



**Davidson Fellow Laureate
Todd Kramer**

(\$50,000 Scholarship Recipient)



Personal Info

Todd Kramer
Age: 17
Port Jefferson, New York

School, College and Career Plans

Todd is an honors graduate of The Juilliard School Pre-College Division and the Earl L. Vandermeulen High School. He will attend Princeton University where he plans to study music and economics. Although his career goals are not yet defined, Todd sees music composition and cello performance as an important part of his future plans.

Davidson Fellows Submission (*Music*)

In his portfolio, "Finding My Voice Through Music," Todd traces his development as a composer from age 12. Todd believes every period in history needs new composers and performers to develop artistic traditions that evolve with the times. Todd recently graduated from The Juilliard Pre-College Division and is a student at The Perlman Music Program. In addition to being a composer, Todd is a cellist and has performed at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center and has appeared on NPR's "From the Top."

Biography

Todd began playing the cello at 4, entered The Juilliard School Pre-College Division at 8, and began composing at 10. He comes from a musical family, having two older brothers who also studied at Juilliard and The Perlman Music Program. Todd's composition portfolio includes a suite for violin and cello, a cello sonata, a string quartet, and a rhapsody for French horn and piano.

Todd's greatest challenge as a composer has been the development of a unique musical style. Although he learned music theory with relative ease, it was difficult to gain the depth of understanding of musical language necessary to express himself as he hoped. He worked hard to become familiar with a wide range of musical styles and was guided by his mentor, Eric Ewazen, and many other inspiring and supportive teachers on the way towards developing his own voice.

Todd hopes the music he writes can provide a meaningful artistic contribution. He feels it is especially important to compose for instruments that are only now beginning to gain prominence as solo instruments.

Please see next page.



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(Cont.)

Honors/Awards

- 2007 Davidson Fellow Laureate
- 2007 Winner of Juilliard Pre-College Composition Competition
- 2007 Winner of Sound Symphony Young Composer's Competition
- 2007 National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts Honorable Mention Award in Music Composition
- 2007, 2006 New York Art Ensemble Young Composer Competition Emerging Composer
- 2007 Juilliard Pre-College Achievement Award
- 2007 The Perlman Music Program ASCAP Scholarship
- 2006, 2003 Finalist in Long Island Philharmonic Young Artist Competition
- 2006, 2002 New York State School Music Association Young Composer Honoree
- 2005 "From the Top" Young Composer Honoree
- 2004 Winner of Sound Symphony Solo Competition
- 2001 Recipient of an 1810 English cello on loan through the Carlsen Cello Foundation

Community Activities

One of the interests Todd has developed through his experience as a composer and cellist is audio and video editing of classical musical recordings. Initially he became involved with editing to archive his family's concert performances as well as friends at Juilliard. While attending The Perlman Music Program he offered to archive all the summer concerts on DVDs so that students and faculty could enjoy and learn from watching their performances. In addition to volunteering his time for that project, Todd has been involved in various community service projects at his high school.

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