

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH CONCERT SERIES AUTUMN · WINTER 2012

Concerts at The University

Friday 2 November 2012

1.10pm

St Cecilia's Hall

Shuann Chai · fortepiano

Programme of works by DUSSEK, HAYDN and BEETHOVEN.



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Edinburgh College of Art

Air and Variations 'Within a Mile of Edinburgh'

Jan Ludislav Dussek (1760-1812)

Sonata in B minor

Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

- (i) Allegro moderato
- (ii) Menuet
- (iii) Finale - Presto

Sonata in C minor Op.13 'Pathétique'

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

- (i) Grave – Allegro di molto e con brio
- (ii) Adagio cantabile
- (iii) Rondo: Allegro

Chinese-American pianist **Shuann Chai** is an active and engaging performer, critically acclaimed for interpretations on both modern and historical instruments. Recent performances include all-Beethoven recitals at the Vredenburg Utrecht (NL) and the American Church of Paris (FR); the complete cycle of Beethoven's works for cello and piano at the Frederick Collection (US) and in Frankfurt, Germany; and the Chopin Bicentennial at the Cobbe Collection at Hatchlands Park (UK) featuring the composer's own Pleyel grand piano. As a concerto soloist she has performed with the Gliere Festival Orchestra in Kiev (Ukraine), Kamerorkest Barok Winter (NL) and the Bloomington Early Music Festival Orchestra (USA) with conductor Stanley Ritchie. Shuann has also been featured in live webcast on Avro Klassiek (NL) and live radio broadcasts on WGBH Boston (with cellist Pieter Wispelwey), the Dennis Lewin Radio Show on WCLV Cleveland, CKUA Edmonton (Canada), Harmonia Early Music Radio, Hong Kong Radio 4, and Radio-Canada.

Shuann completed degrees in both Piano Performance and Biology at Oberlin College and earned Master's degrees from the New England Conservatory in Boston and the Royal Conservatory in The Hague (NL). Her teachers have included Jack Radunsky, Norma Fisher, David Breitman, and Claus-Christian Schuster of the Altenberg Trio. In 2010 she received a full scholarship at the Banff Centre (Canada), where she was one of eight pianists from around the world selected to take part in an exclusive Beethoven Seminar and Master Class with Anton Kuerti. She was invited back to the Centre as an Artist-in-Residence in 2012.

Alongside her concert appearances, Ms. Chai has been increasingly in demand as a teacher. She has conducted master classes and lecture-demonstrations at the Gulangyu Piano Academy in Xiamen (China), the Grieg Conservatory in Bergen (Norway), the Central Conservatory of Beijing (China), National University of Taipei (Taiwan), the University of California at Davis (USA), and Duke University (USA). Last year she also received an appointment at the Royal Conservatory of The Hague, where she is now a Visiting Lecturer in early keyboards and pianos.

Forthcoming projects include a masterclass at the University of Edinburgh (UK), masterclasses in vocal collaboration at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing (China); performances at the Cruquius Museum (NL) and Noorderkerk Amsterdam (NL), as well as a tour of 8 performances with modern dancers featuring the music of John Cage. Autumn 2012 will also bring a performance of Mendelssohn's D minor Concerto with the New Dutch Academy under Simon Murphy as well as the recording of a new CD featuring the complete Schubert *Impromptus* on a historical instrument. Shuann Chai's first solo CD, featuring Beethoven Sonatas on the fortepiano, was released in 2011 to critical acclaim.

In May 2012 Shuann Chai became the recipient of a permanent loan of an original 1820 Rosenberger fortepiano, generously provided by the National Musical Instruments Foundation of the Netherlands (NMF). She is also the recipient of generous support from organizations such as the Fonds voor Podium Kunst (FPK) and Ars Donandi.

The piano by Thomas Loud was made in London around 1815. It is entirely typical of the many instruments produced at the time in which a five-and-a-half octave compass was standard. The instrument has two pedals - a damper lift and the una corda and a divided bridge - a development which allowed the break between stringing materials to sound as unobtrusive as possible.

Tonally the English piano of this period has a warm, full sound with - due to the damper system in use - something of a halo effect surrounding the music, something quite different to the dry, sharp articulation found in Viennese pianos of the period.

Dr Darryl Martin, EUCHMI

The second fortepiano used in today's recital is a copy of an instrument by Johann Schantz c.1800, and bears the inscription 'Johann Schantz No.52 in Wien' as does the original. This copy was largely built by Donald MacKinnon who started it in 1991, and was completed by Christopher Barlow. It has a five-and-a-quarter octave compass and has a damper lift and moderator operated by knee levers.

FORTHCOMING CONCERTS:

Tuesday 6 November

1.10pm

Reid Concert Hall

Canto per Tre

Taylor Wilson · mezzo soprano

Michael Beeston · viola

Margaret Murray McLeod · piano

JOHN McLEOD Canto per Tre

SCHUMANN Fantasiestücke Op.73

JOHN McLEOD Fearful Tales (first performance)

KURT WEILL Songs

ADMISSION FREE

Wednesday 7 November

1.05pm

Glass Arcade, Scottish Agricultural College, The King's Buildings

The Music in KB first semester lunchtime concert series continues

with a concert presented in association with Live Music Now! Scotland.

See website for details.

ADMISSION FREE

www.music-in-kb.com

Friday 9 November

1.10pm

Reid Concert Hall

Edinburgh University Singers

John Kitchen · conductor and organ

Michael Graham · assistant conductor

Motets by MENDELSSOHN, RHEINBERGER and BRUCKNER

ADMISSION FREE