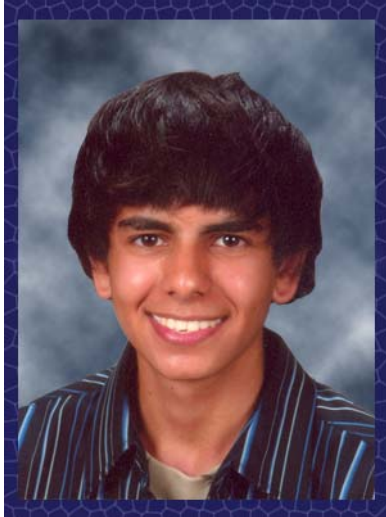




**Davidson Fellow**  
**Vijay Venkatesh**

(\$25,000 Scholarship Recipient)



**Personal Info**

Vijay Venkatesh

Age: 17

Laguna Niguel, California

**School, College and Career Plans**

Vijay is a rising senior at Dana Hills High School. He has not decided where he would like to go to college but knows he will major in piano performance. Vijay hopes to become a concert pianist.

**Davidson Fellows Submission** (*Music*)

In his piano portfolio, "Magic through Music," Vijay views music as a gift to move the world, serving as a common link to touch the humanity in us all. Winning the grand prize at the Los Angeles Music Spotlight Awards and the second prize at the Virginia Waring International Piano Solo Intermediate Competition, Vijay believes it is his duty as a performer to assure the audience of the joy and love that transcend life's struggles.

**Biography**

Vijay has been playing the piano since the age of 4. To connect with the audience, he believes a bond must be forged through the imagination and strives to create an image for the listener and even transport them to a whole new world. If successful at moving the audience to tears or melting their hearts, then he has accomplished all that he sought to do.

Vijay feels music offers a perspective on the arts in general, a sense of history and a glimpse of where one can go from here. It gives people a chance to celebrate humanity by displaying some of the finest achievements of the intellect, and the fruits of the labors of performance at its highest levels. Vijay believes music has the power to teach tolerance; it holds the power to let us get out of ourselves and view the world and all of nature in a broader context, one not absorbed with oneself. It inspires us, enchants us, challenges us, and despite our differences it is a common link that touches the humanity in all of us.

In addition to classical music, Vijay is an avid fan of Spanish music. He loves to ski, play soccer and football, and is an accomplished swimmer. He also loves to go to the beach.

*Please see next page.*



**Davidson Fellow  
Vijay Venkatesh**

*(Cont.)*

**Honors/Awards**

- 2008 Davidson Fellow
- 2008 Los Angeles Music Spotlight Awards Grand Prize Winner
- 2007 First Prize World Piano Pedagogue Conference “Most Wanted Pianovision Competition”
- 2007 Second Place Virginia Waring International Piano Solo Intermediate Competition
- 2007 First Prize Redlands Bowl Summer Music Festival
- 2007 First Prize Pasadena Community Orchestra Young Artists Competition
- 2007 Soloist with the Pasadena Community Orchestra
- 2006 First Prize American Beethoven Society
- 2006 First Prize California Music Teachers Association Honors Auditions
- 2006 First Prize California Association of Professional Music Teachers Sonatina/Sonata Festival
- 2005 First Prize South Coast Symphony “Young Stars of the Future”
- 2004 Gold Medal Russian Music International Piano Competition
- 2003 First Prize “Youth Expo Talent Search” Orange County Fair & Exposition Center
- 2002 First Prize South Western Youth Music Festival “Young Recitalist”

**Community Activities**

Vijay has performed several public recitals in the Laguna Niguel community to honor senior citizens who sponsored his recitals.

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