

LIVES OF THE PIANO

# **The Piano and Composers from Asia**

**Lisa Yui** (DMA '05), Director

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2023 | 7:30 PM  
GORDON K. AND HARRIET GREENFIELD HALL

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PROGRAM

QIGANG CHEN  
(b. 1951, China)

*Instants d'un Opéra de Pékin* (2000)  
**Lisa Yui**

TAKASHI YOSHIMATSU  
(b. 1953, Japan)

Selections from the *Pleiades Dances*

*Pleiades Dances* VII, Op. 76 (1999)  
II. Static Dream Pavane  
VII. Tender Wind Rondo

*Pleiades Dances* II, Op. 28 (1987)  
IV. Interlude with Birds

**Yun Hao**

UNSUK CHIN  
(b. 1961, S. Korea)

Piano Étude No. 1 "in C" (1999)  
**Arthur Li**

ZHOU LONG  
(b. 1953, China)

*Wu Kui* (2002)  
**YiFan Shao**

TOSHI ICHIYANAGI  
(1933–2022, Japan)

*Piano Media* (1975)  
**Tianran Zhou**

*Intermission*

PATRICIO MOLINA  
(b. 1989, Chile/Syria)

*Amrika* (2022)

DIA SUCCARI  
(1938–2010, Syria)

*Suite Syrienne* (1976)

I. *Nida*

**Patricio Molina**

ARNO BABAJANIAN  
(1921–1983, Armenia)

Prelude (1938)

Vagharshapat Dance (1943)

**Elena Nezhdanova**

KARA KARAYEV  
(1918–1982, Azerbaijan)

24 Preludes (1952)

XIII. *Allegro moderato*

XI. *Veloce*

VII. *Moderato*

VI. *Allegro con brio*

**Agustin Muriago**

PAUL BEN-HAIM  
(1897–1984, Israel)

Five Pieces for Piano, Op. 34 (1943)

*Pastorale*

*Intermezzo*

*Capriccio Agitato*

*Canzonetta*

*Toccata*

**Gila Goldstein**

# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

## **Gila Goldstein (MM '90)**

Pianist Gila Goldstein is a versatile musician who has captivated audiences around the world with her unique artistry and soulful interpretations. Goldstein has performed as a solo artist and collaborative pianist throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, China, Korea, the Philippines, Europe, and Israel. She has been a sought-after pedagogue for nearly two decades and has given numerous master classes in the United States, China and Korea. She is currently a member of the piano faculty at Longy School of Music in Boston and Brown University in Providence. Previous teaching positions included Boston University, BU Tanglewood Institute, and New York University. A champion of the work of Israel's leading composer, Paul Ben-Haim, for over two decades, Ms. Goldstein has recorded two volumes of his entire piano and chamber works on the Centaur label. She obtained degrees in piano performance from the Manhattan School of Music, where she studied with Nina Svetlanova, and the Tel-Aviv University's School of Music, where her teacher was Victor Derevianko. Both her teachers were disciples of the legendary pianist and pedagogue Heinrich Neuhaus.

## **Yun Hao (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.

## **Arthur Siyun Li**

Arthur Siyun Li is a Hong Kong-Canadian pianist and composer currently based in New York City. He is pursuing dual Masters' degrees in classical piano and classical composition at the Manhattan School of Music. Arthur performs as a soloist, chamber musician, and collaborative pianist in the United States and

Canada. He has a keen interest in new music and has premiered several chamber works in concert by composers at MSM. Recent performances include City Lyric Opera's U.S. premiere of Elizabeth Raum's new chamber opera *The Garden of Alice* in May 2022; chamber works by Andriessen and Schumann at Scotia Music Festival's Highlight Concerts, as part of the Young Artist Program in June 2022; and a solo recital in MSM's Mikowsky Hall. Arthur is a recipient of the Tactus Commission Prize and President's Award at MSM, as well as the 2009 Silver Medal for piano in the Canadian Music Competition. He studies piano under Alexandre Moutouzkine and composition under Susan Botti.

## **Patricio Molina (MM '14)**

Named a "a gifted artist" by the *New York Times*, Dr. Patricio Molina has gained a reputation as a composer, pianist, and educator. A Yamaha Artist, Patricio regularly appears on stages such as Carnegie Hall and OPERA America, and has had works commissioned by the New Jersey Youth Symphony, White Snake Projects, and Ulysses Quartet. Inspirations for his compositions include his Chilean-Syrian heritage as well as his experience as an immigrant, which informs his commitment to serving marginalized communities and working toward decolonizing academic research. He is in demand as a lecturer on a wide variety of topics including composition, Arabic music, and building inclusion in classical music. His accomplishments in arts education have been recognized by the New Jersey Education Association with their Award for Excellence.

Patricio holds a Master's degree with distinction from the Manhattan School of Music, and Doctorates in piano performance and music composition from Rutgers University, the first double doctorate in its history. He serves as Director of the Conservatory for Newark School of the Arts and Music Director at St. Thomas the Apostle Church. He is co-founder and President of Notes for Growth Foundation.

## **Agustin Muriago**

Pianist Agustin Muriago has performed throughout the United States, Spain, China, Brazil, and his native Argentina in venues such as the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing, the Yamaha Salon in New York City, and for the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert series. He has recorded for Acte Préalable, Radium Recordings, and for NPR affiliates. He has given recitals, lectures, and master classes at NYU Shanghai, the Catholic University of America, the University of Chile, Emporia State University, the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil, and the Central Conservatory of Music Middle School in Beijing. His primary

teachers include José Ramón Méndez, Luiz de Moura Castro, and Veda Zuponicic; he also received guidance from Lilya Zilberstein, Julian Martin, Solomon Mikowsky, and Douglas Humpherys. He holds degrees from the Hartt School (DMA), New York University (MM), and Rowan University (BM, summa cum laude). Muriago is Assistant Professor of Keyboard Skills at the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University. Prior to his appointment at Peabody, he served on the piano faculty at Kansas State University, coordinating the Master of Music in Piano Pedagogy degree and teaching group and private lessons. Agustin Muriago is a Yamaha Artist.

## **Elena Nezhdanova**

Russian-born American pianist Dr. Elena Nezhdanova enjoys a multifaceted career as a teacher and performer. She made her debut with an orchestra at the age of eight in her native hometown in Russia. In October 2015, she performed Tchaikovsky's First Piano Concerto with the Sichuan Philharmonic Orchestra in Chengdu, China. In the Spring 2023 she will give a lecture recital on 24 Preludes, Op. 41 by Lera Auerbach at the Music by Women Festival at Mississippi University for Women. From 2016-2019, Elena was Program Director for the North Carolina Bach Festival, Inc., where she oversaw the youth program and performing opportunities for young artists in North Carolina and beyond. An avid chamber musician, Elena is a co-founding member of the Nezhdanova-Placzek Duo (piano/cello). Their professional engagements include the American East Coast, London, Dresden, and four prominent Czech cities, including Prague.

As an educator, she was commissioned to review Irina Gorin's *Tales of a Musical Journey* books for *The Piano* magazine in 2017. Recently, she recorded a five-hour workshop presentation as a guest clinician for North Carolina Music Teachers Association. Additionally, she presented for professional piano teachers in Olomouc, Czech Republic; gave master classes at the North London Collegiate School in the U.K.; and gave virtual master classes through YouTube livestream for the Piano League, East Tennessee State University, and Opus Ithaca School of Music. Dr. Nezhdanova is currently a lecturer in piano at Hamilton College and is a staff pianist at Colgate University. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Syracuse University, a Master's from Ithaca College, and her Doctorate from UNC-Greensboro.

## **YiFan Shao (BM '16)**

YiFan (Gabbie) Shao is a solo pianist and chamber musician who has studied and performed in countries all across the world. She began studying piano at age four in Qinhuangdao, China, and enrolled in the Central Music School of

Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Russia at age 15 to study with pianist A. Zhavoronkov. Shao subsequently moved to the United States to complete both a Bachelor's of Music degree at the Manhattan School of Music under the tutelage of Dr. Donn-Alexandre Feder and Professor Andre-Michel Schub and a Master's of Music degree at the Mannes School of Music under the tutelage of Dr. J. Y. Song. During this time, she performed in the Trentino Music Festival in Italy and studied as an exchange student at the Musikhochschule Stuttgart in Germany on a full Baden-Württemberg stipend. Ms. Shao's appearances include performances such as the grand opening of Sommerfestival at Reutlingen, Germany, *Chronicle* with the Martha Graham Dance Company, and the Lives of the Piano Centennial concert at MSM. She is currently a Doctor of Musical Arts candidate at SUNY Stony Brook University, where she studies under Christina Dahl and teaches undergraduate piano and chamber music lessons.

## **Tianran Zhou**

Tianran Zhou came to Manhattan School of Music in New York in 2017, and is now pursuing her Master of Music degree with Inesa Sinkeyvch. Born in Zhejiang, Zhou started to play the piano at the age of five under the guidance of Ke Sun from Hanover University of Musical and Theater. Later she began to study with Ouyang Wen, piano professor in Shanghai Conservatory of Music Attached Middle School, and Zhang Weicong, professor of chamber music at Manhattan School of Music and piano professor at Shanghai Conservatory of Music. As a piano student, she has also participated in master classes with Gary Graffman, Hung-kuan Chen, Matti Raekallio, Marc Silverman, Jerome Lowenthal, and Edward Auer. As a pianist, Tianran has won numerous prizes, such as the 2015 Italian Parma Liszt International Piano Competition bronze award, 2015 Hamamatsu International Piano Competition final award, the first prize of the youth group of Chopin Asian piano competition 2016, the first prize of the youth group of Yokohama Asian youth piano competition 2016, Singapore International piano competition third prize 2014. She has given concerts in Zhejiang, Shanghai, Singapore, and the United States.

## **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.

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