

YUJA WANG
Piano

Biography

Twenty-two year old Chinese pianist Yuja Wang is widely recognized for playing that combines the spontaneity and fearless imagination of youth with the discipline and precision of a mature artist. Regularly lauded for her controlled, prodigious technique, Yuja's command of the piano has been described as "astounding" and "superhuman," and she has been praised for her authority over the most complex technical demands of the repertoire, the depth of her musical insight, as well as her fresh interpretations and graceful, charismatic stage presence. Following her San Francisco recital debut *The San Francisco Chronicle* wrote "The arrival of Chinese-born pianist Yuja Wang on the musical scene is an exhilarating and unnerving development. To listen to her in action is to re-examine whatever assumptions you may have had about how well the piano can actually be played," and *The Washington Post* called Yuja's Kennedy Center recital debut "jaw-dropping."

In the few short years since her 2005 debut with the National Arts Center Orchestra led by Pinchas Zukerman, for which the Canadian press reported "a star is born," Yuja has already performed with many of the world's prestigious orchestras including the Baltimore Symphony, Boston Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Dallas Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Houston Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, National Symphony, New World Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, Pittsburgh Orchestra and the San Francisco Symphony, in the U.S., and abroad with the Tonhalle Orchestra, China Philharmonic, London Philharmonic, Nagoya Philharmonic, the NHK Symphony in Tokyo and Orchestra Mozart, among others. In 2006 Yuja made her New York Philharmonic debut at the *Bravo!* Vail Music Festival and performed with the orchestra the following season under Lorin Maazel during the Philharmonic's Japan/Korea visit. That same season she performed in Leeds, U.K., and toured the Netherlands with the St. Petersburg Philharmonic led by Yuri Temirkanov. In 2008 Yuja toured the United States with the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields led by Sir Neville Marriner and in 2009 she performed as a soloist with the You Tube Symphony Orchestra led by Michael Tilson Thomas at Carnegie Hall. She has given recitals in major cities throughout North America and abroad, is a dedicated performer of chamber music, and makes regular appearances at festivals including the Aspen Festival, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, the Gilmore Festival, the Schleswig Holstein Festival and the Verbier Festival. She has worked with many of the world's esteemed conductors including Claudio Abbado, Charles Dutoit, Robert Spano, Michael Stern, Yuri Temirkanov, Michael Tilson-Thomas, Osmo Vänskä, and Pinchas Zuckerman.

As a young emerging pianist, each season Yuja makes a number of important debuts, both with major orchestras and in recital. This fall she made her Carnegie Hall orchestral debut performing with the Philadelphia Orchestra led by Charles Dutoit and she will perform the world premiere of Jennifer Higdon's piano concerto with the National Symphony Orchestra led by Andrew Litton in Washington DC. Over the span of her 2009-10 season, Yuja will make her debuts with the Charlotte Symphony, North Carolina Symphony, Portland Symphony Orchestra and Montreal Symphony Orchestra in North America, and abroad with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Frankfurter Museumsorchester, Filarmonica

della Scala, Gulbenkian Orchestra and the Monte Carlo Philharmonic. She will make recital debuts at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia, the Hong Kong City Hall Theater and the Mozarteum in Salzburg.

Additional highlights of Yuja's 2009-10 season include an 11-city U.S. tour with the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra led by Long Yu in honor of the orchestra's 130th anniversary and seven performances with the Russian National Orchestra conducted by Patrick Summers during the orchestra's 20th Anniversary U.S. tour. She will also perform with the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Indianapolis Symphony, and the San Francisco Symphony and New World Symphony led by Michael Tilson Thomas. Yuja will perform with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra conducted by Claudio Abbado in Beijing, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in Spain and in London, and the Hong Kong Philharmonic. She will give recitals in San Francisco, Vancouver, Detroit, Washington DC, Zurich, Paris, Madrid, Lisbon and Venice, among other cities worldwide. In the summer of 2010, Yuja will return to the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival and the Verbier Festival.

Yuja is an exclusive recording artist for Deutsche Grammophon. For her debut recording, titled *Sonatas & Etudes*, released in the spring of 2009, she presented a program of sonatas including Chopin's "Funeral March," Liszt's Sonata in B minor, and Scriabin's Sonata no. 2, and etudes by Ligeti.

Born in Beijing in 1987, Yuja began studying piano at age six, with her earliest public performances taking place in China, Australia and Germany, and went on to study at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing under Ling Yuan and Zhou Guangren. Following three years, from 1999 to 2001, at the Morningside Music summer program at Calgary's Mount Royal College, an artistic and cultural exchange program between Canada and China, Yuja moved to Canada and began studying with Hung Kuan Chen and Tema Blackstone at the Mount Royal College Conservatory. In 2002, when Yuja was 15, she won Aspen Music Festival's concerto competition and moved to the U.S. to study with Gary Graffman at The Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where she graduated in 2008. In 2006 Yuja received the Gilmore Young Artist Award.

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DI WU
Piano

Biography

Named one of the "up-and-coming talents" in the classical music world by Musical America in 2008, Chinese pianist Di Wu continues to grow her reputation as an artist to be watched. In 2009, Ms. Wu's pianistic skills have received attention on both the concert and competition stages. She became one of six finalists at the recent Thirteenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, won the Juilliard William Petschek Piano Debut Recital Award, and appeared in recital at Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center.

Ms. Wu's 2009–2010 season will include engagements arranged by the Van Cliburn Foundation as part of her prize as a 2009 finalist. Performances in July and August 2009 included recitals at Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania and at the Green Lake Festival in Wisconsin; a performance with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, and two orchestral and one recital performance at California's Bear Valley Festival. Along with an extensive tour of the university circuit, Ms. Wu will hold a three-day residency in early November at the University of Vermont, as well as a residency at Whittier College in California during their Bach Festival in March. Additional engagements include orchestral appearances with the Columbus Philharmonic (IN), Asheville Symphony (NC), Bryan Symphony Orchestra (TN), and the Symphony OPRF (IL). Ms. Wu's recital engagements take her to Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Wisconsin. International engagements include recitals in Barbados in February 2010 and with the Hamburg Philharmoniker (Germany) in July 2010.

Di Wu made her professional debut at age fourteen with the Beijing Philharmonic. Since then, she has performed with various U.S. orchestras, including the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, the National Symphony Orchestra, the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra, and twice with the New York Pops at Carnegie Hall, to name a few. Ms. Wu made her solo debut in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in 2005 and has given recitals in the United States, Barbados, Canada, and China. She has toured extensively in Europe, presenting recitals at such festivals as Mozart Gesellschaft Dortmund, Klavier Festival Ruhr, and the Busoni International Piano Festival, and at venues such as the Musée d'Orsay and Musée de Grenoble.

Among her competition awards, Di Wu counts the Astral 2007 National Audition, which won her representation by Astral Artists. Other competition credits include first prize at the 2005 Hilton Head International Piano Competition and the 2000 Missouri Southern International Piano Competition, for which she was invited back for a worldwide broadcast encore recital in 2001.

Ms. Wu's recording of Brahms' Paganini Variations, Books I and II received praise from Musical America's Harris Goldsmith, who wrote, "Her account of the Brahms is amazing. She takes all the difficult options (her glissandos are unbelievable!), and she conjures from the piano absolutely gossamer, violinistic textures, joyous humor, and brilliant air-borne tempos."

Born in China, Di Wu moved to the United States in 1999 to study with Zenon Fishbein at the Manhattan School of Music. She relocated to Philadelphia a year later to study with Gary Graffman at the Curtis Institute of Music. After completing her undergraduate education at Curtis, Ms. Wu returned to New York City to earn her master's degree at the Juilliard School of Music under Dr. Yoheved Kaplinsky. She also participated in Juilliard's prestigious artist diploma program under the guidance of Joseph Kalichstein and Robert McDonald.

Ms. Wu's complete Cliburn Competition performances are available for viewing at www.cliburn.tv.

For promotional materials, please contact Lauren Novak: Lnovak@cliburn.org.

For more information on the artist, visit www.DiWuPiano.com or www.cliburn.org.

XIAODUO CHEN **Soprano**

Acclaimed soprano Xiaoduo Chen, an active performer in China and around the world, was a prizewinner at Beijing's 2004 National Singing Competition and Belgium's Queen Elizabeth Competition. Ms. Chen won the 2001 Vera Rosa Award for most promising singer in Belgium and the 2002 Best New Singer award in Taiwan. She has performed with the China Philharmonic, Beijing Symphony Orchestra, Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, and at the Central Opera House of China. In 2004 she was asked to serve as a cultural ambassador by China's Ministry of Culture. She studied at the China Conservatory of Music and the Royal Academy of Music.

Touring across the United States and Canada, Ms. Chen received critical acclaim as the lead role in the musical *Terracotta Warriors*. She performed at the Gwangju Jungyousung International Music Festival in Korea and toured as a guest performer with Italian singer Renzo Arbore. In 2006 she sang the lead role in the Chinese opera *Ms. Du Shi Niang* at the Central Opera House.

MENG MENG **Soprano**

Meng Meng, currently a student at the China Conservatory of Music, was admitted to the Shan Dong Opera School at age twelve, where she won first prize in the New Talents Cup and second prize in the A Cappella Group competition.

Ms. Meng has performed in many productions at the Qing Dao Theater and sang in the Chinese ballet *Da Hong Deng Long Gao Gao Gua* in 2003. She is a first-prize winner of the China Opera Essay Competition.

Singing in Qigang Chen's symphonic work *Die Lian Hua* with the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra, Ms. Meng performed in Guangzhou, Australia, France, Germany, Belgium and Egypt.

NAN WANG

Erhu

Nan Wang began playing the erhu at age six and studied at the Xi'an Conservatory of Music and the China Conservatory of Music. Ms. Wang won third prize at the Chinese Traditional Instrument National Contest, second prize at the National erhu Contest, and the Prize of Excellence in erhu performance at the Taipei Traditional Arts Festival.

Ms. Wang has toured throughout Asia, Europe and the Middle East and has performed with the Central Tradition Orchestra of China, China Philharmonic Orchestra, and Central Ballet Orchestra. Ms. Wang has performed at the festival *La voix du dragon* in Paris and was a featured soloist with the National Orchestra of France at the world premiere of *Iris dévoilée*.

JIA LI

Pipa

Jia Li began playing the pipa at age six and studied at the Shanghai Conservatory and the China Conservatory of Music. She has performed at the festivals *La voix du dragon* and *Présences* in France, and in a concert series held throughout Asia commemorating the 50th Anniversary of pipa master Liu Dehai.

Ms. Li was a featured soloist at the premiere of *Iris dévoilée* with the National Orchestra of France and has performed the work around the world with the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra.

In 2005 Ms. Li joined the China Artists' Group delegation to India led by Premier Wen Jiabao and participated in the Art Exchange Program with performers from India and Bhutan. She has performed throughout Asia in Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, and participated in the Kennedy Center's Chinese Cultural Festival in 2005.

XIN SUN

Guzheng

Xin Sun began her guzheng studies at age six and studied at the China Conservatory of Music. Ms. Sun won first prizes at the Beijing Youth Chinese Music Contest and the Chinese Instruments Contest, top prizes at the Xing-Hai Cup Chinese Instruments Contest in Beijing, the Youth Division prize at the Long-Yin Cup International Guzheng Contest, and the Youth Division Third Prize at the ART International Folk Instruments Contest.

While still in high school, Ms. Sun co-founded Sheng Lan Qi Xin (Orchids Seven), the first chamber music ensemble organized by students in China. She received critical acclaim for her performances at the Fifth Anniversary ROI Productions Concert in Hong Kong, Chinese

Central Television's (CCTV) first anniversary of the Return of Hong Kong to China Folk Music Concert, and the BTV 1997 Spring Folk Music Concert. Having toured in more than 20 countries around the world, Ms. Sun has performed at the Macau Festival with the Chinese Macau Orchestra and at the Opera de Lyon in France. Her albums include San Zhu Xie Yu (Pearls Falling Down), Zheng Zhi Xin Yun (New Tunes of guzheng), and Hua Yu (Whispers of Flowers).