NEIGHBORHOOD MUSIC SCHOOL
presents

THE 2023
RENÉE B. FISHER PIANO COMPETITION

Rain
by Max Vinetz

ELEMENTARY/ MIDDLE SCHOOL
DIVISION WORK
Commissioned by the Renée B. Fisher Foundation

To be premiered at the 2023 Winners' Concert

The FISHER Competition
Performance Notes:

Rain, for solo piano, is built from simple canons. The central line (from mm. 1-6) is the starting point for each additional voice in the piece. Simple transpositions, such as an octave or 4th below, allow the simple unharmonized line to gain harmonic depth. Eventually, the strict imitation process breaks down; later harmonies are more intuitively composed, rather than relying on the initial line as a generative source.

Rain is a calm piece, and can be interpreted to sound melancholy, lonely, warm, or comforting, as a few examples. Imagine yourself playing this piece on a gray, rainy day, and try to see yourself in the piece. Since this piece is built on a series of imitative canons, it may be beneficial at times to voice different voices independently (ex: bringing out one voice, emphasizing its entrance, for instance). It is up to you to determine which voices to bring out, and why.

About the Composer:

Max Vinetz is an American composer whose work draws inspiration from intersections between improvisatory, popular, and classical forms and aesthetics. His recent and upcoming projects address the relationships between narrative, object, and artifact as they relate to music and other media, structures that circumvent linear narratives, the various interconnectivities between memory, desire, and the self.

Max is a recipient of ASCAP’s Morton Gould Award (2018 + 2020), a Fromm Foundation Commission (2020), the Paul and Christiane Cooper Prize, and the Gardner Prize from the American Viola Society. He was the 2019-2020 Emerging Composer Fellow for Musiqa, a chamber music organization based in Houston, Texas. He has received additional recognition and awards from loadbang, the Hausmann Quartet, New York Youth Symphony, BMI, Danbury Music Center, Yale University, and the Shepherd School of Music.

As a Yale undergraduate, Max won the Beekman Cannon Friends Prize, awarded for a “musical composition exhibiting unusual originality and promise,” the Abraham Beekman Cox Prize awarded to the “most promising and gifted composer” in the junior class, and was also awarded the Lewis P. Curtis Fellowship, the Tristan Perlmutter Prize, and the R.J.R. Cohen Fellowship for Musical Performance (2017, 2018).

A graduate of both Yale and Rice University’s Shepherd School of Music, Max is currently pursuing his PhD Composition at Princeton University as a Naumburg Doctoral Fellow.
rain

\( j = c. 60 \)

Max Vinetz (2020)
let all prior harmonies continue to ring