

Nenad Ivóvic

FCCW Director of Instrumental Music

...It is the music that brought Nenad Ivovic to Connecticut. Born and raised in Belgrade, he learned to play the piano as a four-year-old, in the same music school that his older brother had taken his first lessons. In fact, it is in that music school that he took his first steps as a toddler, he said. It was his mother who recognized his talent and encouraged him to follow his heart.

Ivovic was born in a country at war — what had once been cobbled together as one Yugoslavia, was falling apart, with religious, social and ethnic unrest and ultimately, the founding of a new Serbia. But the country and its residents were building a life from ruins, and there were not many openings for a young pianist to grow. He had to look abroad to link into the world of classical music.

Having taken master classes in Tel Aviv during the summers, he applied to and was accepted at the Buchman-Mehta School of Music, where he graduated with an MA. Two years later, he was accepted into the Yale School of Music, as a student of Prof. Boris Berman.

He is currently a collaborative piano fellow at Yale. As part of his job, he teaches and coaches, but he also plays with students of other instruments — which requires not only an understanding of those instruments, but a vast musical repertoire. “I practice 10-12 hours every day,” he said. His goal is to get his doctorate in piano.

The life as a professional pianist is all-consuming. He travels to attend master classes and competitions; he practices, he accompanies; “it’s tough,” he said, “but also beautiful.” He feels that he still has ways to grow as a musician. “From age four I knew I wanted to be a pianist, I was born for that,” he said. “And now I am sure of it.”

Selections from an article by Bettina Thiel – Woodbridge Tow News Correspondent