GRANDMASTERS
2024 GOLD MEDALIST YOUL SUN
REVEALS THE MASTERSTROKES OF TWO MUSICAL GIANTS, LISZT AND DEBUSSY
BACHAUER CONCERT SERIES 26/27
SESSION 133
NOV 6 | 7:30 PM
BACHAUER 50 YEARS

Youl Sun came to international prominence with a remarkable triple victory at the 2024 Gina Bachauer International Artists Piano Competition, earning the Gold Medal, Audience Choice Prize, and Student Jury Prize. That same year, he won First Prize at the Seoul International Music Competition. In 2026, he added Second Prize and the Best Performance of a 20th-Century Work Award at the Ljubljana Festival Piano Competition.

Youl has performed throughout Europe, Asia, and the United States, appearing at venues including the Concertgebouw, Philharmonie Luxembourg, Salle Cortot, and Abravanel Hall, and with orchestras including the Minnesota Orchestra, Utah Symphony, and KBS Symphony Orchestra.

A graduate of the Korea National University of Arts, Youl continued his studies in France, graduating from both the Schola Cantorum de Paris and the École Normale de Musique de Paris. He studied with Daejin Kim and currently studies with Olivier Gardon.

GABRIELA LENA FRANK

Two Andean Portraits
Introducción: Zampoñas
Adagio del Altiplano

TEXU KIM

Pansori Fantasy

CLAUDE DEBUSSY

Images, Book I
Reflets dans l'eau (Reflections in the Water)
Hommage à Rameau (Tribute to Rameau)
Mouvement (Movement)

Images, Book II
Cloches à travers les feuilles (Bells through the Leaves)
Et la lune descend sur le temple qui fut
(And the Moon Descends on the Temple That Was)
Poissons d'or (Goldfish)

INTERMISSION

FRANZ LISZT

12 Transcendental Etudes
No. 1 in C Major *(Preludio)*
No. 2 in A Minor
No. 3 in F Major *(Paysage)*
No. 4 in D Minor *(Mazeppa)*
No. 5 in B-flat Major *(Feux follets)*

No. 6 in G Minor *(Vision)*
No. 7 in E-flat Major *(Eroica)*
No. 8 in C Minor *(Wilde Jagd)*
No. 9 in A-flat Major *(Ricordanza)*
No. 10 in F Minor
No. 11 in D-flat Major *(Harmonies du soir)*
No. 12 in B-flat Minor *(Chasse-neige)*

TWO ANDEAN PORTRAITS (2024)

GABRIELA LENA FRANK (b. 1972)

"*Two Andean Portraits*, for solo piano, was written for the Gina Bachauer International Artists Piano Competition (2024). The first movement, *Introducción: Zampoñas*, is inspired by the quintessential instrument of the South American Andes, the panpipe. The movement is simple in form but technically tricky to enact a smooth and legato line in the right hand of parallel fifths combined with a light and a wide-roaming left hand of delicate black note cluster grace notes. The second movement, *Adagio del Altiplano*, is inspired by the evocative landscape of the Andean highlands. This movement requires a sensitive shaping and pacing of phrases to convey its mystery, plus an imaginative pedal and fleet fingers in the fast sections." **— GABRIELA LENA FRANK**

PANSORI FANTASY (2024)

TEXU KIM (b. 1980)

Korean-American composer Texu Kim's *Pansori Fantasy*, commissioned by the Seoul International Music Competition, draws on pansori, a Korean storytelling tradition combining a singer and drummer. Rather than quoting traditional melodies, Kim evokes the singer's vocal inflections, ornamentation, and rhythms through the piano.

IMAGES, BOOKS I AND II (1905–1907)

CLAUDE DEBUSSY (1862–1918)

In his six *Images*, Debussy explores the piano's colors and resonance, evoking reflections on water, distant bells, and a vanished temple. Book II reveals his fascination with Asian musical sonorities, while *Poissons d'or* was inspired by a lacquer panel depicting goldfish. Together, these works transform visual impressions into music of remarkable delicacy and brilliance.

12 TRANSCENDENTAL ETUDES (1852)

FRANZ LISZT (1811–1886)

Liszt's *12 Transcendental Etudes* combine formidable technical demands with vivid musical imagination. Developed over two decades, the collection ranges from the dramatic *Mazeppa* and *Wilde Jagd* to the atmospheric *Paysage* and *Harmonies du soir*. Together, they transform the etude from a technical exercise into music of extraordinary expressive and orchestral scope.

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50+ years of successful activity are the result of many contributing factors. We wish to express our gratitude to all the generous individuals and organizations that have assisted us in presenting competitions, concerts, festivals, and outreach programs by supporting the Gina Bachauer International Piano Foundation during the past two years.

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