



LIVES OF THE PIANO

The Piano and the Asian Influence

Lisa Yui (DMA '05), Director

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2022 | 7:30 PM
GORDON K. AND HARRIET GREENFIELD HALL

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PROGRAM

CLAUDE DEBUSSY
(1862–1918)

Estampes (1903)

I. *Pagodes*

Lisa Yui

W. A. MOZART
(1756–1791)

Piano Sonata in A Major, K. 331 (1783)

III. *Allegretto (Alla Turca)*

Jeffrey Jamner

LEOPOLD GODOWSKY
(1870–1938)

Java Suite (1925)

12. Court Pageant in Solo

Yearim Leslie Yi

MILY BALAKIREV
(1837–1910)

Islamey, Op. 18 (1869)

Eric Clark

Intermission

JOHN CAGE
(1912–1992)

4'33" (1952)
Akina Kondoh

ALAN HOVHANESS
(1911–2000)

Sonata to Hiroshige's Cat, Op. 366 (1982)
I. *Lento cantabile*
Akina Kondoh

LEO ORNSTEIN
(1899–1997)

À la Chinoise, Op. 39 (1918)
Anthony de Mare

ALEXANDER TCHEREPNIN
(1837–1910)

Concert Etude, Op. 52, no. 5 ("Cantique") (1934–6)
Eric Clark

CHARLES TOMLINSON GRIFFES
(1884–1920)

The Pleasure Dome of Kubla Khan, Op. 8 (1912)
Yun Hao

Please join us on February 16 for The Piano and Composers from Asia.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Wenbo Ai (BM '18, MM '20)

New York based Chinese musician Wenbo Ai is a multifaceted pianist and improviser. Her performances combine lyricism and virtuosity with expressive and emotional power—whether in the delivery of the simplest song, a solo recital, a concerto, or a fiendish chamber score. She has performed in Germany, China, and the U.S. Recently, she performed for the Mayor of New York, Eric Adams, in his official residence in celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. She has also been invited to perform in many music festivals, such as the Bowdoin International Music Festival, Chautauqua Music Festival, and Euro Arts International Music Festival. With a special passion for the music of our time, she won third prize in the International VIVO piano competition in 2015. She has performed many contemporary solo piano works by composers such as Anton Webern, Alban Berg, and Philippe Shoeller and worked with many living composers and given world premieres. As an improviser, she has recorded over 200 improvisations, solo piano works, chamber works, vocal works, and electronic music. The musical influences she draws on in her improvisation are hugely varied. In addition to her performance activities, Wenbo is currently studying at Manhattan School of Music in the Professional Performance Diploma program, in the studio of celebrated concert pianist Alexander Moutouzkine, where she has also been awarded Bachelor's and Master's degrees.

Eric Clark

Eric Clark is a pianist currently based in New York. He has been a soloist with the Space Coast Symphony, the Carnegie Mellon Philharmonic, and the Queensboro Symphony and will perform with the Bergen Symphony in the spring of 2023. He was a semifinalist and the only American contestant in the 2018 International Chopin Competition on Period Instruments in Warsaw, Poland. A graduate of Carnegie Mellon University, he studied with Sergey Schepkin and Enrique Graf, as well as having lessons with Earl Wild and Ilana Vered during his time there. Later teachers include Andrei Gavrilov, Byron Janis, and Simon Mulligan. He has given recitals for the International Piano Series in Charleston, South Carolina, Trinity Wall St., Musicfest Perugia, and the Tel Hai master classes in Israel, and performed at Weill Recital Hall sponsored by the Cuban cultural center of New York.

Anthony de Mare (BA '80)

Anthony de Mare is one of the world's foremost champions of contemporary music, known for his entrepreneurial performance projects, including the speaking-singing pianist genre that he pioneered over 30 years ago. Praised time and again by the *New York Times*, he has inspired the creation of over 90 new works by some of today's most distinguished artists. His most recent project, *Liaisons: Re-Imagining Sondheim from the Piano*, celebrates the music of Stephen Sondheim through the commissioned re-imaginings of composers from across the musical spectrum. His recording of the first 36 pieces appears on ECM Records; the total compendium is now at 50 works. The breadth of de Mare's programming speaks to his versatility and virtuosity, with performances spanning five continents and a discography of over 20 recordings. Past accolades include Young Concert Artists, first prize at the International Gaudeamus Competition, and the Saint-Germain-en-Laye International Contemporary Piano Competition. Recent performances have included UCLA's Royce Hall, Ravinia, Green Music Center, Puerto Piano Festival, Oregon Center for the Arts, Mostly Modern Festival, American Pianists Association, Melbourne Recital Centre, London Jazz Festival, Bari Piano Festival, 21C Festival, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Cal Performances, SF Jazz, and the Gilmore Keyboard Festival. A Steinway Artist, he also serves on MSM's Contemporary Performance Program and Piano faculty and is a faculty member at summer festivals around the USA.

Yun Hao (BM '18, MM '20)

Born in Beijing, China, Yun Hao is an accomplished piano soloist and chamber musician who has performed in China, the United States, Finland, and Croatia. Dr. Arkady Aronov praised her highly for her truthful pianistic expressions and deep understanding of music as "a pianist who plays with great sensitivity, strong conviction, and sincerity." After graduating from Manhattan School of Music with a Bachelor's and Master's degree in piano performance, she continued pursuing her passion in music education at Teachers College, Columbia University. With an interest in exploring better ways teachers can facilitate students' learning, Yun Hao seeks to delve deeper into this synergistic collaboration with her students and work together with her fellow teachers to build meaningful learning experiences and create a multicultural environment that supports learners.

Jeffrey Jamner (DMA '96)

Jeffrey Jamner (DMA '96) received the Helen C. Cohn Award for most outstanding student in the MSM doctoral studies program. While at MSM, Jeffrey performed with the Manhattan Chamber Sinfonia and served on the faculty of the East-West International Music Festival in Altenburg, Germany. He later joined the MSM ArtReach Department as Associate Director.

Jeffrey has studied piano with Lee Luvisi, Paul Schenly, Jerome Lowenthal, Artur Balsam, and Jeannette Haien. He has performed chamber music with Jinjoo Cho, Mihai Marica, Tai Murray, Todd Palmer, Mayuki Fukuhara, the Brentano String Quartet, and his wife, flutist Margaret Jamner. Jeffrey has also performed with several orchestras, including the Louisville Orchestra and the West Virginia Symphony, and has recorded on Capstone and Centaur labels. For over two decades, Jeffrey directed statewide arts education programs for the Kentucky Center for the Arts. He currently teaches piano at Indiana University Southeast and at the Louisville Academy of Music. Last month, Jeffrey presented “Juliek’s Violin,” a program about music and the Holocaust as part of the International Violin Competition of Indianapolis and the Violins of Hope. This program, originally filmed at the Kentucky Center, can be found online through PBS Learning Media.

Akina Kondoh

Since a dramatic career change from economics to music, Akina Kondoh has been growing fast as a pianist. In 2018, she tied for third prize in the Pittsburgh International Piano Competition and performed at Carnegie Hall. She received an Outstanding Merit Fellowship for Continuing Doctoral Students from West Virginia University. She has performed in her hometown of Tokyo and around West Virginia. She played for Agatha Holland, the soprano, at the Pittsburgh Concert Society recital at Carnegie Mellon University, and made her solo recital debut at Chatham University in November 2019. In 2022, she was invited as a guest artist with Ryan Phipps, the cellist, for West Virginia Governor’s School for Art.

She has appeared in many music festivals, including the InterHarmony International Piano Festival, Ian Hobson International Piano Festival, International Keyboard Institute and Festival, Gijon International Piano Festival, and Talent Music summer courses. She has been also very active in collaborating. Akina completed a Master of Music degree at Penn State University with Dr. Jose Ramon Mendez and is currently pursuing a DMA in piano performance with Dr. Ching-Wen Hsiao at West Virginia University. She is fluent in many languages, including Japanese, Chinese, and Korean.

Yearim Leslie Yi (MM '21)

Yearim Leslie Yi is a South Korean–American classical pianist and teaching artist and a full-stack developer. Showing an interest in classical music at an early age, she began studying the piano at the age of five and the violin at nine. After graduating from Florida State University, Yearim received her Master of Music degree from Manhattan School of Music. She has been actively teaching and performing as a solo and chamber musician at prestigious music festivals and institutes across the United States. You may also find her on stage behind a piano at places such as Carnegie Hall and other venues in Manhattan. She recently made her transition into the technology field, after graduating from Flatiron School Coding Bootcamp, and now works full-time as a software engineer in New York City. When she is not behind the keyboards (piano or computer), you may also find her working as a portrait photographer around the city.

Lisa Yui (DMA '05)

Described as “a musical phenomenon” (*Pianiste*), Yamaha Artist Lisa Yui enjoys a multifaceted musical career as pianist, lecturer, educator, author, and musical director. Since making her concerto debut at the age of seven, she has performed throughout North America, Europe, and Asia. She is the top prizewinner of the Senigallia International Piano Competition in Italy, and has twice been the recipient of a Canada Council Scholarship. Dr. Yui has performed as soloist with prominent orchestras including the Tokyo Symphony, the Polish National Radio, the Toronto Symphony, and the Krakow State Philharmonic. Dr. Yui’s insightful writing on a variety of topics has appeared in numerous publications, and she has worked extensively with cutting-edge music technology through her long-distance remote lessons and performances using the Yamaha Disklavier, an acoustic/digital hybrid player piano. Dr. Yui’s principal teachers and mentors include Byron Janis, Marc Silverman, Giovanni Valentini, Oxana Yablonskaya, Edna Golandsky, David Dubal, and Leonid Hambro. Lisa Yui is on the faculties of Manhattan School of Music and Juilliard Extension. She received Manhattan School of Music’s President’s Medal for Distinguished Service in 2018.

ABOUT MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Founded as a community music school by Janet Daniels Schenck in 1918, today MSM is recognized for its more than 1,000 superbly talented undergraduate and graduate students who come from more than 50 countries and nearly all 50 states; its innovative curricula and world-renowned artist-teacher faculty that includes musicians from the New York Philharmonic, the Met Orchestra, and the top ranks of the jazz and Broadway communities; and a distinguished community of accomplished, award-winning alumni working at the highest levels of the musical, educational, cultural, and professional worlds.

The School is dedicated to the personal, artistic, and intellectual development of aspiring musicians, from its Precollege students through those pursuing doctoral studies. Offering classical, jazz, and musical theatre training, MSM grants a range of undergraduate and graduate degrees. True to MSM's origins as a music school for children, the Precollege Division is a highly competitive and professionally oriented Saturday music program, dedicated to the musical and personal growth of talented young musicians ages 5 to 18. The School also serves some 2,000 New York City schoolchildren through its Arts-in-Education Program, and another 2,000 students through its critically acclaimed Distance Learning Program.

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Land Acknowledgment

We want to acknowledge that we gather as Manhattan School of Music on the traditional land of the Lenape and Wappinger past and present, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations. This calls us to commit to continuing to learn how to be better stewards of the land we inhabit as well.



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