

5-10-2017 8:00 PM

## Guest Recital, Joel Fan, piano, May 10, 2017

Lawrence University

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# Guest Recital

Joel Fan, piano

Wen-Lei Gu, violin



Wednesday, May 10, 2017

8:00 p.m.

Lawrence Memorial Chapel

*Prelude in C-sharp minor*, op. 45

Frédéric Chopin  
(1810-1849)

*Polonaise-Fantaisie*, op. 61

Chopin

*Sonata in B minor*, S. 178

Franz Liszt  
(1811-1886)

Joel Fan, piano

♦ INTERMISSION ♦

*Sonata No. 9 for Violin and Piano*  
*in A Major*, op. 47 ("Kreutzer")  
Adagio sostenuto - Presto  
Andante con variazioni  
Presto

Ludwig van Beethoven  
(1770-1827)

ENCORE

*Why Are the Flowers So Red*

Tiehua Han

Untitled

Wen-Lei Gu

Wen-Lei Gu, violin  
Joel Fan, piano

## PERFORMER BIOS

Acclaimed as an artist with a “probing intellect and a vivid imagination” (New York Times), pianist **Joel Fan** embraces a bold repertoire of piano classics and inspired discoveries of contemporary and world music. His work illuminates the rare and unexpected, and the Boston Globe describes Joel Fan as a “champion of new music, explorer of world music.”

Joel Fan's discography illustrates his creative musical persona. His solo CDs *World Keys* and *West of the Sun* both scored Billboard Top 10 Debuts, and include six world premieres. Anthony Tommasini of the New York Times cited *Leon Kirchner: Revelations* as an "important recording of diverse works."

Joel Fan's newest recording, *Dances for Piano and Orchestra*, is a wide-ranging journey focusing on the intersection of music and dance, with rare concerto works by Chopin, Saint-Saëns, Pierné, Weber-Liszt, Gottschalk, culminating in a world premiere recording of Charles Cadman's *Dark Dancers of the Mardi Gras*.

Joel Fan has performed over 40 different concertos with orchestras worldwide including the New York Philharmonic, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, Singapore Symphony, Odessa Philharmonic, and London Sinfonietta, with conductors such as David Zinman, Alan Gilbert, Zubin Mehta and David Robertson.

In collaboration with Yo-Yo Ma as a member of the Silk Road Ensemble, Joel Fan has appeared at Carnegie Hall in New York, the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, and on the popular nationally-televised programs *Good Morning America* and *Late Night with David Letterman*.

He received his undergraduate degree from Harvard University, where his teachers included the composer Leon Kirchner. He holds a Master of Music degree in Piano Performance from the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University, where he studied with Leon Fleisher.

Joel Fan has recorded for Sony Classical, Reference Recordings, Verdant World Records and Albany Records. He is a Steinway Artist.

**Wen-Lei Gu**, Associate Professor of Music at Lawrence University Conservatory of Music in Appleton, Wisconsin, has won international acclaim as soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician. Born into a musical family, she won first prizes in both violin and piano state competitions at age seven, and was the gold medalist in China's Fourth National Violin Competition at age twelve. At age thirteen, she was the silver medalist in the prestigious Yehudi Menuhin International Violin Competition in England. Subsequently, she made her international debut the same year, performing the Saint-Saëns Violin Concerto in B minor in England with Yehudi Menuhin at the baton. Menuhin said of her playing: "sounds like a poem, looks like a painting."

Since coming to America at age thirteen, Ms. Gu has won numerous prizes in national and international violin competitions. A recipient of the prestigious Presser Award from the Theodore Presser Foundation for outstanding achievement in music, she has performed frequently as guest soloist with orchestras and as recitalist at concert series throughout the world.

Ms. Gu's performance highlights have included performing at the Bach Festival at Carnegie Hall commemorating the 250th Anniversary of Johann Sebastian Bach's death, appearing at the Kennedy Center for the Millennium Concert Series, performing the Wieniawski Concerto No. 2 with the Houston Symphony, and recital for the Myra Hess Concert Series in Chicago. She was the guest soloist with the Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra and China Beijing Philharmonic on their critically acclaimed concert tours of Europe. Her recent concert engagements have included recital tours in the Far East and Israel, live recital broadcasts on Wisconsin Public Radio's Sunday Afternoon Live from the Chazen and the Midday Show, the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra, the Lawrence Symphony Orchestra, and the Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra.

Dr. Gu holds the Bachelor of Music degree from the Juilliard School, and the Master of Music from the Mannes College of Music in New York. She received her Doctor of Music in Violin Performance from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where she was the concerto competition winner and concertmaster. Her teachers include Yao-Ji Lin, Bin Chao, Dorothy Delay, Sally Thomas, Ida Kavafian, Paul Biss, and Miriam Fried. In addition, she has studied chamber music with Felix Galimir, Menaham Pressler, and Janos Starker. Dr. Gu frequently adjudicates as a string judge in prominent national and international music competitions.