



**Western
Music**

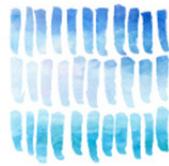
Don Wright Faculty of Music

GUEST ARTIST RECITAL

Saturday, January 26, 2019

7:30 p.m., von Kuster Hall

Yael Weiss, *piano*



32 bright clouds

BEETHOVEN CONVERSATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

"32 Bright Clouds: Beethoven Conversations Around the World" is a global music-commissioning, performing and recording project curated by pianist Yael Weiss. The project commissions a diverse group of composers from countries of conflict and unrest around the world, with all new works unified by a single "Peace motif" from Beethoven, where he added the inscription "A Call for Inward and Outward Peace" above the notes. "32 Bright Clouds" aims to harness music's great power for unity and peace.

Sonata in E-flat Major, Op. 31 No. 3 "The Hunt" (I: Allegro) L. van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

The Hunt for Peace (2018)* Malek Jandali
(Syria, b. 1972)

Dedicated to the Syrian children and their noble quest for peace

Nuages funèbres (Funereal Clouds) (2018)* Saed Haddad
(Jordan, b. 1972)

Hope for the Shackled (2018)* George Mensah Essilfie
(Ghana, b. 1967)

Dedicated to people in Ghana with psychiatric disorders, who are subjected to torturous and inhumane confinement

Sonata in C-sharp minor, Op. 27 no. 1 "Moonlight" (I: Adagio Sostenuto) L. van Beethoven

No More Moonlight Over Jakarta (2017)* Ananda Sukarlan
(Indonesia, b. 1968)

Dedicated to the bravery of Ahok, the imprisoned ex-governor of Jakarta

Intermission

Unheard Voices (2018)* Sidney Marquez Boquiren
(Philippines, b. 1970)

Dedicated to the victims of extra-judicial killings, whose voices have been unheard

Après... (2018)* Aida Shirazi
(Iran, b. 1987)

Sonata in E-flat Major, Op. 81a, "Les Adieux" L. van Beethoven

I. Das Lebewohl: Adagio-Allegro

II. Abwesenheit: Andante espressivo

III. Das Wiedersehen: Vivacissimamente

*Indicates Canadian Premieres

THE ARTIST

A captivating presence on the concert scene, award-winning Israeli-American pianist **Yael Weiss** has been hailed by many of today's greatest musicians and critics for visionary interpretations of surpassing depth, immediacy and communicative power. Following a recent recital, the *Washington Post* portrayed her as "a pianist who delves deeply and tellingly into that cloudy area where fantasy morphs into improvisation, inventiveness being common to both."

Ms. Weiss has performed across the United States, Europe, Japan, Korea, New Zealand and South America at such venues as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, Benaroya Hall, Moscow's Bolshoi Hall and London's Wigmore Hall. Her New York recital debut, presented by the Metropolitan Museum, was acclaimed by the *New York Times* as, "remarkably powerful and intense . . . fine technique and musicianship in the service of an arresting array of music." Ms. Weiss has appeared as soloist with many international orchestras, including the Prague Chamber Orchestra, Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, the Seattle Symphony, Santa Fe Symphony, Israel Chamber Orchestra, and the Brazil National Symphony, to name a few. She is also in demand at international music festivals, such as Marlboro, Ravinia, City of London, Banff, Parry Sound, Caramoor, Hornby Island Festival, Changwon International Festival, and the Seattle Chamber Music Festival.

A significant part of Ms. Weiss's current touring schedule is devoted to her international commissioning and performance project, "32 Bright Clouds: Beethoven Conversations Around the World". This groundbreaking endeavor brings together composers from 32 countries of conflict and unrest throughout the world, joined together in sending a message of oneness and peace. Each new composition is inspired by one of Beethoven's 32 Piano Sonatas, and the entire cycle of new works is unified by a single "peace motif" from Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*.

This season Ms. Weiss is presenting "32 Bright Clouds" recitals in Korea, Cuba, Canada and in venues throughout the US, featuring programs that combine Beethoven with new works from around the world.

Weiss's discography encompasses piano works by over a dozen composers, with such releases as "Robert Schumann: Piano Works" and "88 Keys to Joy", on the Koch International Classics label. This season she is recording the piano concerto "Aviv", written for her by composer Joel Feigin.

Having been a frequent guest on NPR's Performance Today, American Public Media's St. Paul Sunday, the BBC in London, and multiple shows on New York's WQXR and WNYC, Yael Weiss is known to radio and television audiences worldwide. Her 2016 recital from the National Gallery was selected for broadcast on WETA's "Front Row Washington". She has appeared numerous times on Israeli television, and presented a recital filmed live for NHK television in Japan.

Ms. Weiss is also devoted to chamber music, and tours worldwide with violinist Mark Kaplan and cellist Peter Stumpf as the *Weiss-Kaplan-Stumpf Trio*. The Trio's discography includes CDs of Brahms, Smetana, Chihara and Lerdaahl trios, as well as a new-music release, "An American Tour", featuring world premiere recordings of compositions by American composers Schoenfield, Chen Yi, Auerbach and Newman. Currently the Trio is recording Beethoven's complete Piano Trios for the Bridge Records label, as well as a world premiere recording of "Angles", newly-written by composer Paul Lansky for the Trio.

Ms. Weiss has been honored with distinguished prizes from the Naumburg International Piano Competition and the Kosciuszko Foundation Chopin Piano Competition. She is a recipient of the Presser Award as well as grants from the America-Israel Cultural Foundation. She studied with Richard Goode and Edward Aldwell at the Mannes College of Music and with Leon Fleisher and Ellen Mack at the Peabody Conservatory.

Yael Weiss has presented master-classes for top institutions worldwide and served on the faculties of Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, UC Santa Barbara and the Heifetz Institute. Connecting with new audiences online, Ms. Weiss created and recorded "Classical Minutes", a popular series of daily podcasts available on iTunes.

Away from the piano, Yael Weiss is an avid runner, regularly taking part in marathons and other long-distance races. Born in Israel, she currently makes her home in New York City. For more information, please visit www.yaelweiss.com