany, China and the United States.

A graduate of the Conservatoire national supérieur de musique et de Danse in Paris, she went to study in Germany with Grigory Gruzman, her mentor for nearly ten years at Hamburg and Weimar Hochschulen. Since then, she has performed as a soloist and chamber musician across Europe, Asia, North and South America. Performances with such ensembles as the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, the Russian Chamber Philharmonic of St. Petersburg, the North Czech Philharmonic Teplice Orchestra, and the Minnesota Orchestra have brought Tysman collaborations with conductors Christoph Warren-Green, Mark Russell Smith and Antoni Wit.



A first solo CD in 2010, dedicated to Chopin's music was greeted with high critical acclaim; in 2013, a second CD of Chopin *Ballades* on the same label won the French Magazine *Pianiste's* "Maestro Award". Hélène Tysman can also be heard on the 2012 *Indésens* chamber music recording featuring soloists of the Orchestre de Paris in an all-Schumann program.

Eager to collaborate with other art forms, Hélène Tysman has shared the stage with renowned French actor Francis Huster in a program dedicated to Frédéric Chopin and Alfred de Musset; with the multi-disciplinary artist Yanowski, she also created a show devoted to Edgar Allen Poe and Claude Debussy.

Matthieu Acar

2014 Scholarship Award

An eclectic musician who is equally at home as a soloist and chamber musician, Matthieu Acar completed Masters' degrees in piano and in chamber music with Bruno Rigutto and Pierre-Laurent Aimard at the Paris Conservatoire. He is currently completing the highly selective post-graduate Artist Diploma course in Contemporary Music and Creation there.

Naturally curious and eager to explore all types of repertoire, Matthieu Acar has developed a particular affinity with the music of our time, one he delights in sharing with his audiences in original and often surprising programmes, as for example his participation in the American composer Julius Eastman's French premier of a two-hour triptych for four pianos at the

Parisian avant-garde Palais de Tokyo 2012 Triennial. He regularly premieres works with electronics, using prepared piano, and even pianos with quarter tone tuning... Nicolas Mondon's *Third Piano Sonata* was awarded the Chevillon-Yvonne Bonnaud Composition Prize as a result of Matthieu's performance at the Orléans Music Competition, one in which Matthieu won the André Jolivet and Ricardo Vines prizes. Additionally, he has won prizes in numerous international competitions, most notably for his performances of contemporary works.

An accomplished chamber musician, Matthieu created the Atopsys Duo in 2008 with the saxophonist Alexandre Souillard. The two have performed at the Palazzetto Bru-Zane's French Romantic Music Centre in Venice, at the Lima International Contemporary Music Festival (Peru), and on many European stages. In 2011, Atopsys won the Societa Umanitaria's Milan Competition. Matthieu is also an active member of the Ensemble *InSolitus*.

Matthieu teaches piano at the Boulogne-Billancourt Conservatoire near Paris and in his native Normandy, and is a gifted arranger.



Maroussia Gentet

2014 Scholarship Award

Gifted with the fiery energy of her namesake, the Ukrainian heroine of Pierre-Jules Stahl's novel, the precocious Maroussia Gentet entered Géry Moutier's piano class at the Lyon Conservatoire at the age of 13 and completed her high school diploma specializing in science a mere two years later.

Following completion of her Master's degree in 2009, she met the much sought-after Russian pedagogue and pianist Rena Shereshevskaya – an encounter which was to prove decisive. She entered Shereshevskaya's class at Paris' Ecole Normale de Musique, completing the Advanced Performance Diploma there the following year.



Maroussia is currently completing the Paris Conservatoire's prestigious Artist Diploma course, working with the pianist Claire Désert. During this time, she has performed the Prokofiev *Piano Concerto No. 2* and Schumann's *Piano Concerto*, both with the Conservatoire's Graduate Orchestra. Her playing has been profoundly inspired by the artistry of Jean-Claude Pennetier.

Particularly attuned to the music of our time, Maroussia is also a fervent adept of classical and romantic repertoire, and in particular the works of Robert Schumann. Her talents have been recognized and supported by the Zaleski Foundation, the SPEDIDAM, the L'Or du Rhin Foundation, and she has been a prize-winner at numerous international competitions, notably Ferruccio Busoni (Bolzano, Italy, 2010).

Equally at home as a chamber musician and as a soloist, she is regularly invited to major musical seasons and festivals throughout France, and performs often at Paris' Salle Cortot and Cité de la Musique.

Nathanaël Gouin

2014 Scholarship Award

« Tomorrow, Nathanaël Gouin will count as one of France's great pianists... » (Culture Box)

Nathanaël Gouin is a versatile musician, equally at home performing as a soloist, in chamber ensembles, accompanying and coaching singers, and composing.

Beginning piano and violin studies at the age of four, he was performing with Toulouse's Chamber Orchestra by ten.

Nathanaël obtained his Master's degree at the Paris Conservatoire in 2011 in Michel Béroff and Denis Pascal's studio. He is now completing the Artist Diploma Program there, with a special focus on the work of Maurice Ohana. In 2010, the Carla Bruni-Sarkozy Foundation awarded him a scholarship for a semester at New York's Juilliard School.

Over the years, Nathanaël has perfected his artistry with Maria Joao Pires, Jean-Claude Pennetier, Menahem Pressler, Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Elisso Wirssaladze, Alexandre Rabinovitch, Eric Le Sage, and Christophe Eschenbach.

As a chamber musician, Nathanaël has performed in the Séverac Duo (violin-piano) with Guillaume Chilleme, and as a member of the Werther Trio, which he co-founded. Both groups have won prestigious prizes in international competitions in Austria, Sweden, Barcelona, and Lyon. His chamber activities have led him to perform with Jean-Claude Pennetier, Claire Désert, and the Voce Quartet, to name but a few.

As a soloist, he has performed with Toulouse's Orchestre National du Capitole and Mozart Orchestra, the South Bank Orchestra, and the Paris Conservatoire student orchestra.



2014 Membership Benefits

We are all strong together

Donors, friends and fans of the French-American Piano are vital to the success of our mission. Your gift to our association constitutes a magnificent incentive to these young artists at the start of their careers, whilst also strengthening ties between France and the United States.

Inspired by the piano keyboard's 88 keys, our patron categories are as follows:

Keyboard Patrons (88 keys / \$8,800 and above)

VIP invitations to all recitals, signed CDs and programs, behind the scenes meetings with artists, and participation in our leadership and many activities.

Full Arpeggio Patrons (23 keys / \$2,300 and above)

VIP invitations to all recitals, signed CDs and programs, behind the scenes meetings with artists.

Chromatic Scale Patrons (12 keys / \$1,200 and above)

VIP invitation to all recitals, signed CDs and Programs.

Scale Patrons (6 keys / \$600 and above)

Invitation to all recitals, signed CDs and Programs.

Key Patrons (\$100 to \$500, or \$100 per key, up to 5 keys)

Invitation to 2 recitals, one signed CD and Program.

Students and young artists in-kind gifts and community hours

We recognize the cash value of donation of time made by students and young artists.

2014 Friends and Donors

Keyboard Patrons

None recruited

Full Arpeggio Patrons

Bonnie Barrett, New York, NY and YAMAHA ARTIST SERVICES

Lena Chang, Ph.D., Princeton, NJ and CURE INSURANCE

Pascal Gicquel, Babylon, NY and NEWMAT

Jacquelyn Fouse, Ph.D., Summit, NJ

Antoine Huet, New York, NY and AIR FRANCE - KLM

Marc Pichot, New York, NY and SOFITEL NEW YORK

Chromatic Scale Patrons

Pierre Cournot, New York, NY and HODGSON RUSS

Christian Millet, North Bergen, NJ and LOGFRET

Hélène Petitjean, MD, Princeton, NJ

Scale Patrons

Caroline & Pierre Ravel d'Esclapon, New York, NY

Key Patrons

Dr. Kurt and Nancy Adams, Philadelphia, PA (G#4, A4)

Dean Peter H. Baker, New York, NY (E4, F4)

Michael DeStio, Huntington, CT (F#4)

Etienne Lamairesse, Greenwich, CT (G4)

Caroline & Jean Lareuse, Princeton, NJ (A#4)

Gérard Munera, Greenwich, CT (C4, C#4, D4)

Laurent Schockmel, Bridgewater, NJ (B4)

Antoine Treuille, New York, NY (D#4)

2014 Financial Statement

For the period of January 1st, 2014 to December 31st, 2104 Accounting is made on a cash basis and there are no assets to account for.

Income

Donations \$19,926.00

Total Income **\$19,926.00**

Expenses

Bank Charges \$327.06

Commissions & fees \$208.73

Grant Expense \$0.00

Dues & subscriptions \$75.00

Festival and Competition Fees \$3,500.00

Grant Expense - Lodging \$4,716.11

Grant Expense - Piano Rental \$1,633.13

Grant Expense - Travel \$1,049.84

Legal & Professional Fees \$1,992.54

Total Grant Expense **\$12,966.62**

IT Expense \$28.20

Legal & Professional Fees \$279.49

Membership Benefits \$1,350.43

Office Expenses \$71.70

Assotiation Promotion & Fundraising

Artists Travel Expenses for Recital \$1,462.00

Event & Recital Promotion \$2,472.60

Promotion for the Association & Fundraising \$500.88

Recital Hall Rental \$200.00

Total Assotiation Promotion & Fundraising **\$4,635.48**

Total Expenses **\$19,867.71**

Net Operating Income **\$58.29**

2014 Financial Discussion

The overall 2014 operating budget should be viewed as a combination of cash donations and in-kind donations including:

- Cash donation from Members and Corporate patrons: \$19,926

- In-kind donations for a total estimated amount of \$17,600:
 - Three plane round-trip tickets donated by Air France (~ \$3,600)
 - 5 hotel nights donated by Sofitel New York (~\$1,000)
 - Recital venue donated by Consulate of France (~\$5,000)
 - Pro-bono work from the Directors and Executive Team to support the formation of the association and its operations, for an estimate of 120 hours or approximately \$5,000.
 - Grant Pianos are provided by Yamaha Artist Services and Steinway and Sons to our Benefit Recitals (~\$3,000)

The combination of both donation streams reflects strong level of support our program has gathered in its first year.

65% of our cash donations have been re-allocated to our Young Pianist U.S. Competition Scholarships. \$1,992.54 have been allocated to Legal and Administrative fees related to Artists Visas.

35% of our cash donations have been applied to the promotion of our Association and its related fundraising, mostly to our Benefit Recitals.

\$1,350 of “Membership Benefit” are related to the acquisition of thirty CDs from Pianist H el ene Tysman, which are given to select Members as part of their membership. There is a carry over of nine CDs for 2015.

Less than 5% of donations is used for Administrative purposes. We closed 2014 with \$58.29 dollars in our bank account.

Accounting is performed by Intuit Online, which is automatically synchronized with our OnLine Account at Bank of America, all backed up by cloud services. Each of our transaction is electronic and fully traceable.

French-American Piano Society

Is grateful to the leadership provided by



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CONSULAT GÉNÉRAL DE FRANCE
À NEW YORK



*Comité national des conseillers
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ARTS, FRENCH LANGUAGE

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