

# WBSD IN-DEPTH

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE WEST BEND SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NOVEMBER 2018

## Artist in Residence is a Familiar Face at West Bend High Schools

Last year, when he performed for students and staff at his alma mater, West Bend West High School, after graduating from UW-Madison in piano performance, pianist Ian Tomaz could not have imagined all the time he would spend in the school in 2018 and 2019.

Tomaz, a 2013 West Bend West graduate who also attended Jackson Elementary and Badger Middle School, is now a student at UW-Milwaukee earning his master's degree in music. He didn't forget his roots, as Tomaz is also serving as the artist in residence for the Silver Lining Arts Center this school year. The residency has two parts: performances and education.

### Performances

Each month, Tomaz is bringing to West Bend amazing artists to perform with him in concerts of chamber music. The performances will encompass a wide range of instruments and combinations, from piano and voice to trios, quartets, and quintets.

Proceeds from the affordable tickets for these performances go toward a scholarship fund. A deserving student



will be chosen at the end of the year to use the scholarship for anything from private lessons, summer programs, or even college expenses.

### Education

Tomaz has set up a weekly chamber music club (similar to a studio class) for students. Students will perform with Tomaz and their peers and then receive constructive feedback and instruction on performing for an audience and listening to other's performances. According to music teachers, this type of instruction will greatly help students with their solo/ensemble and chamber music. In fact, Tomaz would like to feature some students as openers for the monthly concerts.

Additionally, guest artists coming for each concert will give public master classes, allowing students the opportunity to

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connect with and receive feedback from someone playing their same instrument at a professional level.

“Having free and extensive access to young multicultural professionals in classical music is a unique opportunity for the youth of West Bend and Washington County. I hope that this residency will provide an enriching and beneficial experience for all involved: performers, students, and audience,” explains Tomaz.

All who have seen him perform, agree that in the future we will hear more about Ian Tomaz. Upon entry to the piano performance program at UW-Madison, Tomaz received a near full scholarship. He earned end-of-year awards during his junior and senior year for his piano performances and he took graduate-level courses in collaborative piano and piano pedagogy all four years.

Upcoming concerts: Go to [west-bend.k12.wi.us](https://west-bend.k12.wi.us) and click on the orange Eventbrite logo on the right side of the home page to purchase \$5 tickets.

Sunday, Jan. 27, 3 p.m. Silver Lining Arts Center

Tom Leighton, New York tenor and former Florentine Opera Young Artist and Soprano Elisheva Pront.

