



The Vancouver
CHOPIN
SOCIETY

2021-2022 **SEASON**

MUSIC GIVES SOUL TO
THE UNIVERSE

MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

As I sit here writing this message, I think of the upheaval that we all have been living through this past year.

I am very grateful to you, our audience, for your support this year, for joining us for our online performances, and for your generous donations.

I would like to personally invite you once again to come and experience the thrill of a live performance. Like you, I have missed hearing someone make music on stage, the magical contact and connection between performer and listener that only live music can offer.

For this season of renewal, we have invited four incredible artists to come and share their music making with you. Zbigniew Raubo, a supreme musician at the peak of his artistic maturity; Federico Colli, whose Vancouver debut had to be cancelled, will finally come and grace our stage with his presence. We also have our long time friend, Rafal Blechacz, whose performances in Vancouver and anywhere he plays always create a stir, and Eric Lu, a young artist who has already been compared to musicians such as Radu Lupu and Murray Perahia.

We are also proud and pleased to present the winner of the upcoming International Chopin Competition in Warsaw, to be held in October this year. You would be pleased to know that Vancouver is only one of two stops of this winner's tour of North America.

Do please come back and join us, and together we will once again share in experiencing the magic, beauty and healing power of great music.

We continue our commitment to make our tickets affordable to everyone, in particular seniors and students. BCRMTA members enjoy a substantial discount of 25%. **The price for youth (Grades 1 through 12) will once again be an unbelievable \$15 per ticket.** If you are between **the ages of 18 and 35**, you are eligible to purchase single tickets at the extraordinarily low price of \$20.

Welcome back!

Lee Kum Sing

CONCERT 1 ZBIGNIEW RAUBO



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

7:30 pm, Vancouver Playhouse

A supreme artist, Zbigniew Raubo graduated with honors from The Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice, where he mastered his skills under the guidance of Andrzej Jasiński and later became his university assistant. Currently he holds the Professor's position at the Academy.

Here is a laureate of The Karol Szymanowski Competition in Łódź (1987), a 6th prize-winner of The Ferruccio Busoni International Piano Competition in Bolzano (1991), as well as a 4th prize-winner of the Franz Liszt International Piano Competition in Utrecht (1992).

Raubo has recorded a number of compositions for phonograph companies in Poland and abroad, among others for the Japanese division of Deutsche Gramophon, RCA, DUX, and Żuk Records.

As a chamber musician he has collaborated with the Silesian String Quartet, the Wilanów Quartet, the Camerata Quartet, and also with outstanding soloists such as Bartłomiej Nizioł and Urszula Kryger.

As a Jury member he participated in the Polish Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw (2010) and the International Chopin Competition in ASIA (Japan, 2011). Among his students are winners of various musical competitions.

BEETHOVEN	Sonata No. 30 in E major, Op. 109
CHOPIN	Polonaise in F-sharp minor, Op. 44
	Berceuse in D-flat major, Op. 57
	Barcarolle in F-sharp major, Op. 60

Intermission

LISZT	Sonata in B minor
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Delectable treats from Daniel's Chocolates will be served after the concert

CONCERT 2 FEDERICO COLLI



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2021
3 pm, Vancouver Playhouse

Undisputed winner of the 2012 Leeds Piano Competition, this young artist has already been praised for his brilliant technique, the colours he brings to his piano playing, and his vibrant and original interpretations. Of a recent performance of Rachmaninoff's 3rd piano concerto, "International Piano" calls Colli "*a maverick genius*."

A deeply serious musician and musical thinker, Colli sees his music-making as a mission coming from a divine gift. He says, "*I want to serve the music, expressing the truth, paying tribute to the beauty*." An exclusive recording artist with Chandos Records, his two recordings have both received rave reviews. Of his Scarlatti, "La Scena Musica" writes, "*Scarlatti hasn't been this much fun since Horowitz left it off his encores list*."

For Colli, the art of music "*is a never-ending creative process, and for this reason it will always be ahead of us, moving infinitely*." It is not surprising that his artistry and pianism have often been compared to masters like Lipatti, Michelangeli and Pollini.

We know that this will be a debut you will remember for a long time to come. Come and be swept off your feet by the playing of this young genius.

SCARLATTI 7 Sonatas
MOZART Sonata K.333

Intermission

SCHUBERT Fantasy in F minor
(transcribed for solo piano by Maria Gringber)

BACH-BUSONI Chaconne

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CONCERT 3 BRUCE (XIAOYU) LIU



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2022
2:00 pm, Chan Centre

Born on 8 May 1997 in Paris, he graduated from the Montreal Conservatoire under Richard Raymond and is currently a student of Dang Thai Son. He has performed with major ensembles including the Cleveland Orchestra, Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra, Montreal Symphony Orchestra and Orchestra of the Americas, and has toured with the China NCPA Orchestra in North America. Recent seasons have brought two successive tours of China with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine and the Lviv Philharmonic Orchestra (including appearances at the National Centre for the Performing Arts, Beijing Concert Hall and Shanghai Oriental Arts Centre), and the Orchestre Lamoureux at Salle Gaveau. He has won prizes at international piano competitions in Sendai, Montreal, Tel Aviv and Viseu.

Throughout the Chopin Competition in Warsaw, Bruce created a stir as he moved from the first round to the finals. After his performance at the 3rd round as well as the final round of the competition, the audience stood up and gave him enthusiastic standing ovations. It was of course no surprise to any of us when the judges announced the results, awarding Bruce (Xiaoyu) Liu the gold medal of this most prestigious musical event, the first Canadian ever to be given this great honour.

Programme TBA

CONCERT 4 RAFAL BLECHACZ



TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2022
7:30 pm, Vancouver Playhouse

"One of the most finely honed pianists of his generation, his playing is full of flair and charm and sparkles with wit and character. He conveys both serious intent and huge enjoyment, giving the music shape and driving momentum. Do hear him." ~ BBC Music Magazine

Rafał Blechacz is the winner of the Gilmore Artist Award, one of the most prestigious music awards in the world. Awarded every four years to a distinguished, extraordinary concert pianist, regardless of age or nationality, Blechacz received the award in January 2014. The young Polish pianist has established himself firmly on the international concert scene, celebrated by both audiences and the press worldwide for his profound and virtuosic interpretations. He is recognized as his generation's greatest performer of Chopin's works. In October 2005, uncontested, Rafał Blechacz won all prizes of the prestigious 15th Frédéric Chopin International Piano Competition.

In 2016 Blechacz embarked upon a sabbatical to complete his Ph.D. dissertation in Philosophy of Music.

Rafał Blechacz is an exclusive recording artist of Deutsche Grammophon. He already released seven albums, including the most recent solo CD of works by J. S. Bach, along with his duo recording with Bomsori Kim.

BACH Partita No. 2 in C minor, BWV. 826
BEETHOVEN Sonata No. 5 in C minor, Op. 10, No. 1
BEETHOVEN 32 Variations in C minor, WoO. 80

Intermission

FRANCK Prelude, Fugue and Variation in B minor, Op. 18
CHOPIN Sonata No. 3 in B minor, Op. 58

CONCERT 5 ERIC LU



SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2022
3 pm, Vancouver Playhouse

At 17, Lu already made headlines by being a prizewinner at the 2015 International Chopin Competition in Warsaw. In 2018, he went on to win the unanimous first prize at the Leeds International Piano Competition, the first American to win the prestigious prize since Murray Perahia. He made his BBC Proms debut the following summer, and is currently a member of the BBC New Generation Artist scheme. Eric is a recipient of the 2021 Avery Fisher Career Grant, and is an exclusive Warner Classics recording artist.

Of his performance of Schubert's Impromptu in C minor, a critic wrote that he played it *"with such pianissimo finesse as to be breathtaking."* The same writer later refers to Lu as someone who *"seems already to possess something of the magic touch of early Leeds laureates Murray Perahia and Radu Lupu ... A veritable poet of the keyboard."*

His prize-winning performance of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4, released on Warner Classics, is simply astounding, betraying a depth and maturity far beyond his age.

The Vancouver Chopin Society last presented Eric Lu in 2015 as a very talented young pianist. Come now and experience the mature artistry and musicality of this young master of the piano.

SCHUMANN	Arabeske, Op. 18
SCHUMANN	Waldszenen, Op. 82
BRAHMS	Theme and Variations in D minor, op. 18b
<i>Intermission</i>	
SCRIABIN	Sonata No. 3, Op. 23
CHOPIN	Andante Spianato and Grande Polonaise in E flat major, Op. 22

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The 18th International Chopin Competition

From October 2nd to 23rd this year, Warsaw was the absolute piano capital of the music world, when outstanding young pianists from every country of the globe travelled to this fabled city and competed at the 18th International Chopin Competition.

The distinguished panel of 11 jury members listened to 152 pianists in the preliminary round of the competition. Out of this pool, they had the difficult task of selecting 80 pianists to compete in Warsaw. The organizers of the Chopin Competition decided on live auditions in order for members of the jury to better gauge the pianism, musicianship and artistry of the young artists.

Even with the literally hundreds of music competitions held every year, the Chopin Competition in Warsaw continues to capture the imagination of music lovers all over the world. Since the first edition of the competition in 1927, the competition in Warsaw has introduced to the world some of the most legendary names in music – from pianists like Lev Oborin, Yakov Zak and Halina Czerny-Stefanska, to familiar names like Martha Argerich, Krystian Zimerman, Rafal Blechacz and Seong-Jin Cho.

The Vancouver Chopin Society is proud to have presented many of the prizewinners from the Chopin Competition. A few members of our board of directors travelled to Warsaw to attend many sessions of the competition, and were there when Canadian Bruce (Xiaoyu) Liu was presented with the gold medal, the first ever Canadian to receive this great honour.

We are eagerly anticipating the Vancouver debut recital of Bruce Liu on February 20th, 2022, and are all waiting to experience the artistry of this spectacular young talent. We are happy to tell you that Vancouver is the only North American stop of this prizewinner's tour. In the coming seasons, we hope to present many of the other distinguished laureates of this latest edition of the Chopin Competition.

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia
We gratefully acknowledge the support of the City of Vancouver and Consulate General of Poland in Vancouver



SINGLE TICKETS

SINGLE TICKETS FOR NON-SUBSCRIBERS ON SALE FOR FIRST TWO CONCERTS - SEPT 1, 2021 FOR REMAINING CONCERTS - NOV 15, 2021

	Section	A	B	C
Tuesday September 21, 2021 at 7:30 pm ZBIGNIEW RAUBO Vancouver Playhouse	A S	50 40	40 32	
Sunday Nov 21, 2021 at 3 pm FEDERICO COLLI Vancouver Playhouse	A S	50 40	40 32	
Sunday February 20, 2022 at 2 pm BRUCE (XIAOYU) LIU Chan Centre	A S	68 54	52 42	36 29
Tuesday April 5, 2022 at 7:30 pm RAFAL BLECHACZ Vancouver Playhouse	A S	50 40	40 32	30 24
Sunday May 22, 2022 at 3 pm ERIC LU Vancouver Playhouse	A S	50 40	40 32	30 24

A-Adult S-Senior/Student/ BCRMTA members (20% discount)
Youth (Grades 1 to 12) - \$15 All concerts
Under 35? Tickets are only \$20



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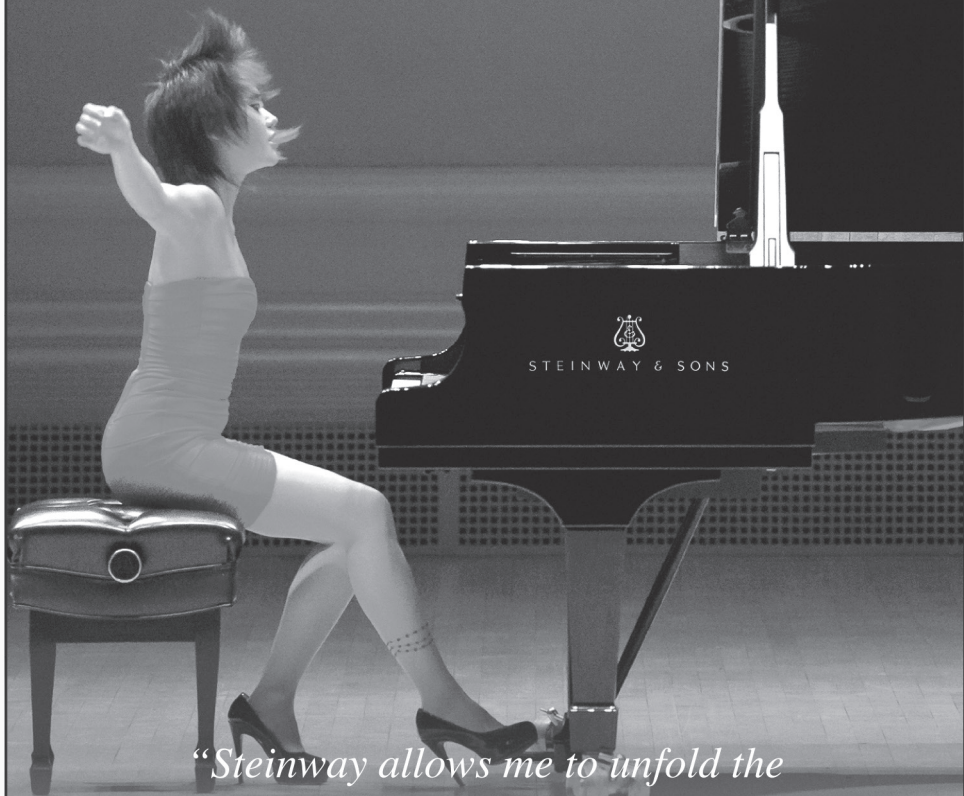


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