



**Davidson Fellow Laureate
Conrad Tao**

(\$50,000 Scholarship Recipient)



Personal Info

Conrad Tao
Age: 14
New York, New York

School, College and Career Plans

Conrad is entering his sixth year at The Juilliard Pre-College Division and is a rising sophomore in the independent study program through the Indiana University High School of Continuing Studies. He would like to be a concert pianist and professional composer.

Davidson Fellows Submission (*Music*)

In his project, "Bridging Classical Music from the Past to the Future as Pianist and Composer," Conrad makes classical music relevant to younger generations through performances that display a vast knowledge, deep understanding and mature interpretation of the repertoire. A composer, pianist and violinist attending The Juilliard Pre-College Division, he has been featured on NPR's "From the Top," performed at Carnegie Hall and has received five consecutive American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) Morton Gould Young Composer Awards.

Biography

"We're not in 1700 anymore...we have computers, we have cell phones...come on, we need some new music!" ("From the Top," October 2004) This remark captures Conrad's belief that in order to move music forward we must embrace the music of today. He feels that since he is a young musician himself, he is uniquely situated to appreciate the well-known works from the past while understanding the interest the current generation has in music created in their lifetime.

Before moving to New York City from Urbana, Illinois, Conrad was a detractor of contemporary music, feeling it was atonal and incomprehensible. Inspired by his Juilliard teachers, he began to understand the importance of novelty in the world of classical music and now routinely incorporates a new or underappreciated work in all his recitals and programming. When Conrad encounters roadblocks he pushes through them to try to understand the beauty behind each piece he plays.

When Conrad isn't practicing or composing, he is writing, reading and talking to friends. He also loves roller coasters, researching their facts and designs and riding them.

Please see next page.



**Davidson Fellow Laureate
Conrad Tao**

(Cont.)

Honors/Awards

- 2008 Davidson Fellow Laureate
- 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composers Award
- 2008 Solo recital at the Verbier Festival in Switzerland
- 2008 Solo recital in Mexico City's National Performing Arts Center
- 2008 Soloist with the Juilliard Orchestra on their China tour
- 2008 Soloist with the Russian National Orchestra at the Festival of the Arts BOCA
- 2008 Soloist with the San Francisco Symphony
- 2008 Soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra
- 2007 World premiere performance of his piano concerto, *"the four elements"* with the ProMusica Chamber Orchestra
- 2007 Soloist with the Russian National Orchestra at the Festival del Sole Napa Valley
- 2007 Soloist with the Miami International Piano Festival Orchestra in Lecce, Italy
- 2007 World premiere of his *Duet for Erhu and Violin* at the Art Institute of Chicago's Silk Road Project concert series
- 2006 Soloist with the California Symphony
- 2006 Solo recital at Juilliard's Paul Hall
- 2006 Juilliard Pre-College Prokofiev Piano Concerto Competition Winner
- 2006 Juilliard Pre-College Gina Bachauer Piano Competition Winner
- 2006 Featured on the PBS TV series "From the Top - Live from Carnegie Hall"
- 2005 BMI Young Composers Award, Carlos Surinach Prize
- 2005 Carnegie Hall Family Concert with the Orchestra of St. Luke's
- 2004 Performed his own *"Sonata for Two Pianos"* on NPR's "From the Top"

Community Activities

On concert trips, Conrad visits local schools to perform and interact with students around the country. He has performed multiple times both as a soloist and with his chamber music group for the school music program "Midori and Friends" in Queens, New York. He has visited schools in the states of California, Florida, New Jersey, Ohio and Texas. He has also performed in hospitals, nursing homes, and public libraries.

###

The Davidson Institute for Talent Development

9665 Gateway Drive, Suite B | Reno, Nevada 89521 | Ph: 775-852-3483 | Fax: 775-852-2184