



Interview with The Blindfolded Pianist  
**THIS IS NOT THE REVENGE OF THE NERD**

socio

by John C. Foster in New York | Boys and girls please go on the Internet, type [www.theblindfoldedpianist.com](http://www.theblindfoldedpianist.com). Don't have the right video reader, the right connection? Ask a friend if you have to, but do it. Now, an interview with an icon (?): The Blindfolded Pianist.

**NIGHTLIFE:** What is your real name?

**THE BLINDFOLDED PIANIST:** A lot of people ask me this, but I prefer to keep my identity a secret, so I go by The Blindfolded Pianist and I'm 17.

**NL:** Are you a nerd?

**TBP:** Nobody has called me a nerd in a conversation ever! Therefore I wouldn't be surprised if some people after watching my Mario video thought I was a nerd. But if some stranger said I was a nerd in real life, I wouldn't take it personally, and I wouldn't even consider what he or she said to be true. I know myself that I am not a nerd and I have a strong faith in myself, there can be no one who can even make me think for a second that I am a nerd.

**NL:** Are you an Alien?

**TBP:** I was born in Hong Kong, and currently I am majoring in piano performance at the Cleveland Institute of Music in Cleveland, Ohio. My teacher is Paul Schenly (just Google him).

**NL:** Why Mario songs?

**TBP:** I am trying to get rid of a huge barrier that separates Classical Music from Non-Classical Music such as pop, hip-hop, rap, etc. People who like classical music think pop, hip-hop, and rap is garbage. People who like pop, hip-hop, and rap think classical music is boring. By performing these Mario songs, I hope to show that the piano is a versatile instrument and it can play any style of music. If Elvis, The Beatles, and Maroon 5 have so much fun and excitement when they perform, there's no excuse why a pianist should sound bored when playing the piano. Why? Because a pianist PLAYS the piano.

**NL:** What do you do when you don't play Mario songs?

**TBP:** I have a basic regimen to keep my piano playing form in shape. Every day, I run 5 miles minimum, study and play chess, and practice the piano. I run and play chess so that I can play piano better. Even when away from the piano, I think about my pieces sometimes. It may seem strange, but even when I talk to people or read my emails, I can be playing a phrase in my mind to find the best possible way to play it.

**NL:** Do you consider yourself a hero, an icon?

**TBP:** My favourite hero is Garry Kasparov. Notice that he doesn't play piano, he plays chess! I don't idolize any pianist, though I admire a few. Kasparov is not only a chess player, he is a contributor for the Wall Street Journal, he is writing a six-volume book on chess, and he is very active in politics. He also does two hours of aerobic exercise a day, just to stay in form for his chess playing.

**NL:** Have you ever considered doing Mario songs in a jazz concert?

**TBP:** Sure, I'd play it in any concert. I'm really open-minded to any idea. I would love to be part of the Montreal Jazz Festival!

"I would love to be part of the Montreal Jazz Festival"

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