35th SEASON

THE ROCHE

GUEST ARTISTS

series

Sean Chen, piano

Monday, October 21 • 8 p.m.
Walker Recital Hall

MERCYHURST UNIVERSITY

D'ANGELO DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

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Four Ballades — Frederic Chopin (1810-1849)

No. 1 in G Minor, op. 23
No. 2 in F Minor, op. 38
No. 3 in Ab Major, op. 47
No. 4 in F Minor, op. 52

Intermission

Sonata-Tale, op. 25, #1 — Nikolai Medtner (1880-1951)

I. Allegro abbandonamente
II. Andantino con moto
III. Allegro con spirito

Four Etudes — Gyorgy Ligeti (1923-2006)

II. Cordes a vide
III. Touches bloquees
X. Die Zauberlehrling
XIII. L'escalier du Diable

L'Apprenti sorcier — Paul Dukas (1865-1935)
arr. by Sean Chen

The use of recording devices is strictly prohibited. Please turn off all electronic devices. Thank you.

Biography

A "thoughtful musician well beyond his years" (The Republic), pianist Sean Chen shares his "alluring, colorfully shaded renditions" (New York Times) and "genuinely sensitive" (LA Times) playing with audiences around the world in solo and chamber recitals, concerto performances, and masterclasses, after having won the 2013 American Pianists Awards, placing third at the 2013 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, and being named a 2015 Annenberg Fellow. Mr. Chen is the Jack Strandberg/Missouri Endowed Chair Associate Professor of Piano at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory.

Mr. Chen has performed with many prominent orchestras, including the Fort Worth, Indianapolis, Kansas City, San Diego, Knoxville, Hartford, Louisiana Philharmonic, Milwaukee, North Carolina, Pasadena, Phoenix, Santa Fe, and New West Symphony Orchestras, as well as the Chamber Orchestras of Philadelphia, Indianapolis, and South Bay. He has collaborated with such esteemed conductors as Leonard Slatkin, Michael Stern, Gerard Schwarz, Nicholas McGegan, Miguel Harth-Bedoya, Marcelo Lehninger, and James Judd. Solo recitals have brought him to major venues worldwide, including Jordan Hall in Boston, Subculture in New York City, the American Art Museum at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., the National Concert Hall in Taipei, Het Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, and the Salle Cortot in Paris.

Mr. Chen has served on the juries of notable piano competitions, including PianoArts, American Pianists Awards, Cliburn Junior, Thailand International Piano Competition, West Virginia International Piano Competition, Cleveland International Piano Competition for Young Artists, and Steinway competitions around the country. Given his natural inclination for teaching and approachable personality, Mr. Chen is particularly in demand for residencies that combine performances with master classes, school concerts, and artist conversations, which have brought him to such institutions as the Cleveland Institute of Music, Indiana University, University of British Columbia, University of Houston Moores School, Spotlight Awards at the Los Angeles Music Center, Young Artist World Piano Festival, and several Music Teachers' Associations throughout the country.

Mr. Chen has been featured in both live and recorded performances on WQXR (New York), WFMT (Chicago), WGBH (Boston), WFYI (Indianapolis), KCUR (Kansas City), KPR (Kansas), NPR's From the Top, and American Public Media's Performance Today. Additional media coverage includes a profile featured on the cover of Clavier Companion in May 2015, recognition as "One to Watch" by International Piano Magazine in March 2014, and inclusion in WFMT's "30 Under 30."

His CD releases include the 2021 all-Ravel digital album on the Steinway & Sons label, featuring Sonatine and Le Tombeau de Couperin; La Valse, another solo recording on the Steinway label, featuring Mr. Chen's own arrangement of La Valse and hailed for "penetrating artistic intellect" (Audiophile Audition); a live recording from the

Cliburn Competition released by harmonia mundi, praised for his "ravishing tone and cogently contoured lines" (Gramophone); an album of Michael Williams's solo piano works on the Parma label; and an album of Flute, Oboe, and Piano repertoire titled KaleidosCoping with colleagues Michael Gordon and Celeste Johnson. Mr. Chen has also contributed to the catalog of Steinway's new Spirio system.

A multifaceted musician, Mr. Chen also transcribes, composes, and improvises. He most recently completed a transcription of Ysaÿe's Violin Sonata No. 3 for two pianos, commissioned by 88Squared duo. His most recent composition, Daydream No. 1 - Steps (2021), was commissioned as a gift for the retirement of American Pianists Association's President/CEO. His transcriptions of such orchestral works as Ravel's La Valse, Mozart's Overture to The Marriage of Figaro, and the Adagio from Rachmaninoff's Symphony No. 2, have been received with glowing acclaim and enthusiasm, and his encore improvisations are lauded as "genuinely brilliant" (Dallas Morning News). An advocate of new music, he has also collaborated with several composers and performed their works, including Lisa Bielawa, Jennifer Higdon, Michael Williams, Nicco Athens, Michael Gilbertson, and Reinaldo Moya.

Born in Florida, Mr. Chen grew up in the Los Angeles area of Oak Park, California. His impressive achievements before college include the NFAA ARTSweek, Los Angeles Music Center's Spotlight, and 2006 Presidential Scholars awards. These honors combined with diligent schoolwork facilitated offers of acceptance by MIT, Harvard, and The Juilliard School. Choosing to study music, Mr. Chen earned his Bachelor and Master of Music from Juilliard, meanwhile garnering several awards, most notably the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans. He received his Artist Diploma in 2014 at the Yale School of Music as a George W. Miles Fellow. His teachers include Hung-Kuan Chen, Edward Francis, Jerome Lowenthal, and Matti Raekallio.

Mr. Chen resides in the suburbs of Kansas City with his wife, Betty, a violinist in the Kansas City Symphony, and their daughters Ella and Maeve. When not at the piano, Mr. Chen enjoys tinkering with computers, and exploring math, science, and programming. Mr. Chen is a Steinway Artist and is managed by Jonathan Wentworth Associates, Ltd.

Welcome to the 35th season of the
Roche Guest Artists Series!

THE ROCHE GUEST ARTISTS SERIES

Since its founding in 1988, the Roche Guest Artists Series has introduced local audiences to a unique mix of acclaimed traditional soloists and chamber ensembles, along with specialized performers and lecturers in areas of contemporary music, jazz, Renaissance, Baroque, world music, and music therapy. From international artists to young, emerging ensembles, the hallmark of the Series has always been the residency component in which each artist or ensemble augments their recital performance with an in-depth workshop relating to their area of specialization. I hope you will join me in meeting the artists and journeying into their interpretive world as they share some of the secrets of their art through master classes and presentations.

The Roche Series once again offers these great presentations FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, thanks to the GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE TERRY AND MARGARET M. ROCHE FAMILY.

Please join us tomorrow, Tuesday, October 22, for two open events: an Artist Talk with Sean Chen, 11:45am to 12:15pm, in Walker Recital Hall, immediately followed by a masterclass, 12:15-1:45pm, where Mr. Chen will work with three of our piano students.

The next recital in the Series is Monday, February 17, artist TBA, followed by the Can-Am Oboe Trio on Monday, April 28.

For now, please sit back and relax, as we enjoy a fabulous evening of music with internationally-renowned virtuoso Sean Chen, 2013 Van Cliburn Competition prize winner!

With best wishes,
Dr. Nathan Hess
Associate Professor of Piano
Director, Roche Guest Artists Series

The Roche Guest Artists Series is supported in part by a generous endowment from the Terry and Margaret M. Roche family. For more information on the endowment or to make a contribution to support the series, please contact Meaghan Hubert, Director of Annual Giving & Stewardship at **814-824-2379** or **mhubert2@mercyhurst.edu.**

A special THANK YOU to all of those who have assisted in making the ROCHE GUEST ARTISTS SERIES, and tonight's concert, possible:

Dean Jodi Staniunas Hopper
Emily Hauff
Sara Garrity
Dr. Albert Glinsky
Lynn Simile
Rebecca Wunch
Debbie Morton
Patrick Magill

The D'Angelo Department of Music presents

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall 2024

ARTIST TALK WITH SEAN CHEN
Sean Chen, piano
Tuesday, October 22, 2024, 11:45-12:15 p.m.
Walker Recital Hall

ROCHE SERIES MASTERCLASS
Sean Chen, piano
Tuesday, October 22, 2024, 12:15-1:45 p.m.
Walker Recital Hall
Made possible by the generosity of the Terry and Margaret M. Roche Family. Free and open to the public, no livestream.

MERCYHURST CIVIC ORCHESTRA
Sunday, October 27, 2024, 4 p.m.
Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center
Dr. Gary Viebranz, director
Ticketed event: please see miac.universitytickets.com
Adults: $8.50 | MU Students, Employees, and 12 and under: $5.00. Each ticket has $1.50 service fee.

SENIOR RECITAL: Bridget Gedeon, voice
Sunday, November 10, 2024, 1 p.m.
Walker Recital Hall
Free and open to the public, livestreamed.

D'ANGELO FACULTY RECITAL: Dr. Nathan Hess, piano
Wednesday, November 20, 2024, 8 p.m.
Walker Recital Hall
Free and open to the public, livestreamed.

SENIOR RECITAL: Kole Wentling, clarinet
Sunday, November 24, 2024, 4 p.m.
Walker Recital Hall
Free and open to the public, livestreamed.

SMALL ENSEMBLES CONCERT
Wednesday, December 4, 2024, 7 p.m.
Walker Recital Hall
Free and open to the public, livestreamed.

'TIS THE SEASON
Friday, December 6, 2024, 7 p.m.
Saturday, December 7, 2024, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center
Collaboration of the D'Angelo Jazz Ensemble, Dr. Scott Meier, Director, and the Mercyhurst Dance Department, Noelle Partusch, Chair.
Ticketed event: please see miac.universitytickets.com
Adults: $15 | Seniors: $10 | Students: $7.50 | Youth: $5 | Mercyhurst Students: $5

CHRISTMAS GALA
Lessons and Carols
Sunday, December 8, 2024, 3-4 p.m.
Christ the King Chapel
CONCERT CHOIR
Dr. Christopher Petit, director
Free admission; donations gratefully accepted.

WIND ENSEMBLE & THE MERCYHURST CIVIC ORCHESTRA
Holiday Concert Celebration, 4:30 p.m.
Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center
Dr. Scott Meier, and Dr. Gary Viebranz, directors
Ticketed event: please see miac.universitytickets.com
Adults: $8.50 | MU Students, Employees, 12 and under: $5.00. Each ticket has a $1.50 service fee.

Concert ticket prices are as follows: $8.50 for adults, and $5 for Mercyhurst students, employees, and 12 and under. Each ticket purchase is subject to a $1.50 service fee. To purhcase tickets please visit: ***miac.universitytickets.com***.
For the most updated list of events please visit: ***www.mercyhurst.edu/academics/music/concerts-events***.

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