

KILBOURN CONCERT SERIES

STEVEN ISSERLIS, CELLO

WITH CONNIE SHIH, PIANO

Sunday, February 25, 2024

Kilbourn Hall

3:00 PM



EASTMAN
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

PROGRAM

Sonata for Cello and Piano in D Minor,

Op. 40 (1934)

Allegro non troppo

Allegro

Largo

Allegro

Dmitri Shostakovich

(1906-1975)

Sonata for Cello and Piano in B-flat Major,

Op. 71 (1962)

Andante molto sostenuto

Allegretto con moto

Allegro molto

Dmitry Kabalevsky

(1904-1987)

INTERMISSION

Ballade in A Minor

Julius Isserlis

(1888-1968)

Sonata for Cello and Piano in G Minor, Op. 19

Lento – Allegro moderato

Allegro scherzando

Andante

Allegro mosso

Sergei Rachmaninoff

(1873-1943)

MEET THE ARTISTS

British cellist **Steven Isserlis** CBE enjoys an international career as a soloist, chamber musician, author, educator, and broadcaster. Equally at home in music from baroque to the present day, he performs with the world's greatest orchestras, including period ensembles, and has given many world premieres, including Sir John Tavener's *The Protecting Veil*, Thomas Adès's *Lieux retrouvés*, four works for solo cello by György Kurtág, and pieces by Holliger, Widmann, Mustonen, and many others.



His vast award-winning discography includes most of the cello repertoire, including the JS Bach suites (Gramophone Instrumental Album of the Year), Beethoven's complete works for cello and piano, the Brahms double concerto with Joshua Bell and the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, and Grammy-nominated recordings of Haydn and Martinů.

As an author, his latest book is a critically-acclaimed companion to the Bach cello suites, while his two books for children about music are among the genre's most popular and have been translated into many languages. He has also authored a commentary on Schumann's *Advice for Young Musicians*. As a broadcaster, he has written and presented in-depth documentaries for BBC Radio, on Robert Schumann and Harpo Marx.

An insightful musical explorer and curator, he has programmed imaginative series for London's Wigmore Hall, New York's 92nd St Y, and the Salzburg Festival. Unusually, he also directs orchestras from the cello, including Luzerner Sinfonieorchester in 2019 with Radu Lupu in his final public performance.

He was awarded a CBE by Queen Elizabeth II in 1998, in recognition of his services to music. International recognition includes the Piatigorsky Prize (USA) and the Glashütte Original Music Festival Award (Germany). Since 1997, he has been Artistic Director of the International Musicians Seminar, Prussia Cove, Cornwall.

He plays the 1726 'Marquis de Corberon' Stradivarius, on loan from the Royal Academy of Music.

Representation for Steven Isserlis: Wittenberg Artists, New York City, USA

MEET THE ARTISTS

Canadian pianist **Connie Shih** is consistently described as an exceptional artist. Born in Vancouver, she began playing piano at age 5 as the youngest of three gifted sisters. At age nine, she made her orchestral debut playing Mendelssohn's First Piano Concerto with the Seattle Symphony Orchestra. In 1993, she was awarded the Sylva Gelber Prize for the most outstanding classical artist under the age of 30.



As a soloist, she has performed with numerous orchestras in Canada, the United States and Europe. As a soloist, she has given numerous concerts in Canada, the United States, Iceland, England, Spain, Italy, Germany, Japan and China. With her duo partner, cellist Steven Isserlis, she regularly performs concerts worldwide to critical acclaim. In addition to chamber music performances at the Wigmore and Carnegie Halls, she has appeared at the prestigious Bath Music Festival, Aldeburgh, Cheltenham, Weill Hall (New York), Verbier, Lucerne and the Kronberg Festival. She has worked with Sir Simon Keenlyside, Joshua Bell, Maxim Vengerov, Tabea Zimmerman, Manuel Fischer-Dieskau, and Isabelle Faust, among others.

In 2022/23 Connie will tour with Steven Isserlis throughout Asia, America, and Europe. With cellist Manuel Fischer-Dieskau, she recorded the very first CD of Carl Reinecke's Sonatas for Piano and Cello and the complete Beethoven Sonatas. In 2017 she released the first of her two CDs with Steven Isserlis on the BIS label, while last year their first CD together was released on Hyperion to outstanding reception.

Connie's performances are frequently broadcast on television and radio on CBC (Canada), BBC (UK), SWR, NDR, and WDR (Germany), as well as various other television and radio stations in North America, Asia, and Europe. Connie has been an adjunct professor at the Hochschule für Musik Mainz and at the Hochschule für Musik Freiburg. Since 2022 she is Professor of Piano and Piano Chamber Music at the Salzburg Mozarteum. She has also given master classes at prestigious music institutes and has been a lecturer at the Casalmaggiore International Festival in Italy and Musiktage am Rhein. This summer she will be on the faculty of the Mozarteum Summer Academy.

Connie was the youngest protégé of her mentor György Sebök when she was 12 years old. She later continued her studies at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia with Claude Frank, who in turn was a protégé of Arthur Schnabel. Further studies were completed with Fou Ts'ong in Europe.

UPCOMING EASTMAN SERIES CONCERTS

Tickets for all series concerts can be purchased at EastmanTheatre.org

Quadrennial Leap Year with Harold Danko

Kilbourn Hall

Thursday, February 29, 2024 at 7:30 PM

Jazz pianist, composer, and professor emeritus of jazz studies and contemporary media at the Eastman School of Music, Harold Danko, will be presenting a concert featuring original compositions at his unique “Quadrennial Event,” hosted every February 29 for the last 44 years.

*This concert does not require tickets and is free to attend.

FACULTY ARTIST SERIES

Alexander Kobrin, piano

Hatch Recital Hall

Friday, March 1, 2024 at 7:30 PM

Over the course of eight concerts, Professor Kobrin will present all 32 of Beethoven’s piano sonatas throughout the 2023-24 academic year. Kobrin will perform on a Shigeru Kawai piano, generously on loan to Eastman for this concert series.

UPCOMING STUDENT ENSEMBLE CONCERTS

All student performances are free unless otherwise noted.

Eastman Wind Ensemble

Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre

Monday, February 26, 2024 at 7:30 PM

Music of Bach, Daugherty, and Simon

Eastman School Symphony Orchestra

Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre

Friday, March 1, 2024 at 7:30 PM

Music of Brahms and Dvořák

We acknowledge with respect the Seneca Nation, known as the “Great Hill People” and “Keepers of the Western Door” of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. We take this opportunity to thank the people whose ancestral lands the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester currently occupies in Rochester, New York.



For the most up to date information on Eastman concerts and events, scan this code to visit our online calendar.



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