

Five Avery Fisher Career Grants Awarded for 2015

On March 18th at The Jerome L. Greene Performance Space at WQXR, Joseph W. Polisi, the Program's Chairman, Charles Avery Fisher and Nancy Fisher announced five **2015 Avery Fisher Career Grant** recipients:

**PAUL HUANG, KRISTIN LEE and SIMONE PORTER, violinists;
MATTHEW LIPMAN, violist; and MICHAEL BROWN, pianist**

The announcement of five 2015 Avery Fisher Career Grants to Michael Brown, pianist; Paul Huang, Kristin Lee, and Simone Porter, violinists; and Matthew Lipman, violist, was made on Wednesday, March 18, 2015. All five recipients were honored at a celebration at **The Jerome L. Greene Performance Space at WQXR** by the Avery Fisher Artist Program's Chairman, Joseph W. Polisi, along with Charles Avery Fisher and Nancy Fisher.

The announcement was followed by performances by all five Career Grant recipients. These performances were recorded for radio broadcast and webstream by WQXR, New York's classical music station, with hosts Elliott Forrest and Robert Sherman, and will air on Monday, April 6, from 10 - 11 pm on 105.9 FM and www.wqxr.org. The 2015 Career Grant presentations mark the continuation of a long standing relationship with WQXR, which has been a broadcast partner of these festivities since the first Career Grants were awarded in 1976. Since then, 136 Career Grants have been awarded (including this year's grants), and all recipients are currently working musicians. Former Career Grant recipients identified early in their careers include pianists Inon Barnatan and Joyce Yang; cellist Alisa Weilerstein; violinists Augustin Hadelich and Hilary Hahn; and the Calder Quartet. Showcasing Career Grant awardees for the fifth consecutive year, WNET Thirteen will spotlight 2015 Career Grant recipients on NYC-ARTS.

The Avery Fisher Artist Program, established by the late Avery Fisher as part of a major gift to Lincoln Center in 1974, serves as a monument to Mr. Fisher's philanthropy and love of music. The Career Grants in particular exemplify his devotion to helping young artists and embody his philosophy to give back to the world what music had given to him. The Program continues to provide recognition in two categories, the Career Grants and the Prize, to outstanding instrumentalists and chamber ensembles who must be U.S. citizens or permanent U.S. residents.

Avery Fisher Career Grants of the Avery Fisher Artist Program are designed to give professional assistance and recognition to talented instrumentalists, as well as chamber ensembles, who the Recommendation Board and Executive Committee of the Avery Fisher Artist Program believe to have great potential for major careers. Each recipient receives an award stipend of \$25,000, to be used for specific needs in furthering a career. Additionally, their performances are professionally audio/video recorded for the recipients' unrestricted use, posted on the Program's website, broadcast and webstreamed by WQXR and used by WNET Thirteen's NYC Arts. Up to five Avery Fisher Career Grants may be given each year. Recipients are nominated by the Program's Recommendation Board, made up of nationally known instrumentalists, conductors, composers, music educators, managers and presenters. Final selections are made by the Program's Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee currently comprises Emanuel Ax, pianist; Jed Bernstein, President, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts; David Finckel and Wu Han, Artistic Directors of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center; Henry Fogel, Dean, Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University; Anthony Fogg, Artistic Administrator, Boston Symphony Orchestra; Pamela Frank, violinist; Ara Guzelimian, Provost and Dean, The Juilliard School; Yo-Yo Ma, cellist; Jane S. Moss, Ehrenkranz Artistic Director, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts; Joseph W. Polisi, Chairman, Avery Fisher Artist Program and President, The Juilliard School; Chad Smith, Vice President, Artistic Planning, Los Angeles Philharmonic; Matías Tarnopolsky, Director, Cal Performances, UC Berkeley; and Matthew VanBesien, Executive Director, New York Philharmonic. Charles Avery Fisher and Nancy Fisher are advisors to the Executive Committee. The Avery Fisher Artist Program is grateful to Lincoln Center, Inc. and its President, Jed Bernstein, for continued support. We also acknowledge our gratitude to WQXR for partnering in presenting the 2015 Avery Fisher Career Grant awards.

Avery Fisher Career Grants – Recipients' Biographies

Michael Brown
Pianist

Born: Oceanside, NY
June 18, 1987

Resides: New York, NY

The New York Times has declared Michael Brown “one of the leading figures in the current renaissance of performer-composers” and “a young piano visionary.” An equally committed pianist and composer, Mr. Brown’s unique artistry stems from this duality and is reflected in his creative approach to programming, where he often interweaves the classics with contemporary works and his own compositions. He joins the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center’s CMS Two program in 2015. His upcoming and recent schedule includes a performance with Seattle Symphony musicians; a Carnegie Hall Stern Auditorium debut; recitals at Wigmore Hall, the Louvre, Alice Tully Hall and Weill Hall; and performances at the Marlboro, Ravinia, Caramoor, Moab, Mostly Mozart, and Music@Menlo festivals. Recent commissions and performances of his own compositions include a piano concerto for the Maryland Symphony Orchestra and works for the Look & Listen Festival, Bargemusic, Concert Artists Guild, and the Stecher and Horowitz Foundation. He has recorded an all-George Perle CD for Bridge Records, a solo album, a disc of four-hand piano music with Jerome Lowenthal, and one in collaboration with cellist Nicholas Canellakis. A native New Yorker, Mr. Brown earned dual bachelor’s and master’s degrees in piano and composition from The Juilliard School, where he studied with pianists Jerome Lowenthal and Robert McDonald and composers Samuel Adler and Robert Beaser. He is the first Prize Winner of the 2010 Concert Artists Guild Competition and was recently appointed adjunct assistant professor of piano at Brooklyn College. Website: www.michaelbrownmusic.com.

Management: Marianne Sciolino / Sciolino Arts Management

Paul Huang
Violinist

Born: Tainan, Taiwan
September 9, 1990

Resides: New York, NY

Taiwanese-American violinist Paul Huang made his New York and Kennedy Center recital debuts in the Young Concert Artists Series in 2012 to critical acclaim. Following his Kennedy Center debut, the Washington Post proclaimed: “Huang is definitely an artist with the goods for a significant career.” In 2014, *The New York Times* praised his “masterly account of Barber’s Violin Concerto” with the Orchestra of St. Luke’s at Alice Tully Hall.

Upcoming engagements include debuts with the Louisiana Philharmonic, Brevard Symphony, Seoul Philharmonic, and return engagements with the Alabama Symphony, Hilton Head Symphony, Bilbao Symphony, National Symphony of Mexico, and National Taiwan Symphony. In addition to recitals in Lincoln Center’s Great Performers series, at the Musée du Louvre, and at Jordan Hall in Boston, he has played chamber music at the Great Mountains Music Festival in Korea, the Moritzburg Festival in Germany, the Young Concert Artists Festivals in Tokyo, Japan and in Beijing and Wuhan, China, and next season, appears as a new member of Chamber Music Society Two. In association with Camerata Pacifica, he has recorded “Four Songs of Solitude” by John Harbison (Harmonia Mundi). His first solo CD, a collection of favorite encores, is on the CHIMEI label.

Born in Taiwan, Paul Huang has worked with Hyo Kang and I-Hao Lee at Juilliard since the age of 14. Mr. Huang’s accolades include Taiwan’s 2009 Chi-Mei Cultural Foundation Arts Award, and the prestigious Kovner Fellowship at The Juilliard School. Mr. Huang plays the Guarneri del Gesù Cremona 1742 ex-Wieniawski violin, on generous loan through the Stradivari Society of Chicago. Website: www.paulhuangviolin.com.

Management: Young Concert Artists, Inc.

Kristin Lee
Violinist

Born: Seoul, Korea
March 28, 1986

Resides: Wayne, NJ

A violinist of remarkable versatility and impeccable technique, Kristin Lee enjoys a vibrant career as a soloist, recitalist, chamber musician, and educator. A winner of Astral Artists’ 2010 National Auditions and a top prizewinner of the 2012 Walter W. Naumburg Competition, Ms. Lee has appeared as soloist with The Philadelphia Orchestra, St. Louis Symphony, New Jersey

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(*Kristin Lee bio continued*)

Symphony, Ural Philharmonic of Russia, and Korean Broadcasting Symphony of Korea, among others, and on such stages as Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, the Kennedy Center, Philadelphia's Kimmel Center, the Louvre Museum in Paris, and Korea's Kumho Art Gallery. She is the concertmaster of the groundbreaking Metropolis Ensemble, with whom she premiered Vivian Fung's Violin Concerto, written for her and released on the Naxos label in 2012. Upcoming engagements include a debut performance at the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C., and solo appearances with the Atlantic and Milwaukee symphony orchestras. She also tours with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, in California, New York, Michigan, and Pennsylvania. Recent engagements include recitals in New York's Merkin Concert Hall and Florida's Kravis Center, and appearances with the Guiyang Symphony Orchestra of China and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. An accomplished chamber musician, she is an artist of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and a former member and winner of the CMS Two program. Kristin Lee holds a Master's degree from The Juilliard School, where she studied with Itzhak Perlman and Donald Weilerstein, and is on the faculty of the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College.

Website: www.violinistkristinlee.com

Management: *Astral Artists*

Matthew Lipman
Violist

Born: Chicago, IL
February 4, 1992

Resides: New York, NY

The recipient of a 2015 Avery Fisher Career Grant, twenty-three year old violist Matthew Lipman has been hailed by the New York Times for his "rich tone and elegant phrasing" and by the Chicago Tribune for his "splendid technique and musical sensitivity". Engagements as soloist have included the Juilliard, Minnesota, Grand Rapids Symphony, Wisconsin Chamber, Ars Viva Symphony, Montgomery Symphony, Capital City Symphony and Southwest Symphony Orchestras, and as recitalist, the Phillips Collection in Washington D.C. and the ShortGrass Festival in Northeastern New Mexico. Avie Records released his debut recording of the Mozart *Sinfonia Concertante* with violinist Rachel Barton Pine, Sir Neville Marriner and the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, in January 2015 to critical acclaim. Mr. Lipman is the First Prize winner of the Washington, Stulberg, and Johansen International Competitions; the Minnesota Orchestra and Juilliard Competitions, and is a top prizewinner of the Tertis and Primrose International Viola Competitions. He will tour domestically and abroad this season with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center as a member of CMS Two, and his festival appearances include Caramoor, Marlboro, Music@Menlo, and Ravinia. Born in Chicago, Mr. Lipman is a student of Steven Tenenbom at the Juilliard School, where he is the recipient of a Kovner Fellowship and serves as teaching assistant to professor Heidi Castleman. He has also studied with Misha Amory, Roland Vamos, and Matthew Mantell. Mr. Lipman performs on a fine viola by Matteo Goffriller, 1700, on generous loan from the REB Foundation.

Simone Porter
Violinist

Born: Salt Lake City, UT
September 10, 1996

Resides: Los Angeles, CA

Violinist Simone Porter has been recognized as an emerging artist of impassioned energy, musical integrity and vibrant sound. At 18 years of age, she has already appeared with the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Nashville Symphony and Utah Symphony, and with renowned conductors including Nicolas McGegan, Ludovic Morlot and Donald Runnicles. Ms. Porter made her professional solo debut at age ten with the Seattle Symphony, and her international debut with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at age thirteen. Her Carnegie Hall debut was captured on the Emmy Award-winning TV show *From The Top: Live from Carnegie Hall* and she was featured on the BBC documentary *The World's Greatest Musical Prodigies* which aired in the UK in 2009. A recipient of a national award from the Davidson Institute for Talent Development, Ms. Porter has also performed for the Dalai Lama at the 2010 Seeds of Compassion opening ceremony.

Ms. Porter's 2014–15 season includes return engagements to the Seattle and Nashville Symphonies and debuts with the Philadelphia Orchestra and Ft. Worth Symphony. Previous engagements include her Hollywood Bowl/LA Philharmonic debut and her professional debut at the Aspen Music Festival in summer 2014, an appearance with the New York Philharmonic on their Young People's Concerts series, and performances with the Albany (NY), Corpus Christi (TX), Nashville, Pacific, Pasadena, and Utah Symphonies, among others. Ms. Porter studies in Los Angeles at the Colburn Conservatory of Music with Robert Lipsett and plays on a 1745 J.B. Guadagnini violin on generous loan from The Mandell Collection of Southern California. Website: www.simoneporterviolin.com

Management: *Laura Liepins / Colburn Artists*