

Jiayan Sun, pianist

Praised for his “revelatory” (New York Times) and “technically flawless, poetically inspired and immensely assured playing” (Toronto Star), pianist Jiayan Sun performs extensively in the North America, Europe, and Asia. He has performed frequently with The Cleveland Orchestra, The Hallé, Chinese and RTÉ (Ireland) National Symphony Orchestras, Fort Worth and Toledo Symphony Orchestras, Toronto and Aspen Concert Orchestras, Suwon Philharmonic Orchestra, etc., and he has conducted Meininger Hofkapelle from the keyboard. He has collaborated with prominent conductors such as Sir Mark Elder, Michail Jurowski, Stefan Sanderling, Leon Fleisher, David Hayes, Thomas Crawford, Daejin Kim, Kerry Stratton, and Xincao Li. He has concertized at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center in New York, Severance Hall in Cleveland, Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory, National Concert Hall in Dublin, Leeds Town Hall, Beethoven-Haus in Bonn, Royal Conservatory’s Koerner Hall in Toronto, Beijing Concert Hall, Taipei National Concert Hall, among many others. His performances have been broadcast on BBC, RTÉ, China Central Television, and classical music radio stations in North America.

Mr. Sun has been awarded many major prizes in international piano competitions, including the third prize in Leeds International Piano Competition, the second prize in Dublin International Piano Competition, the fourth and audience prize in Cleveland International Piano Competition, the first prize in the inaugural CCC Toronto International Piano Competition, among others. He was named a “Sylff Fellow” by The Tokyo Foundation. Under the mentorship of Sir András Schiff, he is invited to give multiple recitals in Europe as part of Schiff’s “Building Bridges” project in the 2017-2018 season.

Playing early keyboard instruments and studies on historical performance practice play a significant role in Mr. Sun's musical activities. Important engagements include critically acclaimed appearances with the American Classical Orchestra and The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and recitals at the Westfield Center for Historical Keyboard Studies at the Cornell University and at The Juilliard School. In 2014, he performed a series of recitals commemorating the tricentennial of Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach's birth on clavichord, harpsichord, and fortepiano. He has studied harpsichord with Lionel Party and fortepiano with Malcolm Bilson and Audrey Axinn.

Born in Yantai, Shandong Province, China in 1990, Mr. Sun studied in the Central Conservatory in Beijing with Jin Zhang before moving to the United States in 2006 to study at The Juilliard School Pre-college Division with Victoria Mushkatkol, graduated with the achievement award in 2008. He received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from The Juilliard School in 2012 and 2014 respectively. He continues his studies at Juilliard as a doctoral candidate under the tutelage of Yoheved Kaplinsky and Stephen Hough, with additional studies with Richard Goode and Robert Levin. He performs frequently at Juilliard and has participated in the annual ChamberFest and Focus! Festival. He has performed and participated in Verbier Festival, Gstaad Menuhin Festival, Klavier-Festival Ruhr, Aspen Music Festival, Sarasota Music Festival, PianoTexas, etc. His devotion to the art of composition led him to study with the composer Philip Lasser. His works have been performed in concerts at Juilliard. He is the Iva Dee Hiatt Visiting Artist in Piano and Lecturer of Music at Smith College. For more information, please visit jiayansunpianist.com. (As of 2017/08)