

# HONENS QUESTIONNAIRE

**LEWELLYN SANCHEZ-WERNER**

## **2018 HONENS INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION**

We asked Llewellyn to share some information about himself, here is what he came back with...

**Have you ever been to Canada? To Calgary?**

Yes

No

**Where did you go to University?**

For bachelor's (ages 14-18) and master's, Juilliard. In fall, starting Artist Diploma at Yale School of Music.

**With whom did you study?**

Most importantly Ilya Itin and Veda Kaplinsky, Boris Berman (upcoming). Composition with Lowell Liebermann.

**When did you start playing the piano?**

In my late twos.

**How old were you when you first played in public?**

Four when I played my first public recital. I performed my first composition at age five.

**How old were you when you made your orchestral debut?**

Six--it was a Haydn Concerto, and soon after Mendelssohn G Minor Concerto as well.

**Tell us about something that happened in your childhood that made a significant impact on your life.**

At age 9, my original needle biopsy returned a diagnosis of an aggressive form of cancer. It was not until a later surgery was performed that the pathology of the tissue revealed the tumor in my head was benign. While at UCLA hospital I learned resilience, courage, compassion, strength, and serenity in handling what must be done, all the while following through with my school and performance commitments. Other than loss of my hair due to the radiation on my head and the surgery scar, you would not know anything had transpired.

**If you hadn't become a pianist, what would you be doing right now?**

Impossible to say, music is at the core of who I am! It would include being an ardent arts advocate. A writer?

**Default drink / cocktail of choice?**

I'm not a big drinker. While in Italy recently I was given some incredibly good wine. I'll try this and that!

**Name your favourite concert hall anywhere.**

Many touching, formative musical memories from Lincoln Center/Carnegie Hall--my backyard growing up.

**Where was the last place you travelled?**

Outside of North America, this summer I traveled to Italy, Portugal, Holland, and Abu Dhabi.

**What is your favourite film?**

Old classics like Casablanca and North by Northwest. Guilty pleasure is Heath Ledger in the Dark Knight.

**Who inspired you to become a pianist?**

My mom showed me the arts. Of the many forms she introduced me to, I felt the magnetic pull of the piano.

**What is your favourite TV Show?**

Law and Order. House of Cards. Rod Serling's Twilight Zone.

**The historical personalities, both good and bad, that fascinate you the most?**

Michelangelo, Benjamin Franklin, Beethoven, Schumann, Lincoln, Oppenheimer, John Adams (the composer).

**If you could board a plane today, where would it be taking you?**

It's tough choosing one place, I love traveling! But I've yet to go to Israel or Mexico City, so perhaps there.

**What is your favourite book?**

Most of all, books of history! Also poetry, the essence of so much is captured in few words.

**Other than playing the piano, what other talents do you possess?**

I hope I am an empathetic person, attuned to the struggles others have suffered through.

**What do you like best about being a pianist?**

I believe you can learn about people's personalities by hearing them play. It's a deeply personal experience.

**What do you like least about being a pianist?**

I wish pianos were more portable, easier to take to poorer regions that don't have pianos as readily accessible.

**What music are you currently listening to?**

Forever Beethoven, Mozart, and Schubert. I love jazz too--Miles, Bill Evans, Charlie Parker--and much more!

**What musical instrument do you secretly wish you could play?**

I try to emulate qualities of many other instruments when I play (esp. voice and strings), but I do love the cello.

**What are the top three pieces (or songs) that you could listen to over and over again?**

The last 3 Beethoven piano sonatas, the slow movement of Schubert D. 960 and his Impromptus, D. 935.