

2014 WIC for Piano Judges' Bios

WIC Chair Bonnie Kellert has confirmed the following three judges for the 2014 WIC for Piano: Ilana Vered, Ralph Votapek and Jerome Rose—all distinguished performers and teachers and winners of international competitions.

Jerome Rose, hailed as “the Last Romantic of our own age” and one of America’s most distinguished pianists, has been heard in major concert halls across five continents. He was a Gold Medalist from the International Busoni Competition and began his international career while still in his early twenties. He has recorded for Medici Classics with performances of major works of Liszt, Schumann, Beethoven, Brahms and Chopin. The complete Chopin Sonatas are released on Sony. He is on the Faculty of the Mannes College of Music, regularly gives master classes throughout the world, and is Founder/Director of the International Keyboard Institute & Festival held every summer in New York City.

Ilana Vered attended the Paris Conservatoire, which awarded her first prize in piano upon her graduation. She continued her music studies at the Juilliard School under Rosina Lhévinne. In 1961 she won the Young Concert Artists International Auditions. Vered has performed across the world with major orchestras—as a chamber musician and as a soloist—and her recordings of Frédéric Chopin and Moritz Moszkowski études have received particular critical notice. Vered has also taught master classes and has founded at least two festivals, the Summerfest Series of Rutgers University and Music Fest Perugia in Perugia, Italy.

Ralph Votapek began his musical education at age nine and subsequently attended the Manhattan School of Music and Juilliard, where his principal teacher was Rosina Lhevinne. He has served as Artist-in-Residence at Michigan State University, where he is currently Professor Emeritus of Piano at the College of Music. He has recorded for London Records, Deutsche Grammophon, Ivory Classics and Blue Griffin labels. Votapek has made literally hundreds of appearances with major American orchestras. He has made a special commitment to Latin America, where he has toured every other year for more than 42 years.