Weill Recital Hall, Carnegie Hall
Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 8:00 PM

WARREN LEE
Piano

Music by Bach-Busoni, Beethoven, Chopin, Tan Dun, Warren Lee
Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 8:00 PM
Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall

Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY)

Iris Derke, Co-Founder and General Director
Jonathan Griffith, Co-Founder and Artistic Director

Presents

Warren Lee
Piano

Program

Johann Sebastian Bach - Ferruccio Busoni
Chorale Prelude, Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645
Allegretto tranquillo

Johann Sebastian Bach - Ferruccio Busoni
Chaconne from Violin Partita No.2 in D minor, BWV 1004
Andante maestoso, ma non troppo lento

Tan Dun
Eight Memories in Watercolor
Missiong Moon
Staccato Beans
Herd-boy’s Song
Blue Nun
Red Wilderness
Ancient Burial
Floating Clouds
Sun-rain

INTERMISSION

Warren Lee
Three Novelettes
Reflection
Levity
Blossom

Ludwig van Beethoven
Sonata in E major, Op.109
Vivace ma non troppo
Prestissimo
Andante molto cantabile ed espressivo

Frédéric Chopin
Barcarolle in F-sharp major, Op.60
Allegretto

Program Notes
by Warren Lee

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) - Ferruccio Busoni (1866-1924):
Chorale Prelude, Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645
Chaconne from Violin Partita No.2 in D minor, BWV 1004

Born in Empoli, Italy in 1866, Ferruccio Busoni was one of the foremost pianists of his time. As a composer, his most important contributions to the modern concert repertoire, however, are not so much his original compositions, but his transcriptions of works by J.S. Bach. Such, indeed, was his fame in this regard that his wife Gerda, often found herself introduced at social occasions as “Mrs. Bach-Busoni.”

Busoni once stated that “the interpretation of J.S. Bach’s organ music on the piano as essential to complete study of Bach.” He transcribed a total of twelve organ works of Bach, and two other pieces of non-organ music. The serene chorale, Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, was originally the fourth movement of the church cantata of the same name, scored for small instrumental ensemble BWV 140.
Busoni’s 1897 adaptation of the famous Chaconne from Bach’s Violin Partita No.2 is more of a vivid musical re-imagination than a mere transcription. In fact, he inscribed on the score, “arranged for concert performance on the piano” as he grants himself full license to take advantage of the complete range of sonic resources available on the modern grand piano as well as his own pianistic capabilities. The result is an artistic creation that stands on its own feet, and one that has become one of the most beloved masterpieces in the piano repertoire in the past century.

**Tan Dun (b. 1957):**
*Eight Memories in Watercolor*

While his output for solo piano is not extensive, Tan Dun’s music for the instrument comes at key junctures in his career. Among the earliest acknowledged of his works, *Eight Memories in Watercolor* was written in 1978. *Missing Moon* opens the sequence with a suitably twilight study, its enveloping figuration shot through with discreetly Oriental overtones. *Staccato Beans* is a propulsive study in rhythmic imitation between left and right hands, energetic and engaging by turns, while *Herd-boy’s Song* evokes the music of its title through the context of a harmonic landscape as expansive as it is inviting. *Blue Nun* exudes a gentle equanimity of purpose, then *Red Wilderness* evokes its title through a figuration whose initial limpidity opens out in texture and harmony as it proceeds. *Ancient Burial* is the most evocative of its title in its measured solemnity which builds to a resounding climax before regaining its earlier poise, while *Floating Clouds* conjures its imagery with delicate and almost impressionistic means. *Sun-rain* then rounds off the sequence with an unbridled rhythmic vivacity, driving the sequence as a whole on to its decisive and forceful conclusion.

**Warren Lee (b. 1976):**
*Three Novelettes*

Dedicated to Robert L. Blocker, Dean of Music at Yale University since 1995, *Three Novelettes* for solo piano were written by the composer in July 2015, and premiered at the Horowitz Piano Series at Yale in May 2016. *Reflection* pays tribute to the multitude of ways Robert inspires those around him in his roles as artist, administrator, educator and human being; *Levity* captures the fun-loving and humorous side of him, while *Blossom* depicts the infectious warmth he radiates and passes on.

**Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827):**
*Sonata in E major, Op.109*

Written in 1820, in the last decade of Beethoven’s life which many regard as his most intensely creative, Beethoven creates in this three-movement sonata an intimate yet imaginative journey between contradictory emotional states that arrives, in the end, at a reconciliation of opposites. The first movement is a quasi fantasy that shatters any conventional wisdom about the traditional sonata form. It then segues into an energetic agitato second movement of great intensity. All divisions are healed, however, in a theme and variations finale that gives voice to both lyrically expansive and contrapuntally driven emotions in turn.

**Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849):**
*Barcarolle in F-sharp major, Op.60*

Chopin’s “Fifth Ballade,” as his *Barcarolle* of 1845 is sometimes coined, transcends both in scale and dramatic intensity the model set before him. The standard characteristics of the barcarolle, as preached by Mendelssohn in his *Venetianisches Gondellied* of 1830, are all evident here: the 12/8 meter and repetitive rocking-boat rhythm stabilized by pedal points in the bass, and a love-duet texture of double 3rds and 6ths. But Chopin adds so much more to the mix, including a harmonic sensitivity to color, scintillating flashes of iridescence sparkle from the tips of the waves up to the high register of the keyboard, and the sumptuous double trills. This is poetic writing for the piano of the highest order.

**Meet The Artist**

**Warren Lee, Piano**

Since his televised debut with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra at the age of six, Hong Kong-born pianist Warren Lee embarked on a lifelong career in music, both on and off the stage. The South China Morning Post wrote after his performance with the Macau Chamber Orchestra in 1988, “Warren Lee’s performance bore out the insight… that exceptional artists are not so much people to be praised as phenomena to be treasured, bearers of a power altogether greater than the poor vessels that contain it.” His life as a child prodigy was documented on Hong Kong Television Broadcasts’ Sunday’s File in 1993, which has become a teaching reference on “gifted education” in universities.
A scholar graduate of the Royal Academy of Music and Yale School of Music, Warren was the first-prize winner of the 1995 Stravinsky Awards International Piano Competition and the Grand Prix Ivo Pogorelich, as a result of which he made his European debut at the Pogorelich Festival in Germany at the age of 18. Hailed by The Straits Times as a musician with “superb pianism… a wonderful sense of color and impeccably controlled articulation,” Warren’s artistry has brought him to concert halls on four continents, gracing stages of all sizes and forms, and in collaboration with leading international artists and orchestras.

Warren’s discography includes multiple acclaimed albums of solo and chamber music repertoire on Universal Music (Hong Kong) and Naxos. The American Record Guide calls him a “first-rate artist.” A Steinway Artist since 2009, he was among the first artists to record on Steinway’s SPIRIO upon its launch in 2016.

Currently the Music Director of St. Paul’s Co-educational College which received the Yale School of Music Cultural Leadership Citation in 2016, Warren co-currently serves as a guest professor at the Central Conservatory of Music EOS Orchestra Academy, the Hong Kong Representative of Royal Academy of Music, as well as an adjunct faculty and guest artist in various institutions around the world. He also hosts a programme on Radio Television Hong Kong Radio 4, which he has a long-standing relationship with since his debut broadcast in 1991.

As a versatile composer, Warren’s choral works have been gaining an international reputation, with works performed and published in Asia, Europe and North America. His work House Rules, based on the Nokia ringtone, won the 2nd Prize of the Gianni Bergamo Classic Music Award in Switzerland in 2013. Adding to his expanding catalogue that encompasses various genres, his series of sight-reading method, Sight-Reading Plus, was published in 2015.

With a vision of bettering the community through the art, Warren enjoys a long history of engagement in charity projects with organizations such as the Yale-China Association, SAR Philharmonic, Sowers Actions and Music Children Foundation. In recognition of his achievements in the fields of performing arts and education, Warren received the Ten Outstanding Young Persons Award in Hong Kong in 2012 and was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music in 2015.

Warren expresses his gratitude to his patrons, The Bank of East Asia, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Yip, Y.S. Liu Foundation for their support on his US Tour 2016.

DISTINGUISHED CONCERTS INTERNATIONAL NEW YORK (DCINY)

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## Upcoming DCINY Concerts – Please join us at our other events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Concert Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, November 20, 2016</td>
<td>8:30 PM</td>
<td>Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage, Carnegie Hall</td>
<td><strong>Eternal Light</strong>&lt;br&gt;Goodall: <em>Eternal Light</em> (NYC Premiere)&lt;br&gt;Jonathan Griffith, DCINY Artistic Director&lt;br&gt;Howard Goodall, DCINY Composer-in-Residence&lt;br&gt;Lauridsen: <em>Lux Aeterna</em>&lt;br&gt;Bradley Ellingboe, Guest Conductor&lt;br&gt;Featuring Distinguished Concerts Orchestra and Distinguished Concerts Singers International</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, November 27, 2016</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage, Carnegie Hall</td>
<td><strong>Messiah…Refreshed! (6th Annual Presentation)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Thomas Beecham/Eugene Goossens’ 1959 Re-Orchestration of Handel’s <em>Messiah</em>&lt;br&gt;Jonathan Griffith, DCINY Artistic Director and Principal Conductor&lt;br&gt;Featuring Distinguished Concerts Orchestra and Distinguished Concerts Singers International</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, November 28, 2016</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center</td>
<td><strong>Go Sing It on the Mountain</strong>&lt;br&gt;Choplin: <em>Go Sing It on the Mountain</em> (NY Premiere)&lt;br&gt;Pepper Choplin, Composer/Conductor&lt;br&gt;Featuring Distinguished Concerts Orchestra and Distinguished Concerts Singers International&lt;br&gt;Fauré: <em>Requiem</em>&lt;br&gt;James D. Moyer, Director&lt;br&gt;David Enlow, Organ&lt;br&gt;Featuring Pennsbury High School Concert Choir</td>
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Dates, repertoire, and artists subject to change.

For a full 2016-17 listing and ticket details, please visit [www.DCINY.org](http://www.DCINY.org)