

# OPENING CONCERT

Friday, February 26, 2010 • 7:30 p.m.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS  
**Dr. Janet Lopinski**, Artistic Director

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS  
**Greg Glista**, Director of Fund Raising

## RECITAL OF WORKS BY FRYDERYK CHOPIN

### **Avan Yu**

First Prize Winner of The Second Canadian Chopin Piano Competition

Ballade No. 2 in F major, op. 38  
Nocturne in E flat major, op. 55 no. 2  
Sonata No. 3 in B minor, op. 58  
*Allegro maestoso*  
*Scherzo: molto vivace*  
*Largo*  
*Finale: Presto non tanto; agitato*

### INTERMISSION

### **Li Wang**

First Prize Winner of The First Canadian Chopin Piano Competition

Polonaise in A flat major, op. 53  
Ballade No. 1 in G minor, op. 23  
Mazurka op. 17 no. 1 in B-flat major  
Mazurka op. 17 no. 2 in E minor  
Mazurka op. 17 no. 3 in A-flat major  
Mazurka op. 17 no. 4 in A minor  
Andante Spianato and Grande Polonaise, op. 22

Pre-Concert Reception sponsored by:

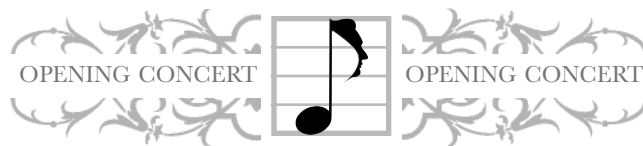
Concert sponsored by:



The Adam Mickiewicz  
Foundation in Canada



The W. Reymont  
Foundation



## AVAN YU

At 22 years of age, Canadian pianist Avan Yu has performed in recital and as a soloist with orchestras on four continents, consistently captivating audiences with his extraordinary musicianship. Avan made his New York debut at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in the fall of 2008 after winning the Silver Medal at the 16th Paloma O'Shea Santander International Piano Competition in the same year. He first came to national attention by winning first prize at the Second Canadian Chopin Competition at the age of seventeen, and is the only pianist to win First Prize in both the Junior and Senior Divisions of the Missouri Southern International Piano Competition.

Most recently, he debuted as a soloist with the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa under the baton of Music Director Pinchas Zukerman in a performance of Chopin's Andante Spianato and Grande Polonaise, followed by Chopin's Polonaise brillante with cellist Yo-Yo Ma, and then introduced the Canadian Prime Minister in his surprise appearance onstage at the same gala.

Avan Yu first performed with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra at the age of fourteen in a performance of Rachmaninov's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, and has formed a special relationship with the orchestra that has embraced him ever since. After four engagements in subsequent years, he appeared as featured soloist on the orchestra's first national tour of Canada in thirty years with appearances at the Roy Thomson Hall in Toronto, Place des Arts in Montreal and Ottawa's National Arts Centre.

Avan has also performed with orchestras such as the Dresden Philharmonic, Victoria Symphony, Orchestre Philharmonique of Morocco, Ottawa Symphony, Xiamen Philharmonic in China, Windsor Symphony, Real Filharmonía de Galicia, B.C. Chinese Orchestra, and Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra.

His performances have been broadcast live on WQXR in New York, CBC in Canada, NDR Kultur Hamburg, Spanish National Radio and Television, in addition to recitals for organizations such as UNESCO, Chopin Club in Warsaw, Animato in Paris, Canadian Vocal and Performing Arts Society, Jeunesses Musicales Canada and Debut Atlantic.

Born in Hong Kong and raised in Vancouver, he currently studies at the University of Fine Arts in Berlin with Prof. Klaus Hellwig. His other principal teachers include Kenneth Broadway and Ralph Markham.



## LI WANG

Li Wang's passionate and personal style has distinguished him as one of Canada's finest young artists. Gold medal winner of the First Canadian Chopin Piano Competition, Li Wang has enjoyed success on the international competition circuit, claiming awards and distinctions in the AXA Dublin International Piano Competition, 43rd Maria Canals International Piano Competition in Barcelona, the International Franz Liszt Piano Competition held in Budapest, and the Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow, in which he was the only Canadian accepted to compete.

In 2003, Mr. Wang performed a benefit concert for Ethiopian famine relief in Toronto where his "flawless technique combined with his light touch to produce the most exquisite tonal effects" (John Terauds, *The Toronto Star*).

Born in Beijing, Mr. Wang discovered his passion for the piano while studying under his father, and furthered his musical training at the Beijing Central Conservatory of Music, the Conservatoire Nationale Supérieure de Musique in Paris, and The Royal Conservatory's Glenn Gould School in Canada under the tutelage of James Anagnoson. A resident of Toronto, Mr. Wang is currently piano faculty at both The Glenn Gould School and Young Artists Performance Academy of The Royal Conservatory.