Florida Keys Concert Association ~ est. 1969 ~



2025 CONCERT SERIES

www.floridakeysconcerts.com

TABLE of CONTENTS

01	Our Organization	
02	History of the Florida Keys Concert Association	
03	A message from the President	
04	About the Steinway	
06	Bravo! Knowing When to Clap	
08	Join our Team	
09	Our Benefactors	

Our 2025 Program

1 2 AN EVENING OF DIXIELAND JAZZ WITH THE BOILERMAKER JZZ BAND

Monday, January 13th, 2025 | 7:30PM Middle Keys / Marathon HS Performing Arts Center Tuesday, January 14th, 2025 | 7:30PM Upper Keys / Coral Shores HS Performing Art Center

- 14 CONCERT OF FAMOUS OPERA HIGHLIGHTS

 Monday, January 20th, 2025 | 7:30PM Middle Keys / Marathon HS Performing Arts Center
 Tuesday, January 21st, 2025 | 7:30PM Upper Keys / Coral Shores HS Performing Art Center
- **FRED MOYER, PIANIST**Monday, January 27th, 2025 | 7:30PM Middle Keys / Marathon HS Performing Arts Center Tuesday, January 28th, 2025 | 7:30PM Upper Keys / Coral Shores HS Performing Art Center
- TRIO ZIMBALIST

 Monday, February 10th, 2025 | 7:30PM Middle Keys / Marathon HS Performing Arts Center
 Tuesday, February 11th, 2025 | 7:30PM Upper Keys / Coral Shores HS Performing Art Center
- 22 STELLA CHEN, VIOLINIST; GEORGE LI, PIANIST Monday, February 17th, 2025 | 7:30PM Middle Keys / Marathon HS Performing Arts Center Tuesday, February 18th, 2025 | 7:30PM Upper Keys / Coral Shores HS Performing Art Center
- ESME STRING QUARTET

 Monday, February 24th, 2025 | 7:30PM Middle Keys / Marathon HS Performing Arts Center
 Tuesday, February 25th, 2025 | 7:30PM Upper Keys / Coral Shores HS Performing Art Center

Florida Keys Concert Association

Officers-Executive Committee

President: Tom Wright

1st Vice President: Michele Rockett 2nd Vice President: Galina Nikiforova Program Director: Norman Werbner

Secretary: Dayanara Terpos Treasurer Diann Diamond

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Florida Keys Concert Association 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation www.floridakeysconcerts.com

PO BOX 522636 MARATHON SHORES, FL 33052 (800) 324-6982

HISTORY OF THE FLORIDA KEYS CONCERT ASSOCIATION

In 1969, the Middle Keys Concert Association began bringing classical music concerts to Marathon and said, "Who says you can't have beautiful music in our island paradise?"

Originally, concerts were held at the Kirk of the Keys Presbyterian Church. At the time, there was no air conditioning and musicians had to compete with bugs, highway noise, planes landing and taking off from the airport across the street, and sirens from the fire trucks and ambulances housed in a nearby station. Despite the venue's shortcomings, outstanding musical groups such as the Miami String Quartet performed to the delight of hundreds of patrons.

Since then, concerts have been held at San Pablo Catholic Church or Marathon High School, depending on the size of the group. Starting 2020 season all Middle Keys concerts have been held in Marathon High School Performing Arts Center. The school has our Steinway Concert Grand piano, which helps to draw world-class performers.

In 2010 the Middle Keys Concert Association welcomed former members of the South Florida Center for the Arts, expanding its classical music presentations to the Upper Keys. The name of the organization was changed to Florida Keys Concert Association. With two venues and greater audience attendance, it has become easier to attract nationally and internationally acclaimed performers, with groups such as The Alexander String Quartet, Frederick Moyer, Jupiter Quartet, Escher String Quartet and outstanding opera soloists having graced our stages.

Many people give generously of their time, talent and treasure and, due to their efforts, the Association continues to bring beautiful music to the Keys at an affordable price.

Join us as we head into our 55th season!

The Florida Keys Concert Association is a 501(c)3 corporation; your generous donation goes directly to bringing beautiful music to beautiful places.

A message from the President

On behalf of the Florida Keys Concert Association (FLKCA), I want to welcome and thank you for attending our concert program. It is a wonderful and uplifting experience to hear world class musicians perform in the beautiful auditoriums of Marathon High School and Coral Shores High School, and we are so pleased to have you with us this evening.

The FLKCA is a nonprofit organization, run entirely by unpaid volunteers, that exists for the sole purpose of providing a few hours of enjoyable entertainment, creating an environment where patrons hear artists who perform in the most prestigious venues in the world.

Please tell your friends about these programs and encourage them to attend! We need to increase attendance and especially to swell the ranks of our season ticket holders. And if you would like to join our organization and become involved in our efforts, please let us know. We would love to have you!

Not all of our concerts have sponsors. If you would like to become a sponsor, or know someone who would be interested, please let one of our volunteers know.

Elsewhere in this program is information on a fund-raising drive we are conducting to upgrade our piano at Coral Shores to a Steinway Concert Grand piano. Please consider a donation to this most worthy cause.

With all that said, I wish all of you the very best, and ENJOY THE SHOW!

Tom Wright

President, Florida Keys Concert Association

To contribute, simply scan our QR code or mail your check to the address below:

FLKCA PO Box 522636 Marathon, FL 33052

To learn more about the campaign contact FLKCA fundraiser Chairman, Pat Key at (305) 481-4841 or nautibell@aol.com



Dear Devoted Patrons,

As we begin another exciting concert season, we are reminded of how much richer the Steinway Concert Grand Piano has enriched the Middle Keys experience. Now, we want to bring that same musical excellence to our Upper Keys patrons. To do so, we have set an ambitious goal of raising \$125,000 to purchase another Steinway Concert Grand piano for our Upper Keys venue.

While we have not yet reached that goal, we are pleased to share that we've made great progress, raising \$34,803 so far. However, to make this dream a reality, we still need your help. Your unwavering support has always been crucial to our success, and we ask that you consider contributing to this special cause. Every donation, large or small, brings us one step closer to bringing the Steinway to our stage for your enjoyment at all our performances. To contribute, go to

https://www.paypal.com/US/fundraiser/charity/2143111 or mail your

check to the address below:

FLKCA P.O. BOX 522636 Marathon Shores, Fl. 33052

Together, let's elevate the Upper Keys concert experience to new heights. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to the arts. We look forward to sharing another wonderful season with you.

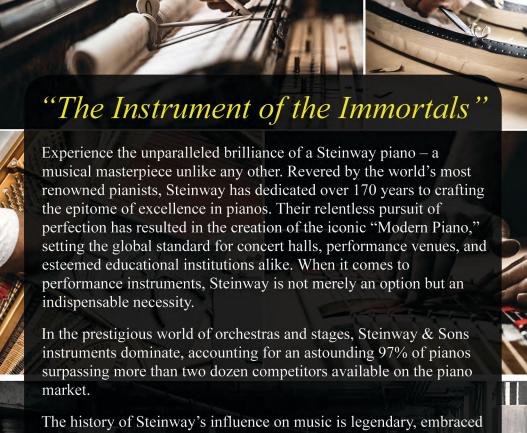
Warmest Regards,

Pat Key

STEINWAY Fundraiser Chairman

For more information, contact Pat Key at (305) 481-4841, nautibell@aol.com





The history of Steinway's influence on music is legendary, embraced by virtuosos and composers of unparalleled stature. From the immortal works of Liszt, Gounod, and Rubinstein to the brilliance of Paderewski, Hoffman, and Rachmaninoff, the Steinway piano has been the instrument of choice for musical geniuses since the days of Wagner. For more information on Steinway Concert Grand Pianos go to https://www.steinway.com/pianos/steinway/grand/model-d



Bravo! Knowing When to Clap

As much of your infectious enthusiasm is loved and appreciated by our visiting artists, at concerts involving classical music, knowing when to clap and when to hold back can make a meaningful difference in their performance and your fellow audience member's listening experience. But it's not always easy to know when it's appropriate to applaud. So here's a quick guide on when to hold back and when to let loose.

Many selections at concerts of classical music will have several sections. When they do, our program will look something like this:

Violin Concerto #2

Adagio, Allegro Andante Sherzo Presto



The sections are generally referred to as movements. In the example above, there are four movements. The appropriate time to applaud is only after all the movements in the piece have been played. Normally (but not always) there is a pause between each movement. It is the responsibility of the audience members to look at the program book in order to know which movement is being played so they will not clap at the wrong time.

Sometimes several short pieces by the same composer are grouped together and performed almost as if they were one piece with several movements. In that case it is customary to not clap until the final one is played.

If you're not sure when all the movements have been played, here are some visual cues:

CLUE #1

Did the musicians put their instruments down?

CLUE #2

Are they standing up to bow?

CLUE #3

Are your neighbors applauding?

If so, by all means, feel free to express your appreciation through applause and cheer.

Oh, and one more thing, sounds that are never desirable at a concert include cell phones, squealing hearing aids, and alarm watches. Please remember to silence yours. **Thank you and enjoy the performance!**



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JOIN OUR TEAM!

Join in to help ensure world class music in the Florida Keys for seasons to come!

Continual financial contributions to the Florida Keys Concert Association are vital to the success of the concert series and are gratefully accepted. We are a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and your donations are tax deductible. Our all volunteer organization ensures that 100% of our revenues are used to bring beautiful music to a beautiful place. We invite you to participate in this worthy effort by sending your donation to the address below.

Please include your name and mailing address so that we may acknowledge your gift.

Although you may contribute any amount that is appropriate for you, we have established and listed the following contributor classifications as suggested levels of participation (along with special benefits they provide):

> DONOR-\$50-\$99 in addition to season ticket price Recognition in this program booklet

FRIEND-\$100-\$249 in addition to season ticket price Recognition in this program booklet

PATRON-\$250-\$499 in addition to season ticket price Recognition in this program booklet

SILVER BENEFACTOR-\$500-\$999 in addition to season ticket price Recognition in this program booklet Special Silver reserved seating area (two people)

GOLD BENEFACTOR-\$1000 or more in addition to season ticket price Recognition in this program booklet Special Gold reserved seating area (two people)

PLATINUM BENEFACTOR-\$3000 or more in addition to season ticket price Recognition in this program booklet Special Platinum reserved seating area (two people)

Name	Amount Enclosed
Address	Phone
City	State Zip email

Send to: Florida Keys Concert Association P.O. Box 522636 Marathon Shores, FL 33052

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO BRING OUR TALENTED ARTISTS FOR FLKCA AUDIENCES TO ENJOY!

Platinum Benefactors (\$3000 or more contribution)

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AN EVENING OF DIXIELAND JAZZ WITH THE BOILERMAKER JAZZ BAND

January 13th & January 14th, 2025 | 7:30PM

PAUL CONSTANTINO'S BOILERMAKER JAZZ BAND PRESENTS

AN EVENING OF DIXIELAND JAZZ

Performing for you tonight: Paul Cosentino- clarinet/ sax/ leader; Clint Baker- trumpet; Jake Handelman- trombone; Antonio Croes-piano; Russ Wilson- drums; Greg Zabel- string bass

Program selections for tonight's concert will be announced from the stage.

Paul Cosentino's Boilermaker Jazz Band brings the Jazz Era back to life. Starting in New Orleans where it all began, you'll hear the sounds of street parades and steamy honky-tonk blues. The Band will then travel North up the Mississippi River to Chicago as did so many jazz greats including Louis Armstrong. We'll bring you music from the dance halls and clubs from the Windy City of the 1920's. Following the migration to Harlem, you'll hear familiar melodies from the 1930's featuring music by Duke Ellington and stride piano master Fats Waller. We hope you enjoy our musical journey through the early years of jazz.

PAUL CONSTANTINO'S BOILERMAKER AZZ BAND

"An exciting, spirited and fun-filled swing forward jazz experience"

Leading the Boilermaker Jazz Band on clarinet, saxophone, and vocals is Paul Cosentino, a full-time bandleader/performer who founded the band in 1988 at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. He is constantly searching for more tunes to add to the band's classic jazz repertoire you'll hear something different every time! Paul plays an antique Albert system clarinet giving him a wonderfully distinctive sound.

Paul Cosentino's Boilermaker Jazz Band has performed at major venues throughout the world- including Lincoln Center and the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City, Smithsonian Institute and the International Lindy Hop Championships in Washington DC, The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, Chicago Summer Dance, West Coast tours from San Diego to Vancouver, The Edinburgh International Festival in Scotland, The Jeju Island Festival in Korea, and many more.

Everywhere they go, they deliver the good feelings that real jumpin' jazz can create. Paul and the Boilermakers have recorded 14 critically acclaimed CD's and have received rave reviews for their excellent live performances. They have been featured on radio shows across the country and overseas, including a National Public Radio Jazz Series that was broadcast on over 50 stations. The Boilermaker Jazz Band's music was also featured on the hit Fox TV show "So You Think You Can Dance" for a fantastic Lindy Hop routine.



CONCERT OF FAMOUS OPERA HIGHLIGHTS

Chelsea Guo, soprano; José Luis Maldonado, Jr., baritone; Bénédicte Jourdois, pianist. January 20th & January 21st, 2025 | 7:30PM

From La Traviata:

- 1. Libiamo ne' lieti calici
- 2. È strano!...Sempre libera
- 3. Pura siccome un angelo
- 4. Amami, Alfredo
- 5. Di provenza il mar
- 6. Addio, del passato
- 7. Parigi o cara
- 8. Prendi quest'è l'immagine...Estrano

INTERMISSION

Toreador Song from Carmen

Georges Bizet (1838-1875)

Giuseppe Verdi

(1813-1901)

Largo al factotum from Il Barbiere di Siviglia

Gioachino Rossini (1792-1868)

Pronto io son from Don Pasquale

Gaetano Donizetti (1797-1848)

From Carousel:

- 1. If I Loved you
- 2. Soliloquy
- 3. You'll Never Walk Alone

Richard Rodgers (1902-1979)

Oscar Hammerstein (1895-1960)



Winner of the 2022 YCA Susan Wadsworth International Auditions, Chelsea Guo is one of the rare talents equally formidable as both a vocalist and a pianist. Chelsea was also proud to be included in "Classic FM's Rising Stars: 30 Brilliant Musicians We're Celebrating in 2022".

Chelsea has appeared as both pianist and soprano soloist with the Moritzburg Festival, the Stamford Symphony with Michael Stern, the New Jersey Symphony with Maestro Xian Zhang at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, Sociedad Filarmonica La Coruña, New Haven Symphony, Mainly Mozart Festival Orchestra with Michael Francis, and Oregon Mozart Players with Kelly Kuo. Having won a top prize in the 2020 National Chopin Piano Competition in Miami, Chelsea has performed recitals in Florida for the Chopin Foundation of the United States, the Grand Piano Series, and the Miami International Piano Festival.

Chelsea's solo piano performances have taken her to Carnegie Hall, London's Wigmore Hall, as well as prominent venues throughout the United States, England, Austria, France, Poland, Italy, Spain, China, Japan, and Canada. Chelsea's passion for piano was mirrored by her love of singing from an early age. Having debuted as a pianist with the Tianjin Symphony Orchestra at age nine, she returned in 2018 as vocal soloist under the baton of Maestro Muhai Tang. She has been recognized for her vocal gifts as a 2019 National YoungArts winner, the first prize winner in the 2019 Schmidt Voice Competition, and recipient of scholarships from the George London and Gerda Lissner foundations.

Chelsea graduated with honors from The Juilliard School's Pre-College as a double major in piano and classical voice. She has welcomed the opportunity to be mentored by renowned soprano, Barbara Bonney, over the past five years.



José Luis Maldonado, Jr. Baritone

Hailed by Opera News as a "seemingly unlimited baritone," International vocalist Josè Luis Maldonado, from Los Angeles, California attended Cal State Fullerton (BM), and Manhattan School of Music (MM); he is currently attending Michigan State University as a candidate for a doctorate in music, vocal performance under the tutelage of Dr. Mark Rucker. He is a career grant recipient from the Opera Buffs Inc. and Richard F. Gold Career Grant recipient from the Shoshana Foundation. Maldonado's roles include Don Alfonso (Così fan tutte), Don Magnifico (La Cenerentola), Escamillo (Carmen), and the title role of Falstaff (Falstaff). He recently performed with The Palm Springs Opera Guild in their Opera in the Park Concert under the baton of Maestro Brent McMunn and made his Long Beach Opera debut in Anthony Davis' Central Park Five. In 2022, he covered Sir Bryn Terfel as Sir John Falstaff in Falstaff at the Aspen Music Festival. He reprised Falstaff in March 2023 at Michigan State, and returned to Aspen to sing Father Arguedas in the opera *Bel Canto*, by Jimmy López. Maldonado was a finalist in the inaugural Duncan Williams Competition, a collaborative effort by Manhattan School of Music and New York City Opera, and was a District winner for the Metropolitan Opera Competition, Audience Prize winner in the Opera Ithaca Competition, and a finalist in the Tenor Vinas Competition in Spain. Maldonado finished a tour with OperaMaya in Cancún, Mexico last summer. In Aspen he performed a Zarzuela concert with world-renowned Metropolitan Opera Star Ana Maria Martinez, and took lessons with legendary sopranos, Carol Vaness and Renee Fleming.

Maldonado just debuted the role of Don Giovanni in Michigan, before returning to Los Angeles and debuting with Lyric Opera of Orange County in *Falstaff* and the Father in *Hansel y Gretel*.

He then made his Pacific Opera Project (POP) debut as the Gamekeeper in Dvorak's *Rusalka*. Maldonado Made his Lincoln Center debut as Escamillo in *Carmencita*, an Argentinian adaptation in Spanish of Bizet's *Carmen*. In March he will reprise the role of Don Magnifico in *La Cenerentola* by Rossini.

For more information, visit www.BaritoneJoe.com



BÉNÉDICTE JOURDOIS pianist

Bénédicte Jourdois was born in Paris, France and is currently on the music staff at the Metropolitan Opera and a faculty member at the Juilliard School. Ms. Jourdois holds degrees from the Conservatoire National de Region de Saint-Maur, the Conservatoire National Superieur de Musique de Lyon, Mannes College, and the Juilliard School. She is a graduate of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program. Jourdois has performed in numerous venues in Europe and in the U.S., including Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Hall, and the Kennedy Center, and has worked in major North American opera houses such as the Pittsburgh Opera, Philadelphia Opera, and the Houston Grand Opera.



FRED MOYER

January 27th & January 28th 2025 | 7:30PM

Sonata in D major, K.311 W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)Allegro con spirito

Thirty-two Variations in C minor, WoO 80 L.V. Beethoven (1770-1827)

Claire de lune **Claude Debussy**

(1862-1918)

Paganini Etude No. 3 "La Campanella" Franz Liszt (Arranged by Ferrucio Busoni) (1811-1886)

INTERMISSION

Piano Concerto No. 3 in D minor, Op. 30

1. Allegro ma non tanto

- 2.Adagio
- 3. Alla breve

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

With the Plovdid (Bulgaria) Philharmonic Orchestra, Naden Todorov, Conductor. Used with permission from Music Minus One

Fred Moyer, Pianist

Frederick Moyer began studies at age seven with his mother Betsy Moyer, a graduate of Oberlin Conservatory. In junior high school, he began studies with Theodore Lettvin, and in high school entered Curtis Institute of Music where he studied with Eleanor Sokoloff. Later, at Indiana University, he studied with Menahem Pressler of the Beaux Arts Trio. Throughout, he coached with his grandfather David Moyer, a student of Ferruccio Busoni and Ernst von Dohnanyi.

For over 35 years, Fred has made a living solely from concerts and recordings. He plays hundreds of concerts annually across the country, has performed in 44 countries, in such venues as Suntory Hall in Tokyo, Sydney Opera House, Windsor Castle, Carnegie Recital Hall, Tanglewood, and the Kennedy Center. Fred has performed with most of the major orchestras in the United States as well as many orchestras throughout Europe, South America, Asia, and Australia.

An avid computer programmer and inventor with multiple patents, Fred has created innovative concerts that redefine the piano recital. His MoyerCam gives the audience a view of the hands and keyboard from virtually any seat. His USolo software allows him to play piano concertos in recital with orchestral accompaniment synchronized to his interpretations. He performs, along with bass and drums, note-for-note transcriptions of great jazz pianists such as Oscar Peterson, Bill Evans, Erroll Garner and Ahmad Jamal, introducing the greatest creations of this art form to classical music audiences. In 2009 and 2010, he and Dr. Paul Green presented to the world several unknown piano works by Robert Schumann – a musical find that was widely reported in the news media.

His many recordings comprise works by over thirty composers and reflect an affinity for a wide variety of styles. His CD of Clara Schumann's Piano Concerto in A Minor was the first commercial recording of a large-scale Romantic work using an orchestra created from sampled sounds. His Mussorgsky/Mendelssohn CD was the first using the Bosendorfer 290 SE Recording Piano. Other recordings include David Ott's Second Piano Concerto with the London Symphony which was written for Moyer. Many other composers have written for Moyer including Pulitzer Prize winners George Walker and Ned Rorem, and Donal Fox whose Etudes of 2002-2006 were commissioned by the Guggenheim Foundation.



TRIO ZIMBALIST

Josef Špaček, violin; Timotheos Gavriilidis-Petrin, cello; George Xiaoyuan Fu, piano February 10th & February 11th, 2025 | 7:30PM

Piano Trio No. 1, Op. 28

Lera Auerbach (1973-)

1. Prelude

- 2. Andante Lamentoso
- 3. Presto

Piano Trio in A minor

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

- 1. Modéré
- 2. Pantoum
- 3. Passacaille
- 4. Final

INTERMISSION

Piano Trio No. 1 in D minor, Op. 32

Anton Arensky (1861-1906)

- 1. Allegro moderato
- 2. Scherzo (Allegro molto)
- 3. Elegia (Adagio)
- 4. Finale (Allegro non troppo)

Trio Zimbalist appears by arrangement with the Curtis Institute of Music.

TRIO ZIMBALIST

Trio Zimbalist —violinist Josef Špaček, cellist Timotheos Gavriilidis-Petrin, and pianist George Xiaoyuan Fu—are all distinguished alumni of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. In demand across Europe and the U.S. as soloists, chamber musicians, and recitalists, they form an inimitable ensemble with repertoire spanning Romantic masterworks to today's most lauded composers.

Praised for his remarkable range of color and virtuosity, Czech violinist **Josef Špaček** has emerged as one of the leading violinists of his generation. He is a sought-after soloist, performing regularly with the most distinguished orchestras around the world, including the Orchestre de Paris, Philadelphia Orchestra, Academy of St Martin in the Fields, Konzerthausorchester Berlin, Frankfurt Radio Symphony, Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra; the Czech, Helsinki, Strasbourg, Luxembourg, Netherlands, and Rotterdam philharmonic orchestras; and the Tokyo and Shanghai symphony orchestras. He previously served as concertmaster and associate artist of the Czech Philharmonic, the youngest in its history. Mr. Špaček performs on the ca. 1732 "LeBrun; Bouthillard" Guarneri del Gesù violin.

Born in Thessaloniki, Greece, cellist **Timotheos Gavriilidis-Petrin** is principal cellist of the Athens State Orchestra and is Co-Artistic Director of the Samos Young Artists Festival. He gained international recognition as a top prizewinner at the prestigious International Paulo Cello Competition in Finland. In 2016 he made his U.S. solo debut with the Kansas City Symphony, under the direction of Robert Spano. He has also appeared as a soloist with the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, the Tapiola Sinfonietta, the Israel Camerata, NEC Philharmonia, and the Athens, Thessaloniki State, and Lahti symphony orchestras.

Chinese-American pianist **George Xiaoyuan Fu** is establishing an international reputation as a captivating performer with distinctive intelligence and sensitivity. Mr. Fu has performed as a piano soloist with orchestras such as the National Symphony Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, North Carolina Symphony, and the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra. He has appeared at international venues such as the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, Kings Place, Seiji Ozawa Hall at Tanglewood, and Teatro Municipal in Santiago; while his live performances and interviews have been featured on BBC Radio 3's In Tune and National Public Radio's Performance Today. Mr. Fu is an active composer and performer of contemporary music.





BILL KEY MEMORIAL CONCERT

STELLA CHEN, VIOLINST **GEORGE LI, PIANIST**

February 17th & 18th, 2025 | 7:30PM

Sonata No. 9, Op. 47 ("Kreutzer Sonata")

- Adagio sostenuto—presto Andante con variazione
- 3. Presto

INTERMISSION

Sonata in A major for Violin and Piano

Allegretto ben moderato 1.

2. Allegro

Ben moderato: Recitativo-Fantasia

Allegretto poco mosso

Rondo in B minor, D895

César Franck (1822-1890)

L.V. Beethoven (1770-1827)

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Stella Chen appears by arrangement with Wittenberg Artists, 282 Cabrini Blvd, Suite 1F, New York, NY 10040. George Li appears by arrangement with Opus 3 Artists, 250 W. 34th Street, Suite 313, New York, NY 10040.



Gramophone 2023 Young Artist of the Year Stella Chen garnered worldwide attention with her first-prize win at the 2019 Queen Elizabeth International Violin Competition, followed by the 2020 Avery Fisher Career Grant and 2020 Lincoln Center Emerging Artist Award.

Since then, Stella has appeared across North America, Europe, and Asia in concerto, recital, and chamber music performances. She recently made debuts with the New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, Israel Philharmonic, Chamber Orchestra of Europe, Baltimore Symphony, Belgian National Orchestra, and many others and appeared at the Vienna Musikverein and Berlin Philharmonie. In recital, recent appearances include Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, the Phillips Collection, Rockport Music Festival, and Nume Festival in Italy. She appears frequently with Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center both in New York and on tour.

Stella has appeared as a chamber musician in festivals including the Ravinia, Seattle Chamber Music, Perlman Music Program, Music@Menlo, Bridgehampton, Rockport, Kronberg Academy, and Sarasota. Chamber music partners include Itzhak Perlman, James Ehnes, and Matthew Lipman.

She is the inaugural recipient of the Robert Levin Award from Harvard University, where she was inspired by Robert Levin himself. Teachers and mentors have included Donald Weilerstein, Itzhak Perlman, Miriam Fried, and Catherine Cho. She received her doctorate from the Juilliard School where she serves as teaching assistant to her longtime mentor Li Lin.

Stella plays the 1720 General Kyd Stradivarius, on generous loan from Dr. Ryuji Ueno and Rare Violins In Consortium, Artists and Benefactors Collaborative and the 1708 Huggins Stradivarius courtesy of the Nippon Music Foundation.



George Li piano

Praised by the Washington Post for combining "staggering technical prowess, a sense of command and depth of expression," pianist George Li possesses an effortless grace, brilliant virtuosity and poised authority far beyond his years. Since winning the Silver Medal at the 2015 International Tchaikovsky Competition, Li has rapidly established a major international reputation and performs regularly with some of the world's leading orchestras and conductors such as Gergiev, Dudamel, Honeck, Petrenko, Tilson Thomas and Long Yu.

Recent and upcoming concerto highlights include performances with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Philharmonia Orchestra, Rotterdam Philharmonic, DSO Berlin, Frankfurt Radio Symphony, Oslo Philharmonic, Orchestre National de Lyon, Sydney Symphony and St Petersburg Philharmonic. In 2018/19, Li makes his debut with the London Philharmonic, Montreal Symphony, Tokyo Symphony and Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, embarks on a 11-city recital tour of China and is the soloist on the Russian National Orchestra's major US tour with Mikhail Pletnev. He frequently appears with Valery Gergiev and the Mariinsky Orchestra, including performances at the Paris Philharmonie, Luxembourg Philharmonie, New York's Brooklyn Academy of Music, Graffenegg Festival and in various venues throughout Russia.

In recital, Li performs at venues including Carnegie Hall, Davies Hall in San Francisco, the Mariinsky Theatre, Munich's Gasteig, the Louvre, Seoul Arts Center, Tokyo's Asahi Hall and Musashino Hall, NCPA Beijing, Shanghai Poly Theater and Amici della Musica Firenze, as well as appearances at major festivals including the Edinburgh International Festival, Ravinia Festival, Festival de Pâques in Aix-en-Provence Festival, and Montreux Festival.

An active chamber musician, Li has performed alongside James Ehnes, Noah BendixBalgley, Benjamin Beilman, Kian Soltani, Pablo Ferrandez and Daniel Lozakovich and future plans include collaborations with Daniel Hope, Sheku Kanneh-Mason and Lawrence Power. Li is an exclusive Warner Classics recording artist, with his debut recital album released in October 2017 which was recorded live from the Mariinsky.

Li gave his first public performance at Boston's Steinway Hall at the age of ten and in 2011, performed for President Obama at the White House in an evening honoring Chancellor Angela Merkel. Among Li's many prizes, he was the recipient of the 2016 Avery Fisher Career Grant, a recipient of the 2012 Gilmore Young Artist Award, and the First Prize winner of the 2010 Young Concert Artists International Auditions. In summer 2018, Li graduated from the Harvard University / New England Conservatory joint program, where he studied with Wha Kyung Byun.



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Wonhee Bae, violin; Yuna Ha, violin; Dimitri Murrath, viola; Ye-eun Heo, cello

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Stephen Koncz (B. 1984)

String Quartet in F major

- 1. Allegro moderato très doux
- 2. Assez vif très rythmé
- 3. Très lent
- 4. Vif et agité

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

INTERMISSION

String Quartet No. 6 in F minor, Op. 80

- 1. Allegro vivace assai
- 2. Allegro assai
- 3. Adagio
- 4. Finale: Allegro molto

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

The Esmé Quartet appears by arrangement with Christina Daysog Concert Artists.

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Esmé String Quartet

Praised for their warm sound and powerful stage presence, the Esmé Quartet brings together four brilliant and distinct musical personalities who have rapidly gained a worldwide reputation as a chamber ensemble of exceptional artistry and achievement. In the spring of 2018, the quartet won the first prize as well as sweeping four special prizes at the prestigious Wigmore Hall International String Quartet Competition in London, and in the same year, it became HSBC Laureate of the Académie du Festival d'Aix. This recognition followed prizes at the Trondheim International Chamber Music Competition and the 55th Possehl Musikpreis Lübeck. In October 2020, the quartet was awarded the first Hans-Gál Prize by the Academy of Sciences and Literature Mainz and Villa Musica.

The Esmé Quartet was named the first Artists-in-Residence at the Lotte Concert Hall, Seoul, Korea for the 2020-2021 season. They have recently appeared at the Lucerne Festival, at Wigmore Hall and throughout the UK, at the Flagey Musiq3 Festival in Brussels, Auditori Barcelona, Opéra de Lille, and as the quartet in residency at the Aix-en-Provence festival, the McGill International String Quartet Academy in Montreal, the Heidelberg String Quartet Festival and Classic Esterházy in Eisenstadt.

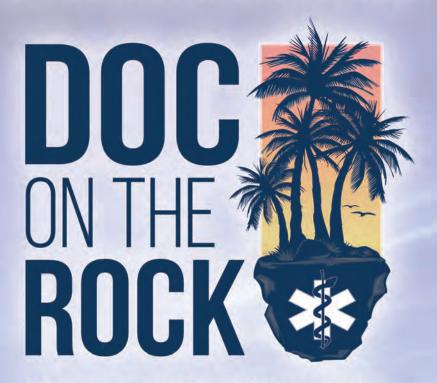
They made their highly acclaimed debut tour of the United States and Canada in Spring 2022 followed by their debut tour of Japan in Fall 2022. In spring 2023, the Esmé Quartet performed John Adams' "Absolute Jest" with the Hong Kong Philharmonic and the Gyeonggi Philharmonic. They also performed at the Hong Kong Arts Festival in Michel van der Aa's The Book of Water with British actor Samuel West in February 2023.

Recent highlights include a tour of Italy, return engagements at the Wigmore Hall, along with concerts in Germany and Portugal. In January this year, the quartet had its recital debut in Kioi Hall, alongside performances of Adams' "Absolute Jest" with the Tokyo Metropolitan Orchestra and John Adams conducting in Suntory and Bunka Kaikan. The quartet recently finished a US and Canada tour with 2017 Cliburn gold medalist Yekwon Sunwoo.

The Esmé Quartet's first international album "To Be Loved" on Alpha Classics with works by Beethoven, Unsuk Chin, and Frank Bridge, was released in 2020 and was named one of the best classical CDs of the year by WQRX Public Radio in New York City. Their second CD "Yessori" Sound from the Past, also on Alpha Classics, of works by Mozart, Tchaikovsky, and Soo Yeon Lyuh was released in March 2023. In January this year, the quartet released an EP of Mendelssohn's String Quartet Op. 13 exclusively for Apple Music Classical Sessions.

The Quartet has been mentored by artists such as Günter Pichler, Oliver Wille, Eberhard Feltz, Andràs Keller, Christoph Poppen, Jonathan Brown, and Heime Müller.

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