



**SEAN CHEN**

**PIANO**

**Tuesday, August 5 at 7:30 PM**

**Adamant Community Club**

**PROGRAM**

Gavotte et six doubles from Suite in A minor, RCT 5

Jean-Philippe Rameau (1683-1764)

Études

- 2. Cordes à vide
- 3. Touches bloquées
- 10. Der Zauberlehrling
- 13. L'escalier du diable

György Ligeti (1923-2006)

L'Apprenti sorcier

Paul Dukas (1865-1935)

arr. Sean Chen (b. 1988)

-- intermission --

Années de pèlerinage - Deuxième année: Italie (S 161)

Franz Liszt (1811-1886)

- Sposalizio
- Il Penseroso
- Canzonetta del Salvator Rosa
- Sonetto 47 del Petrarca
- Sonetto 104 del Petrarca
- Sonetto 123 del Petrarca
- Après une lecture du Dante (Fantasia quasi sonata)

## SEAN CHEN

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 Piano 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 Piano 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 has completed a transcription of Ysaÿe's Violin Sonata No. 3 for two pianos, commissioned by 88Squared duo. His composition, *Daydream No. 1 - Steps* (2021), was commissioned as a gift for the retirement of American Piano Award's former 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, Mr. Chen 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.