



BREVARD MUSIC CENTER
SUMMER INSTITUTE AND FESTIVAL

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: July 29, 2009

CONTACT:
Kristine Fink McCreery, Communications Officer
phone (828) 862-2112
fax (828) 884-2036
kmccreery@brevardmusic.org

BMC Piano Competition Awards Cash and Scholarship Prizes

(*Brevard, NC*) –Through generous funding from The Zimmerli Foundation of Spartanburg, South Carolina, the Brevard Music Center's prestigious Piano Competition was held on Sunday evening, July 26, at 7 pm and was free and open to the public. Following a preliminary round held on Saturday, five finalists were chosen and each performed a 20-minute solo piano program. Cash prizes are awarded to each finalist, ranging from \$500 to \$3000. The top three winners also receive full scholarships to attend the Brevard Music Center next summer. Full tuition for the current season is \$4900.

The annual Piano Competition is open to both high school and college-age pianists who are attending the full six-week Institute at the Music Center. The five winning students are: **Esther Shin**, first prize, currently pursuing a master of music degree at the Manhattan School of Music and a student of Arkady Aronov; **Xiao Wang**, second prize, enrolled in the Bachelor of Music degree program at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, a student of Elisabeth Pridonoff; **Dan Sato**, third prize, a junior at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music studying with Eugene and Elisabeth Pridonoff; **Curtis Smith**, fourth prize, from the Interlochen Arts Academy where he studied with Michael Coonrod; and **Nicholas Reynolds**, fifth prize, from the University of Nebraska, a student of Paul Barnes.

The adjudicator for the 2009 Brevard Music Center Piano Competition was Evelyn Chen. She has performed with numerous orchestras including the New York Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the National Symphony Orchestra, the Philharmonia Orchestra of London, the New Zealand Symphony, the National Symphony Orchestra of Taiwan, the State Symphony Orchestra of Mexico, and the San Diego Symphony. She has collaborated with renowned conductors including Riccardo Muti, Leonard Slatkin, Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, Zdenek Macal, Joseph Silverstein, and JoAnn Falletta. Ms. Chen holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Juilliard School, a master's from the New England Conservatory, and a B.A. in composition from Harvard. She is associate professor of piano at Teachers College, Columbia University. Evelyn Chen is a Steinway Artist.

The first BMC Piano Competition was sponsored by The Zimmerli Foundation in 1998. Since its inception, the Competition has established itself as an important part of Brevard Music Center's piano program. Longtime supporters of the Music Center and its educational programs, The Zimmerli Foundation continues to provide generous support through an endowment that funds the Competition each year. BMC trustee emeritus Kurt Zimmerli and his wife, Nelly, have been supportive of the organization over many years, building facilities, establishing endowments, and making generous contributions.

###