



BROOKLYN_BORN

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Sparker Hayburner1969 finishing her semi-final performance at the Cliburn International Piano Compet

Friday, June 24, 2016



I LOVE this picture. At 2am Jeannie (my DD) posted the following on Facebook.

"Hey everyone, I'm totally pooped and crawling into bed, but I wanted to say thank you for being such a great audience and support system. I had a good run here and got to play three times for a jury of world-class pianists. I got bravos and a standing ovation and I'm cool with that! Goodnight and see you soon!"

In the newspaper this morning:

"Another consistently outstanding competitor was Jeanne Backofen Craig of the United States, whose performances on Thursday of music by Brahms and Liszt confirmed the strong impression she had made in the prelims and quarterfinals. She was helped by her choice of two Liszt pieces - Vallee d'Obermann and the Hungarian Rhapsody No. 11 - that are by and large free of the vulgarity of some music by Liszt."

From TheaterJones:

"Jeanne Backofen Craig drew together two composers who didn't particularly like each other in life, but who shared subject matter of valedictory retrospection in the program she presented Thursday afternoon. Brahms's autumnal Intermezzo in A (Opus 118, No. 2) reflects profoundly on the passage of time; Liszt's "Valee d'Obermann" depicts a fictional character glancing back on a long, rich life. Craig presented the Brahms with the calm intensity the work demands, then shifted outlook smoothly to Liszt's initially introspective music, which flows toward full-blown Lisztian ecstasy and virtuosity--with particularly mean octave passages. Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 11, featuring folk-like melodies decorated with a full house of pianistic tricks, gave Craig a final test--easily passe--in technique and romantic style."

All her performances are online. This one was yesterday's semifinal. I love the 3rd piece (Hungarian Rhapsody)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=

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I'm writing about all this here on Spark because this is where I have begun every day for the last 7 years. Also, it was my daughter Jeannie who got me started on Spark when she bought me a food scale and a set of free weights. Yes, weight/strength training is valuable in SO many ways.

Finally:

These were the 12 semi-finalists.

The 6 finalists are all men (from France, Germany, Japan, Canada & the USA)

She played in elite company and put our little VA town on the map.



Edit:

A trip down memory lane. This was Jeannie at her first competition in 1977 - always the happy performer.



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WATERMELLEN

I listened to every note, enraptured. What a remarkable performance: truly a HAYBURNER!
The technical precision (Liszt is so tough) which is perfection of course: but it's the musicality and the communication of emotion that cannot be articulated in any other way that's so deeply moving.

All of the experiences she's had are distilled -- that "long rich life" indeed (although in her case, not so long!!)

A triumph.
1809 days ago

DIANNEMT

Fantastic!! You have every right to be very proud!!
1809 days ago



ALICIA363

What a great picture of a triumphant finish!
Looking forward to the blog about how you and your DH discovered the talent...



1809 days ago



TERI-RIFIC

Amazing. She looks so beautiful and graceful, too!



1810 days ago



JEANKNEE

Beautiful work!  Jeanne!!!



The fact that your parents supported your pursuits and never pushed or turned it into something stressful is wonderful. The recordings of your performance delight me!

1810 days ago



PGBACK

  Jeannie! 



1810 days ago



MARYJEANSL

Congratulations to her! Awesome job!



1810 days ago



KRISSY82


That is awesome!!!



1810 days ago



MISCHAKEO

 What a great performance!



1810 days ago



SPEDED2

I can't begin to know how very proud you must be of your daughter.



1811 days ago



PEGGYO

thanks for sharing



1811 days ago




CD4114015



1811 days ago



ONEKIDSMOM

What a ride!  to Jeannie and all her supporters!



1811 days ago



HAYBURNER1969

Awww, thank you, Mommy!!!! Thank you for all the years of piano lessons (much \$\$\$\$ and time sitting around, waiting for me), taking me to all those competitions, and everything else that comes along with the world of elite piano competition! I am sure I had such a fun time during all those years because my parents never pushed me or made it stressful in any way. Whatever I wanted to do or didn't want to do, they supported me.



The six men who made the finals definitely earned it. Well-deserved. I cannot complain or feel sad in any way. I am personally rooting for my new good friend, Ken Iisaka. I guess it will be live-

streamed, as the rest of the competition has been.

So if anyone is interested, at 3:00 PM Central Time Saturday, tune in to www.cliburn.org. I sure hope it's streamed live! I will be in the audience. Afterward, we will not only find out the overall winners, but there are special jury discretionary awards, a press award, and awards for best performance of pieces from each era. So who knows... I might get something yet. If I don't, that is totally fine. To have been named one of the top 12 in such an elite field is something I will cherish for the rest of my life!!!

Thanks to everyone for the kind comments!
1811 days ago



KURTZIE1998

How wonderful and how proud you must be. She is a special lady. Congrats to her and you.
1811 days ago



LIVEDAILY

So very well done!! She deserves a good rest after all of her hard work!!
Congratulations!!
1811 days ago



PHOENIX1949

Awesome!
1811 days ago



WOOFERCOALBOY

Very nice.
1811 days ago



TUTUNAN

Fantastic!
1811 days ago



PHEBESS

Wonderful photo of her!

And those are amazing reviews! Congrats to her, and you as the mom who encourages her every step of the way!!
1811 days ago



CD15665102

So fabulous. Thanks for sharing it with us!
1811 days ago



CHAYOR73



1811 days ago



CARBMONSTERII

Beautiful performance!
1811 days ago



SUBMOM2

Wow! Thanks for the link...what an amazing performance!
1811 days ago



KELLIEBEAN

I have her youtube video playing on one monitor at work while I'm Sparking on the other monitor. Just beautiful. She is so talented. What an amazing accomplishment.

I can feel how proud you are. Thanks for sharing!
1812 days ago



SYLPHINPROGRESS

Jeanne performed brilliantly. Between her playing and good cheer and graciousness after the finalists were announced, she is triumphant.

(Now, my secret wish is for a recount!)

1812 days ago





BROOKLYN_BORN

I've edited the link. It should work now.
1812 days ago



YELLOW09RED

I'm so happy for her. Sad she wasn't one of the 6 finalists.
1812 days ago



MILLEGE2

You must be VERY proud!
1812 days ago



GINIEMIE

Can't get the link to work, will try later...maybe it's from my end. Will also try on my laptop.

Thank you God for gracing Jeannie with such talent, and her mom too.



1812 days ago



DOVESEYES

1812 days ago



POINDEXTRA

It's so wonderful that she was singled out in the newspaper article. Way to go! I can't wait to watch the video.
1812 days ago



HOLLYM48

Pure awesome! What a major accomplishment to go back to playing competitively as an adult. This is just so inspiring, proving once again that we can do anything we set our minds too! Congrats to her!
1812 days ago



CD8113065

Very impressive! Congratulations, Jeannie.



1812 days ago



DANCINCAJUN1

Wonderful
1812 days ago



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