

Skull 3 - Anatomy Of A Loser Helicopter Parenting, Revelations, Persecution, Divorce, and Moving On

Exactly Who Loses From Helicopter Parenting

“My Children Are The Best”

Many parents assure their children have as many experiences possible towards leading fulfilling lives. They focus much attention towards helping their kids pursue “respectable” professional careers. But in the process it is easy for parents to forget to let their children choose who and what they want to be. This is of course a story as old as the “persecution complex.” Currently and locally there are hundreds of Bay Area children with generic musical bios that all read the same. “Bright Future” won 1st place from the Music Teacher’s Associated Judgment Panel, 3rd place in the National Open And Closed Piano Match, and 2nd place in the Higher Circle Society Scholarship Fund. Bright’s hobbies include too many perfect sports and wonderful recreations. Bright is an honor student at Status High School and will be attending Harvard Law School in the fall. Later Bright is planning to either thank his or her parents or grow to resent them.

Exactly Who Loses From Revelations?

A friend of mine says “there is no such thing as excuses. Only explanations.” And there is no need for apologies. Only revelations. “Use your mind why don’t you.” – Maria Callas

But Without Your Mind And Our Help You Won’t Figure Anything Out About Aliens

Are we secret implants for The Republican Propaganda Machine or The Return To Our Lord? **The Alien Agenda** clearly lives and lets others learn to think and make informed opinions for themselves. But you are probably American and therefore likely to be aesthetically challenged.

PR Pics Can Be Fun And Games – And No. We Are Not Slumming In The Pics Below

With our publicity photos, we do not try to tell the public about us. We try to tell something about your music and spirit. From Class, Classy and Classic to Classical music has somehow turned into something that it never was and never will be. Americans think “Old Money” and “Their Good People” is what class is all about. Aliens know better. We like artists with staying power, and a different level of class. Seniors always like concerts that aren’t dull. But many of them are older now and can no longer get out to exciting concerts. Young audiences assume classical music is “reserved.” But the Great composers with staying power were rarely reserved at all. They had spirit. Their patrons sometimes had no spirit and were too reserved. Read the biographies. Great composers were endlessly harassed for their colorful lives and snubbed by people they didn’t even find worthy to lick their boots. And no great composer could admire a conservative patron who got all up in his/her business. Most young people can easily identify with great composers and music, just not stuffy classical patrons. Isn’t it about time you quit acting like you are slumming when you are actually finally taking baby steps of the spirit?

Seniors are the majority at many classical concerts. The widespread fear among musicians is towards what happens when they are gone. There may always be Asians, but that might be about it. If classical musicians bore youth, how will they attract people under 55 to classical concerts? From years of struggling to publicize classical concerts, only a couple of photos made print. That is out of well over 50 photos we had sent around that pictured dozens of musicians. More and more classical music pics just don’t get print unless they feature a famous star. Pop

music pics may be getting more print because classical pics actually are often boring to youth. At least ours were. But we quit that, got print and now some reserved "patrons" are mad at us.

Liszt's Piano Concerti always sounded like leather fantasies to us. We don't know much about leather. But then we are always tourists. So was Liszt. We don't know how many people in our orchestra are, like Liszt, heterosexual. We don't care. We bet around 90%, so likely it is less gay than the general public in San Francisco. They liked the idea of performing *Liszt in Leather* and costumes. How could spirited people not? The winner of our International Piano competition commands respect with undeniable musical stature and charisma. She happens to be a Catholic Republican with a never dull, bold, super diva, perfect for Liszt quality about her. Liszt became more religious later in life. Catholics may even believe that Liszt leads naturally, as he did in life, back to God. She would play Liszt Concerto No. 1. Montfort would play his Concerto No. 2. So we quickly threw together a look from costumes, leather and accessories found around Victorian England house and the neighborhood. It only took me a few minutes. We took pics, sent the following one out. "A no brainer," it immediately got lots of print in all the biggest SF Newspapers.



Liszt in Leather

The photo editor of SF Chronicle saved it and printed it again at the top of the Sunday Datebook Classical Music Listings on Gay Pride Parade Day. We were flattered. We never heard that Liszt was gay. Nor have we heard that the gay community is drawn to Liszt. The "gay community" is stereotypically thought to prefer Opera, Broadway Show Tunes, Cabaret, Disco and Pop Divas.

Many straight women tell us the pic above is one of the best PR photos they have ever seen. Montfort's (heterosexual) brother was a very successful arts editor for decades before recently passing. He also thought it was one of the best PR photos he had ever seen. Once this pic was printed next to a heterosexual sex show that had nothing to do with music. It may still be on the web. Is Montfort really a "leather pianist?" We don't care. Neither do plenty of busy people.

A conservative former professional musician fan of his in the military mistakenly had a problem with a gay innuendo in one of our musician's biographies. We think gay innuendos are good PR but would not censor my orchestra member's bios. There hadn't been any gay innuendo. We invited this friend to bring his girlfriend to *Liszt in Leather*. Though there were many gay men in the audience in leather and they evidently helped straight older ladies to their seats at this concert (merely because that is what polite gay leather men of "class" do), he and his girlfriend found the concert unmistakably, overtly heterosexual. They loved it just as much as gay leather men did.

Heterosexuality is not fragile. It never will be. If you think it is that may say more about you and perhaps you should face up to yourself and come out. Leather is not gay or straight. Montfort was not introduced to leather by any of his gay friends, but through dance. Victoria Morgan, was a conservative, brilliant and aristocratic, blonde fatal diva. Maybe all fatal diva dancers have a secret gay agenda? She was a principal dancer for SF Ballet for years. When she became the Ballet Mistress of SF Opera she got a grant to work with Montfort as composer at the famous Djerassi Artist Colony in Woodside. Her ballet was about the typical American family. The mother kept the order and the father, hard edged, militaristic, and bored, had an affair with another woman and left. One of the kids got angry. He danced in leather. She wanted the music and dance to feel phallic and be performed in leather. The woman dancers were surprised because Montfort didn't seem like the type to carry something like that off. He sang/screamed the work called *Aria Angry* (his title) in punk rock style. In the ballet the kids leave to go to college. The mother is left alone. We have noticed that story really is typically American.

A few years ago a pretty violist in the orchestra asked the orchestra to accompany her narration and songs with her husband at the book signing for her new novel, *Symphony X*. She wanted the orchestra to wear leather/costumes and for it to be conducted with a whip by another glamorous violinist graduate of Juilliard wearing a leather mini skirt. All the musicians loved these two attractive happily married women. All is fine with you as long as we have a family values orgy.

Liszt always had a religious bent but became much more religious later in life. Montfort wore angel wings in his famous leather pic. Have you seen any angels lately? We have no problem with Liszt's religious bent. As music we like Liszt's later religious works even more than his flashier orgiastic youthful works. So did Montfort's atheist mom. No one noticed but for the past 12 years he played the Complete Christmas Music of Liszt EVERY year. Unfairly neglected, it is undeniably inspired music. And he didn't play it in leather. You can find an article on the web about me performing Liszt's "fiery" Christmas Music in Leather. We were not offended. Without management his Annual Liszt Christmas Music finally got print. Managers understand the public and performers who get noticed. Some currently very famous women in classical music have managers who accidentally on purpose leak completely nude photos of them on the web.

We did get some PR that offended us from the gay press. The BAR didn't attend *Liszt in Leather* but trashed it anyway as a "leather kink act." Anyone who has ever seen the BAR would find that comment pretty strange. Perhaps our alien agenda scared them. But they say "no publicity is bad publicity," and it isn't wise to come to absolute conclusions before being informed. But the SF Bay Times began sponsoring our ads. Our pics may help circulation but their editor said she liked the creative titles we came up with for my many different series. ***Great Exhibitionists of the Victorian Underworld*** was the title we used (with pic below) to encapsulate a series of concerts of Liszt, Gottschalk and other athletic, flashy 19th Century composers with colorful lives.



Great Exhibitionists of the Victorian Underworld

Montfort built himself into an instrument of piano playing. Pianists must be gymnasts to play the pyrotechnical stuff. In fact, the more refined our athletic pianism is, the more spontaneity/control we have with every interpretive style. Occasionally we perform shirtless. Real art is totally exposed. We haven't actually done that yet. People are always surprised to see how many muscles are used in piano playing. In between each motion musculature increases stamina and the ability to relax quickly. Montfort was a gymnast and dedicated Olympic hopeful in his youth. Our athletic pic above reflects that and got lots of print in many papers all around the Bay.

Our favorite pic is the one below for his *Jungle Recital*. This got print everywhere too. Half naked pics do print everywhere always. But this one got a HUGE spot in the SF Chronicle Datebook. The real point? The Jungle is not low class. It is inspired beyond our control like Villa-Lobos. One world we love, we spent Montfort's youth dreaming of making him a naturalist in the jungles of Mexico and the Amazon. His 2 hour long Aztec Piano Symphony and very clear masterpieces of Jungle Music by Villa-Lobos, Godowsky and many others are some absolute favorites of ours.



Jungle Recital

Exactly Who Loses from The Persecution Complex

Aliens are not quite religious. But they do admire those touched with unexplainable powers, even in Jesus and Lonnie Frisbee. Aliens know of no bigger Anatomy of Losers embarrassment to humanity event in recent Bay Area History of The Church than one told in the documentary about Lonnie Frisbee. Landing on the “surface,” Novato might appear to be the least memorable city in Marin. But the Church people of Novato felt young Lonnie Frisbee’s “anointed” arrival. Even skeptic hippy haters knew this hippie could heal. It wasn’t lost on anyone that God clearly spoke through him and Jesus looked just like him. Jesus might have been a hippie too? Worse yet, not yet good church people were forced to admit it was a hippie who turned their “Business Grasps Ahead.” He raked it in. No, that didn’t stop them from getting all shamefully up in his business.

Anyway, though they evidently lost their good business sense, once they “found out,” the good people of the church wasted no time turning their backs on their savior. The implication of Jesus wasn’t lost on anyone. No Christ figure of theirs could ever be gay. Remember Nietzsche’s “artists are rarely understood, rather they are understood too well.” Lonnie “died for his sins” by contracting AIDS. He was shamelessly crucified at church and his crucifixion was even televised.

More info in Skull 7, but to give one “marked” example, Maria Callas never performed an opera in San Francisco. That is because her audition failed for San Francisco Opera’s Merola training program for young singers. Having been sent away it is not surprising that she wasn’t clamoring to perform here later after she became the most sought after Opera singer of the 20th Century. When SF Opera finally got her, it was too late. She was already suffering from the angry mob like persecution that caused her nervous collapse. So her doctor made her cancel. It is quite clear that Maria Callas was not the big loser here. The big loser was the Bay Area. But then our public never even had the chance to choose for themselves whether or not to hire or crucify her.

Just after the worst school murder/suicide massacre in U.S. history there was a lot of speculation about what causes people to lose it. Two causes talked around TV, helicopter parenting and the persecution complex, strike aliens as one and the same thing. The helicopter parents theory blames parents who “hover over” their children in order to micro manage their every thought and move. But we all do that to each other incessantly whether we are actually parents or not. Hovering is endemic. Conversely, we are all offended or annoyed by those who stand in our way or won’t get out of our business, which can easily lead any of us to less extreme persecution complexes. Education and the pursuit of excellence will inevitably inspire most to occasionally identify with the famous persecuted greats from Socrates’ *Apology* to the apologies and resurrections of Jesus, Beethoven, Nietzsche, Van Gogh, Wild, Maria Callas, Lonnie Frisbee etc. Even if your children don’t really pay attention, they are “bound” to “hear” all about it at school.

Why are historic “marked” one’s biographies so similar? Why does their special unexplainable “sent from another planet” inspiration so often get them declared “public menaces” and literally or metaphorically tried, convicted and sentenced by the public normal? They see through normality, don’t fit into any social system unless it revolves around them and have difficulty respecting the advice of others. Overbearing, even to each other, if they somehow manage to gain standing in society or financial success they are eventually forced to apologize. Only after they have been punished does society forgive them and in the process even elevate them to sacred iconic status.

Exactly Who Loses in Divorce?

Montfort’s rather ideal parents divorced over perhaps the oldest, most universal conflict of the “civilized” world, the conflict between building a utopian society versus the simple life, nature and the barnyard. When they met they were both idealistic youth. Later they were black listed during the McCarthy era as some of dad’s law clients were accused of being communists. Through that dad became disillusioned with the futility of the fight for utopia and at his mid life crisis realized

that he might rather have become a farmer. He was a direct descendant of the famous French ruler, Simon de Montfort, who during battle was asked what to do with the women and Christians and coined the famous French proverb, "kill them all, God will recognize his own!" Mom was raised to believe her ancestors were Irish peasants but later found out they were French nobles who lived in a castle only a couple of miles from Simon de Montfort! Unlike Dad she never had a mid life crisis and remained unalterably devoted to Marxist philosophy her whole life. Mom tried to give her son valuable practice with social situations he found repellent like sports, summer camps, etc. Dad had him riding "scary" horses and going fishing and camping when he was just a toddler. Music eventually became his great escape from both sides of the eternal conflict.

On 9/11 mom said it was inevitable that a US symbol of imperialism finally was destroyed. She immediately told us there was going to be a war started by Bush & Company that had little to do with finding the perpetrators of 9/11 and everything to do with furthering US imperialist goals. Knowledge and experience taught her about deliberately repressed by corporate media history repeating itself. Dad didn't go there until later when everyone started to. Not because he wasn't smart enough, but because he didn't want to as he assumed he couldn't control US imperialism.

Exactly Who Loses From A Moving On?

The San Francisco Concerto Orchestra's competitions were once a bit homeless. They have been around way longer than American idol but they always felt like reality TV. They started out at Brady Street Dance Center just south of Market near Van Ness in San Francisco. This was an unsurpassable edgy warehouse. The 15 – 75 piece orchestra performed many dozens of amazing concerts there. We often featured dance on these concerts with world famous choreographers and dancers including principals from SF Ballet, Opera and American Ballet Theatre! The building's most memorable history ended with the eviction of the dance company.

Our competitions moved on to Metropolitan Community Church in the Castro, Star Classics CD store in Hayes Valley and especially to the well over 100 concerts we steadily gave at all of the standard prestige venues musicians somehow seem to circulate, like Old First Church, Noon Time Concerts, SF State, SF Conservatory, Herbst Theatre and The Dean Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek. The prestige venues usually have good pianos and efficient staffs but often are more sterile with less character. So our contest moved more towards venues like The Presidio Interfaith Chapel, a mystically alluring, out of the way church atop a Native American burial ground, the incredibly beautiful Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist in the SF Mission whose motto is *Diverse People, Inquiring Minds, Open Hearts*, the friendly, inviting, unpretentious bright blue sanctuary of Valley Baptist Church in San Rafael and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, committed to diversity atop a beautiful big hill in Kensington. The Community School of Music and Arts at Finn Center in Mountain View possesses the very most deluxe, comfortable, solid, state of the art facilities. The San Francisco Bay Times has sponsored our events for several years and from the beginning almost all of our concerts have been listed in the San Francisco Chronicle, but until more recently, most of the Bay Area press ignored us. We were not singled out for neglect. All local classical music talent is. We Aliens will change that!

Best Of Bay Classic In Roads Back Contest's Unlikely Venues:

The **Giorgi Gallery** is a stunning little Art Gallery that began as a firehouse. Its striking ever-changing art shows and human touch, landed right at Claremont and Ashby in the midst of world famous academic and intellectual Berkeley. It sits next to lots of attractive restaurants and shops, the Claremont Hotel, the beautiful Berkeley Hills, and is not far from the celebrated UC Berkeley Campus.

Pacifica Performances at Sanchez Concert Hall in the Pacifica Center for the Arts also houses attractive art shows and has a big award-winning mural out front. Its visionary founder, Mildred Owen, has assembled the most friendly, devoted and solid volunteer staff in our entire history. In addition most of the concerts there are covered or reviewed by Arts Correspondent Jean Bartlett of The Pacifica Tribune. That is where our musicians met their favorite writer with the poetic human touch, Jean of Jeans Magazines. On the way, Highway 1 goes through some of the most scenic ocean cliff views anywhere near San Francisco.

San Rafael's **JB Piano Company** is a family run magnetizing Bay's best pianos.

The 1871 **Little Red Schoolhouse** in Nicasio seemed like the ultimate Bay Area Back Roads venue. It has perfect acoustics and is simply the bucolic get away everyone knows and loves most as once seen no one ever forgets it. It strikes most as the perfect little school they wish they had attended in a bygone simpler era, set perfectly around the bend in the country road with the beautiful rolling hills, cows, deer, lizards, turkeys and fox. The first concert we held in it featured 5 soloists from SF Symphony. All 25 musicians who performed could hear every single note each orchestra member played. Every type of musician performing there in our contests since has been able to hear their performance anew. The middle of nowhere is actually easy to get to quickly from almost every major city in Marin. But the public just wouldn't show up there.

Rancho Nicasio has a last living link to the unforgettable Wild West feel. All of the Paintings/pictures within this restaurant/nightclub tell stories. There is a mug shot of the young Frank Sinatra taken when he was arrested for "seduction." It is just over the urinal in the men's room. Perfect venue for **Liszt in Leather/West Marin?**

But two venues are possibly the most destined for our Bay Classic Inroads Back Contest:

The San Francisco Concerto Orchestra's city office and concert venue, the 1880-built **Victorian Englander House**, is perhaps the most interesting house in the city. Its American Victorian antiques can never be completely fathomed by the "living" as they were all mysteriously placed through spirits possessed unfinished past by an owner with more than an eye and background in architecture and design. The quintessential "haunted house," its inimitably refined old style San Francisco character masks lawless, barnyard brought to city brothel chaos undertones that could never be duplicated. Destined for music behind Opera Plaza near SF Opera and Symphony, it houses dozens of statues, 16 pianos and the parlor has a very attractive big new dance floor and is big enough to hold a 40-piece orchestra with enough room left for 65 in the audience!

The San Francisco Concerto Orchestra's New North Bay office and concert venue, **The Old Chapel** at 4th and Mill Streets in Guerneville, is perfectly situated to serve many diverse communities. Guerneville is located halfway between the ocean and Santa Rosa, the North Bay's biggest city, and strongest arts community. There are many festivals in the Russian River area and each summer 5,000 – 15,000 thousand tourists visit the area each weekend. The Old Chapel is a block or two from just about anything a tourist might want to visit in Guerneville, including many fine resorts, restaurants, shops, bars, the river itself, a great 24 hour Safeway. It is located directly across the street from one of the best - known gay resort/pool/bar/restaurants in the world, the Russian River Resort. Recently lifted above the flood plane, the Chapel seats from 70 – 100 people, has great acoustics, a nice reception room, a long wide and bright hallway that is perfect for art shows. With plenty of potential for ever changing stage sets, there are two exceedingly attractive high quality Liberace like pianos on stage - a new 6 foot 2 Falconi and a 1930's white 5 foot 2 Chickering with gold trim and a pink bench top – sandwiched a ways behind two spooky fogging water fountains and directly in front of a giant mural of the Russian River. There is even a handicap elevator and a Kawaiii grand piano in a warm up room.