

2023–2024

Tuesday, April 30, at 8:00

Yuja Wang Piano

Messiaen from *Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus*:

XV. Le Baiser de l'Enfant-Jésus

X. Regard de l'Esprit de joie

Scriabin Piano Sonata No. 8, Op. 66

Debussy *L'Isle joyeuse*

Intermission

Chopin Four Ballades

Ballade No. 1 in G minor, Op. 23

Ballade No. 2 in F major, Op. 38

Ballade No. 3 in A-flat major, Op. 47

Ballade No. 4 in F minor, Op. 52

This program runs approximately 2 hours.

This recital is sponsored by a generous gift from **Mr. Lee F. Shlifer**, made in honor of his friends Jeff and Michele Brotman.

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Orchestra

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25 |
MUSIC & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
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Yannick Conducts *Tristan and Isolde* • Riccardo Muti Leads Verdi's Requiem
Yuja Wang Returns • Beethoven's Ninth at the Academy of Music
Yannick Explores Mahler and Beethoven • Commissions by Julia Wolfe,
Gabriela Lena Frank, and Terence Blanchard



Photos: Yannick Nézet-Séguin. Photo by Landon Nordeman; violinist Davyd Booth at Tattooed Mom. Photo by Jessica Griffin; Principal Tuba Carol Jantsch at Philadelphia's Magic Gardens. Photo by Neal Santos; Principal Bass Joseph Conyers at Cherry Street Pier. Photo by Kriston Jae Bethel; Principal Harp Elizabeth Hainen on Broad Street. Photo by Neal Santos.

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Soloist

Norbert Kniat



Pianist **Yuja Wang** is celebrated for her charismatic artistry, emotional honesty, and captivating stage presence. She has performed with the world's most venerated conductors, musicians, and ensembles, and is renowned not only for her virtuosity, but also for her spontaneous and lively performances, famously telling the *New York Times*, "I firmly believe every program should have its own life and be a representation of how I feel at the moment." Her skill and charisma were

recently demonstrated in a marathon Rachmaninoff performance at Carnegie Hall alongside conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin and The Philadelphia Orchestra. This historic event celebrating 150 years since the birth of Sergei Rachmaninoff included performances of all four of his concertos plus the Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini in one afternoon and saw queues around the block for tickets on the day. In the 2022–23 season she also gave the world premiere of Magnus Lindberg's Piano Concerto No. 3 with the San Francisco Symphony with further performances of the work throughout North America and Europe.

Yuja was born into a musical family in Beijing. After childhood piano studies in China, she received advanced training in Canada and at the Curtis Institute of Music under Gary Graffman. Her international breakthrough came in 2007 when she replaced Martha Argerich as soloist with the Boston Symphony. Two years later she signed an exclusive contract with Deutsche Grammophon and has since established her place among the world's leading artists, with a succession of critically acclaimed performances and recordings. She was named *Musical America's* Artist of the Year in 2017, and in 2021 she received an Opus Klassik Award for her world-premiere recording of John Adams's *Must the Devil Have All the Good Tunes?* with the Los Angeles Philharmonic under the baton of Gustavo Dudamel.

Tonight's performance is part of Yuja's highly anticipated international recital tour, which has her performing in world-class venues across North America, Europe, and Asia throughout the season with a wide-ranging program including works by Chopin and Scriabin.

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