

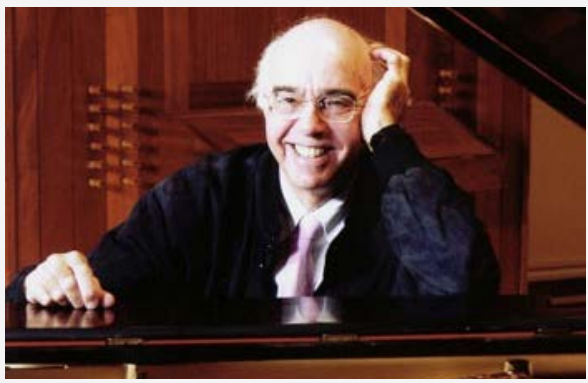
July 23, 2015

Fathers and Sons: Yehudi Wyner

What if there was a recipe for raising one of the most celebrated American composers? Would the recipe be based on fostering the child's love of music, or insistence that they commit a large portion of their childhood to rigorous practice at the risk of driving out all passion for the art? Would it help if one of the parents was already successful in the music business or would the child rebel for fear of never being able to escape the elder's shadow? Would it help to instill in them a great sense of culture and personal history, or focus them primarily on the history of the art itself?

Of course, there is no such recipe but if one were to attempt to make one,

Yehudi Wyner may seem like the mold with which to begin. Having Lazar Weiner as his father and an innate musical ability, his eventual success would almost seem a given. Yet, while the Pulitzer- and Rome-Prize winning composer reached those heights in part because of his ingredients, in many ways, it may have been despite them.



Legend



Legendary actor and folk singer, **Theodore Bikel**, passed away Tuesday at the age of 91.

Prodigy



Grasp the scope of **Yehudi Wyner: Jewish Works and Beyond** now in our Spotify playlist.

Pulitzer



Listen to **Yehudi Wyner's 2006 Pulitzer Prize-winning** concerto "**Chiavi in Mano**" now on YouTube.

In part two of our Fathers and Sons series, we look at Yehudi Wyner's journey to success (and that of his father, Lazar Weiner, whom we profiled in part one last week). A road that—much like his father's—seemed to be heading in a different direction entirely for the formative years of his life, away from Judaism and Jewish music.

But Wyner's journey took some unpredictable turns. He came to terms with the enforced commitment and enrolled at Yale as composition student. And, afterwards, he reluctantly attended a Jewish arts institute in California that helped rekindle the Jewish identity that remains an important part of what makes him one of the great composers living today.

Explore Yehudi Wyner's journey and music in

Father and Sons, Part 2: Yehudi Wyner

Featured now on the Milken Archive

