

## MIA CHUNG

### PIANIST

Described as “uncommonly insightful, individualistic, lively” and “technically dazzling” by the New York Times, Ms. Chung has enjoyed great success as a recitalist, concerto soloist and chamber musician. She won first prize in the Concert Artists Guild Competition and received the Avery Fisher Career Grant, the highest recognition for young concert artists in the United States.

Selected by Mstislav Rostropovich for a televised masterclass performance on public television at the age of 16, Ms. Chung has demonstrated a prodigious talent since her childhood. She possesses an exceptional understanding of and love for the works of J.S. Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Schumann, and Brahms. In a live performance of the Goldberg Variations by J.S. Bach, *The Wall Street Journal* compared her playing to that of Glenn Gould’s legendary recording of the same in 1955. Her debut recording on the Channel Classics label featured Beethoven sonatas and bagatelles. Upon selecting this recording as a “Best of the Year,” *Gramophone* magazine noted: “Chung's performance is inspired . . . a totally absorbing musical experience.” A Schumann disc followed, winning the Critics Association of Korea Award for best keyboard recording of the year. Channel Classics released two more CDs, featuring Bach's Goldberg Variations and a second volume of Beethoven's Sonatas and Bagatelles. Ms. Chung premiered and recorded a work by composer Lee Hyla called *Riff and Transfiguration* on the Tzadik label, also to critical acclaim.

Ms. Chung has performed extensively in North America, Europe, Asia and Central America. As a concerto soloist, she has appeared with orchestras such as the Baltimore Symphony, National Symphony, Alabama Symphony, New Haven Symphony, Corpus Christi Symphony, Harrisburg Symphony, Boston Pops, Mainly Mozart Festival Orchestra, KBS Symphony Orchestra in Seoul, Seoul Philharmonic, Fort Collins Symphony, Cascade Festival Orchestra, Billings Symphony Orchestra, Pensacola Symphony Orchestra, West Michigan Symphony, and numerous others under the direction of such conductors as Leonard Slatkin, John Nelson, Andrew Litton, Murry Sidlin, David Atherton and Richard Westerfield. An active recitalist, known for her combinations of performance and engaging talk, Ms. Chung has performed in major concert halls and series around the world, including the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., Symphony Hall in Boston, Jordan Hall in Boston (*Celebrity Series—Rising Stars*), Sejong

Center in Seoul, Korea, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Carnegie Hall (Pittsburgh), Krannert Center for the Performing Arts (University of Illinois), the Orange County Performing Arts Center, La Jolla Music Society, Yokohama Festival in Japan and Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center. Chosen as an Artistic Ambassador by the United States Information Agency, Ms. Chung toured Thailand, Singapore, Tonga and the former Soviet Union, becoming the first American pianist to perform in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan.

As a chamber musician, Ms. Chung has performed with celebrated artists such as Bernard Greenhouse, William Preucil, Philip Setzer, Ani and Ida Kavafian, David Shifrin, Charles Neidich, Carol Wincenc, Paul Neubauer, Ronald Thomas, Gary Hoffman, and Hilary Hahn. She has also collaborated with the Brentano, Borromeo, St. Petersburg, St. Lawrence, Miami, and Pacifica String Quartets among others. A former member of the Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society II, she has performed in concerts and educational presentations at Lincoln Center and the New York City metropolitan area. Her performances at summer festivals include the Mostly Mozart Festival at Lincoln Center, the Cascade Festival in Oregon, the Masterworks Festival in Spartanburg, SC, the Rockport Festival in Rockport, MA, and the Mainly Mozart Festival in San Diego. Ms. Chung toured Korea and the United States with violinist Catherine Cho for performances of Beethoven's ten piano and violin sonatas. Her recent collaborations include two-piano recitals and concertos with pianist Alina Polyakov, a protégé of the celebrated Russian pianist, Emil Gilels. Their first CD entitled, "SyncOp: 20th-Century Dance Tunes" included music by Ravel, Barber and Rachmaninoff. This was followed by a recording of the complete Brahms Piano Trios with violinist Elizabeth Larson and cellist Soo Bae on the Concert Artists Guild Records label. The last several seasons have included solo recitals and lecture-recitals in the US, South Korea, and Austria, a performance of the Brahms 2nd Piano Concerto with the Masterworks Festival Orchestra, a CD recording of the Brahms piano and cello sonatas with cellist Soo Bae on the Centaur Records label (to be released in 2024), and chamber performances with clarinetist Charles Neidich and cellist Soo Bae.

Ms. Chung's mentors have included Peter Serkin, Jacob Lateiner, Boris Berman, Leon Kirchner, Luise Vosgerchian, Raymond Hanson, Anne Koscielny, Ilana Vered, and George Manos. She and her husband John have four children and reside in the Boston area.

## EDUCATOR & WRITER

A distinguished educator and music advocate, Ms. Chung has worked extensively to provide greater understanding and increased awareness of the classical music repertoire. She has given lecture-recitals across the United States onstage, on-air, and online and given masterclasses and presentations at New England Conservatory, Juilliard, Eastman, University of Michigan (Ann Arbor), Cornell, MIT, Williams College, Georgia Tech, Boston University, Indiana University Piano Academy and many other private and public institutions of higher learning. Her DVD recording entitled, *Notations: A Composer's Response to Crisis*, has garnered high praise. The sole writer, teacher, performer and producer of this recording, Ms. Chung provides illuminating performances and analyses of Beethoven's seminal works-- Piano Sonatas, Op. 53 and Op. 110 (distributed by *Films for the Humanities & Sciences*). As a radio personality, Ms. Chung served as the first "Young Artist in Residence" for National Public Radio's *Performance Today*. Ms. Chung's work at NPR earned her a nomination as "Debut Artist of the Year." She went on to serve as "Artist-in-Radio" at WCRB-FM in Boston and WGMS-FM in Washington, D.C. and has appeared on public radio programs throughout the United States.

Ms. Chung and Arnold Steinhardt, first violinist of the Guarneri Quartet, teamed up to co-write and co-teach a Curtis online course (MOOC) entitled, *The World of the String Quartet* on Coursera.org. The course provides discussion, analysis, historical background and demonstrations of important string quartet compositions and information on the legendary performers who brought them to life. Recently, Ms. Chung has been studying and performing works by Chinese composers who emerged after the Cultural Revolution. Her short monograph entitled, *Chinese Emigré Composers: The Cultural Revolution and Divergent Modernisms 1953-1993* will be published in early 2024 by Cambridge University Press (Elements in Music Since 1945 Series).

Mia Chung was born in Madison, Wisconsin and grew up in the Washington, D.C. area. She graduated *magna cum laude* from Harvard College and received a master's degree from Yale University and a doctorate from the Juilliard School. For two decades she served as Artist-in-Residence and Professor of Music at Gordon College in Wenham, Massachusetts. In January 2012, she joined the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia where she has been a professor of musical studies and performance and a trustee.

## **LEADER**

An ardent advocate for interdisciplinary learning and the liberal arts, Ms. Chung has presented talks on beauty and suffering, music and mathematics, and success or significance at numerous colleges, universities, and conservatories. She has also participated and presented at colloquia on medicine, ethics, and the arts; aesthetic cognitivism; and theology and the arts. On the institutional level, Ms. Chung has worked to facilitate faculty collaboration and curriculum integration as a trustee at the Curtis Institute of Music and as Chair of the Task Force on Curtis's 21st-Century Education. From 2018-2022, Mia led the Faculty Council, a committee made up of faculty across performance and academic departments that oversees curriculum and educational matters.

Since the publication of her op-ed entitled, "No Child Left Without Music" in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Ms. Chung has been drawing public attention to music's transformative impact on cognition, mental health, and equity. She is the founder and executive director for The Octet Collaborative, a non-profit that promotes human flourishing at MIT. The integration of the arts to improve civil discourse and mental health for faculty, staff and students is a part of this organization's work. Her ultimate aspiration is to bring music back to the center of public life not only as a vital art form, but as a powerful response to some of society's greatest challenges.