

Sean Chen, Piano

Hailed as a charismatic rising star with “an exceptional ability to connect with an audience combined with an easy virtuosity” (*Huffington Post*), 27-year-old American pianist Sean Chen is the 2013 DeHaan Classical Fellow of the American Pianists Association. He also earned third prize in the 2013 Cliburn International Piano Competition. Since then, he has continued to earn accolades for “alluring, colorfully shaded renditions” (*New York Times*), and was recently named a 2015 fellow by the prestigious Leonore Annenberg Fellowship Fund for the Performing Arts.

In the coming season, Mr. Chen will make return appearances with the San Diego Symphony, Carmel Symphony, and Sunriver Festival Orchestras, as well as perform with the National Symphony of the Dominican Republic, North Carolina, Hudson Valley, Pasadena, Bakersfield, Knoxville, Fairfax, and San Angelo Symphony Orchestras. He will also be traveling across the United States for solo and chamber recitals, including concerts in Chicago, Denver, Louisville, and Los Angeles. Lauded for his natural charisma and approachable personality, Mr. Chen is particularly in demand for residencies that combine performances with master classes, school concerts, and artist conversations.

He has previously worked with many prominent orchestras, including the Fort Worth, Hartford, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Phoenix, San Diego, Santa Fe, Tucson, and New West Symphonies, as well as the Philadelphia, Indianapolis, and South Bay Chamber Orchestras, collaborating with such esteemed conductors as Leonard Slatkin, Gerard Schwarz, Miguel Harth-Bedoya, Marcelo Lehninger, Nir Kabaretti, James Judd, George Hanson, and Boris Brott. Solo recitals have brought him to major venues worldwide, including Jordan Hall in Boston, Subculture in New York City, the American Art Museum at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., the National Concert Hall in Taipei, Het Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, and the Salle Cortot in Paris.

His recent CD releases include *La Valse*, a solo recording on the Steinway label, hailed for “penetrating artistic intellect” (*Audiophile Audition*); a live recording from the Cliburn Competition released by Harmonia Mundi, praised for “ravishing tone and cogently contoured lines” (Gramophone); and an album of Michael Williams' solo piano works on the Parma label.

A multifaceted musician, Mr. Chen also transcribes, composes, and improvises. His transcription of Ravel's *La Valse* has been received with glowing acclaim, and his encore improvisations are lauded as “genuinely brilliant” (*Dallas Morning News*). An advocate of new music, he has also collaborated with several composers and performed their works, including Lisa Bielawa, Michael Williams, Nicco Athens, Michael Gilbertson, and Reinaldo Moya.

Born in Florida, Mr. Chen grew up in the Los Angeles area of Oak Park, California. Mr. Chen earned his Bachelor and Master of Music from Juilliard, meanwhile garnering several awards, most notably the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans. He received his Artist Diploma in 2014 at the Yale School of Music as a George W. Miles Fellow. His teachers include Hung-Kuan Chen, Tema Blackstone, Edward Francis, Jerome Lowenthal, and Matti Raekallio.

When not at the piano, Mr. Chen enjoys experimenting with computers.