

RENEWAL *IN REUNION* *CONCERT*

重聚  回顾

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2024 AT 2:30PM
7 MARILYN AVE, SCARBOROUGH
ON M1S 1B9



首先，热烈祝贺毕美之老师学生的“回顾和重聚音乐会”即将举行。

毕老师是我五十多年的老友，虽然一直身处异地，平日接触不多，但谈起钢琴教学的理念则是非常的相同。

早就耳闻毕老师数十年来，教了不计其数的优秀学生，特别是她从“零”起步培养的众多学生中，不仅有数十人夺得了加拿大国家级钢琴比赛的桂冠，还有至今活跃在世界各大音乐学院的教授和国际钢琴比赛的获奖者。

特别是我聆听毕老师学生们钢琴演奏视频之后，感到她还培养了一大批有一手好钢琴的学生，正是由于秉持音乐改变人生的这种理念，让音乐不断帮助和渗透了学生们的人生，对他们起着不可估量和潜移默化的作用。

由衷赞赏毕老师对钢琴教学执着追求的精神和敬业的一生，在钢琴教学上取得让人惊羡的丰硕成果。

最后，预祝参加音乐会学生们的精彩演出获得圆满成功！

挚友 但昭义



2024年8月



Bi Mei Zhi



An eminent piano educator from the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. Throughout her 80-year journey, she has devoted an extraordinary 60 years to the art of piano pedagogy.

Despite not possessing the high academic credentials or dazzling stage career often celebrated today, her unwavering dedication and professional expertise have produced remarkable results. Under her meticulous guidance, generation after generation of students have rapidly progressed from beginners to well-rounded, exceptional pianists. Since immigrating to Canada 30 years ago, an impressive 44 of her students have won first and second places in the Canadian Music Competition (CMC). Hundreds have achieved first places in provincial and municipal festivals, and many more have graduated from the Royal Conservatory of Music with the ARCT diploma. This remarkable success highlights both the number and the exceptional quality of her students.

In her early teaching years, her students in China won first place in the youth category of the Shanghai Piano Competition for three consecutive years. Today, these students have not only won international piano competition awards but at these five of them also hold faculty positions as piano professors at prestigious music academies worldwide.

In 2005, she led eight of her first and second place CMC winners on a tour to China. They performed concertos by Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, Tchaikovsky, and Prokofiev, earning high praise and recognition from their Chinese peers. This achievement led Shanghai Television to produce a documentary titled "Fragrant Blossoms" in her honour, which aired during the Teachers' Day special that year.

In 2010, she was presented the "Excellence in Arts" award by Canada's largest Chinese television station, Fairchild TV.

Together with her husband, Professor Hua-an Shen, they founded "Ivory Keys For Cancer," guiding students in organizing multiple charity concerts. The goal is to cultivate students' artistic skills while instilling the importance of giving back to the society. To date, they have held seven such concerts, donating every dollar raised to the Canadian Cancer Society, amounting to tens of thousands of dollars.

Member of Parliament Jim Karygiannis presented Ms. Bi and Mr. Shen with a parliamentary certificate, commending them for their dedication and contributions to the cause.

In 2013, Ms. Bi published a DVD titled "Love in the Piano Garden," featuring performances by students who had won national awards. In 2017 and 2018, she consecutively received the "Steinway Top Teacher Award."

Today, we gather to pay deep respect and affection to our beloved mother, grandmother, teacher, and friend through this special reunion and retrospective concert. Let us fully enjoy this joyous and unforgettable moment!

毕美之：一位来自上海音乐学院的杰出钢琴教育家。在她80年的人生旅程中，她为钢琴艺术的教育，奉献了非凡的60年！

她并没有如今人们眼中的高学历，也没有令人眩目的舞台生涯。但令人惊异的是，凭着她执着的认真和专业能力，凡经过她悉心教导训练过的学生，从零开始，一批又一批，一代又一代，飞快成长为全面而优秀的钢琴演奏能手。移民30年多年来，先后有44名之多荣获加拿大全国比赛(CMC)的第一和第二名；获得省、市地区的Festival的第一名就有惊人的几百名人次之多；还有更多的学生从皇家音乐学院毕业(ARCT)……这足以说明，她的学生不仅普遍众多，而且相当的优质。

早年，她在中国所教授的学生，曾在上海市钢琴大赛中连续三年获得少年组的第一名。如今，这些学生有的不仅获得了国际钢琴比赛的大奖，更有5、6位学生在世界著名的音乐学院担任钢琴教授！

2005年，她曾率领8位获得全国CMC比赛第一、第二名的学生到中国访问！演出莫扎特、贝多芬、肖邦、柴考夫斯基、普鲁科菲耶夫等8个协奏曲，赢得了中国同行的高度赞誉和肯定。这一成绩使上海电视台为她在当年的“教师节”专题录制了“桃李芬芳”的纪录片。

2010年，加拿大最大的华人电视台授予她“艺术卓越奖”。

她和她的丈夫沈华安教授一起创立了“*Ivory Keys For Cancer*”，带领学生们一次又一次的举办慈善音乐会。旨在培养学生艺术修养的同时，让他们必须明白回馈社会的重要性。如今已办过七届。她把音乐会所得的每一分钱悉数全部捐给癌症基金会。至今，已筹了数万元之多。

国会议员 (Jim Karygiannis) 为她和她的先生颁发国会议会的表彰证书。

2013年，她出版了名为“爱在钢琴园地”的DVD，其中收录了众多曾获得全国首奖的学生们的演奏。

2017年和2018年，她又连续获得“施坦威”颁发的“著名顶级教师奖”。

今天，我们欢聚一堂，以这样一场特殊的重聚和回顾音乐会，向我们这位亲爱的母亲、祖母、老师和朋友表示深深的敬意和爱戴，让我们尽情享受这欢乐而难忘的一刻吧！



A Personal Note from Mei Zhi Bi

Thank you so much to all the students and friends who come to attend this special reunion concert! It fills my heart with profound emotions when I reflect on my career in piano education.

Over the past sixty years as a piano teacher, I love my profession and even more so, my students. In the realm of art, I constantly explore and strive for excellence; when it comes to my students, I have given my all, pouring my heart and soul into their development Therefore, every time a student grows from a novice to a competent, skilled pianist, and eventually departs my classroom, I feel an immense sense of satisfaction and pride. Among the many students I have nurtured, there are pianists, winners of international piano competitions, and professors who are active at world's prestigious music conservatories. However, what brings me the most joy is seeing those students who, even though they did not pursue a professional path in music, still play piano beautifully. Through learning piano, they have gained an appreciation for music, enhanced their artistic understanding, and refined their aesthetic tastes. Music has subtly and profoundly influenced their lives. Today, some of them have become doctors, lawyers, financiers, entrepreneurs... almost all of them have become happy leaders in their respective fields! I believe this is the true meaning of success in music education.

As a teacher, what greater happiness and fulfillment could I ask for?

非常感谢有这么多的学生和朋友来参加这一特殊的重聚音乐会！回顾自己的“钢琴教育”生涯，心中充满了无限感慨！

从教六十年来，我爱我的事业，也更爱我的学生。在艺术上，我不断努力探索，精益求精；对待学生，我更是全力以赴，倾注了全部的心血.....所以，每当他们从“白丁”成长为有一定水准的、优秀的钢琴演奏者，离开我的教室时，我心中都感到无比欣慰和自豪！现在，在我培养众多的学生名单中，既有钢琴家，也有国际大型钢琴比赛的获奖者，还有活跃在世界各大音乐学院的教授。但最值得我感到高兴的是更多的学生，他们虽然没走专业的道路，但他们都弹得一手好钢琴。通过学习钢琴，了解音乐，领悟音乐，提高艺术素养和审美情趣，音乐在不知不觉中渗透、铺垫和帮助了他们的人生。如今，他们有的成为了医生、律师、金融家、企业家.....几乎个个都是各行各业的快乐的佼佼者！我认为这才是音乐教育的成功意义所在。

作为一名老师，有这样的幸福和满足，复何以求？！

毕美之



Program



Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum by Claude Debussy

Performer: Daniel Kong

Consolation No. 3 in D Flat Major by Franz Liszt

Performer: Bella Xu

Concert Etude No. 2 “Gnomenreigen” by Franz Liszt

Performer: Colin Zhang

Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Op. 43, Variation 18: Andante cantabile by Sergei Rachmaninoff

Performers: Jenny Wu and George Mu-Zhao

Nocturne, Op. 62, No. 1 by Frédéric Chopin

Performer: Jason Cheng

Contrabandista by Robert Schumann

Performer: Lancy Xiao Ling Wang

The Butterfly Lovers by Gang Chen

Performers: Sunny Ren and Ken Yang

Embraceable you by George Gershwin/Earl Wild

Performer: Catherine Ma

Ballade No.2 in F Major, Op. 38 by Frédéric Chopin

Performer: Cissy Zhou

Soirée de Vienne by Alfred Grunfeld

Performer: Frederick Zi Tian Huang



Performers



Daniel Kong

Daniel Kong, born in 2012, started learning piano with Ms. Bi when he was 8. He studies at Claude Watson School for the Arts and has won many awards in city and provincial competitions, often taking first place at music festivals. Daniel also plays the viola in the school band and loves drawing and photography. He is very passionate about the arts.



Bella Xu

Bella was born in 2012 and started to learn piano with Ms. Bi at the age of 7 years and 10 months and she is a true lover of the piano. At the age of nine, Bella won 2nd place at the 2022 Canadian Music Competition and at the age of ten, she won 3rd place at the Canadian Music Competition. Bella loves reading and doing handcrafts in her free time.



Colin Zhang

Colin began his piano studies at age 5, he started learning with Ms. Bi 4 years ago. He has won highest honors in numerous piano competitions including 2023 OMFA provincial concerto, Steinway competition, North York Music Festival, Unionville Music Competition and Take the stage Music Festival. Colin is the Mayer trophy receiver (highest mark) of 2024 Yip's music festival, and he is also the winner of 2024 Bedford Trio Division. In June 2024 Colin finished the Young Artist Piano seminar at Cleveland Institute of Music and he is the winner of the best solo performance of the program. Colin is a grade 7 student, in his spare time Colin enjoys chess, skating and golf.



Jenny Wu

Jiani (Jenny) started studying piano with Ms. Bi at the age of 5. She has played at recitals and competitions at the local, provincial, and international level, consistently earning top honours. Notably, she won multiple 1st places at the CMC and was named both 1st and Grand Price Winner in the 7 to 10 year old category at the CMC 2012. At school, she frequently played piano accompaniments for choir and band. Her love of music has led her to explore tuba and trombone as well, so she joined the Hannaford Youth Band during high school. Jenny is currently a third-year student at the University of Toronto pursuing a Honors Bachelor of Science degree with a Specialist in Pharmacology and Biomedical Toxicology.

George Mu-zhao



George began his piano journey with Ms. Bi in 2009 at the age of 5.5. By 2011, he participated in a series of regional and provincial festivals, winning both 1st and 2nd places awards. In 2012, George advanced to the CMC Final and won 2nd place. By 2014, he had earned his ARCT diploma. The adage that a strict teacher produces a good student rings true in George's case. His remarkable progress from a beginner at age 5 to an accomplished ARCT holder by age 11 was made possible through Ms. Bi's attentive guidance and her unique ability to nurture talented students. George is currently studying Mathematics at University of Toronto.

Jason Cheng



Born in 2004, Jason Cheng studied with Mei-Zhi Bi for nearly 6 years, during which he won 1st prize at CMC with Chopin Concerto 2nd movement at age 10. He later joined and graduated from the Phil & Eli Taylor Academy and has won many awards in international and national competitions, including 1st prize at the VI Tkaczewski International Piano Competition, 3rd prize at the 5th Canadian Chopin Competition, and 2 first prizes at the Canadian Music Competition. Jason is currently studying Software Engineering at the University of Waterloo.

Xiao Ling (Lancy) Wang



Started playing piano at the age of 4 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. At the age 13, she moved to Toronto and studied under Ms. Bi. During this time, she won a number of prizes, including Kiwanis Music Festival of Greater Toronto – Best of Class for Piano – Age 15 and under (2000); Oberlin International Piano Competition – Semi-finalist (2000); Canadian Music Competitions National Finalist – Third Place (2001); Ontario Silver Medal – awarded to highest score in Ontario for Grade 10 exam (2002). Lancy graduated with a medical degree at University of Toronto and became a hospitalist. She is currently practicing full-time at Lakeridge Health Oshawa. She also holds other leadership roles: inpatient residency lead educator for Queen's Family Medicine and District Stroke Physician Lead for the Durham Region. Most recently (2023), Lakeridge Health Oshawa gained Stroke Distinction title under her leadership.

Sunny Ren



Sunny began her piano studies at the age of five in Shanghai. Four years later, she immigrated to Canada and studied under Ms. Bi. Her natural musical talent and hard work have yielded exceptional results in various music competitions locally (Kiwanis, Markham Music Festivals) and nationally. Notably, she placed 1st in the 2000 CMC National Finals in the age 11 category for piano. At the age of 14, she received ARCT in Piano Performance with First Class Honours with Distinction. In 2005, Sunny had the privilege of going on tour and returning to her birthplace in Shanghai to perform the demanding Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No.1. In recent years, Sunny's career has led her into the investment industry and she's been a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) charter holder since 2013. However, she continues to inspire her piano students and dedicate her time to music in the local community. During her spare time, Sunny loves to travel and be an adventurer, she's been to more than 25 countries across five continents.



Ken Yang

Ken started lessons with Mei-Zhi Bi at 8 and soon after won nationals at the Canadian Music Competitions. He has appeared with Lang Lang, Yuja Wang and Leon Fleischer and has performed with numerous orchestras, including recording The Yellow River Concerto (黃河鋼琴協奏曲) with the TSO. He later studied with Glenn Gould School Dean James Anagnoson and the late Marietta Orlov. He has a JD/MBA from UofT and continues to perform and coach actively.



Catherine Ma

Catherine began studying piano at the age of 5 with Ms. Bi, and won her first competition that same year. At just 8 years old, she won 1st place in her debut appearance at the CMC, and shortly after began studying with Prof. Marietta Orlov. Catherine received her Bachelor's Degree in Piano Performance from the Juilliard School. Her most recent awards include the 2024 Yamaha Foundation Award, 3rd place at the Val Tidone International Piano Competition, 1st place at the Tkaczewski International Piano Competition, 2nd place at the Paderewski International Piano Competition, and 1st place at the Bremen International Piano Competition. She is currently finishing her Masters Degree at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels, Belgium.



Cissy Zhou

Cissy studied under Ms. Bi for 7 years, during which she won 1st prize twice and 2nd prize once at CMC. She made her concerto debut at 16 with the Toronto Philharmonia, performing Chopin's Second Piano Concerto under Maestro Kerry Stratton. A distinguished pianist, Cissy is also a grand prize laureate of the CMC, claiming 1st prize in 5 different years. Ms. Zhou has performed at prestigious events such as the Niagara International Chamber Music Festival, the Canadian Chopin Festival, and the Colours of Music Festival. In recent years, she has appeared at Salle Bourgie, Salle Claude Champagne, CBC's Glenn Gould Studio, and the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. Her solo recital at the Mazzoleni Concert Hall was praised by Das Journal as "remarkable." A student of celebrated pianist Dang Thai Son, Ms. Zhou holds a Master of Music from the University of Montréal and is a graduate of the Glenn Gould School of the RCM, where she studied with the late Marietta Orlov. She also studied Computer Science at Princeton University before commencing post-secondary studies in music.



Frederick Huang

Frederick Zi Tian Huang began piano lessons at five. He moved to Canada when he was 11, first studied with Ms. Bi for three years, winning 1st place in both 2019 CMC and 2020 OMFA under her guidance. He is currently studying at The Taylor Academy with Dr. Michael Berkovsky and Dr. Younggun Kim. Frederick later won 2nd place in CMC 2022 and 2nd place in OMFA for both 2020 and 2023. He was awarded 2nd place in 2022's Oakville Chamber Orchestra Youth Concerto Competition and won 1st place in his age group in the OMNI competition in Canada in 2023. In his free time, he loves to compose, practice martial art, walk in nature, watching movies and read philosophy books. His favorite pianist is Arthur Rubinstein. Frederick has been awarded full scholarship to study music at University of Toronto.



Our Memories



Proud Moments



