

Praised by Robert Beale in the *International Piano Magazine* as “unusual for a player of his age and an excellent augury for the future,” 19-year-old pianist Hugo Kitano currently studies with Prof. Frederick Weldy at Stanford University. His past teachers include Prof. Hans Boepple and Dr. William Wellborn. He is the first prize-winner in numerous national and international competitions, including the 11th International Russian Music Piano Competition and the Arthur Fraser International Piano Competition. He was also the highest prizewinner of the Moscow International Frederic Chopin Competition for Young Pianists this past summer.

At age 13, Hugo performed at Carnegie Hall as a winner of both the solo and duo divisions of the American Fine Arts Festival. He also gave his San Francisco solo recital debut with the Noontime Concerts Series and his orchestral debut with the Palo Alto Philharmonic as a winner of their concerto competition. Hugo has also performed the first movement of Rachmaninoff's 2nd Concerto with the Peninsula Symphony as winner of the Marilyn Mindell Piano Concerto Competition. Next season, Hugo will perform Chopin's 1<sup>st</sup> Concerto with the Stanford Symphony Orchestra as first prizewinner of its concerto competition, and Beethoven's 3<sup>rd</sup> Concerto with the South Carolina Philharmonic.

Hugo has also been awarded first prize at the Young Pianist's Beethoven Competition, the San Francisco Young Pianists' Competition, the California Association of Professional Music Teachers' Concerto Competition, and the San Francisco Chopin Competition for Young Pianists. In addition, Hugo has won awards at the California International Young Artists Competition as its youngest semi-finalist, the New York International Piano Competition, and the International Chopin Piano Competition in ASIA, held in Tokyo. He has been a semifinalist at the Gina Bachauer International Young Artists Competition, the New Orleans International Piano Competition, and the Manchester International Concerto Competition for Young Pianists. He was awarded “Best Chopin” prize in the 2012 MTNA National Finals in New York.

Hugo has performed in various venues in England, Austria, Germany, Hungary, and Japan. He has received coaching and master classes from John Perry, Christopher O'Riley, Leslie Howard, Murray McLachlan, Gustavo Romero, Matti Raekallio, Julian Martin, Boris Slutsky, Nelita True, and Marina Lomazov.

Hugo is also a winner of the 2010, 2011 and 2012 U.S. Chopin Foundation Scholarship Competition. He is a member of the Young Artists Guild, the highest achievement attainable in the Music Teacher's Association of California program. In the spring of 2011, Hugo organized and performed in three benefit concerts to aid the survivors of the earthquake in Japan and raised more than \$12,000. Hugo also performed on NPR's *From the Top* broadcast twice, first in Santa Fe in October, 2011 and recently in Stanford's Bing Hall in November 2013. In January 2013, Hugo was a YoungArts Winner in Music.