

The Gulf Coast Steinway Society is proud to announce that there will be a Contemporary Music Prize added for the upcoming Competition X, which will take place on February 1, 2025. Works by composer Michael Coleman, Winner of the 2023 Leopold Auer International Competition, will be used for both the High School and College Divisions.

High School Level:

Four Bagatelles (1988)
by Michael Coleman

Program notes:

Four Bagatelles (1988) for solo piano could be described as brief character pieces in a slow-fast-slow-fast scheme. The pitch language is primarily free atonality with some small moments hinting at tonal gravity. The first and second Bagatelles remain atonal throughout with the third having melodic fragments that suggest tonality, and the fourth displays some jazz influence. They are dedicated to the composer's first music teacher, Rola Gooden. The works were originally titled *Three Miniatures* which was later changed to *Three Bagatelles* (1987) because of the composer's familiarity with the "bagatelles" of Beethoven, Béla Bartók, and Alexander Tchernin. A fourth piece was added ("Poco agitato") in 1988 and it was then titled *Four Bagatelles*. The first three were premiered by the composer at the University of Maryland in the late 1980's and fourth was premiered with the entire set around fifteen years later on a Birmingham Art Music Alliance concert.

College Level:

ahsidaK (2018)
by Michael Coleman

ahsidaK (2018) is structured similar to a rondo with an arpeggio pattern used as a refrain and various styles resembling commercial music used for the episodes. This work is dedicated to Steinway Artist Kadisha Onalbayeva (also the composer's wife) and, as a programmatic element, the refrain could be described as Dr. Onalbayeva surfing up and down through Pandora's (radio) menu selection and the episodes representing her selections.

Michael Coleman



Michael Coleman has participated as composer/pianist in numerous new music programs and festivals in the U.S and Russia and has also had works performed in Central America, Europe, Eurasia, and Vietnam. He has also had multiple online performances of his works which include Festival Osmose (Brussels, Belgium) and “Fifteen Minutes of Fame” (Vox Novus, Manhattan, NY). Recent awards include being named Winner of the III Leopold Auer International Composition Competition (2023) and other recent awards include the An Art Artistry Prize (Athens, Greece), Second Prize in the She Lives Budapest Competition, and being awarded three First Diplomas one Third Diploma in the Golden Key Piano Composition Competition.

He received his doctorate from the University of Maryland and holds degrees from the University of New Orleans and the University of South Alabama, studying with Lawrence Moss, Jerry Sieg, and Carl Alette. Dr. Coleman is on the faculties of Pensacola State College and the University of West Florida, and is the organist/music director at Zion Lutheran Church in Silverhill, Alabama. He is on the composer rosters of RMN Music (London, UK) and Phasma (Athens, Greece), and he is a member of the Birmingham Art Music Alliance and BMI.