

## Letters to the Editor

### Pianist deserves some recognition for award

*Posted 5/01/08*

Pianist deserves some recognition for award

For 19 years, the International Piano Competition has gone on in Paris, France, with no real interest to the people of Howard County, much less Ellicott City. But this year's winner and last year's runner up is Dr. Christopher Shih, of Ellicott City. Dr. Shih was not happy that he was "only" the runner up last year, so he tried out again this year and won the competition as well as the Audience and the Press Award. His choice of music was Frederic Chopin's "Barcarolle"(1846) and Franz Liszt "Totentanz"(1849, 59) both very challenging pieces.

The International Piano Competition is probably the closest to the world competition for amateurs, and the word amateur should be read in the correct sense, a person who engages in the activity for fun and not for money. As they write on the [www.pianoamateurs.com](http://www.pianoamateurs.com) Web site: "the musicians have had to make a choice, a difficult one, between their love of music and living of it."

I would encourage anybody to go on YouTube and type in "Christopher Shih." It is a fabulous performance. Maybe we could have him perform here in Howard County, since it is far to go across the Atlantic to Paris every year.

He works, among other places, right here in Howard County and in Dr. Shih's case he is lucky to have his wife supportive of interest, she herself on the faculty of Peabody Preparatory.

Dr. Christopher Shih should be congratulated most heartily on winning this prestigious competition.

Eva Granzow, Ellicott City Shannon Baylis Sarino 4/28/08 waiting on city