The German Society of Pennsylvania proudly presents

Claire Huangci

Sunday, January 3, 2021 at 3:00pm
## Calendar of Events

### January 2021
- **Sat. Jan. 9**  Buchclub: *Neujahr* by Julie Zeh, 1:30pm
- **Fri. Jan. 15**  Friday Film Fest: *Der Fall Collini*, 6:30pm
- **Sat. Jan. 20**  GSP Wellness: Wandern at the Willows, 11:00am

### February 2021
- **Sun. Feb. 7**  GSP Wellness: Gentle Yoga, 11:00am
- **Wed. Feb. 10**  Konversationsabend: Zoom Carnival, 7:00pm
- **Sat. Feb. 13**  Buchclub, 1:30pm
- **Fri. Feb. 19**  Friday Film Fest: *Atlas*, 6:30pm
- **Sat. Feb. 20**  GSP Wellness: Wandern at the Willows, 11:00pm
- **Sat. Feb. 27**  10th Annual Philly Bierfest, 2:00pm

### March 2021
- **Sun. Mar. 7**  GSP Wellness: Gentle Yoga, 11:00am
- **Wed. Mar. 10**  Konversationsabend: City Planning, 7:00pm
- **Sat. Mar. 13**  Buchclub, 1:30pm
- **Fri. Mar. 19**  Friday Film Fest: *Die Getriebenen*, 6:30pm
- **Sat. Mar. 20**  GSP Wellness: Wandern at the Willows, 11:00am

### Save the date for our next “Wister and More!” concerts:

- **Sun. Jan. 31**  EStrella Piano Duo  
  Svetlana Belsky and Elena Doubovitskaya will perform pieces by Beethoven, Hummel, and Mosheles.

- **Sun. Mar. 21**  Duo Parisienne  
  Nancy Bean (violin) and Anne Sullivan (harp) will present selections by Piazzolla, Corelli, Debussy, and Massenet.

- **Sat. Apr. 10**  TBA

All of our events are open to the public. We welcome members and non-members alike. Most events require tickets. Please call or email the office to inquire about purchasing:
215.627.2332 | info@germansociety.org
Claire Huangci  
PROGRAM

Toccata and Fugue in D minor, BWV 565  
J.S. Bach  
Ferruccio Busoni  
(1866-1924)

Piano Sonata No. 21 in C Major, Op. 53 ("Waldstein")  
Ludwig van Beethoven  
(1770-1827)

I. Allegro con brio  
II. Introduzione. Adagio molto  
III. Rondo. Allegretto moderato - Prestissimo

Piano Sonata in C minor, D. 958  
Franz Schubert  
(1797-1828)

I. Allegro  
II. Adagio  
III. Menuetto. Allegro — Trio  
IV. Allegro
Program Notes

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750) - Toccata in E minor, BWV 914

Bach's set of seven Toccatas for keyboard date from 1707-11, just prior to and during the first years of his post in Weimar. During these formative years he experimented with a wide variety of compositional models. Overall, these early toccatas lack the profound expression and technical mastery of Bach's later music and are thus some of the least performed of his works. All too often, they come off as improvisatory and mere virtuosic pieces for keyboard. Nevertheless, they show the steady growth of one of music's greatest geniuses.

The Toccata in E minor, BWV 914 is one of Bach's least known works for keyboard. Most likely composed in either 1707 or 1708, it nevertheless portrays Bach's developing composition style. The brief opening section of the toccata bears an inconspicuous resemblance to Bach's later organ works, particularly with the octave leap that occurs repeatedly in the left hand. Furthermore, retrograding chords of the sixth with off-beats in the right hand might remind some listeners of a similar passage in the famous Toccata and Fugue in D minor. A fugato section follows with a lively rhythmic figure predominating. This section does not venture far from the E minor tonality, though its strictness of counterpoint causes it to stand out among the other early toccatas.

-- Joseph DuBose

Toccata and Fugue in D minor, BWV 565 (arr. Busoni)

For the Baroque organist the combination of toccata and fugue caught both heaven and earth in its compositional grasp, pairing fingers and brain, keyboard virtuosity and contrapuntal mastery. In the 20th century Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor became one of the most popular and recognizable of organ works in this genre, thanks largely to its inclusion in Walt Disney's animated film Fantasia (1940) and its subsequent championing by organists as diverse as the austere E. Power Biggs and the ever-flamboyant Virgil Fox.

The transcription of this organ work by pianist and industrious Bach-transcriber Ferruccio Busoni (1866-1924) sets itself the task of conveying in piano sonority not only the flamboyance of the Toccata's virtuoso flourishes, but also the complex and rich colouring of the thickly contrapuntal textures that make up the Fugue, with its chattering violinistic subject and many pedal
points. For this the pianist’s right pedal foot must be as skilled as the fingers on his two hands.

-- Donald G. Gíslason 2016

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827) - Sonata No. 21 in C Major, Op. 53, “Waldstein” (1804)

Allegro con brio
Introduzione. Adagio molto
Rondo. Allegretto moderato

Beethoven dedicated his Sonata No. 21 to Count Ferdinand Waldstein. Count Waldstein, who met the young Beethoven in Bonn, was himself a musician of some talent. He is credited both with providing financial assistance, and encouraging Beethoven to develop his gifts at keyboard improvisation. Count Waldstein was also instrumental in obtaining permission for Beethoven to travel to Vienna in 1792 to study with Haydn. In later years, Ferdinand Waldstein came upon hard financial times. It also appears that he and Beethoven had some sort of falling out. But Count Waldstein will be forever immortalized in music history, thanks to Beethoven’s dedication of one of the great Piano Sonatas of the composer’s Middle Period.

-- Ken Meltzer

Franz Schubert (1797-1828) - Sonata in C minor, D. 958

Allegro (C minor)
Adagio (A♭ major)
Menuetto. Allegro — Trio (C minor)
Allegro (C minor)

Beethoven cast a long shadow over Schubert. Of the three last sonatas that Schubert wrote in September 1828, just a few months before his death, it is the Sonata in C minor which most reveals his 'Beethovenian' side. Among the Beethovenian traits of this sonata are its choice of key, synonymous with Beethoven’s most turbulent musical thoughts, and the many hints that Schubert drops throughout the work to indicate just how familiar he was with Beethoven’s instrumental style.

-- Donald G. Gíslason, 2017
About the Artist

“\textit{If looking for characteristics of Huangci’s piano playing, one finds them in her superior focus, imaginative abilities, and the resulting poetry of her interpretation.}”

- Thomas Schacher, Neue Zürcher Zeitung

The young American pianist Claire Huangci, winner of the first prize and the Mozart prize at the 2018 Geza Anda Competition, continuously captivates audiences with her “radiant virtuosity, artistic sensitivity, keen interactive sense and subtle auditory dramaturgy” (Salzburger Nachrichten). With an irrepressible curiosity and penchant for unusual repertoire, she proves her versatility with a wide range in repertoire spanning from Bach and Scarlatti to Bernstein, Gulda, and Corigliano.

In solo recitals and with international orchestras, Claire has appeared in some of the most prestigious halls such as Carnegie Hall, Suntory Hall Tokyo, NCPA Beijing, Paris Philharmonie, Munich Gasteig, Leipzig Gewandhaus, Hamburg Elbphilharmonie, Salzburg Festspielhaus, and the Budapest Franc Liszt Akademie. She is a welcome guest in renowned festivals including Lucerne Festival, Verbier Festival, Schleswig Holstein Musik Festival, Rheingau Musik Festival and Klavier Festival Ruhr. Mozarteumorchester Salzburg, Stuttgart Radio Symphony Orchestra, Tonhalle-Orchester Zurich, ORF Radio Orchester Vienna, Vancouver Symphony, and China Philharmonic Orchestra, together with Sir Roger Norrington, Howard Griffiths, Eva Ollikainen, Mario Venzago, Cornelius Meister, and Elim Chan are among her esteemed musical partners.

For an intense start of the 2020/21 season, Claire paid homage to Beethoven’s anniversary with a compelling interpretation of his Pastorale symphony arranged for solo piano by Franz Liszt, with concerts at the Klavier-Festival Ruhr and the Rheingau Musik Festival, where her recital was recorded for T-Mobile’s streaming platform MagentaMusik 360. After appearances as a piano duo with Alexei Volodin at the Hamburg Elbphilharmonie and the release of a new album with her Trio Machiavelli, a major highlight is her Fall 2020 recital tour at the main halls of Berlin
Philharmonie, and Hamburg Elbphilharmonie. Later in the season, a further exciting debut takes place in the "Great Performers Series" at New York's Lincoln Center. Among her orchestra engagements are dates with the Deutsche Radiophilharmonie Saarbrücken, Museumsorchester Frankfurt, Basel Chamber Orchestra, and the Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra. With the Nordic Chamber Orchestra, she will direct concertos of Mozart and Chopin from the keyboard.

Claire Huangci began her international career at the age of nine with concert performances and competition successes. After studying with Eleanor Sokoloff and Gary Graffman at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, she moved to Germany in 2007 for further studies with Arie Vardi at the Hannover Musikhochschule, completing them with honors in 2016. Early in her artistic career, she stood out as an expressive interpreter of Chopin, winning first prizes at the Chopin competitions in Darmstadt and Miami in 2009 and 2010. She was also the youngest participant to receive second prize at the International ARD Music Competition in 2011.

After recording her debut CD with solo works of Tchaikovsky and Prokofiev and her prizewinning double album of Scarlatti sonatas (German Record Critics’ Award and Gramophone Editor’s Choice), she released highly acclaimed recordings of Chopin's Nocturnes in 2017 and in 2018 of Rachmaninoff's complete Préludes. Following recordings of Beethoven's violin concerto in the piano version and Fantasy for piano and orchestra by Schubert/Kabalewski with the RSO Vienna, her first orchestral album with the Deutsche Radiophilharmonie Saarbrücken under Shiyeon Sung was released in Fall 2019. In summer of 2020, her first chamber music album was released with Trio Machiavelli, whose interpretations of Ravel trio and Chausson piano quartet proved "a wholly exhilarating debut (...) splendidly transparent, and always expressive." (BR Klassik).
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We also wish to acknowledge with thanks the generous support received from The Philadelphia Cultural Fund for this season of our music program.