



Photo credit BLISS ARTS IMAGES

Sunday, March 22, 2009, 2:00 pm
Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts
Presented by Patti Bringe and Richard Blomquist

SEJOON PARK, PIANIST

On June 24, 2008, seventeen-year-old Sejoon Park won the PianoArts 2008 National Piano Competition First Place Prize.

Sejoon, whose winning performance was Ludwig van Beethoven's Concerto no. 3 in C minor, Opus 37, performed in the Final Round with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra under the baton of PianoArts Music Director Andrews Sill. In addition to his first place prize of \$8,000, Sejoon won two other awards. For the Best Performance of a Duo, he won a \$500 prize performing with MSO violinist Timothy Klabunde Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Sonata for violin and piano in A major, K. 305, Allegro di molto. Sejoon also won a scholarship to the 2009 International Keyboard Institute and Music Festival at Mannes College of Music in New York City.

An avid chamber player, in July 2008, Sejoon and his violin partner, Eric Gratz, performed a recital on the Millennium Stage of the Kennedy Center in Washington, D. C. Sejoon's other performances and awards include first prize in the Aspen Music Festival Piano Concerto Competition and a performance of Edward Grieg's Piano Concerto with the Orchestra of the American Academy of Conducting at Aspen. In 2006 he won first prize in the Southeastern Piano Concerto Competition and performed Grieg's concerto with the South Carolina Philharmonic. Other awards include first prizes in the Marlin-Engel and the Cogen Concerto Competitions, both sponsored by the Levine School of Music in Washington D. C., and first prize at the Alexandria Performing Arts Association Competition, second prize in the Oberlin International Piano Competition, third prize in the Eastman Music School International Piano Competition and second prize in the PianoArts 2005 National Competition. Sejoon was selected for the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award, which carries a generous scholarship, and appeared on the well-known national public radio show, "From the Top."

Sejoon says that when he was a young student in Seoul, Korea, he was not excited about taking piano lessons. Later on he experienced the joy of expressing himself at the piano and became "addicted to music." Sejoon was eleven when he moved to the United States to live with his aunt and study at the Levin School of Music. When he arrived, he could not speak English. Today, he is an honor student and graduate of McLean High School in McLean, Virginia. Next fall, Sejoon will attend the Peabody Conservatory of Music at Johns Hopkins University, where he will study with Boris Slutsky, Sejoon's teacher for the past two years.