



The Music Department Presents

Sterne Virtuoso Series

America/Beautiful

Min Kwon

piano

Friday, October 4th, 2024, 7:00PM
Arthur Zankel Music Center
Helen Filene Ladd Concert Hall

Program

Meditation	Huang Ruo (b. 1976)
America the Beautiful Theme	Samuel Adler (b. 1928)
A Celebration of Our Beautiful Nation	
Refine	Nico Muhly (b. 1981)
Fantasy Variation (The Visible Enemy)	Richard Danielpour (b. 1956)
Crown Thy Good	Vijay Iyer (b. 1971)
O Genus Infelix Humanun	Stephen Hartke (b. 1952)
Amber	Libby Larsen (b. 1950)
FUSION	Augusta Read Thomas (b. 1964)
United Underdog	Leila Adu-Gilmore

Sea to Shining Sea

Victoria Bond
(b. 1945)

Intermission

Getting the Upper Hand on America

John Harbison
(b. 1938)

America/Desh

Reena Esmail
(b. 1983)

America the Dream

Texu Kim
(b. 1980)

23 Variations on America

Sebastian Currier
(b. 1959)

America the Beautiful... devastatingly quiet...

Lei Liang
(b. 1972)

America Toccata

Avner Dorman
(b. 1975)

Program Notes

Korean-born American pianist and arts advocate Min Kwon will perform works from her ambitious project, *America/Beautiful*, which has commissioned over 70 leading American composers to each craft a variation on the song “America the Beautiful.” Kwon’s hope is to paint a sonic picture of her adopted country in all of its sprawling

complexity, and ultimately try to find the beauty at the core of the American experiment and its guiding principle, *e pluribus num* (out of many, one).

“As an immigrant, America has so many different meanings to me. These past few years have left us so deeply divided, and I have often asked myself what kind of a country I will be leaving to my two daughters - whose birthdays happen to fall on President’s Day and the Fourth of July.

Ultimately this project is about embracing our diversity, and remembering that by understanding, appreciating, and celebrating our differences, we become stronger both as individuals and as a country. The fact that 70 composers can hear the same song in a completely different way is, to me, something truly beautiful.” - Min Kwon

Performer Biography

Hailed for a “ravishing performance” (New York Classical Review), and “captivating enthusiasm coupled with superb technique, warm emotional lyricism and explosive energy” (The Piano), Steinway Artist **Min Kwon** excels in an unusually versatile career. In demand as concerto soloist, recitalist, chamber musician, pedagogue, artistic director and arts advocate, her professional engagements have taken her to all 50 States in the US, and to over sixty countries on seven continents.

Head of Piano and Professor of Music at Mason Gross, where she has

served since 2002, Dr. Kwon is a much-sought after teacher regularly invited to give master classes worldwide. She has been a guest artist at major institutions and festivals in Australia, Austria, China, Curacao, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Estonia, Finland, France, Hong Kong, Italy, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Philippines, Singapore, Spain, Thailand, Vietnam, and the US.

For Rutgers, Dr. Kwon has directed 9 Piano Galas at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall. Her creative leadership and pedagogical efforts have received numerous accolades; New York Concert Review noted that Rutgers piano was "on par with the world's most prestigious conservatories...there is something really good going on in the piano department." As co-director of CME Vienna Concertofest in Austria, she was also responsible for the solo debut of more than 60 Rutgers instrumentalists. Her piano studio produced more than 40 pianists graduate with a D.M.A.

Through her latest project America/Beautiful, honouring America's credo, E Pluribus Unum, she has commissioned and premiered 76 new piano works resulting in a profile on NBC TV Nightly News, National Public Radio's (NPR) "All Things Considered", The Financial Times, International Piano, among many others.

Dr. Kwon counts among her teachers and influences Eleanor Sokoloff, Martin Canin, Leon Fleisher, Hans Leygraf. She has recorded for RCA/BMG and MSR.

Upcoming Events

Indian Classical Concert
Saturday, October 5, 4:00pm

Surround Concert Series:
Emel Mathlouthi
Sunday, October 6, 4:00pm

Tsou Music Scholar Lecture: Terrance
McKnight
Thursday, October 10, 6:00pm

Sustain Film Series:
Keyboard Fantasies
Sunday, October 13, 2:30pm

Filene Scholar Celebration Concert
Friday, October 18, 7:00pm

Schenectady-Saratoga
Symphony Orchestra
Saturday, October 19, 7:00pm

Ensemble Connect
Friday, October 25, 7:30pm

Surround Concert Series:
Tenzin Choegyal
Sunday, November 3, 4:00pm

Flore Laurentienne
Saturday, November 8, 7:30pm

Joseph Alpar & Friends:
Aşk: Music, Love, and Mysticism
In the Ottoman World
Saturday, November 16, 7:30pm

Sustain Film Series:
John Cage: Journeys in Sound
Sunday, November 17, 2:30pm

Skidmania '74
Friday, November 22, 8:00pm &
Saturday November 23, 8:00pm

Skidmore in Concert
November 23 through December 11