

## Senior Recital Wows Audience

The glitterati who usually attend the premieres, Broadway shows, and avant-garde orchestral concerts at Lincoln Center were not in attendance. But the same tangible excitement, anticipation, and electricity crackled in the air as the house lights dimmed and Kelsie Griffes, resplendent in a formal green evening gown, walked on-stage at Eastern Nazarene College's Cove Fine Arts Auditorium to perform her senior recital for the completion of her Music major.

As she dazzled her audience of family, friends, and ENC faculty with her virtuosity and mastery of different genres of classical music, everyone shared in the fruition of Kelsie's dream to become a professional musician. On April 22, 2017, Kelsie became not just a Music major, but a bona fide concert pianist!

From the exquisite fingering intricacies of English Baroque composer, Henry Purcell, to the haunting and mournful *Prelude in E Minor* by Chopin, not to mention the thunderous wave-crashing chords of Rachmaninoff, Kelsie displayed a depth and breadth of interpretation that is rare in someone so young.

While soothed and seduced by the romantic colors and feathery melodies of Debussy, Kelsie's concert goes were treated to a spectacular feat of musicianship. One of the many great highlights of her concert was the performance of Franz Shubert's *Fantasia for Pianoforte and Violin* which she executed along with her violin teacher, Jamie Brown.

The road to this level of technical excellence in concert classical music is not an easy one. On Kelsie's program sheet, she has a "Special Thanks" section which, I think, illustrates some of what

it took to get Kelsie where she is right now. Kelsie writes:

**Mom, Dad, and Alexander:** Thank you for believing in me along the way throughout the twists and turns of college. You have always stuck your neck out to do what you thought best. It is my joy to make you proud.

**Dr. Kim:** Thank you for your beautiful heart and sensitivity to each of your students. I will miss your bright spirit and endless well of musical knowledge. You made the completion of a music degree in a very brief time much more enjoyable.

**Dr. Shetler:** Thank you for your enthusiasm and dedication to teaching; and, yes, also, for your corny jokes. My experience as a musician is richer for having you as a teacher. Thank you for believing in me.

**Dr. Smith:** Thanks for making it possible for me to make my dreams come true (cheesy, I know) with a music degree! Your passion for teaching music theory has certainly rubbed off on me. I'll miss your classes!

**Jamie Brown:** Thank you for the joy and excitement you bring to everything you do – and for believing in me. Your passion is palpable, and I look forward to playing with you again the future. Another jazz camp wouldn't be too bad either!

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**Linda and Dennis (and North Street Church):** Thank you for being my church home away from home. Your encouragement no doubt helped me to keep working toward my goals. I love



... more of Kelsie Griffes' Senior Recital at Eastern Nazarene College (continued from Page 1)

you.

**Dr. Ross:** So you're not a music professor, but it would be wrong to leave you out of this section. Thank you for being a light and encouragement during my time in Canterbury Hall.

I'm so glad we had a chance to connect even after I finished my psychology classes.

**Dr. Massey (my other influential psych professor):** Thank you for brightening council meetings with your wise-cracks and ramblings. Your faith in me helped me to work toward my goals in both of my majors.

While clutching a bouquet of flowers, after her final bow, Kelsie invited everyone to a reception

upstairs from the concert hall. You can be sure there were many hearty congratulations, lots of photos taken, and much catching up to do. Everyone enjoyed a cold beverage, snacks, desserts, and a special cake for Kelsie.

There was an abundance of local "glitterati" at Kelsie's concert. I'll try to mention those who would be of specific interest to our *Gardner Newsletter* subscribers. Please accept my apologies if I forget anyone.

Of special importance to Kelsie is her immediate family, all of whom attended; her parents, Jay and Kim Griffes, and Alexander Griffes, her brother. Kelsie's grandparents, Lennie and Ronald Budd, Kim's mother and father, were also there to support her.

Sheryl Hosford, Kelsie's aunt, who is also Aunt Beulah's daughter, came all the way from Newport, Vermont to see Kelsie perform. Gary Hosford, Sheryl, Aunt Beulah and the Hosford's two boys, Calvin

and Cole (who helped with video for the concert) stopped in Medford, MA to pick up your editor, me, Paul Gardner.

We had great fellowship and a fabulous dinner at an Italian restaurant before we proceeded south toward Eastern Nazarene College. We hope to see everybody again at Cousin Rod and Irene's house in Holland, VT for the Gardner Cousin reunion on July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

In the meantime, why not send Kelsie a note of special congratulations on her monumental achievement? Her future looks bright as she could, hopefully, team up with another legendary Gardner family musician, Cousin Geri Rosser, for future projects.

The bright light cast by these two musical greats could make the "glitterati" look downright dull!



## Hot News Flash From Facebook!

April 26, 2017

I'm thrilled to announce that I have been offered a full-time teaching position at the Conservatory of Piano in Columbus, Ohio after graduation.

It's such a huge blessing to find a job in my field, not to mention a job in a city that I love. I thank God for answered prayers, and I'm so excited for what lies ahead.

Kelsie



## What could Jack Nicholson and Chopin possibly have in common?



The third selection on Kelsie Griffes' recital program is Chopin's *Prelude in E Minor*. This is one of Chopin's most mournful works and has lived long in most people's memory thanks to Jack Nicholson, of all people.

When you think of Chopin, you don't necessarily think of incurable sadness and mournful melodies. That's not to say that the Polish master of the piano wasn't capable of composing an affectingly sad tune, but he's generally more known for his quirkier, more upbeat works for the instrument.

Well, if you've come this far without hearing Chopin's *Prelude in E Minor* (Op. 28, No. 4) then you'd better make sure you've got a hanky ready. This delicate, sloping movement is one of the composer's saddest works, but it's partly down to one of the world's most famous actors that this work is associated with such melancholy.

Jack Nicholson starred in the 1970 movie *Five Easy Pieces*, in which he played a wandering pianist struggling to

come to terms with his father's lofty expectations of him. In one of the movie's key scenes, Nicholson plays this very prelude in a surprisingly heartbreaking fashion.

While it is difficult to know exactly what influenced a composer at the time of writing a particular piece, perhaps the *Prelude in E Minor* is a statement of the suffering Chopin felt from his health issues with tuberculosis.

Musicologists believe Chopin may have initiated the *Prelude in E Minor* as early as 1831 and that he certainly completed it by January of 1839, along with the other 23 of his preludes, which formed a set. The year before, his lover, the French female novelist George Sand, reported in a letter to a friend that "Chopin had a terrible hemorrhage by the time we arrived in Palma," on their way back from their famous getaway to the island of Majorca off the coast of Spain. To her lawyer, she confided in a letter that Chopin "arrived in Barcelona spitting a basin full of blood and dragging himself like a specter." (This correspondence is described in

*Chopin* by George R. Marek and Maria Gordon-Smith, Harper and Row, 1978.) Although Chopin's doctors had not officially diagnosed him with tuberculosis at the time that he completed all 24 of his preludes, including the *E Minor*, he certainly was showing the symptoms.

It's also possible, however, that the *Prelude in E Minor* is a very eloquent statement of Chopin's inner life. I think in his personal life, he sometimes felt isolated from the world and depressed. At the age of 21, he left behind his family and the Warsaw of his childhood, at the time a provincial city, for the glamour of Paris, an international capital. When he arrived in Paris in 1831, at the age of 21, he would never see Warsaw again.

It is also important to note that the *Prelude-in-E-Minor* was played at his funeral.

Published from the World Wide Web

## *Jean Gonzalo Receives Award from Lamont School District*

Jean Gonzalo was named “Employee of the Month” at the Lamont Elementary School District’s school board meeting in March of this year. As you probably know, the Gardner family has a long tradition of producing teachers from Grandma Gardner going forward.

In fact, if you should re-read our very first issue, you’ll see that Uncle Clayton talks about being a teacher. Many others have followed including Aunt Elinor, Cousin Teresa, Cousin Gloria, Cousin Nancy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cousin Rebecca Jacobs and others.

While Jean is not a certified teacher in California, she is in the trenches as a teacher’s assistant working with reading challenged children mostly from Hispanic families. She has been with the Lamont School District for well over 20-years and counting. Jean’s popularity with students, faculty, and staff is unmatched anywhere else within the District.

During Jean’s award ceremony, here is what Principal Brandy Charles said about her:

“Nicest person at the school site with the biggest heart.

Jean has been with our school district for a lot of years, and I believe—even though I didn’t start working with her—I have the pleasure of working with her now. I would say she has that same level of dedication as she did when she started. She’s a “go-getter.” You could have—ask

her to do anything, and she will just do it to the best of her ability. She is a “giver” and I appreciate it. I know the staff appreciates everything that she does for Lamont School, for our district.

So, Jean, please come on up and get this award.”



Applause.

If you click on this link <https://www.facebook.com/teresa.gonzalo.58/videos/1420136918017010/>, you’ll see the actual video of Jean accepting the award. Should the link not work, you can go to Teresa Gonzalo’s (Jean’s daughter) Facebook page and find the video.

Congratulations to Jean for making a big difference in so many little kids’ lives! Giving children the gift of reading is an immeasurable, priceless treasure. That’s what teaching is all about, right!?

## **HISTORY OF THE LAMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT, LAMONT, CA**

**T**he Lamont Elementary School District was established in 1894 in this rural community. It has a rich heritage. Originally a small agricultural community, Lamont was populated with

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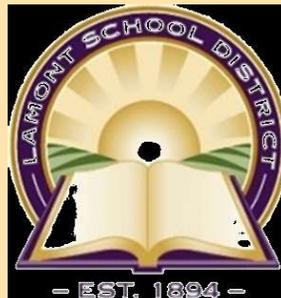
.... more of History of Lamont School District .... (Continued from Page 4)

families from the Dust Bowl migration to California in the 1930's. The Weedpatch farm labor camp depicted in John Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath* is located 2 miles south of Lamont. Many parents in our community continue to make their living in farm labor. Lamont has remained strongly connected to its agricultural roots.

Currently our student population is 96% Hispanic with 80% of our students identified as English language learners. Ninety-six percent of the students qualify for free or reduced price lunches, and the district provides a breakfast program for all students. One third of the students in the district qualify for Migrant services. Categorical funds, including Title One, provide supplementary programs to students. After School Programs operate at all four schools, providing a safe place for students to complete homework and experience activities such as Art Smart and SPARK physical education activities.

Lamont has four schools: Alicante School (K-6), Lamont Elementary School (K-3), Myrtle Avenue School (4-6) and Mt. View Middle School (7-8). After eighth grade, Mt. View students attend Kern High School District where they continue to grow and to develop their skills. Each of our schools has an active outreach program to parents which is based on Joyce Epstein's Parent Involvement Model and includes helping parents work with their students at home to support success in school. Both Lamont and Alicante Schools offer a Dual Language Immersion Program. Students are instructed in a program based on the fifty-fifty model of dual

instruction. In our GATE/FAST programs students are provided classroom instruction, as well as extended activities to support their learning. Our students have the opportunity to participate in History Day, Oral Language Festivals, Science Fairs, Spelling Bee and Honor Band.



Don't forget to submit your articles for the Summer, 2017 issue of the Gardner Newsletter!

## *Eastern Nazarene College's 2017 Graduation turns out to be a Mini-Gardner Cousin Reunion*



Left to Right: Cousin Sharon Manchester, Cousin Nancy Whitney, 2nd Cousin Greg Whitney, Aunt Beulah, 2nd Cousin Kelsie Griffes, Cousin Jay Griffes, Cousin Sheryl Griffes

### *ENC's 2017 Graduation Comes Full Circle for Cousin Nancy Whitney*



In 1981 when Dan and my brother, Chris, graduated from Eastern Nazarene College, my mother, Elinor Joyce Gardner Cove, was a trustee of the college. Here they are outside the Student Center in their regalia after graduation. *{See picture to the right.}*

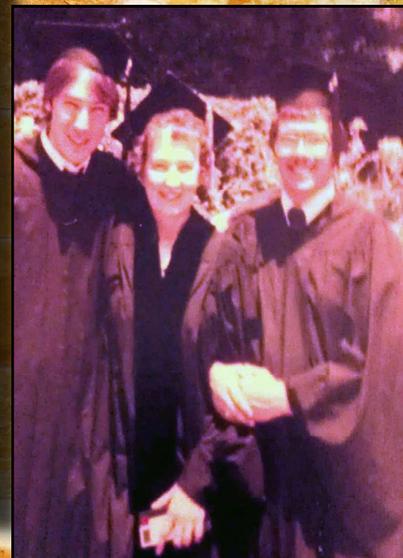
Tonight I had the honor of praying at Greg's Baccalaureate service. The picture to the immediate left of this article is of Greg, my cousin Kelsie Griffes, and I in our regalia after the service.

Greg graduates magna cum laude from Eastern Nazarene College with a BA in Religion and Philoso-

phy -May 6, 2017.

Other family members and friends were graduating as well, which made for a wonderful weekend. His regalia includes his graduation cap/gown and his spiritual director robe, his cord for being a scholar athlete, his Chinese flute, and his family cord sporting pictures of Dick and Elinor Cove, Ray and Vicky Whitney, Dan and Nancy Whitney and Jon Whitney.

We have always been in his corner, and we are immensely proud of him!





## MORE EASTERN NAZARENE COLLEGE GRADUATION

Aunt Beulah's granddaughter, Kelsie Griffes, was graduated from Eastern Nazarene College on May 6, 2017 with a double major in Music and Psychology.

Here she is with her brother, Alexander, Dad, Jay Griffes, and Mom, Kim Griffes.

## Facebook Post from Gary Hosford on May 14, 2017

Hey, Paul. this is Gary. I really appreciate you putting this in the *Gardner Newsletter*. Here is a picture of the player piano as well as the label on it. This piano was given to us by Uncle Henry Metcalf back in 1994 before they moved to Ohio. Uncle Henry said that the wood-working had been completely refinished by a family member, but we don't know who that family member was, as I discussed with you when we saw you last. You thought that perhaps it may have been your dad,

Uncle Earl, who was Uncle Henry's brother-in-law, who did the refinishing.

As you can see, it's in very good shape and it is still a very beautiful piano, but it does take up a lot of space. Uncle Henry's only request when he gave it to us was, should we decide to give it away, to try and make sure it goes to a family member. Sheryl and I are interested in doing that now so that we can free up some much-needed space in our home.

Here is our contact information: Gary and Sheryl Hosford, 873 Lake Road, Newport, VT 05855.



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## FREE PIANO (Continued from Page 7)

Telephone: (802) 334-5195. We're looking forward to hearing from any *Gardner Newsletter* subscriber who would like to own a FREE player piano.

### ABOUT THIS SIR HERBERT MARSHALL SONS & ROSE (LONDON) PLAYER PIANO ...

This piano could be a very rare, early player piano built by Sir Herbert Marshall and Rose of London, circa 1911. Of course, a reputable appraiser/evaluator would have to come in person and examine the piano to verify its authenticity and true value.

Sir Herbert Marshall & Rose built high quality, elaborate pianos from about 1907 all the way into the last part of the 20th Century. This piano is unusual because it has a dual tracking system that plays both 65 and 88 note music rolls. It is made of an unusual grain of rosewood in an almost Art-Deco style. The piano is equipped with an expression control regulator that allows the player to use dynamics with the music they play.

Sir Herbert Marshall & Rose was one of the more prominent European piano makers of the 20th Century. Established in 1907 in London,

England, Marshall & Rose built high quality, elaborate pianos and player pianos which were exported all over the world. By the 'teens Mr. Rose left the firm and the firm began building pianos under the names of "Sir Herbert Marshall & Co., Ltd." and "Sir Herbert Marshall & Sons, Ltd."

Although the firm was a late-comer compared to most other established English makers, the firm enjoyed a great deal of success throughout most of the 20th Century. They were known for building very durable, well-made pianos, often using very lavish woods and cabinet designs. The firm ceased production in about 1998, just over a century after being established.

*[Editor's Note: In the next column is an appraisal that your editor found on-line about this piano. This appraisal happened about five years ago. From what I can gather, pianos made while the company was just Sir Herbert Marshall & Rose (London) and before it became "Sir Herbert Marshall 'Sons' & Rose (London)" are more valuable than those that were made later on under the Sir Herbert Marshall Sons & Rose (London) label.]*

### Appraisal Question:

I have a Sir Herbert Marshall Sons & Rose (London) player piano. The serial # XXXXX or 436839, I can't read it very well. The rubber vacuum lines are rotten so I can't tell if it will play. All the parts seem to be in working order. A dozen or so of the keys stick, but it does make sounds when the keys are used. I would say the condition of it is fair. Can you give me an idea what this is worth? Thanks. *Jane*

### Appraisal Answer:

My name is XXXXX XXXXX I am a Personal Property Appraiser specializing in Musical Instruments and I am here to help!

Using my resources to look into your inquiry, I was able to find comparable sales that give your piano a current secondary market value of \$200 - \$300 USD at auction or in a private sale.

I hope this reply answers your question! Thanks!

Sincerely,

Alan C. Ransdell, ISA AM, AOA

## REMINDER!



**Gardner Cousins reunion**

474 Gore Rd N  
Morgan, VT, United States

All-day

Starts Jul 2, 2017 1:00 PM

Ends 5:00 PM