



Georgia Musicale Group Guest Artist Series Dr. Simon Finlow, Pianist

February 10th, 2022

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (EST)

In Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89349898825?pwd=Y0pKUzViY2dDTE5CSTcrYVBicjRDdz09>

Meeting ID: 893 4989 8825

Passcode: 369845

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Here is the letter from Dr. Simon Finlow:

I am most grateful to Dr. Tanigawa and the Georgia Musicale Group for the opportunity to discuss aspects of my musical life and to present some previously recorded performances that I hope everyone will enjoy.

As you are probably all aware, this was to have been a live performance, but a recent accident involving a “comminuted, impacted fracture of the right distal radius with intra-articular involvement” (broken wrist) unfortunately prevents me from playing any live music for at least six weeks. This is a huge disappointment because a recording can never capture the immediacy and spontaneity of music performed in real time. However, Dr. Tanigawa and I thought it might be interesting for me to discuss some of the experiences, influences, and accomplishments that have shaped my musical career, both professional and amateur, since I began to learn piano at age 4, and then to watch some short videos of performances I have recorded since I recommitted myself to music in 2014.

The talking part will be brief (I promise) because I want to leave plenty of time for the musical clips which say far more about me musically than words ever could. However, I hope we can make the discussion interactive as much as possible, with plenty of opportunity for questions and comments.

Dr. Finlow’s Short Biography



Simon Finlow was born and raised in England. He started learning piano at age 4 and studied with Imogen Cooper from 1972 to 1973. He graduated with a BA/MA from Oxford University and subsequently earned a PhD in music from King’s College, Cambridge. Dr. Finlow performed regularly while at university; highlights included concert performances of the Brahms B-flat Concerto, Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue*, and Mozart’s Concerto in A, K.488, under the direction of Sir Philip Ledger. In the late 1970s and early 80s, he spent 6 years teaching professionally at university and school levels (music history, theory, keyboard skills, ear training, and piano) and working as staff pianist/organist for a large music faculty at a private

school near Oxford.

In 1985, having married an American, Dr. Finlow immigrated to the US and switched careers. He obtained a Masters degree in computer science, became a US citizen, and worked as an Information Technology professional for the next 25 years. In 2014, partly as a consequence of stress-related illness, he quit his IT management job to return to his true calling, music, and began to practice piano seriously again. With the support of his piano teacher, Michael Adcock at the Washington Conservatory of Music, he set about

rebuilding his repertoire and gradually started performing again after a 30-year hiatus. Over the past seven years, he has performed both solo and chamber music in multiple recitals throughout the Washington area and competed in various competitions, including the 7th Cliburn International Amateur Piano Competition (2016) and the 9th Boston International Competition (2017); for three years in a row he was a finalist in the Washington International Piano Artists Competition, winning several special prizes for best performance of works from the Romantic period and best performance of compositions by Beethoven and Liszt. Simon has also performed and participated in master classes with distinguished artists Joaquin Achucarro, John Owings, Brian Ganz, Ann Schein, Simone Dinnerstein, Santiago Rodriguez, and, most recently, Olga Kern at the 2018 Piano Texas Festival in Ft. Worth.

Program

- **Virtual Collaboration: Bach, Keyboard Concerto in D minor, BWV 1054, 3rd Movement** (with Michael Adcock) – 8 minutes
- **FMMC Chamber Recital: Brahms, Piano Quintet in F minor, Op. 34, 3rd Movement** (with Robyn Tessin, Carrie Esko, Julia Moline, and Valerie Matthews) – 8 minutes
- From **2020 Cliburn Amateur Competition, audition video: Balakirev, Mazurka No. 5 in D major** – 6 minutes
- Cliburn Spotlight: **Ravel, Jeux d'eau and Prokofiev, Sonata No. 7 in Bb major, Op. 83, 3rd Movement** – 10 minutes

Scores:

Bach Concerto: [IMSLP02256-Bach - BGA - BWV 1052.pdf](#)

Brahms Quintet: [IMSLP179816-PMLP04673-Brahms Werke Band 8 Breitkopf JB 25 Op 34 scan.pdf](#)

Balakirev Mazurka: [Balakirew Mazurka Nr.5 \(imslp.org\)](#)

Cliburn Spotlight (no score available for the Prokofiev sonata): [IMSLP192444-SIBLEY1802.19805.7a53-39087012350742jeux.pdf](#)

(Here's a link to the complete performance of the Brahms Quintet: [Brahms Piano Quintet Op. 34, Lyceum, Alexandria, VA, 01 03 2019 - YouTube](#))

Video Links:

Playlist [Dr. Simon Recital 02/10/2022 - YouTube](#)

(It includes the Zoom meeting recording and the following links)

Bach Concerto: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IS13sRVxZTk>

Brahms Quintet: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TD1azr_LCy8

Balakirev Mazurka: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pNA5A7vuUys>

Cliburn Spotlight: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qatfFYipRhQ>

Participants

Utako Tanigawa	Tom Slavicek	Judy Darst	Kimber Kwiatkowski	Ed Ewing	Carol Wazlavek	Natale Farrell	Michael Brounoff
Anna Armstrong	Julie Woodall	Joyce Ball	Gail Starr	Jeffrey Zaputil	Sam Smith	Judy Manganiello	Ruth Purcell

Zoom Chat

1:00:02 From Gail Starr : My cousin studied physics at Oxbridge! And he still lives in Ely (nearby).

11:00:18 From Gail Starr : And my niece was at Kings College London.

11:05:08 From Utako Tanigawa : I add a link for each music

11:05:17 From Utako Tanigawa :
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IS13sRVxZTk>

11:06:40 From Utako Tanigawa : Welcome, Natale and Judy!

11:10:44 From Gail Starr : She is SO famous!

11:10:59 From Utako Tanigawa : Yes, she is!

11:13:22 From Utako Tanigawa : Please write your comments and questions here.

11:13:30 From Owner : The link is Ravel, Jeux Deaux

11:14:43 From Sam Smith : Is the teacher listening to your performance as he plays the orchestra part?

11:15:43 From Ed Ewing : Echos of Brandenburg #3!

11:17:26 From Utako Tanigawa : Sam's question: Is the teacher listening to your performance as he plays the orchestra part?

11:18:23 From Owner : I'm listening to Ravel. I will listen to Bach when everyone else is listening to Ravel!

11:19:38 From Utako Tanigawa : Next music Brahms Quintet:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TD1azr_LCy8

11:21:39 From Gail Starr : Lovely Bach!

11:22:17 From Gail Starr : I make two piano videos with a friend in France, but we do NOT play as well as you!

11:22:20 From Natale Farrell : Perpetual motion!

11:22:32 From Ed Ewing : What a delight!!!

11:23:15 From Utako Tanigawa :
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TD1azr_LCy8

11:25:40 From Carol Wazlavek to Utako Tanigawa(Direct Message) : His harpsichord/organ technique is evident

11:26:02 From Utako Tanigawa to Carol Wazlavek(Direct Message) : Interesting! you notice that!

11:26:25 From Utako Tanigawa :
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TD1azr_LCy8

11:26:27 From Carol Wazlavek to Utako Tanigawa(Direct Message) : you can see the difference in their technique in that Bach -

11:28:48 From Utako Tanigawa : In the program, there is a link to the complete performance of the Brahms. Please enjoy it later.

11:29:48 From Utako Tanigawa : Also the program includes the scores of the program today.

11:34:44 From Utako Tanigawa : Great piece!

11:36:43 From Utako Tanigawa : Balakirev Mazurka
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pNA5A7vuUys>

11:41:08 From Utako Tanigawa :
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pNA5A7vuUys>

11:45:20 From Sam Smith : Do you have any age-related problems with memorizing music?

11:45:42 From Utako Tanigawa : Good questions, Sam!

11:48:49 From Utako Tanigawa : I've never played Balakirev but it's so beautiful!

11:50:11 From Gail Starr : I have never played any. Now I would love to learn some!

11:51:15 From Sam Smith : Do you play any 20th-21st century music?

11:52:12 From Utako Tanigawa : Yes, I want to learn his music, too.

11:53:50 From Utako Tanigawa : This music makes me shiver..

11:54:04 *From Utako Tanigawa : I asked him to play it yesterday...*

11:57:02 *From Julie and Darrell Woodall : What a wonderful concert! Thank you, Simon!*

11:58:13 *From Carol Wazlavek : He's not all that old*

11:59:59 *From Natale Farrell : Are you still teaching?*

12:00:02 *From Owner to Utako Tanigawa(Direct Message) : I completely endorse using the score!*

12:01:00 *From Utako Tanigawa : Using scores is getting more popular for the professional pianists, too.*

12:02:56 *From Gail Starr : Thank you, Simon & Utako!!*