

Meng-Chieh Liu *piano*

Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2025
Roy Barnett Recital Hall, UBC



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
School of Music

Meng-Chieh Liu *piano*



A recipient of the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant, Meng-Chieh Liu first made headlines in 1993 as a 21-year-old student at The Curtis Institute of Music when he substituted last minute for André Watts at the Academy of Music in Philadelphia. The concert earned high acclaim, and was followed by a number of widely praised performances, including a recital at the Kennedy Center and a concert on the Philadelphia All-Star Series. Following Mr. Liu's triumph in Philadelphia, an appearance with the Philadelphia Orchestra was immediately scheduled, but his career was abruptly halted by a debilitating illness that affected his connective tissues. Hospitalized and almost immobile for a year, his prognosis wasn't hopeful—should he survive, playing the piano would be “absolutely impossible.” With determination and relentless

physical therapy, Liu's health had been restored so he could return to performing. Liu has performed throughout the world in recitals and as a soloist with orchestras under conductors Christoph Eschenbach, Gustavo Dudamel and Alan Gilbert.

In 2002, Liu received the Avery Fisher Career Grant and the Philadelphia Musical Fund Society Career Advancement Award. A sought-after musician and strong advocate of chamber music, Liu performs in music festivals across the globe and has worked with renowned musicians Shmuel Ashkenasi, David Soyer, Bernard Greenhouse, James Buswell, Wendy Warner, Kim Kashkashian, Donald Weilerstein as well as the Borromeo and St. Lawrence Quartets. Liu also collaborates with artists in other disciplines, such as Mikhail Baryshnikov and the White Oak Dance Project, among other dance companies. His concerts have been heard over the airwaves around the world, and a biography on his life was broadcast on Taiwanese National Television.

Born in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, Meng-Chieh Liu began his piano studies early, and at age thirteen was accepted by The Curtis Institute of Music to study with Jorge Bolet, Claude Frank, Gary Graffman and Eleanor Sokoloff, and received first prizes in the Stravinsky, Asia Pacific and Mieczyslaw Munz piano competitions. His reputation as a teacher/mentor has brought him across the globe in summer festivals, masterclasses, and lecture recitals.

Liu is known for his versatility, performing music from Scarlatti and Bach to Szymanowski, Messiaen and composers of our times, including Zhou Tian and David Ludwig. In recent years, he embarked on several immersive projects, performing the complete piano music by Johannes Brahms and complete piano sonatas by Franz Schubert.

In 2011, Liu experienced another medical setback requiring open heart surgery. Once again the predictions of medical doctors were grim. Despite the debilitating effects of his treatment, he still managed to keep performing. Liu has taken on new challenges, both in recital and in concerto programs and has now focused his energy on recording. His most recent album of Chopin's complete nocturnes has been released on Decca this past January.

For more on this artist, visit www.curtis.edu/person/meng-chieh-liu

Program

Meng-Chieh Liu *piano*

Piano Sonata No. 5 in G Major, K. 283 **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**
I. Allegro (1756-1791)
II. Andante
III. Presto

Piano Sonata (1947-1948) **Henri Dutilleux**
I. Allegro con moto (1916-2013)
II. Lied
III. Choral et variations

intermission

Piano Sonata, BB 88, Sz. 80 **Béla Bartók**
I. Allegro moderato (1881-1945)
II. Sostenuto e pesante
III. Allegro molto

“Isoldens Liebestod” from *Tristan and Isolde* **Richard Wagner/
Franz Liszt**
(1813-1883)/(1811-1886)

Après une lecture du Dante: **Franz Liszt**
Fantasia quasi Sonata, S. 161/7

*Please remember to turn off your phones, and note that photography
and recording are not permitted.*

We gratefully acknowledge that we are gathered together for this event on the
traditional, ancestral territory of the hən̄qəmínəh̄-speaking
Musqueam peoples.

Coming up at the UBC School of Music

Fri Jan 17

UBC Concerto Competition

6pm, Barnett Hall

Sat Jan 25

UBC WindFest!

9am-6pm, UBC Music Building

Wed Jan 29

UBC Concert Winds

7:30pm, Old Auditorium

Jan 30 - Feb 2

UBC Opera Ensemble & Members of the UBC Symphony Orchestra Street Scene by Kurt Weill

Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

Fri Feb 7

UBC Choral Union

7:30pm, Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

Sat Feb 8

UBC Symphonic Wind Ensemble: Dreams

7:30pm, Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

Sun Feb 9

Ryan Davis/Radia *viola*

7pm, Barnett Hall

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Thank you for joining us!