



Western Music

Don Wright Faculty of Music

FRIDAYS @ 12:30 SERIES

Friday, September 21, 2018
12:30 p.m., von Kuster Hall
Sheng Cai, *piano*

Sonata in E Major K.20

Domenico Scarlatti
(1685-1757)

Piano Sonata No. 26 in E-flat Major, Op. 81a "Les Adieux"

Ludwig van Beethoven

Das Lebewohl (Les Adieux – The Farewell): Adagio – Allegro

(1770-1827)

Abwesenheit (L'Absence – The Absence): Andante espressivo

Das Wiedersehen (Le Retour – The Return): Vivacissimamente

Ballade in the Form of Variations on a Norwegian Folk Song
in G minor, Op. 24

Edvard Grieg
(1843-1907)

Two Fairy Tales

Nikolai Medtner

Op. 20, No. 1

(1880-1951)

Op. 14, No. 2 "March of the Paladin"

Etude No. 7 based on George Gershwin's "The Man I Love"

Earl Wild

Etude No. 6 based on George Gershwin's "I Got Rhythm"

(1915-2010)

Music Building Grand Opening

Join us at the Don Wright Faculty of Music on Saturday October 20 for the official opening of our new Music Building. All are welcome to attend. For complete details and to register in advance visit

music.uwo.ca/about/grand-opening.html

THE ARTIST



Pianist, **Sheng Cai** has embraced the keyboard tradition which epitomizes the greatness of the Romantic Virtuoso. His performances have touched audiences and won the praise of critics on three continents. Of his Chopin 1st piano Concerto the Toronto Star headlined: “Young pianist impresses at debut” and continued “a young man with real talent...from a clear, singing tone to a subtle sense of rubato to a judicious choice of tempi...some of the same qualities embodied in Pollini’s approach”. Honored with a number of prizes and awards, Sheng Cai has been described as a pianist “with great confidence...gave more lucidity, color and power” by the Birmingham News.

Since his debut with the Toronto Symphony at just fifteen years old, Sheng Cai has since performance a broad spectrum of concerto repertoire – Bartok, Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, Gershwin, Grieg, Mozart, Prokofiev, Rachmaninoff, Saint-Saëns, Schumann, Tchaikovsky with numerous orchestras as guest soloist such as Toronto Symphony, Quebec Symphony, Windsor Symphony, Fort Collins Symphony, New Bedford Symphony, Shanghai Symphony, as well as with the Calgary Philharmonic, Ontario Philharmonic, Jalisco Philharmonic of Mexico and many others. In Canada, Sheng Cai has also performed with numerous regional orchestras such as Sudbury, Kingston and Kamloops Symphonies, the Winnipeg Symphony Chamber Players and others. He has worked with conductors such as David Lockington, Keith Lockhart, Yoav Talmi, Glen Fast, Robert Franz, Bruce Dunn, Guoyong Zhang, Wes Kenny, Marcy Parisotto and Eckart Preu.

In recitals, Sheng Cai has been heard in the North American venues such as Steinway Hall in New York, Jordan Hall in Boston, The Cleveland Play House, the Modern Art Museum in Fort Worth, the Alys Stephens Center in Birmingham, CBC’s Glenn Gould Studio in Toronto, and other distinguished venues in Stratford, Elora, Montreal and Winnipeg. In China, he inaugurated the Ningbo Concert Hall giving both recitals and concerto performances. As a chamber musician, Sheng Cai has collaborated with a number of fine artists, including the Enso Quartet. Many of his performances have been broadcast on CBC Radio and he has recorded a CD for the Canadian Broadcast Company. In addition, he was invited to take part in the filming of Franz Liszt DVD of Ophra Yerushalmi.

Sheng Cai also recorded at the Glenn Gould Studio for Concertino Praga International Competition in the Czech Republic, released under the Canadian Broadcasting Company label. He was top-prize winner at competitions throughout his teenage years including the First Prize at the TD bank sponsored National Piano Competition, the Canadian Music Competition, Toronto Music Competition, the Montreal Symphony Orchestra Piano competition, Toronto Symphony Piano Competition, and was the youngest finalist and special prize winner at the Bösendorfer International Piano Competition and the youngest finalist at Hilton Head International Piano Competition.

Sheng Cai is instrumental in advocating many neglected works that are peaks of the piano literature; works by composers such as Busoni, Enescu, Kabalevsky, Medtner, Villa-Lobos, and a number of his own works frequently shows up on his concert programs. His creative programming has made audiences aware of such treasures of piano literature that deserve a wider audience.

Born in China, Sheng studied at the Shanghai conservatory of Music and was a top-prize winner of the National Competition in 1998. The following year, his family immigrated to Canada where he began study at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. Sheng Cai earned his Bachelor of Music Degree under full scholarship at New England Conservatory in Boston. His teachers have included pianist Anton Kuerti, Russell Sherman and Hungkuan Chen.

Music changes lives. So do our donors.

Charitable gifts from music lovers, like you, provide critical support for the Don Wright Faculty of Music’s performances and educational programming. To help us to continue to enrich our community through the power of music, donations can be made by phone at (519) 661-2111 x85695 online at music.uwo.ca, or by mail c/o Karmen Ferraro, Alumni and Development Officer, Talbot College, Western University, London, Ontario N6A 3K7.