

## Noah Waddell Q&A

### ***1. When did you start playing the piano?***

I started playing the piano at 7 years old, but began seriously at 10.

### ***2. How did you become connected to classical music and the piano?***

My parents bought a piano on a whim and my first teacher introduced me to classical music. My parents are NOT musical in any form or fashion and it is simply a God-given gift.

### ***3. Who do you study piano with?***

I have one teacher in Tampa, and his name is Leonidas Lipovetsky and another in Miami Beach, and her name is Margarita Shevchenko.

### ***4. What are some of your accomplishments?***

My most recent accomplishment was performing on the nationally syndicated radio program From the Top with Christopher O'Riley. In 2014, I won my first international piano competition in Fort Collins, Colorado. I played three concerts with the Tampa Bay Symphony and last year, I recorded my first album. I also am very proud that Noah's Concert for the Kids at the Big Arts Performing Center on Sanibel raised over \$30,000 for the new children's hospital in my area.

### ***5. Do you have any brothers or sisters?***

I have a sister 16, who is a sophomore attending Florida Gulf Coast University pursuing a medical degree. She also plays the piano and sings classical and opera. I sometimes get to accompany her at concerts and competitions.

### ***6. Where do you go to school and what grade are you in?***

I am a 9<sup>th</sup> grader at Crosspointe Academy. This is a classical education consisting of 2 days of homeschooling. I am grateful to my parents who are making many sacrifices along the way.

### ***7. What are your plans for the future of your music career?***

I have many concerts booked for the upcoming season and am looking forward to performing as a soloist with the Southwest Florida Symphony. I enjoy performing and would like to continue to share my music with others and see what doors God opens.

**8. Who is your favorite composer?**

I really don't have a favorite composer. I like Chopin, Beethoven, Bach, Rachmaninoff, List, Mozart, and many more. There are so many amazing pieces that I would like to play, and I want to learn as many of them as possible in my lifetime.

**9. What do you like to do other than piano?**

I enjoy a variety of sports and hobbies including basketball, tennis, fishing, and pickleball. I also like to read and watch sporting events.

**10. How long do you practice?**

It varies depending on the day, but I would say that typically between 3 and 4 hours.

**11. How do you learn the music?**

I learn music reading the score and slowly developing piece. The more you study and practice the piece, the more it becomes your own individual creation.

**12. Do you have friends your age?**

I have met a lot of friends through music and have friends at school that I play sports with or do other extra curricular activities.

**13. Why do you like classical music and how do you share it with others?**

I believe that classical music is a universal language that can be communicated to everyone regardless of his or her native tongue. I have been able to share my music in many different venues outside of the concert hall. For example, every Friday, I donate my time and talents to the Arts In Healthcare Program at Lee Memorial Hospitals. Each week, I play classical compositions inside the hospital atrium to patients, doctors, nurses, and others. Families visiting get to see and enjoy the beautiful music as they deal with various health issues. Earlier this year, I performed a concerto with the Coral Gables Chamber Symphony which invites and introduces classical music to the inner city children in Miami Dade County.

***14. When did you learn that you had a gift or talent for playing the piano?***

It is really a pretty unbelievable story. One day my teacher asked me if I wanted to enter a competition and to my surprise, I was chosen as one of the winners. It was a lot of fun and afterwards, I asked my dad if I could do it again. He did a little research and found another competition a few months later. During this time, I had been studying a particular piece of music with my teacher and decided that I didn't want to play it in the competition. Not knowing anything about classical music, my dad and I went on YouTube in search of a new music. We found a beautiful piece and decided this would be the one to learn for the competition. Little did we know, you are supposed to ask the teacher what pieces to play. By the way, this has always gotten me in BIG trouble. (LOL) When she arrived for the lesson that week, I told her I wanted to play a different piece of music for the competition and she looked at me and amusingly said, "What do you want to play"? I told her and she laughed and wagged her finger and said this is way too hard and beside it takes at least six to nine months to learn a competition piece. I said OK, but decided to start it on my own. After two weeks, I begged my dad if he would ask my teacher to listen to it. She did and turned to me and said, "Noah, you really want to play this piece"? I said yes and for the next two weeks she polished it up. The night of the competition, my dad received a call saying I was chosen as one of the 16 finalists. A few weeks later, I went to the finals recital and my dad noticed on the program that a 17 year old was playing the same piece that I was playing at 10 years old. After the finals recital, they gathered the divisional winners together and the announcement was made that this year's winner was the youngest grand prizewinner in the history of the competition, Mr. Noah Waddell. I won \$2,000 and was like WOW this is really cool! After the recital, a teacher approached my dad and said, "Do you know that your son is a child phenomenon? My dad is like huh and he said, "Do you know that your son is a musical genius"? We had no idea, but that is when I decided to take music seriously.