

THE MUSICAL CLUB OF HARTFORD, INC.
EVELYN BONAR STORRS 2026 SCHOLARS HONOR RECITAL

PROGRAM

Jeux D'eau

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

Nanxi Li

Nanxi Li is currently a junior piano performance major at the University of Hartford, Hartt School. She has studied piano since childhood, passionate about music, she focuses not only on classical repertoire but also explores the expressiveness of Romantic and modern works. During her studies, Nanxi is a student of Professor Frederic Chiu, renowned for his unique blend of technical mastery and artistic depth. Under his guidance, she has developed both technical skills and interpretative artistry. Nanxi has performed in numerous concerts, masterclasses and community performances. At school, Nanxi frequently performed in Hammer Klavier concerts and participated in masterclasses with Clayton Stephenson, Maggie Francis, Florence Millet, and Mohamed Shamseldin. She has also performed at Berkman Hall. Beyond school, she has performed at Flagg Road United Church of Christ and Brookdale Senior Living. She is a recipient of the University of Hartford Undergraduate Scholarship, the Millie and Irving Bercowetz Hartt Endowed Book Award, and the Evelyn Bonar Storrs Scholarship. Nanxi has also received prizes in competitions such as the 2017 1st Changsha International Piano Competition and the 13th Shanghai International Youth Piano Competition and so on. Nanxi is passionate about sharing music with others and believes in its power to bring warmth and comfort.

Piano Sonata No. 2 in G-sharp minor, Op. 19
Sonate-Fantasia

Alexander Scriabin (1872–1915)

- I. Andante*
- II. Presto*

Yimiao Fang

Yimiao Fang is a Chinese pianist active on the international concert stage. She has appeared at Carnegie Hall for over three consecutive years. Her recent performances include Merkin Hall in New York City, Shanghai Oriental Art Center, the Opera House of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, and Steinway Hall – Global Headquarters. She is known for presenting and premiering piano works that incorporate Chinese musical elements, shaping a performance identity that reflects the cultural perspective of a contemporary Chinese pianist within the Western classical tradition. Yimiao is currently pursuing the Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) degree at The Hartt School, where she studies with Prof. José Ramos Santana, and she serves on the piano faculty of The Hartt School Pre-College Division.

Scherzo No. 2 in B-flat minor, Op. 31

Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

Lihan Sun

Lihan Sun is a pianist currently pursuing graduate studies in Piano Performance at the University of Hartford, where she studies with Professor Jose Romas Santana. Her recent musical life includes solo performance, collaborative projects, chamber music, and accompanying. She is active in concerts and music festivals, and also engages in piano teaching and coaching, continuing to develop her skills through performing and working with others.

Suite 1922, Op. 26

Paul Hindemith (1895-1963)

- I. *Marsch*
- II. *Boston*
- III. *Ragtime*

Georgi Lekov

Bulgarian pianist Georgi Lekov is a graduate of National School of Music “Lubomir Pipkov” in Sofia, Bulgaria and The Mannes School of Music (New York City), where he earned his B.M. and M.M. Degrees. Among his teachers were Emiliya Kaneva, Prof. Ludmil Angelov, Prof. Pavlina Dokovska and Dr. Vladimir Valjarevic. Currently Lekov is pursuing a D.M.A. Degree at University of Connecticut under the guidance of Dr. Angelina Gadeliya; he is a Graduate Assistant for the UConn Opera Studio, Uconntabile, Glee Club, and Opera Showcase. In New York, Georgi is faculty at Anahid Syourapian Piano School and Staff Pianist at The Juilliard School.

Throughout the years Georgi Lekov has won an impressive number of prizes in competitions and participated in masterclasses and festivals in Europe, North America and Asia. In New York, he performed at Carnegie Hall, Steinway Hall and Lincoln Center, among many others. Committed to exploration of the contemporary repertoire, Lekov has worked alongside various composers and took part in numerous premieres of new works for piano solo and chamber ensembles.

from Six Pieces, op. 52
Scherzo

Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953)

from Visions Fugitives, op. 22
Poetico
Feroce
Dolente

from Four Pieces, op. 4
Suggestion diabolique

Carter Johnson

Celebrated for his warm stage presence, compelling musical personality, and cutting-edge programming, Canadian pianist Carter Johnson is known for making classical music speak to all kinds of audiences. With playing described as "sincere, communicative, and intelligent", "drop-dead gorgeous", and even "the greatest thing since sliced bread" (Gramophone), Johnson's competition laurels include being a finalist in the 2025 Van Cliburn International Competition (the first Canadian in history to do so), the silver laureate of the 2025 Honens International Competition, the first prize winner of the 2025 Dublin International Competition, and the silver medalist in the 2024 Gina Bachauer International Competition. He lives in Hamden, CT with his wife Hannah and their three children.