



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Presents

Faculty Recital Series

Dr. Michael Bukhman, piano

with special guest artist

Dr. Mei Rui, piano

Sunday, February 12, 2023

2:00 pm

Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU

Program

Fantaisie in F minor, D. 940

F. Schubert
(1797-1828)

Ballade in B minor, S. 171

F. Liszt
(1811-1886)

Five Pieces for Piano, Op. 34

Pastorale

Intermezzo

Capriccio Agitato

Canzonetta

Toccata

P. Ben-Haim
(1897-1984)

Suite No. 2 for Two Pianos, Op. 17

Introduction

Waltz

Romance

Tarantella

S. Rachmaninoff
(1873-1943)

The use of recording equipment or taking photographs is prohibited.
Please silence all electronic devices including watches, pagers, and phones.

About the performers

The Bronze Medalist of the World Piano Competition in 2015, Dr. **Mei Rui** was praised by the Boston Globe as a “riveting” virtuoso, and by Boston Musical Intelligencer as a concert artist with “deeply felt and intense musicality.” New York Classical Review writes of her Grammy-nominated recording “Three by Three” by Eric Nathan (Albany Records): “Rui was amazing at what seemed to be impossible; an excellent pianist with extreme virtuosity.” She has performed to critical acclaim in the United States and abroad, including recent performances of Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No.3 with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and Yale Philharmonic, Rachmaninoff Concerto No.2 with the TMC Orchestra at Hobby Center, Rachmaninoff Concerto No.1 with WDO with synchronous projection of her fMRI brain scans.

A graduate of Yale, she holds duo-degrees in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry (B.A.) and Music (M.M.& A.D.) While pursuing her D.M.A., she taught as a Visiting Assistant Professor in Organic and General Chemistry at the Sophie Davis Biomedical School at the City University of New York. In 2020, Dr. Rui was appointed the first Assistant Professor of Music Medicine in the Department of Surgery at Houston Methodist and Weill Cornell Medical College. She also serves as an Artist Collaborator at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University. Her research focuses on investigating the neurophysiological mechanisms and impact of music intervention in clinical and musician cohorts. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she founded the MUSICARE (Musicians United for Service in Care) Initiative with the Houston Symphony, which brought over 400 live bedside concerts to isolated ICU patients. In Spring 2023 she will spearhead a new Music-in-Medicine Initiative (MIMI) at MD Anderson Cancer Center as *Assistant Professor of Music Medicine* in the Department of Neurosurgery.

An avid chamber musician, Dr. Rui has performed at the Ravinia, Yellow Barn, PMP, Taos, Music Academy of the West, Norfolk, and Van Cliburn Piano Institute. She has collaborated on stage with some of the most eminent musicians in the world, including George Manahan, Brinton Smith, Shinik Hahm, Paul Katz, Roger Tapping, Eric Halen, David Halen, Itzhak Perlman, Bill Vermeulen, and Peter Frankl. A dedicated educator, Dr. Rui was inducted into the prestigious Steinway Teacher Hall of Fame in 2019. She taught at the Yale School of Music (2004-2007) prior to starting her piano studio in New York and later in Houston. She was invited to serve on the Piano Faculty at Yellow Barn Festival’s Young Artists Program in 2014. She has given masterclasses and coached chamber music groups at the American Festival of the Arts, and at the Houston High School of Performing Arts. In 2014, her students swept the first and second prizes in the middle and high school divisions at the HMTA competition. Numerous of her students have given their Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center debut performances in New York. Many others have garnered top prizes in numerous competitions.

A native of Shanghai, Mei began her piano studies at the age of 3, and was accepted into the Shanghai Conservatory of Music 3 years later. She gave her first solo recital at the age of 10 in front of an illustrious audience that included the President of Austria and other international dignitaries at the Hofburg Imperial Palace in Vienna. At age 11, she made her orchestral debut soloing with the Beijing Radio Symphony. She won numerous regional and national competitions in China, and her performances were featured multiple times on Chinese national television and radio stations. As a soloist, she has played with the Beijing Radio Symphony, Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra, Manhattan School of Music Philharmonic, Stony Brook Symphony Orchestra, and Yale Philharmonic. She has performed in some of the most prestigious concert venues in the world, including a season-opening concert at the Louvre Museum Auditorium in Paris, Bennet Gordon Hall in Chicago, Jordan Hall in Boston; Carnegie Hall (Weill), Steinway Hall, Merkin Hall, Stellar Performing Arts Center, Baryshnikov Arts Center, and Borden Auditorium in New York; San Fernando Cathedral in San Antonio, Duncan Hall in Houston; Woolsey Hall and Sprague Hall in New Haven; San Fernando Cathedral in San Antonio; National

Concert Hall in Taipei; Lehman Hall in Santa Barbara; Beijing Concert Hall and Shanghai Grand Concert Hall. Turning down full scholarship offers from both the Juilliard School and Manhattan School of Music, she enrolled in the highly selective B.A./M.M. program at Yale, where she was the recipient of the prestigious Joseph Selden Memorial Award for excellence in the Arts, the Sheffield Scientific Scholarship, the Bruce Simonds Scholarship, and the George W. Miles Scholarship. Other awards include the Seldon Award, Van Gelder Memorial Award, the McDermott Scholarship, the Lowenthal Fellowship; top prizes in the San Antonio International Piano Competition, Manhattan School of Music Concerto Competition, William Waite Concerto Competition, Yale Chamber Music Competition, the Kingsville International Competition, and the Kosciusko Chopin International Competition. Some of Dr. Rui's most influential mentors include Claude Frank, Peter Frankl, Gil Kalish, Phillip Kawin, Jerome Lowenthal, Seth Knopp, and Robert McDonald. Dr. Rui is a Yoga-Alliance certified RYT-300 yoga instructor, a PADI-certified SCUBA diver, and a proud mama to her 4-year-old daughter, 7-year-old son, and a dachshund named Ludwig.

Passionate about collaboration and chamber music, award-winning pianist **Michael Bukhman** is active internationally as a chamber musician, adjudicator, and pedagogue. In 2022 he participated in the inaugural concerts of the Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU, performing Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time and the world premiere of *Ascendant Grooves* for two pianos and *Reveries* for cello and piano by TCU composer Till MacIvor Meyn. Working with musicians from the Dallas and Fort Worth symphony orchestras, Bukhman has been featured in the Spectrum Chamber Music Series as well as the Chamber Music Society of Fort Worth. Recent performances include premieres at the International Clarinet Association's ClarinetFest 2022 in Reno, NV with the Painted Sky Ensemble. The group has premiered two additional trios in Fall 2022 by composers Teresa Martin and Chia-Yu Hsu in Estonia and Poland. In commemoration of Beethoven's 250th anniversary in 2020, Bukhman performed the Triple Concerto with the TCU Symphony Orchestra under maestro Germán Gutiérrez, with cellist Jesús Castro-Balbi and violinist Elisabeth Adkins. In Fall 2020, Bukhman was invited to the Oberlin Conservatory for a virtual Beethoven celebration in a solo sonata performance as part of a marathon Beethoven piano sonata project. His 2013 performance with violinist Itzhak Perlman in Sarasota, Florida, was lauded for its "brilliant playing" and having "pushed the audience to the edge of frenzy" (Herald-Tribune). In June of 2016 Bukhman performed a duo recital with Grammy award-winning violist Kim Kashkashian to great acclaim at the American Viola Society Festival in Oberlin, OH. He has also collaborated with Nobuko Imai, Donald Weilerstein, Roger Tapping, Julia Bullock, Dawn Upshaw, the Attacca Quartet, Rebecca Ringle, Peter Frankl, and many others. Recent international tours include violin-piano performances in four Chinese cities with masterclasses taught across China and Taiwan, and previous performances across Japan.

Currently Assistant Professor of Collaborative Piano and Chamber Music at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, TX, Bukhman established a local chapter for *Music for Food*—an international community outreach program, generating thousands of dollars to benefit the Tarrant Area Food Bank. Prior to his appointment to TCU, Bukhman served as Guest Artist-in-Residence at the Oberlin Conservatory (2017) and on the staff and pre-college faculty of the New England Conservatory in Boston, MA, to which he returned in summer 2022 as a collaborative piano faculty member at Morningside Music Bridge International Festival. Other music festival appearances include PianoTexas, the Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute, the Heifetz Institute, Yellow Barn Music Festival, The Perlman Music Program, and the Ojai Music Festival. Bukhman previously also taught at Bard and Vassar Colleges. While at Bard, Bukhman founded *Play/Chat@Bard*, a concert series showcasing young musicians in performance with informal conversation.

In summer 2022 Bukhman was appointed as Collaborative Arts Chair for the Texas Music Teachers Association (TMTA), a three-year term. He is also an active member of the International Keyboard Collaborative Arts Society (IKCAS) and has successfully presented on several occasions at the Music Teachers National Association's (MTNA) National Conference.

Bukhman attended the Oberlin Conservatory of Music as a student of Robert Shannon, where he became the first in that institution's history to graduate with Honors in Piano Performance. As part of his Honors project, Bukhman recorded the complete 24 Preludes and Fugues of Shostakovich, performing ten of them on one recital. He holds MM and DMA degrees from The Juilliard School, where he studied with Robert McDonald. An award-winning pianist, Bukhman's accolades include: medalist in the 2009 Hilton Head International Piano Competition; top-ranked winner of the 2005 Jacob K. Javits Fellowship; first-prize winner at the 2006 Corpus Christi International Competition for Piano and Strings; and laureate of the 2006 Gina Bachauer Competition at the Juilliard School.