

# A portrait of the artist Hyejin Kim

BY IVAN SELIGMAN

Florida Weekly Correspondent

HyeJin Kim started playing piano at age 5 in South Korea, and has played solo and with numerous orchestras and music festivals around the world.

Praised by critics for her, “passionate... polished and expressive,” performances, Ms. Kim is one of South Korea’s most thrilling young classical stars. She completed her studies in Germany, earning her MA in musical art as a “Konzertexamen” (highest distinction) from Berlin’s Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler. She is currently continuing her studies at the Colburn School as an “Artist Diploma” with Professor Fabio Bidini.

She will be in Naples for only one concert at 7:30 p.m. on June 7, at Trinity-by-the-Cove, playing Baroque to 21st century selections by Bach, Ravel, Schumann and Kapustin.

Ms. Kim first attracted international attention at age 17 when, as its youngest participant, she won third prize in the prestigious Busoni Competition in Italy. Andrea Bonatta, the head of the jury, said, “I am thrilled about her flawless musicality and technique, which promises success as an internationally recognized pianist.”

Since then, Ms. Kim has received numerous awards, including prizes at the 2008 Hong Kong International Piano Competition, the DAAD Prize, Steinway & Sons Advancement Award Competition and at the Toronto International Piano Competition.

Ms. Kim revealed her motivations, interests and passions in a question and answer session.



COURTESY PHOTO

**Internationally recognized pianist HyeJin Kim.**

**Q:** What or who has motivated you, both as a concert pianist and as a person?

**A:** I am inspired and motivated into music when I see magnificent landscapes such as Niagara Falls, Malibu’s ocean or Oregon’s Cannon Beach, when I visit historical places like Mozart’s house in Salzburg, the Thomas Church in Leipzig where Bach used to play, when I listen good music and when I learn new repertoire.

My parents are my role models for the

way to live a life. Without their generosity, wisdom and their values, I would not be here where I stand, and I would be only half of the person that my parents represent.

For a musical aspect, my teacher, Mr. Bidini, is one of the most inspirational and influential people in his teaching, playing and also as a human being.

**Q:** What are some of your interests?

**A:** I do love working out regularly, either going to gym or Pilates. It also helps my concentration and staying power for practicing time, especially for something really big like Rachmaninoff’s 3rd Piano Concerto.

I adored our cat ‘Sammy’ and still miss her a lot. She passed away two years ago after 17 years with my family. She was the most adorable, sophisticated and educated cat ever — she gave lots of loving



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