

CSU SOPHOMORE PIANO PERFORMANCE MAJOR ELVIN HOLDERFIELD PERFORMS AT NATIONAL CONVENTION WITH INTERNATIONAL SUPERSTAR



On Tuesday, April 1, Elvin Holderfield, a Colorado State University Sophomore Piano Performance Major, was one of three students featured in a Masterclass given by international pianist and superstar Lang Lang at the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) 2008 National Convention held in Denver, Colorado.

Considered by the *New York Times* as the “hottest artist on the classical music planet”, 25-year-old [Lang Lang](#) has played sold out recitals and concerts in every major city in the world and is the first Chinese pianist to be engaged by the Berlin Philharmonic, the Vienna Philharmonic and all the top American orchestras. He has worked with the world’s best orchestras under the most renowned conductors, including Maestros Ashkenazy, Barenboim, Chailly, Sir Colin Davis, Dutoit, Eschenbach, Gergiev, Jansons, Levine, Mehta, Maazel, Welser-Möst, Muti, Nagano, Ozawa, Sir Simon Rattle, Salonen, Slatkin, Temirkanov and Tilson-Thomas.

Hundreds of private teachers from around the country were present for Lang Lang’s Masterclass where Holderfield gave a brilliant performance of Franz Liszt’s *Funerailles* from the *Harmonies poetiques et religieuses*, establishing an instant rapport with Lang Lang. After the session, Lang Lang was heard commenting on the quality of Holderfield’s performance.

The gifted sophomore was selected by CSU Coordinator of Keyboard Studies, Janet Landreth via the invitation of MTNA National President Gail Berenson.

Elvin Holderfield grew up in Loveland and by comparison to many of his peers, has been playing piano for a relatively short amount of time, just 7 years, making his accomplishments even more remarkable. He has won several piano performance competitions and composition awards and when not toiling away at the keyboard, Holderfield enjoys lifting weights and making movies.

Holderfield is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in piano performance at Colorado State University, and is considering a degree in composition as well. After graduating, he hopes to get masters and doctoral degrees at a respected, well-known music school. He seeks a career as a concert pianist or movie score composer, but becoming a music professor is always in the back of his mind.

Holderfield had this to say about participating in the Lang Lang Masterclass at the MTNA Convention: “Playing for Lang Lang was definitely one of the highlights of my early musical career, not to mention the fact that I was playing for music professors and teachers from around the nation! Lang Lang gave me such great advice, and was very easy to work with. He said I did an excellent job, and coming from such an outstanding pianist like Lang Lang, it really meant a lot. The event really inspired me to practice harder and dream bigger.”

Holderfield is currently adding what he considers “dreaming big” pieces to his repertoire including Chopin and Godowsky etudes, Bach’s *Partita no. 2*, and Liszt’s *Concerto no. 2*, however, “I really got a big boost of self-confidence from this masterclass and I know I can do it!”

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