

THE MUSICAL CLUB OF HARTFORD, INC.
EVELYN BONAR STORRS 2024 SCHOLARS HONOR RECITAL

PROGRAM

Étude No.11 “En Suspens”

Prelude and Fugue in E-flat minor, WTC I, BWV 853

György Ligeti (1923-2006)

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Sophia Cornicello

Sophia Cornicello is a second-year at Bard College Conservatory of Music, studying piano with Rieko Aizawa. She is interested in new music and the historical performance of Baroque music and currently is the principal harpsichordist in the Bard Baroque ensemble. In 2022, Sophia performed new works by Shuying Li and Jess Turner as a featured soloist with the Greater Hartford Youth Wind Ensemble. She previously premiered works by Karen Lemon and student composers, and in 2023 and 2024, she was selected to perform in Bard Conservatory’s Kurtág Festival. Sophia has performed in masterclasses with artists including The Horzowski trio, Lydia Artymiw, and Melvin Chen. She has received several awards at competitions, including first place and best performance of the commissioned work in the 2020 Renee B. Fisher competition, the undergraduate scholarship from the 2023 Evelyn Bonar Storrs Scholarship Fund Competition, and other prizes from the Connecticut Bach Festival, the American Protégé Competition, and the Steinway Junior Piano Competition, allowing her to perform in Carnegie Hall and Steinway Hall. In addition to piano, Sophia studies mathematics as her second major and enjoys playing chamber music.

Sonata No. 30 in E major, Op. 109 (mvt.III)

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Homan Cheung

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Homan Cheung was first introduced to the piano at the early age of 4. He has performed in various cities in China and has made numerous appearances in Asia, Europe, and North America. Most recently, he has performed Liszt’s Totentanz with Hartt Symphony Orchestra and Waterbury Symphony Orchestra. Homan is currently pursuing his master’s degree in Piano Performance at The Hartt School under the instruction of José Ramos-Santana and his former teachers include Maggie Francis and David Westfall. Alongside his studies, he teaches at the Hartt Community Division and Cheshire Academy.

Sonata No. 2 in G-sharp minor

Alexander Scriabin (1872-1915)

Guangfu He

Guangfu He started his piano studies in China at age 7. He completed his Master's degree at the Hartt School and is currently working toward his Doctorate in piano performance with Professor Paul Rutman. He won the honorable mention with Mendelssohn D minor Piano Trio in Hartt chamber competition and was invited to perform at Anthology of Farmington last year.

Estampes, I. Pagodes

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

Youmei Cai

Youmei Cai is a classical pianist currently pursuing DMA at the University of Connecticut with Angelina Gadeliya. She started learning piano at the age of 4 in Japan, and further studied in Central Conservatory of Music and Manhattan School of Music at a young age, and held Bachelor and Master degree from Mannes School of music. She performed in various venues such as Carnegie Hall, Steinway Hall, Von der Mehden, Hongtai Auditorium, etc; participated in many competitions such as Chopin Memorial Prizes International piano competition, Kaufman Music Center International Piano Competition, Australian Classical Music Competition, etc; participated in numerous music festivals such as Puerto Piano Festival, International Keyboard Institute & Festival, etc; recently had masterclasses with Ann Schein and Steven Osborne. She currently also teaches in UConn as a graduate assistant, and teaches in private studio and music schools in NYC.

Arabeske in C major, Op.18

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

Elisabeth Tsai

Elisabeth Tsai began her musical studies with the cello at the age of four and switched to the piano at age seven. As a teenager, she garnered awards from various local and international competitions and had the opportunity to appear in solo and orchestra performances across the United States. In recent years, she has focused more on expanding her repertoire, with an ongoing project of learning and performing the complete Beethoven piano sonatas. She is currently working towards the Master of Musical Arts at the Yale School of Music, where she also completed her Master's degree with Boris Berman. Additionally, she holds a position as Teaching Artist at the Neighborhood Music School in New Haven. Elisabeth is passionate about chamber music as well as solo performance, and was recently invited to the Smithsonian Chamber Society to perform Beethoven piano trios on period instruments.

Sonata No. 62 in E-flat major, Hob. XVI:52: I

Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

Qianqian Xie

Qianqian Xie's musical journey began in China at age four. Since 2015, she studied at Shanghai Conservatory of Music under Fugen Wei, making her debut at the iSING! Suzhou International Young Artists Music Festival in 2019. Notably, she earned Liszt Memorial Prizes at the Hong Kong International Piano Open Competition and The Fifth Internationaler Deutscher Irmeler-Klavierwettbewerb. Ms. Xie continued her studies at The Hartt School, completing a Master's degree and gaining life membership in the Pi Kappa Lambda honor society under the guidance of Prof. Maggie Francis. Currently a Doctor of Musical Arts candidate with Prof. Jose Ramos Santana, she excels not only in performance but also as a Graduate Teaching Assistant at The Hartt School, mentoring undergraduates and offering private lessons. Her impact extends globally, shaping the musical growth of her students in both the United States and Shanghai.

Fantasy Op.17 (mvt.I)

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

Tongqing Liu

Tongqing Liu is a DMA student at the Hartt School, studying with Professor Paul Rutman. He has a BA in piano performance from Central China Normal University, and a Master's degree in piano performance from the University of Hartford under the tutelage of Dr. David Westfall. He frequently performed in the Hammer Klavier series, Evelyn Bonar Storrs Piano Scholars Recitals, and played many chamber music as well as solo recitals. He was an accompanist for the Hartt Instrumentalists and for the Suzuki viola group class. He is currently teaching in the Hartt community division.

Sonata No. 3 in F minor, Op. 5 (mvt.I)

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Robert Levinger

Pianist Robert Levinger currently pursues a graduate degree at the Yale School of Music where he studies with Wei-Yi Yang. As a soloist, Robert made his concerto debut at age 14 with the Mississippi Valley Orchestra and has since engaged with orchestras around the U.S. Most recently, he performed on separate occasions Beethoven's Fourth Concerto and Prokofiev's First Concerto with the La Crosse Symphony Orchestra. Past accolades of note include the distinction of national finalist in the MTNA Steinway and Sons Young Artist Competition and prizes at the TMTA, Young Texas Artists', Houston Tuesday Musical, and San Antonio Young Artist competitions. Internationally, Robert was a semifinalist in the 2018 New Orleans International Piano Competition and the 2017 San Jose International Piano Competition. Chamber music and collaborations are a crucial part of Robert's musical life. For nearly half of 2022, Robert spent his time performing as a part of Lincoln Center Stage, a piano quartet ensemble performing aboard Holland America Cruise Lines, featuring the major piano quartets of Mozart, Schumann, and Brahms in addition to many other programs. Other important chamber music accolades include a piano fellowship at the Kneisel Hall Chamber Festival in Maine in 2019 and 2021, performing various trios, quartets, and quintets.