

Nadia Gardner, Jewish composer



Nadia was born in 1985 and grew up in Santa Rosa, California. She started with music at an early age. At the age of three, she began violin lessons. At age seven, she joined the Santa Rosa Children's Choir, where she learned music theory and musicianship. At eight, Nadia started taking piano lessons with Mary Beard. Nadia took piano lessons with Mary Beard until 2001, when she began studying piano with Lois Brandwynne and composition lessons with Elinor Armer.

Nadia's first compositions were for the piano. "Harmony", a piece in three movements for the piano, was performed at the Center for Talented Youth at Loyola Marymount University in 1996, when Nadia was 11. The following three summers, Nadia attended the Walden School for music composition. She was awarded by the Walden School the Grace Newsom Cushman Award in 2000. Her composition "Dance on Rain" was performed by the Phoenix String Quartet in 2000 at the Walden School. In 1998, Nadia began string bass lessons, joining the Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra soon thereafter. In 2001 and 2002 she attended the Santa Rosa Symphony summer programs, in chamber music for piano and with the Santa Rosa Symphony String Orchestra on string bass. In 2001, her composition "Zicharon" (Remembering), was performed for Holocaust Remembrance Day at Sonoma State University.

From 2000-2003, Nadia was student composer in residence and principal bass with the Young People's Chamber Orchestra, where her compositions "Zicharon", "Spring Dance", and piano concerto "Midnight Rhapsody" were performed. Nadia won a Leadership Award and an Award for Outstanding Contribution by the Young People's Chamber Orchestra in 2002. In 2003, Nadia attended Boston University Tanglewood Institute for music composition. She won in 2003 the National High School Music Composition Competition sponsored by the College of Creative Studies at UC Santa Barbara. In 2004, Nadia was named a National Collegiate Scholar.

Nadia is currently a junior at San Francisco Conservatory of Music, majoring in composition. She currently studies with David Conte. She is a recipient of a Presidential Scholarship and is on the Dean's List. She performed her composition "10 Short Pieces for Piano" at the February 2008 Composition Department Recital. Her composition "Hymn to the Night" (poetry by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow), was performed in March 2008 at the Women Composers Concert with Lauren Rietzal, soprano, and herself on piano. Nadia's composition "3 Pieces for Piano" was performed on April 25, 2008 at the Composition Department Recital at San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Her piece

"Orange" for oboe, vibraphone, and string orchestra was performed at the conservatory by the New Music Ensemble in October 2008.

Nadia takes an equally active role in the Jewish community. In the summer of 2008, she was a Kohn Intern at the Holocaust Center of Northern California. She currently works as a community outreach coordinator for the young people's community at Congregation Beit Tikva in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She is also organizing a Holocaust Remembrance Day concert in San Francisco on April 9, 2009.