

TRIBUTE TO THE GREAT ARTISTS

Doctoral Collaborative Piano Recital

2018.02.04 (SUN) 5:00pm

Katzin Concert Hall

School of Music, Arizona State University

Neilson Chen, Piano

Aihua Zhang, Violin

Yen-Fang Chen, Viola

Jennifer Son, Cello

Wesley Skinner, Cello

~Program~

Élégie for Cello and Piano, Op. 24 G. Fauré
(1845-1924)

Jennifer Son, Cello

Élégie for Viola and Piano, Op. 30 H. Vieuxtemps
(1820-1881)

Yen-Fang Chen, Viola

~~Pause~~

Piano Trio in A minor Op.50 P. I. Tchaikovsky
"In Memory of A Great Artist" (1840-1893)

I. Pezzo elegiaco

II. (A) Tema con variazioni

(B) Variazione finale e coda

Aihua Zhang, Violin

Wesley Skinner, Cello

Performers

Neilson Chen / Piano

Neilson Chen, a native of Taiwan, is a highly sought-after recitalist and collaborative pianist, whose dazzling technique and thoughtful interpretations have been described by the L.A. Times as "stunning." The recipient of two Master's degrees from Taipei National University of the Arts and University of Texas at Austin, Neilson has studied under esteemed teachers such as Constance Lee and Anne Epperson. Currently, he is pursuing his doctoral degree in collaborative piano at Arizona State University under Dr. Andrew Campbell. Over the course of his career, Neilson has been the recipient of many prestigious honors and awards. Also, He has performed extensively throughout the United States and internationally, having given performances in Germany, France, Luxemburg, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan. In 2009 he had the honor of performing at the National Concert Hall in Taiwan in conjunction with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center.

Neilson spends his summers participating in music festivals as a staff pianist all over the world, including the Kathaumixw Choir Festival in Canada. In 2014 and 2016, Neilson was invited to be a guest artist at both the Saaburg International Music Festival in Germany and the Vianden Music Festival & School in Luxemburg. When he is not traveling, Neilson is highly active in his community. His personal website is under construction and will be released in March. (<http://www.neilsonchen.com>)

Aihua Zhang / Violin

After obtaining the Master's Degree from Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing in 2008, she became a member of faculty at Nanjing University of the Arts and was teaching there for 5 years. She attended Pacific Music Festival and Aspen Music festival in 2012 and 2013. At present, she is pursuing her doctorate program at Arizona State University under Professor Danwen Jiang. She was a member of Herberger String Quartet and the winner of concert of soloist competition at ASU in 2014.

Yen-Fang Chen / Viola

Taiwanese violist Yen-Fang Chen has participated in and won numerous national competitions in her home country. She received a Bachelor's degree summa cum laude from National Kaohsiung Normal University in Taiwan, and her Master's of Music in Viola Performance at the University of Texas at Austin with Roger Myers.

In addition, Yen-Fang has attended music festivals such as Aspen Music Festival as the principal violist of the Aspen Opera Center Orchestra, Red Rocks Winter Music Festival, and Bowdoin International Music Festival. Besides, she has performed in masterclasses for Heidi Castleman, Carol Rodland, Atar Arad, Misha Amory, the Miró Quartet, and the Shanghai Quartet. Yen-Fang is currently the doctoral candidate at the Arizona State University, studying with Nancy Buck.

Jennifer Son / Cello

Canadian and American cellist Jennifer Son is an avid chamber musician and artist. Son has performed in venues in various Canadian provinces, the U.S.A., Korea, and India. She enjoys teaching, and has visions to travel to parts of the world where Western classical music education is limited and share her passions there. She has recently been invited as resident artist in music festivals such as Con Brio in Bombay, India where she was given the opportunity to collaborate and teach with artists from around the world. The Director of Con Brio festival has shown interest in having her back as resident cello teacher.

Son is an alumna of the prestigious Vancouver Academy of Music where she began her cello studies at the age of six with Audrey Nodwell. Son received her Bachelor's of Music degree at the Chicago College of Performing Arts with their top scholarship award, and completed both her Master's of Music degrees in cello performance and Suzuki Pedagogy at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Son is currently pursuing her Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Arizona State University under the tutelage of Professor Thomas Landschoot. She is also cellist of the Herberger String Quartet, the graduate string quartet of Arizona State University. Her primary teachers include Dr. Tanya L. Carey and Dr. Melissa Kraut.

Wesley Skinner / Cello

Holding Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music, 26-year-old Cellist, Wesley Skinner, studied with pedagogue Dr. Melissa Kraut. With an emphasis in Suzuki Pedagogy during his Master's degree, Wesley recently held faculty positions in the Western Reserve Suzuki School, the Hudson School of Music, and the Cleveland Institute of Music Preparatory Program. Now attending Arizona State University, Wesley is pursuing a Doctorate of Musical Arts as the Teaching Assistant of Performing Cellist and Pedagogue Thomas Landschoot. His chamber ensembles have been coached by members of The Cleveland Quartet, The Cavani Quartet, The Ying Quartet, and The Juilliard String Quartet. He has previously studied with Richard Weiss, Bradley Mansell, and Bob Story; and he has performed in solo master classes for Yo-Yo Ma, Ralph Kirshbaum, Zuill Bailey, Andres Diaz, Amit Peled, and David Ying.

Wesley has won top prizes in the 2014 CIM Concerto Competition, 2015 Paducah Symphony Young Artist Competition (KY), 2015 Tennessee Cello Workshop, 2015 Lewisville Lake Symphony International String Competition (TX), and the coveted "Concert of Soloists" prize at ASU in 2016. During the Summer of 2015, Wesley toured as the cellist of the ensemble Neo Camerata and the band Say Anything. Wesley has premiered their newest works, the Cello Sonatas: "Moments in Memory" (Landson) and "Ballade" (Nascimento) for Cello and Piano.