

2023 BACHAUER PIANO 2023 BACHAUER PIANO 2023 BACHAUER PIANO 2023 BACHAUER PIANO 2023 BACHAUER PIANO

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BACHAUER
PIANO
FESTIVAL

JUNE 22-24
SALT LAKE CITY, UT

BACHAUER 2023

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WELCOME

2023 BACHAUER PIANO FESTIVAL 2023 BACHAUER PIANO FESTIVAL

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The Gina Bachauer International Piano Foundation extends our warm greetings and best wishes to the Guest Artists, Festival Students, and audience members who have arrived in Salt Lake City to attend the 2023 Gina Bachauer International Piano Festival. This year's festival features a wonderful variety of evening concerts performed by the acclaimed pianist and teacher Spencer Myer, Bachauer Young Artists Competition Silver Medalist Chaeyoung Park, and eight Festival Students.

Since the inaugural competition and festival in 1976, the Gina Bachauer International Piano Foundation has been committed to promoting high artistic standards through the sponsorship of competitions, festivals, concerts, master classes, and outreach programs. The 2023 Festival highlights eight Festival Students, chosen through a highly competitive process, who will each perform in two master classes then showcase their talents in the Festival Student Concert. The student concert will include a wide variety of repertoire ranging from Bach through 21st-century composers. It will also include some of the most profound and virtuosic music ever written for the piano composed by Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, Schumann, and Rachmaninoff.

The Bachauer Board of Directors and Staff join us in welcoming both long-time and new-found friends in marking the beginning of our forty-seventh year of bringing world-class piano events to Utah.

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SCHEDULE

FESTIVAL

MASTERCLASS
JUNE 22

Douglas Humpherys
10:00 AM & 2:00 PM

CONCERT
JUNE 22

Spencer Myer
7:30 PM

MASTERCLASS
JUNE 23

Spencer Myer
10:00 AM & 2:00 PM

CONCERT
JUNE 23

Chaeyoung Park
7:30 PM

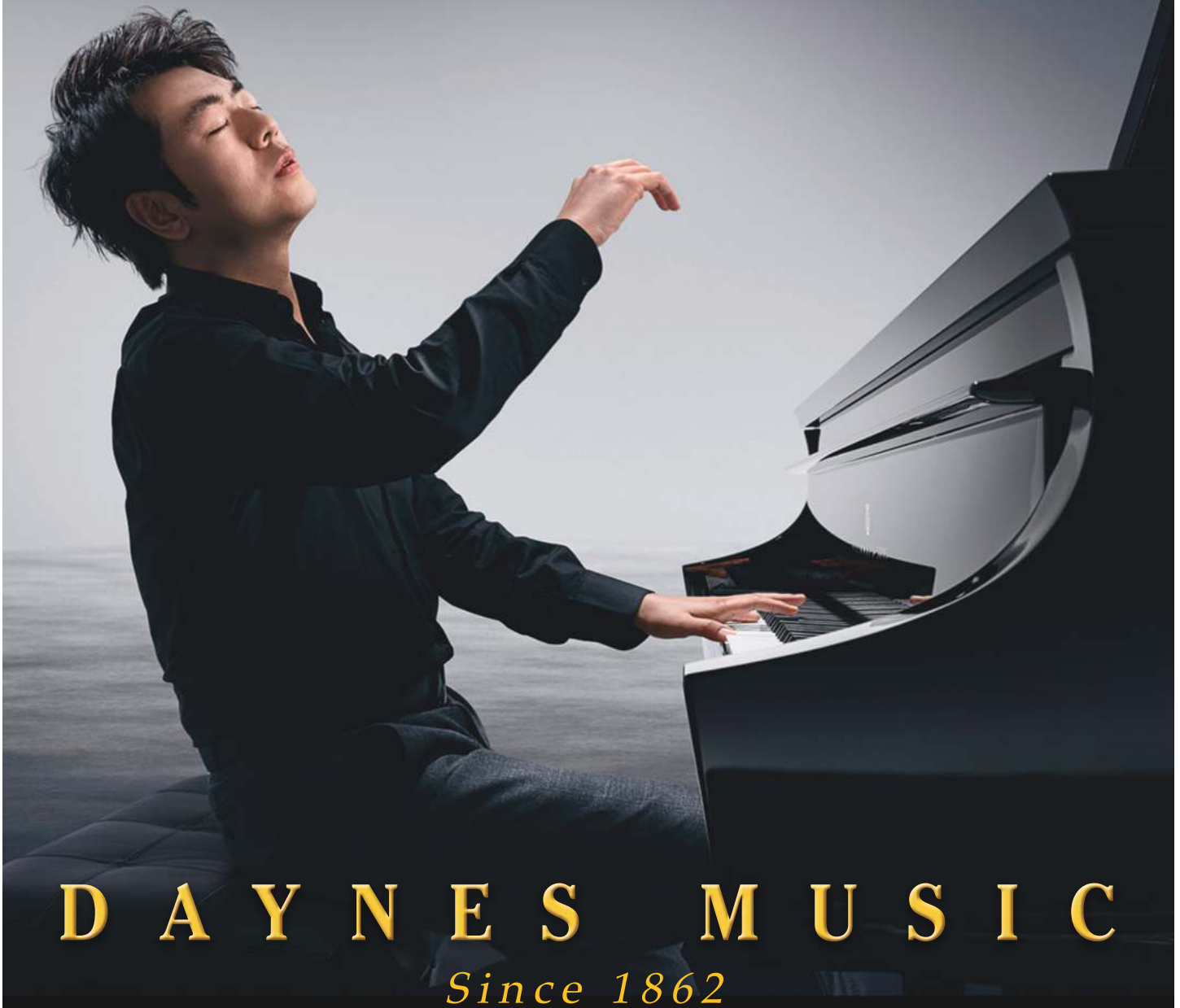
CONCERT & CLOSING
RECEPTION
JUNE 24

Festival Students
6:00 PM

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ARTIST & EDUCATOR

**SPENCER
MYER**

FESTIVAL

Lauded for “superb playing” and “poised, alert musicianship” by *The Boston Globe* and labeled “definitely a man to watch” by London’s *The Independent* after his 2012 Wigmore Hall recital debut, American pianist Spencer Myer is one of the most respected and sought-after artists on today’s concert stages.

He has been soloist with The Cleveland Orchestra, Indianapolis, New Haven, Phoenix and Beijing’s China National symphonies, Dayton, Cape Town and Johannesburg philharmonics collaborating with conductors Michael Christie, Robert Franz, Neil Gittleman, Bernhard Gueller, Jahja Ling, Kevin Rhodes, Gerald Steichen, Thomas Wilkins, Peter Stafford Wilson and Victor Yampolsky. His 2005 tour of South Africa included a performance of Beethoven’s five piano concerti with the Chamber Orchestra of South Africa, followed by four return orchestra and recital tours between 2006 and 2018.

An in-demand chamber musician, he appeared for five summers at the Lev Aronson Legacy Festival with cellists Adrian Daurov, Lynn Harrell, Ralph Kirshbaum, Amit Peled and Brian Thornton, and enjoys a recurring partnership with the Miami String Quartet at the Kent/Blossom Music Festival. Other artistic partners include clarinetist David Shifrin, soprano Nicole Cabell and the Jupiter and Pacifica string quartets.

Spencer Myer’s career was launched with three important prizes: First Prize in the 2004 UNISA International Piano Competition in South Africa, the 2006 Christel DeHaan Classical Fellowship from the American Pianists Association and the Gold Medal from the 2008 New Orleans International Piano Competition. He was a member of Astral Artists’ performance roster from 2003-2010.

A graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory, The Juilliard School and Stony Brook University, Spencer Myer is currently Associate Professor of Music in Piano at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, having previously served on the piano faculty of Boston’s Longy School of Music. His debut CD for Steinway & Sons, *Piano Rags of William Bolcom*, was released to critical acclaim in 2017; he has subsequently released three discs for the label with cellist Brian Thornton, encompassing repertoire of Brahms, Debussy, and Schumann, as well as his latest solo release, Chopin’s *Four Impromptus* for the Steinway Classics series.

Spencer Myer is a Steinway Artist.

ARTIST & EDUCATOR

SPENCER MYER

JUNE 22 CONCERT PROGRAM

CLAUDE DEBUSSY

24 Préludes

Book 1

Danseuses de Delphes (*Dancers of Delphi*)

Voiles (*Veils/Sails*)

Le vent dans la plaine (*The Wind in the Plain*)

“Les sons et les parfums tournent dans l’air du soir”
(*“The sounds and fragrances swirl through the evening air”*)

Les collines d’Anacapri (*The Hills of Anacapri*)

Des pas sur la neige (*Footsteps in the Snow*)

Ce qu’a vu le vent d’ouest (*What the West Wind Saw*)

La fille aux cheveux de lin

(*The Girl with the Flaxen Hair*)

La sérénade interrompue (*The Interrupted Serenade*)

La cathédrale engloutie (*The Engulfed Cathedral*)

La danse de Puck (*Puck’s Dance*)

Minstrels

INTERMISSION

Book 2

Brouillards (*Mists*)

Feuilles mortes (*Dead Leaves*)

La puerta del vino (*The Wine Gate*)

“Les fées sont d’exquises danseuses”
(*“Fairies are exquisite dancers”*)

Bruyères (*Heather*)

Général Lavine - eccentric

La terrasse des audiences du clair de lune
(*The terraces holding audience with the moon*)

Ondine

Hommage à S. Pickwick Esq. P.P.M.P.C.
(*Homage to S. Pickwick*)

Canope (*Canopic Jars*)

Les tierces alternées (*Alternating Thirds*)

Feux d’artifice (*Fireworks*)

ARTIST & EDUCATOR

CHAEYOUNG PARK



FESTIVAL

FESTIVAL

Winner of the 2022 YCA Susan Wadsworth International Auditions, Chaeyoung Park has been praised as a passionate pianist who “does not play a single note without thought or feeling” (*New York Concert Review*). Through Park’s various roles as a recitalist, chamber musician, and concerto soloist, she has performed at Carnegie’s Weill Recital Hall, *Bravo! Vail Music Festival*, *Tongyeong International Music Festival*, Ravinia’s Bennett Gordon Hall, Symphony Center’s Orchestra Hall, as well as live-streamed concerts presented by the *Gilmore Rising Stars* series, the Carlsen Center, and the Lied Center of Kansas virtual series during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As winner of the 2019 Hilton Head International Piano Competition, Park is the first female Korean pianist to receive First Place in the history of the competition. She subsequently presented her solo recital debut at Carnegie’s Weill Recital Hall and performed Beethoven’s *Piano Concerto No. 4* with the Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra under the baton of John Morris Russell. She was also a top prize winner at the 2016 Gina Bachauer International Young Artists Competition.

An avid chamber musician, Park participated in Ravinia’s Steans Music Institute, Yellow Barn, Four Seasons Winter Workshop, Kneisel Hall, Juilliard *ChamberFest*, and YoungArts Week, which awarded her the prestigious Gold Medal in Music. She was featured at the Greene Space at WNYC/WQXR, Harvard Club in New York City, and First Congregational United Church of Christ in Sarasota.

At age 14, Park had her first concerto engagement with the Heritage Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of James Murray. She went on to perform with all major orchestras in Kansas, including the Kansas City Symphony, Topeka Symphony Orchestra, Fort Hays Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonia of Greater Kansas City, Metropolitan Youth Orchestra, and Kansas Sinfonietta. She now regularly performs with orchestras around the U.S., including the Juilliard chamber orchestra, as well as the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Utah Symphony Orchestra, and Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra with.

While pursuing the Bachelor of Music degree at the Juilliard School, Park was awarded the Juilliard Gina Bachauer Scholarship, which offers a year of full-tuition scholarship. For her Master of Music degree, she was named a Kovner Fellow and was awarded the Arthur Rubinstein Prize. Currently, she is an Artist Diploma candidate under the tutelage of Robert McDonald, who has shaped and inspired the artist she is today.

ARTIST & EDUCATOR

CHAEYOUNG PARK

JUNE 23 CONCERT PROGRAM

CLAUDE DEBUSSY

*Etude No. 1, pour les cinq doigts d'après
Monsieur Czerny*

SERGEI RACHMANINOFF

Prelude in G Major, op. 32, no. 5

Prelude in G-sharp Minor, op. 32, no. 12

Etude-tableau in E-flat Minor, op. 33, no. 6

Prelude in B Minor, op. 32, no. 10

IGOR STRAVINSKY / GUIDO AGOSTI

The Firebird

Danse infernale

Berceuse

Finale

INTERMISSION

JOHANNES BRAHMS

Sonata No. 3 in F Minor, op. 5

Allegro maestoso

Andante espressivo

Scherzo: Allegro energico – Trio

Intermezzo: Andante molto

Finale: Allegro moderato ma rubato

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ARTIST & EDUCATOR

DOUGLAS HUMPHERYS

Since winning the gold medal at the first Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition, Douglas Humpherys' concert career has spanned four decades across four continents. He has toured China twenty times, performing in Beijing at the National Center for the Performing Arts, the Beijing Concert Hall, and the Forbidden City Concert Hall. He has presented concerts and master classes throughout the Chinese conservatory and university system, including the Central, Shanghai, China, Wuhan, Shenyang, Guangzhou, Cheng-Du, Xian, Dalian, and Xiamen Conservatories, as well as Beijing, Tsinghua, Renmin Universities, and the Shenzhen School of the Arts. In 2002 he made his Korean debut in Seoul at the Kumho Art Hall, and has also presented solo concerts in Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Currently listed on the Artists Roster of Steinway and Sons, Mr. Humpherys often performs in Europe, with solo concerts in Moscow, Novgorod, Berlin, Hamburg, Prague, Venice, Dublin, Barcelona, Montenegro, and Serbia. He has performed throughout the United States and Canada at numerous universities and festivals. Recently, he was a guest artist with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, and performed on the DiMenna Center Piano Series in New York City. In 2008 and 2012, he concertized and taught in Argentina with *Teachers del Norte-Pianists del Sur*, a project sponsored in part by the United States Embassy in Buenos Aires.

Mr. Humpherys completed graduate degrees at the Juilliard School (MM) and the Eastman School of Music (DMA), where he served for twenty years as Chair of the Piano Department, and is currently Professor of Piano.

During his student days he studied with Nelita True, Martin Canin, and Robert Smith. In high demand as a teacher, his students have won prizes at the Honens, Cleveland, Virginia Waring, Hilton Head, Washington DC, Poulenc, UNISA, and Sussex (UK) International Piano Competitions; the Osaka, Pacific, Seattle, San Jose, and Wideman Competitions, as well as five national first-prize winners of MTNA Competitions. In 2016, Professor Humpherys received Eastman's Eisenhart Award for Excellence in Teaching, and in 2021 he was inducted into the Steinway and Sons National Teachers Hall of Fame.

Internationally, he has taught hundreds of master classes at universities and conservatories including the Central Music School of the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory, the Hong Kong Academy of the Performing Arts, the Korean National University of the Arts, Yonsei University, National Taiwan Normal University, and the Royal Irish Academy of Music.

He frequently teaches and concertizes at Summer Piano Festivals, most recently including the Bowdoin International Music Festival, the Beijing International Piano Festival, the Shanghai International Piano Festival, the Gijon International Piano Festival in Spain, the Wallace International Piano Festival in New Zealand, the Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival in Tampa, the Philadelphia Young Pianists Academy, the Washington DC Piano Festival, the Interlochen Piano Festival, the Miami Music Festival, the Seattle Piano Institute, the Atlantic Music Festival, the North Coast International Piano Festival in California, and the Northern Lights Music Festival.

Mr. Humpherys was appointed as Artistic Director of the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition in 2013, and has also adjudicated the Cleveland International Piano Competition, the Rachmaninoff International Piano Competition in Novgorod, Russia, the Ricardo Viñes International Piano Competition in Spain, the 1st Korea International Competition for Young Artists, the PTNA National Piano Competition in Tokyo, and the Hilton Head International Piano Competition



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STUDENT

**MUNAN
CHENG**

AGE 16

FESTIVAL

Munan Cheng is a Junior at Valley Christian High School in San Jose, California. She currently studies piano with Dr. Sharon Mann and is a member of the Young Chamber Musicians program in the Bay Area.

She is a prize winner of the Ross McKee Piano Competition, Celia Mendez Beethoven Competition, Dubois Piano Competition, KAMSA Competition, Princeton Festival Piano Competition, Young Euregion Piano Award, CAPMT Honors Competition, United States International Competition, San Jose International Piano Competition, Los Angeles Young Musician International Competition, and Pacific Musical Society Competition.

Munan attended Music@Menlo in 2017, 2018 and 2022. As a solo pianist, she has attended PianoTexas in 2021 and 2022, Vivace Music Festival, Artcial Music Festival, John Perry Academy of Music, and Todi International Music Masters. Munan has had the honor to participate in masterclasses with Gilbert Kalish, John Perry, Jerome Lowenthal, Tamás Ungár, Boris Slutsky, Antonio Pompa-Baldi, and Ronald Brautigam.

Munan is also a member of the Bay Area Youth Music Society, a non-profit community service program. Outside of music, Munan loves to cuddle with her dogs and eat good food.

REPERTOIRE

Chopin: Nocturne in D-flat Major, op. 27, no. 2

Vine: Bagatelles, Nos. 1-4

Beethoven: Sonata No. 21 in C Major, op. 53
I. Allegro con brio

STUDENT
**LEWIS
FANG**

AGE 16



FESTIVAL

FESTIVAL

Lewis Fang was born in Suzhou, China. He is currently a 10th-grade student at The Hun School of Princeton, New Jersey. Lewis began to play piano at the age of 4 studying with Ms. Tianying Zhao in Shanghai. After immigrating to Canada, he studied with Dr. SunSung Kong and Dr. Eugene Skovorodnikov. In 2020, Lewis began studying at The Juilliard School in the Pre-College division under Prof. Matti Raekallio. Since 2021, he has been studying with Prof. Hung Kuan Chen and Mrs. Tema Blackstone.

His many awards include First Place at the Oberlin Piano Festival Competition and Gold Prize at the Pacific Rim International Music Competition. He has performed with the Rimsky-Korsakov String Quartet of St. Petersburg and worked with ensembles at the Chan Centre, UBC Canada. He was invited to perform with Orchestra Citta' Di Grosseto in Grosseto, the Bazzini Consort Orchestra in Brescia, Italy, and the Encore Sinfonietta in Vancouver, Canada.

From a young age, Lewis has dedicated himself to giving back to the community. He held a piano solo recital in 2020 to pray for Health, Joy, and Peace. Lewis is an active weightlifter and participates in many school events and clubs.

REPERTOIRE

Bach: Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue

Prokofiev: Sonata No. 7 in B-flat Major, op. 83
I. Allegro quieto

FESTIVAL

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STUDENT

CHARLOTTE
GIRAUDEAU

AGE 14

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Charlotte Giraudeau, age 14, studies at Mount Royal University Conservatory in Calgary, Alberta, Canada in the Advanced Piano Performance Program. Currently, she studies with Mrs. Marilyn Engle, professor at University of Calgary.

Her prizes include winning Gold Medal in the 2018 7th Singapore Performers Festival & Chamber Music Competition; First Place in the 10-16 age group at the 2019 International Piano Island Festival Competition, Singapore; First Place in the Superior Category of the 2019 21e Concours International de Piano Ile-de-France Maisons-Laffitte in Paris; First Place in the 2020 Melbourne International Piano and Strings Festival Competition; First Place in the 2020 Piano Talents Competition Millan, Italy Virtual Competition; and First Place and Special Reward for Romantic Piece in the 2021 XIV KHKIV International Competition for Young Pianists. She was the recipient of the Ann Southam Senior National Award for 2021 and placed Second of her 13-year age group in the 2022 Canadian Music Competition (CMC). Charlotte won the Young Soloist Award and Absolute First Prize in the Franz Liszt Centre International Piano Competition 2022 and First Place in the 2022 San Francisco Articial International Piano Competition in the Amateur Category.

In addition to her music studies, Charlotte enjoys sports, rhythmic gymnastics, synchronized swimming, downhill skiing, and bicycling around Calgary.

REPERTOIRE

Beethoven: Sonata No. 26 in E-flat Major, op. 81a
I. Adagio – Allegro

Chopin: Ballade No. 1 in G Minor, op. 23

FESTIVAL



STUDENT

**ANDREW
(SIJIE) LI**

AGE 15

Andrew (Sijie) Li was born in Toronto, Canada, grew up in Hong Kong, and moved to Boston in 2022. He attends Walnut Hill School for the Arts and is currently a pre-college student in the joint studio of Wha Kyung Byun and Dang Thai Son at the New England Conservatory Preparatory School. He has also participated in Summer Music studies at the Frost Chopin Academy and the Gingold Chamber Music Festival in Miami, and the Morningside Music Bridge associated with the New England Conservatory in Boston.

He has won multiple prizes including at the Classicalia Global Televised Competition, the 13th Chopin International Competition in Hartford, Connecticut, the 10th Yamada USASU Young Artists International Junior Competition, the New England Conservatory Preparatory School Concerto Competition, the Miami Music Festival Concerto Competition, and the Canadian International Competition. He has appeared on NPR's "From the Top" and PBS SoCal television. Following the Bachauer Festival, he will appear on June 30th with the Vienna Mozart Orchestra at Wiener Konzerthaus.

Andrew's interests outside of piano include world history, film, chess, golf, reading, hiking, and swimming. He serves the community as a member of the Back to Bach Project. He is involved in performing at elementary schools, senior centers and fundraising for hospitals.

REPERTOIRE

Rachmaninoff: Variations on a Theme of Corelli in D Minor, op. 42

STUDENT

AUSTON LI

AGE 16



FESTIVAL

FESTIVAL

Auston Li, from New York City, is 16 years old and a student of Ernest Barretta at The Juilliard School, Pre-College Division, having previously studied with Adam Kent and Matti Raekallio. He studied also at the Manhattan School of Music, where in 2018, he became the youngest winner in the school's history of the Piano Concerto Competition. As winner, he was invited to perform as part of their Centennial Season in 2018 as a soloist with their Symphony Orchestra, featured and broadcasted on WQXR. During his studies at the Manhattan School of Music, he was the recipient of the Dr. Michelle Solarz August Endowed Piano Scholarship and the Elva van Gelder Memorial Piano Scholarship.

Auston has performed at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall and has performed solo recitals in Canada and Spain. He has made appearances with notable orchestras, playing under the baton of conductors Adam Glaser and Nell Flanders, performing the concerti of Wieck and Mozart.

Auston is an advocate for equity in musical education. He runs a social media project that focuses on cultivating positive practice habits, with the hope of inspiring endeavors in the world of music.

REPERTOIRE

Schumann: Sonata No. 2 in G Minor, op. 22

I. *So rasch wie möglich*

Liszt: *Rhapsody Espagnol*

FESTIVAL



STUDENT

**BRIAN
LI** AGE 15

Brian Li, 15, began piano lessons at age 6. In 2018, Brian made his orchestral debut in Perugia, Italy, where he performed Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 1 with the Virtuosi Brunensis Orchestra. The following year, Brian performed Mendelssohn Concerto No. 1 with the Florence Conservatory Orchestra. He also performed Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1 with the Philharmonia Northwest in Seattle.

Brian was a prize winner in the 2020 CDMF festival, KPU International Music Festival, and Pacific NW Piano Competition. He won Gold Medals in the 2021 Vancouver International Music Competition and the 2021, 2022, and 2023 Chopin NW Piano Competition in Seattle. He was the Overall Prize winner of the 2021 Steinway Piano Competition Canada and the First Grand Prize winner of the 2021 Chicago International Music Competition. In 2022, he won Second Prize at the Kaufman Music Center International Youth Piano Competition in New York City. In 2023, Brian was the winner of the SYAMFA Concerto Competition and the SYAMFA Festival Medal.

Brian enjoys reading, writing, drawing, and playing the violin and bassoon. He is the founder and president of the Performance Club at his school. His poems and works of flash fiction have been published in international creative writing magazines.

REPERTOIRE

Chopin: Polonaise in F-sharp Minor, op. 44

Prokofiev: Sonata No. 6 in A Major, op. 82
IV. Vivace

FESTIVAL



STUDENT

**MATTHEW
LIU**

AGE 16

Matthew Liu has been studying piano for 10 years and is a student of Professor Jack Winerock at the University of Kansas.

In 2022, he won First Prize in the concerto competitions by Kansas City Symphony, Topeka Symphony Orchestra, and the Kansas City Music Teachers Association Heritage Philharmonic. He won Best Performance of a Solo Work at the Arthur Fraser International Piano Competition, Columbia, SC, and First Prize in both the solo and single concerto movement divisions at the International Keyboard Odyssey® & Festival, Fort Collins, Colorado. He was a Festival Student in the 2022 Gina Bachauer International Piano Festival.

He has won Best Chopin Performance in MTNA junior piano, First Prize at International Young Artist Piano Competition in D.C., First Prize at Chopin International Competition in Hartford, Connecticut, First Prize at Paderewski International Piano Competition, First Prize at Conero International Piano Competition, and was a Solo Round Competitor in the 2021 Gina Bachauer Junior International Piano Competition. He has performed as a competition winner at venues such as Merkin Concert Hall in New York City.

In 2022, he performed twice with Kansas City Symphony under the baton of Michael Stern. In 2019, he performed with Midwestern Chamber as a concerto competition winner.

REPertoire

Liszt: *Réminiscences de Don Juan*

STUDENT

HARUKI TAKEUCHI

AGE 17



FESTIVAL

FESTIVAL

Haruki Takeuchi, age 17, attends Farragut High School in Knoxville, TN. He began studying piano at the age of 6 under Stephanie Northington and currently studies under Dr. David Northington.

Recent prizes include Third Place at The 10th YAMAHA International Piano Competition USASU, Second Place at the Nashville International Piano Competition, First Place at The 2022 International BTHVN Wien Music Competition, Second Place at The Krystian Tkaczewski International Piano Competition Poland, Second Place at The 2022 Chopin International Piano Competition Hartford CT, and First Prize of The 2022 Tiziano Rossetti International Music Competition.

He was also the winner of the 2021 Pacific International Piano Competition, the 2021 Knoxville Symphony Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition, and the 2021 Music Teachers National Association Southern Division, He won Second Place in the 2021 Medici International Music Competition and the 2021 Memphis International Piano Competition. He has the Winner of the Tennessee Music Teachers Association State Competition in 2019, 2020, and 2021. He was selected as a 2021-2022 scholarship recipient of The Chopin Foundation of The U.S.

Haruki performed a solo recital at Busko Zdoji, Poland in 2022. He studied at the 40th Kirishima International Music Festival JAPAN in Cyprien Katsaris' class. He plays violin with the Knoxville Symphony Youth Orchestra.

REPERTOIRE

Bach/Busoni: Chaconne in D Minor

Balakirev: *Islamey Fantasy*

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PIANO FACULTY

Left to Right: Jared Pierce, chair;
Stephen Beus; Robin Hancock;
Jihea Hong-Park; Scott Holden



ABOUT
GINA
BACHAUER

BACHAUER 2023
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JUNE 22-24 **PIANO**
SALT LAKE CITY, UT
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2023 BACHAUER PIANO FESTIVAL

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Gina Bachauer (1913-1976) was a Greek pianist often regarded as the greatest female pianist of the 20th century. A student of Cortot and Rachmaninoff, she enjoyed a long and successful performing career, and wooed the toughest of critics with her Romantic repertoire. She developed a close bond with the people of Utah and performed frequently with the Utah Symphony, even facilitating their first international tour. Due to this bond, her legacy lives on in Utah in the form of the Gina Bachauer Archives and the Gina Bachauer International Piano Foundation.

Gina Bachauer was born May 21, 1913, in Athens, Greece, of German and Austrian heritage. Young Gina's interest in piano began at age 5 after attending a concert of Emil Sauer. Afterwards, she informed her parents that she wanted to be a pianist, and they eventually consented by furnishing her with lessons from a local teacher.

When young Gina was 9 years old, the Polish pianist Woldemar Freeman fell in love with Greece and settled in the country. Gina's father took her to Woldemar to see if it was wise for her to continue to study the piano. "Freeman heard me play and said, 'Yes, I will work with her,'" Mme. Bachauer recalled. "So I worked seriously with him, finishing my studies at the Athens Conservatory when I was 16 years old, winning the Gold Medal in 1929."

"Because Woldemar Freeman, who had been a pupil of Busoni, had a German technique and approach, he wanted me to go to Paris to work with Cortot," Mme. Bachauer said. "He wanted me to hear French music and to work with a master who was a great specialist of French music." Her parents paid for her to attend the Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris, where she studied for 3 years under Alfred Cortot.

During her studies, she met Sergei Rachmaninoff, from whom she received virtually the only lessons he taught after his self-imposed exile from Russia. Regarding her illustrious teachers, Mme. Bachauer said: "[Cortot] knew Ravel and Debussy and I think that no other pianist could have given me a better understanding of their music, of their specific sounds. On the other hand, Rachmaninoff was an amazing pianist, with superb hands, and an uncanny technique. He did not attempt to teach me, he was not really a teacher. If I asked him—and this happened very often—'How do you do that passage?' the answer was always the same. He sat at the piano, illustrating it, and saying: 'Like that.' He could not explain what he wanted me to do. He would always add: 'Don't try to copy what I am doing. You must try again and again until you find your own way of doing it. When you will show me what you want to do with that phrase and if you can convince me, then it is right.' He made me realize that there are several ways to interpreting the same phrase, as long as it is convincing, as long as this comes from one's own judgement. He was very demanding and quite strict when it came to phrasing and rhythmic vitality and he wanted, above all, a complete involvement in the music."

When Mme. Bachauer's funds ran out, she returned to Greece to try to make a living as pianist. Her debut in 1935 with the Athens Orchestra under Mitropoulos did not launch her performing career as she had hoped, so she taught at the Athens Conservatory until she had saved up enough money to embark on a concert tour of Europe. However, World War II broke out during her tour, and she was left stranded in Cairo for its duration. Mme. Bachauer became a "kind of pianist-in-ordinary" for the Allied troops in the area, playing roughly 630 recitals in camps and hospitals. One soldier wrote: "I have just returned to the camp after Madame Gina Bachauer's concert, so thrilled and so elated that I feel I must write to you at once, although it is near midnight, while I am still under the spell of her music... How right you were to praise Mme. Gina! She is superb! She was like an orchestra. The Concert Hall was full to overflowing with people who applauded her with enormous enthusiasm. Mme. Bachauer had to give three encores to satisfy her acclaiming listeners, another proof of her kindness as she must, by that time, have been very tired."

While in Egypt, she also married John Christodoulo, who died suddenly in 1950.

After the war, Mme. Bachauer traveled to London where she was introduced to orchestra conductor Alec Sherman, who engaged her as a soloist. The two eventually married, and Sherman gave up part of his career to become her manager, saying there are many conductors, but only one Gina Bachauer.

Mme. Bachauer's London debut was at the Albert Hall in 1947, and her New York debut was at Carnegie Hall in 1950. She also gave the first solo recital, as Founding Artist, in Washington D.C.'s Kennedy Center. She maintained a demanding concert schedule, playing 110-120 concerts a year on six-month tours alternating between the USA and the rest of the world.

Gina Bachauer traveled to Utah many times and formed a close bond with her audiences and the Utah Symphony, which she performed with under Maurice Abravanel. On one occasion, Mme. Bachauer played with the Symphony accompanied by her pupil, Her Royal Highness Princess Irene of the Hellenes. Mme. Bachauer became a close friend of Maestro Abravanel and spoke very highly of the Utah Symphony. She helped make their first international tour a reality in 1966 when the symphony traveled to Greece, Yugoslavia, Austria, Germany, and England.

Mme. Bachauer's outstanding capabilities as a concert pianist endeared her to famous *New York Times* music critic Harold Schonberg, who wrote, "She is one of today's pianistic originals. That means her technique and her interpretations are *sui generis*. One does not have to see her to recognize her playing. Ten measures would be enough for any trained listener to put his finger on what constitutes a Gina Bachauer performance. Certain traits are immediately apparent. There is the enormous technical solidity, including a bravura, when necessary, that is hair-raising. She makes piano playing sound very easy. There is the curiously penetrating tone...so well manufactured, weighted, and measured that it sounds enormous."

After a recital at Carnegie Hall, Schonberg declared, "Governments rise and fall, and the seasons change, but Miss Bachauer's playing remains a constant. She represents the romantic tradition in piano playing—she, with her enormous technique, her big and penetrating tone, her love for the piano as a steed upon which to ride...Gina Bachauer continues to be one of the great pianists."

Theodore W. Libbey, Jr., classical music editor of *High Fidelity*, wrote "Her pianism had the sort of energy and scale and sweep that a listener, once he had experienced it, could never forget. Today, nearly ten years after her death, the memories are still vivid. The mind's ear still recalls the sound she produced, the brilliant tone, the intensity of her passage work, the weight and clarity of, for instance, the opening chords of the Rachmaninoff Second Concerto. Few pianists of either sex make such an impression when they perform; fewer still make it in a way that lives on after they are gone."

Mme. Bachauer died in Athens on August 22, 1976. In addition to her pianistic genius, her friends remembered her benevolent personality and lively character. "She has a presence that can irradiate a restaurant," Martin Mayer wrote, "and a laugh that booms pleasure through the area within earshot. She sits severely erect, a big woman with square shoulders, her dark hair caught back tight in an enormous bun. She makes relatively few gestures when she speaks, and the magic is done by a very mobile expression and incredibly lively, darting eyes."

In addition to her vivaciousness, she was also very hard working. She often showed up to concerts early to push the piano into place, and completely memorized pieces before attempting them. "Music is an art that is full of beautiful moments [and] extraordinary experiences," she said, "but it is an art that demands that you give and give. It doesn't take half measures, you must devote all your life... And certainly... music also needs a little madness. If you aren't a little mad, you will never undertake this life!"

To preserve the legacy that Mme. Bachauer left behind, her husband bequeathed her personal papers, recordings, photos, and over 200 scores to the Brigham Young University Library, which created the Gina Bachauer Archives. Among the scores are the original manuscript copy of Michael Tippett's oratorio *A Child of our Time*, and many personal greetings, dedications, and annotations from composers.

Brigham Young University was also the first home of the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competitions. In its over 45 years, the Gina Bachauer International Piano Foundation has held festivals and competitions every June, bringing the best pianists in the world to Utah to perpetuate the pianistic art which Mme. Bachauer so graciously shared with the world.

SOURCES

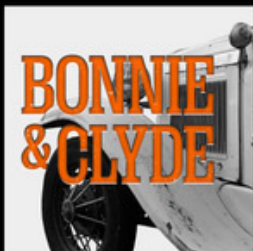
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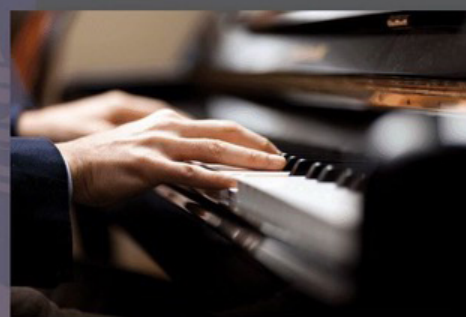
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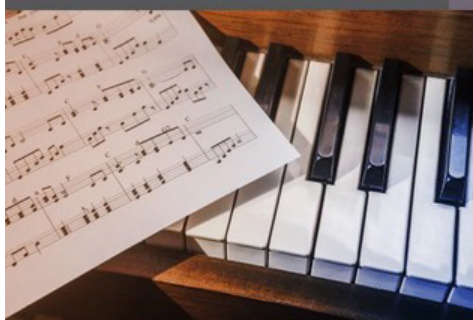
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