

DIE ZEIT

Musik:Preisgekrönter Pianist Rueibin Chen tritt auf

Die Zeit 德國 時代周報 , 7.Februar 2022



Der bekannte, in Taiwan geborene Pianist Rueibin Chen gibt im Februar vier Konzerte in Schleswig-Holstein. Wie berichtete, wird er mit dem Schleswig-Holsteinischen Sinfonieorchester auftreten. Gespielt werden Werke des rumänischen Komponisten George Enescu, des Russen Sergej Rachmaninow und des Finnen Jean Sibelius.

Der international gefeierte und preisgekrönte Pianist ist unter anderem für seine Interpretation von Rachmaninow bekannt. Chen ist in Taiwan geboren, erhielt mit fünf Jahren schon Klavierunterricht und gab mit zehn sein Debüt mit dem Sinfonieorchester Taipeh. Er erhielt im Alter von 13 Jahren ein Stipendium am Wiener Konservatorium und wechselte anschließend an die Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien in Hannover.

Als Solist ist Chen seither in großen Konzerthäusern weltweit mit berühmten Orchestern aufgetreten. Es sei sein erster Auftritt mit dem Schleswig-Holsteinischen Landes-Sinfonieorchester, hieß es. Die Konzerte finden in Schleswig (8.2.), Flensburg (9.2.), Husum (10.2.) und Rendsburg (11.2.) statt.



Lunar New Year Celebration with Artist Rueibin Chen

Posted by CNN

February 17, 2015

Beverly Hills, California



I had the unique opportunity to interview world renown artist and pianist Rueibin Chen best-selling classical recording artist.

Mr. Chen was performing shortly after I interviewed him with L'Ensemble du Ciel playing Chinese instruments. He was the featured performer for the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts Lunar New Year Celebration for The Year of the Sheep.

I am a trained classical pianist and jazz saxophone player myself and I have a great respect for people that play and for those that play as well as he does.

He grew up as child prodigy and studied in Vienna. When he was making his debut with the Taipei Symphony Orchestra at age ten, I was learning to play the piano and had surpassed playing chopsticks. I started playing when I was 9 years old, he started playing when he was 3 years old, which explains why he is being interviewed.

Today he performed in a unique program where East meets West utilizing Chinese instruments. Despite the fact that I am Chinese, I am unfamiliar with the instruments of an erhu, pipa and gaohu but am familiar with a Chinese bamboo flute.

He is a music lover. His passion for music is evident when you speak with him and even more so when you hear him perform. He told me, he loves to play, to perform the music for an audience. To him "music is the best language for me, to communicate with people."

Chen's most prized prize.... in Israel, Tel Aviv, Israel from the former president of Israel, who had just himself received the Nobel Prize. "My great memory is because I received the prize from this great person." He would like the audience to remember him as an artist, not as a pianist. "I come to stage to make art." R



Pianist Rueibin Chen plays with Los Angeles Philharmonic

Interviewed by The Central News Agency ,2014-07-16



Taiwanese pianist Rueibin Chen gave a successful performance with the Los Angeles Philharmonic on July 5 at the Hollywood Bowl, the biggest outdoor venue in the United States.

Chen performed the Yellow River Concerto, which he also performed as a soloist at the opening ceremony of the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai, marking the first performance by a Taiwanese pianist at the Bowl.

Rising to prominence in the United States in recent years, Chen was invited to perform at the newly opened Bing Concert Hall in Stanford University in February.

In March, he became the first piano soloist to perform at the inaugural season of the brand new Wallis Annenberg Center for Performing Arts in Beverly Hills, for which tickets completely sold out four months in advance.

In addition to his solo recitals and orchestral performances of classical repertoire, Chen has devoted much effort to collaboration and premiering new solo and piano concerto works.

Some of his critically-acclaimed piano concerto compositions are the Love River Concerto, which centers on his fondness for a river in Taiwan, and the Winter Trilogy, written to celebrate the Hakka heritage. Chen performed both at the Lincoln Center in New York, the Sydney Opera House, and the Hong Kong Cultural Center.

Chen has been the recipient of various distinguished awards and honors, including Taiwan's Golden Melody Awards for Best Performance and for Best Album.



Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts Making a Difference



Posted By CNN

February 18, 2015 Beverly Hills, California

East truly meets west at the Lunar New Celebration at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts. It was presented via a concert featuring the reigning Grand Dame of the Beijing Opera Madame Sun Ping and world renown artist and pianist Rueibin Chen and L'Ensemble du Ciel, his traditional Chinese instrumental ensemble.

This was an evening of introspection and celebration bridging past and future and East and Western cultures. It was held in the new performing arts facility of the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts.

I was fortunate to be able to interview performing artist Rueibin Chen and Tania Camargo, the Managing Director of Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts in the Education Courtyard.

The project is a throwback to earlier projects that had been done for Los Angeles

school system, but have long since abandoned due to budget cuts. There was a time in the LA school system in schools would simply take the day off and be bussed to concert halls to listen to performances by great artist from around the world.

The day before this concert was held for the public, it premiered and was held privately as a matinee for students for free. There is a back to the future goal with the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts to once again bring students and artists together so that students can truly appreciate the art of music in a setting that truly shows the grandeur of the arts vs. watching on a television set or listening on their cell phones. Starting this summer there will be a performance arts curriculum for people of all ages from babies to adults with specific programming for specific age groups.

“The performing arts is incredibly important in the growth and education of people,” shared Camargo in the vision of Inspiring the future audience and creating well rounded human beings. They are hoping that once students see this live in front of them it will profoundly change their lives for the better. It worked for decades. As an individual that was able to see this being done when I was younger, I developed an appreciation for how magnificent it was to actually see it being done right.

As was originally done in the LA school systems, it is only meant for small groups, with only 500 seats for a more intimate setting. As in the case when I was in school, you only get the people that truly want to enjoy the arts then it is left up to them to tell the others what they missed.

PASADENA NOW

Concert Pianist, Rueibin Chen to Perform at Ambassador Auditorium

Reported by Pasadena Now , Friday, August 30, 2019



World renowned, award winning concert pianist, Rueibin Chen, will perform a benefit concert at Ambassador Auditorium on Thursday, September 19th at 7:30 PM. *“The Journey of Dreams and Passion”* will benefit the Taiwan Center Foundation of Greater Los Angeles. With a unique blend of East/West sensibility, the program will include pieces by Schubert, Beethoven, and Scriabin and mark the American premiere of two Taiwanese pieces, *Formosan Dance* by composer Bunya Koh and Hakka Folk Song, *The Rain*.

Born in Taiwan and one of Taiwan’s national treasures, Chen has been playing the piano since the age of five and holds the nickname, “Angel Fingers.” Selected by the Taiwanese government in a national talent search, he grew up in Austria when he was sent to study at the prestigious Vienna Conservatory. He has competed in various international competitions worldwide and won multiple awards, earning eighteen medals, including five gold medals before the age of twenty.

Chen has toured all over the world and locally has performed at Disney Hall and the Bram Goldsmith Theater at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts. He also performed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl. He is most known for his brilliant technique and brings an intense emotional expression to his music. “To me music is the universal language of emotions,” he says. “Every piece of music I play is my own vision and contains my life experiences, unique thoughts and deepest feelings.” In addition to his masterful artistry, Chen’s humble background and the hardships he endured as a youngster growing up in Austria by himself have been an inspiration to many and have earned him a significant international following.



专访陈瑞斌：带着使命感在德国开演奏会

Interviewed by Deutsche Welle (德國之聲), 30. Jan, 2022

陈瑞斌(Rueibin Chen)13 岁时便单枪匹马负笈欧洲学音乐。在征战全世界各大钢琴比赛，荣获各种殊荣之际，却为 2 月份即将举办的德国巡回演出感到悸动。



从 2 月 8 日至 11 日陈瑞斌将和德国石勒苏益格-荷尔斯泰因交响乐团”
(Schleswig-Holsteinisches Sinfonieorchester) 合作演出。

(德国之声) 有“天使手指”美誉的台湾钢琴家陈瑞斌 13 岁就离开台湾的家乡，独自到欧洲学习音乐。他先在维也纳音乐学院学习，然后到德国汉诺威音乐学院进修。在获得最高演奏家文凭后，继而向俄罗斯钢琴大师贝尔曼 (Lazar Berman) 习艺，是贝尔曼唯一的亚裔弟子。16 岁赢得意大利“拉赫曼尼诺夫” (Rachmaninoff) 国际钢琴大赛，成为最年轻的得奖者。之后屡屡在各个重量级国际钢琴竞赛中脱颖而出，比如在特拉维夫 (鲁宾斯坦)、华沙 (肖邦)、盐湖城 (巴豪尔)、维也纳、曼雷萨和意大利 (罗马、斯特雷萨) 等。他在 20 岁之前就赢得 5 项音乐大赛的金奖。

德国之声：您如何看待这次的巡演？疫情中的这场音乐会对你有任何特殊的意义吗？

疫情稍减，我成为第一个出生于台湾的华人钢琴家在德国演出，而且是巡演，意义非常重大。更重要

的是，这个演出让我有机会直接和当地民众交流。疫情期间全世界举办音乐会的数量大幅减少。在德国，也因为疫情的关系，这次的演奏会只能让 25% 的观众入场。尽管有种种不利票房的因素，德国主办方并没有取消我的演出，坚持举办音乐会，让我更加珍惜。另外，石勒苏益格-荷尔斯泰因 (Schleswig Holstein) 这个城市有个艺术节，我年轻时曾经参加过，现在有机会旧地重游，让我非常开心。

德国之声：您曾经说过，您在德国表演是带着使命感，为什么这么说？

受到疫情的冲击全世界的艺术家大都无法演出；而我却有机会到欧洲巡演，其实很不容易。我这次演出的合约是一年多前签订的，主办方一直没有取消，所以我是带着感恩的心情，要求自己一定要完美演出；而且因为我懂这里的语言和文化，我相信，我和观众的音乐沟通会更直接；这次的客席指挥是一位罗马尼亚非常著名的总监，而罗马尼亚对我而言有它的历史意义，因为我当年是第一个进到罗马尼亚演出的华人。另外，我的老师的老师和拉赫曼尼诺夫是同学。我的老师也演奏过拉赫曼尼诺夫大部分的音乐而且留下录音，独缺第 2 号钢琴协奏曲，也就是我这次要弹奏的曲目。这个曲目其实是当年我的老师在家里私下教我的，完全没有留下录音。所以要听这个曲目其实很不容易。我自己也很高兴有机会再演绎它。

德国之声：就您长期观察德国音乐下来，您觉得德国音乐的特色在哪里？

不管何种音乐风格，德国音乐的精神是：严谨、谦卑、专业、有内涵、不注重包装；比起亚洲和美国音乐来说内敛得多。不管是弦乐拉出来的，还是管乐吹出来的音乐都是这种个性。这跟美国非常不一样。德国人和法国人和俄国人也不一样。而德意志民族吹出来的就是不一样。德国人在音乐的表现就是这种特性。就我的观察，疫情持续的两年期间，大部分国家的音乐产业都断断续续的经营着，但是在德国几乎没有中断过，德国人这样的投入真的不简单。



我也喜欢尝试各种可能性，希望做出新的东西，这对文化交流和推广都很有帮助。

德国之声：您 13 岁时独自到欧洲学音乐，除了语言、文化的隔阂，您还得面对经济上的窘境，饮食气候的不适应等等。如今回想起来，这些遭遇对您而言是养分还是折磨？对音乐家而言是加分还是减

分？

应该有百分之三百的加分。因为我离开台湾时，只有小学毕业，而且还不是音乐科班出身。结果我从16岁开始就参加各项国际音乐比赛。我的音乐基础其实不很好，但不知道为什么我一直赢得比赛。我想，主要是德奥的环境、以及我经历的磨练对我产生正面的影响。一直以来我觉得很累，一个人要处理所有的事情。我其实还有一个小我两岁的弟弟，他后来也拿和我一样的护照到奥地利学习音乐，拉中提琴。所以我不止要替他找琴，处理居留的手续，找监护人，也要替自己找监护人，因为我们两人都还没有成年。而且那个年代和现在非常不同，没有网际网络，没有手机，只能依赖传真。我经常外出参加比赛，往往来回要花上两个月，等我回到维也纳后，经常发现一地的传真等我处理。这种情形持续10多年。

德国之声：您有文化认同的问题吗？您比较认同亚洲文化还是西方文化？文化认同对您的音乐重要吗？

我比较认同西方文化，这项认同对我很重要，而且很深远。我其实主要受到西方文化训练和熏陶，直到近年才重新回头去了解东方文化，然后想办法促进东西方文化的交流。我的观察是：一般人30-40岁以后才会开始对古典音乐产生兴趣，而我如果只是像个工匠般准确的敲打钢琴，只展现高超技术，这样是无法感动他们。这就是为什么我的老师经常逛博物馆，而我也经常逛书店、博物馆等等，因为我们认识到文化的重要性。

德国之声：您认为亚洲人也可以很好的诠释西方音乐吗？

亚洲人悟性很高，但是往往有来自父母的压力，而且很依赖网路。亚洲人弹奏法国音乐还好，因为法国文化对华人不这么陌生，但是如果要诠释德国音乐，往往缺乏德国的稳重和厚度以及它的内敛和含蓄。不是不会成功，但可能必须在德国待上20到30年，才能在血液里产生这样的感觉，熏陶很久之后，再加上亚洲人特有的悟性和灵敏，也许会有不一样的火花。

德国之声：您近年来也会弹奏一些客家、闽南、台湾原住民或其他的音乐，比如黄河协奏曲、爱河协奏曲，为了寻根？为了丰富您的音乐内容？还是有其他原因？

以上的因素都是理由。作为华人，我希望推广东方音乐，这是我的第一个诉求；而且从不同的素材可以找到创新，这一点在西方非常受到鼓励的，他们对不同的文化和音乐非常感兴趣。我做过不同的尝试，也和不同的乐器合奏，都非常成功。西方人对新的素材非常渴望，他们基本上比华人更开放。我最近收到一个邀请，他们让我的音乐和3D合作等等。至于如何让客家、闽南这些不同文化融合，在这方面我有我的优势。我也喜欢尝试各种可能性，希望做出新的东西，这对文化交流和推广都很有帮助。

德国之声：音乐对您的意义是什么？

音乐是我人生的全部，是我个人的历史表达。有一天当我离开地球时，我到底留下什么？我这个人的故事究竟是什么？我可以和国际沟通，而且应该比政治的沟通更广，因为音乐无国界。音乐家这个职

业真的非常辛苦，我经常问自己为什么会这么困难，它的投资报酬率真的很低，但是我不在乎投资报酬率，我在乎的是，在我离开地球后，后来的人如果看待我。我认为，当音乐家对我而言是正确的行业。我是属于舞台的。

德国之声：您现在上台前还会紧张吗？还是您享受每一次的演出？

我每次上台前都还是非常紧张，但是如果准备充分的话，是可以非常享受的。不过我还是要感谢那些伟大的作曲家，如果我非常了解他们的音乐，就可以非常享受，甚至到忘我的境界。观众的反馈从我年轻时代到现在都相当多而且热情。在台湾、在东欧、在俄罗斯、美国，即便德国也如此。这次我将弹奏“拉赫曼尼诺夫(Rachmaninoff)的第二钢琴协奏曲”，其实我 20 多岁时在汉诺威参加毕业考试就是弹这一首曲子，到了现在的年龄重弹此曲，心情非常不同。

德国之声：如果您不当音乐家，您会从事什么工作呢？

我会做类似的行业，包括传承、宗教、社会工作者，一切可以影响社会的东西。教育、文化交流甚至改革，这些工作我都会去尝试。我的重点不在于个人而是社会。所以从事音乐对我而言是对的，我喜欢影响别人，同时也想保有自我，音乐刚好提供这样的可能性，这次的德国演奏会，我一次就可以和这么多人交流，这是一件很快乐的事。今年的德国巡演之后，我还计划在南德及美国、加拿大等地演出，2023 年我会在欧洲与其他职业交响乐团合作巡演。

从 2 月 8 日至 11 日陈瑞斌将和德国石勒苏益格-荷尔斯泰因交响乐团”（Schleswig-Holsteinisches Sinfonieorchester）合作演出，3 个曲目分别是：

- 1) 乔治·埃内斯库的罗马尼亚狂想曲 （George Enescu: Rumänische Rhapsodie Nr. 1 A-Dur op. 11/1）
- 2) 谢尔盖·拉赫曼尼诺夫的第二钢琴协奏曲
（Sergei Rachmaninoff: Klavierkonzert Nr. 2 c-Moll op. 18）
- 3) 让·西贝柳斯的第一交响曲（Jean Sibelius : Sinfonie Nr. 1 e-Moll op. 39）

Pianist Rueibin Chen captivates his audience

Interviewed by China Central Television News 北京中央電視台英文新聞 , China

April 29, 2015

Taiwan-born Austrian pianist Rueibin Chen captivated his audience with a live rendition of Sergei Rachmaninoff's 'Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini' at the National Center for the Performing Arts in Beijing last week.



Pianist Rueibin Chen

'Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini' is perhaps the Russian composer's most renowned piece, and Chen is among the world's best at this repertoire. In 1984, he became the youngest winner of the Rachmaninoff International Piano Competition in Italy.

Rachmaninoff's charm and passion was replicated magnificently on the night through Chen's display of virtuoso skills, as each note and chord was thoroughly absorbed by his audience.

"For me, 'Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini' the most representative work of the composer, and people are familiar with it, especially the 18th variation. Since it inspired the music score of the movie 'Somewhere in Time'. The piece has so many different levels you can savor -- passion, as well as serenity," Chen said.

A Chinese-Austrian born in Taiwan, Chen has a reputation for brilliant technique and intense artistic expression, as well as having a certain expertise on the works of Russian composers. He is the only Asian disciple of the legendary Russian pianist Lazar Berman, whose teacher was best friends with Rachmaninoff.

Chen said: "The encore was from Tchaikovsky, also a Russian composer, and that was to echo with Rachmaninoff's work. So the whole performance is one hundred percent Russian. It's a nod to the Russian music maestros, and my mentor, Lazar Berman."

Chen's interpretation of Chinese piano concertos is equally as impressive as that of Western classics.

He was invited as a piano soloist to the 2010 World Expo in China, performing the Yellow River Concerto.

Music is the key

Interviewed by China Daily

Jan 23, 2015



Rueibin Chen has entranced listeners with his musical talent since he was 6. Provided to China Daily

“I have audiences leaving messages on my fan page saying they thought I was Russian in my previous life and that my soul was Russian. Some ladies from Moscow told me they were so impressed that I spoke their musical language so well.”

Rueibin Chen, pianist

Rueibin Chen has given piano recitals across the world from Moscow to Los Angeles. But his heart still beats for people from Chinese culture to whom he would like to pass on his legacy. The internationally-acclaimed pianist Rueibin Chen has always believed in the overarching importance of music. "Music is my life, my passion, my destiny," he said in Hong Kong recently before catching a plane to Los Angeles for his next performance.

Chen is a much sought-after performer and composer. He has won numerous awards and accolades, proof of his love for the piano, which perhaps is matched only by his passion for charity. Well dressed, but not extra vaguely, Chen wears a constant smile on his face. Born in Tainan City in southern Taiwan, Chen was introduced to classical music by his father, an elementary school teacher who taught and loved music. "My whole family is musical," Chen says. "There was a piano at home before I was even born." Chen's father bought the 120-year-old vintage piano with an ivory keyboard third-hand.

"They stopped making that kind of piano a long time ago," Chen says. "It means so much to me that I couldn't give it away to any museum." He started taking piano lessons at the age of 5 from his father and uncle, who had won a piano championship in Taiwan. Chen was expected to practice four hours every day. The lessons would be recorded to be reviewed by his strict father after dinner. Learning to play the piano was more difficult when Chen, was a child.

It was hard to buy records then, so he would go to the city with his father on a motorcycle to find vinyl records of Beethoven compositions.

The lessons he received were often erratically scheduled. "My uncle was living in the northern part of Taiwan. He would come down to my house once every six months to teach me some basic (piano lessons), and I would write down notes and practice for half a year," Chen says.

At 6, the child prodigy won his first piano competition in Taiwan, playing Beethoven's piano sonata Pathétique.

At 10, he made his debut as a concert pianist with the Taipei Symphony Orchestra. Three years later, he was training at the Vienna Conservatory under master teacher Dianko Iliev, the youngest student in his class.

A world apart

In Vienna, Chen devoted all his time to practicing piano and going to the opera. He lived in a shabby building with no elevator, and a common toilet, as this was where neighbors would not complain about his constant practicing.

As he could only afford the cheapest standing tickets, he would stand listening to a concert or an opera for hours together, completely lost in the music.

"Being a true music fanatic, I went to almost 100 opera performances," he says. "I was amazed because it was impossible at the time to have such access to classical music in Taiwan or even (elsewhere in Asia)."

After graduating with a diploma in piano performance with the highest marks, he continued to study under maestro Arie Vardi at the Hannover Hochschule fuer Musik, Theater und Medien and received the soloist's examination award.

Later he studied with the world-renowned Russian piano virtuoso Lazar Berman, as his only disciple from Asia.

"It is very important to understand the Western culture before you can perform their art," he says. "Your audience can tell whether you have an understanding of their culture and music."

Chen has performed around the world, from the Americas to Europe and Asia, and amazes his audience each time.

"I have audiences leaving messages on my fan page saying that they thought I was Russian in my previous life and that my soul was Russian,"

Chen says, laughing. "Some ladies from Moscow told me they were so impressed that I spoke their musical language so well."

"When I play, I put myself into the time, the weather, the atmosphere the music describes."

Chen has won many international piano competitions and awards such as the Boesendorfer prize in Vienna. He has been named Best Young Artist by Taiwan's "minister of culture", and won the Best Prize for Contributions to Music at the Salzburg International Music Festival, and the Albert Roussel Prize in Paris.

The beauty of giving

For all his achievements, Chen remains modest.

"I don't have a definition of success. I don't know if I'm successful yet," he says with a laugh. "I never thought of having audiences enjoy my performances as being successful but it, indeed, has always been one of the driving forces of my entire career."

When he is not performing, Chen conducts master classes in places like the New England Conservatory in Boston and the Master Player International Music Academy in Lugano, Switzerland. He wants to pass on what he has learned, "especially (to) students coming from Chinese culture". Charity is another of Chen's passions. "If I wasn't a pianist, I would have worked in charity for sure," he says.

He holds free concerts for the underprivileged whenever he can. He once put 200 wheelchairs in the VIP area of a venue to make sure those in the audience with special needs could enjoy his music.

In 2012, Chen organized the first "National Piano Competition for Disabled Youngsters" in Taiwan. The winners performed with him before an audience of about 2,000. "I want to let them know that everyone is entitled and able to enjoy music," he says.

Every year he takes time off from his grueling performance schedule "to create new music". In recent years, Chen has done a lot of collaboration and premiering of new solo and piano concerto works in addition to his solo recitals and orchestral performances of classical repertoire. "My father wanted me to become a teacher like him," says Chen. "Now I've proved that I chose the right way for myself and they're very proud of me."

FILMPREIS

Ehren-Oscars am 25. März

Los Angeles. Die Vergabe der diesjährigen Ehren-Oscars soll am 25. März in Hollywood stattfinden, also zwei Tage vor der 94. Academy-Awards-Gala. Das gab die Oscar-Akademie am Mittwoch (Ortszeit) in Beverly Hills bekannt. Preisträger sind die norwegische Schauspielerin Liv Ullmann (83) und ihre US-Kollegen Samuel L. Jackson (73) und Elaine May (80). »Lethal Weapon«-Star Danny Glover (75) soll für sein soziales Engagement den Jean-Henrich-Freis erhalten.

Die Preisträger waren bereits im vergangenen Sommer verkündet worden. Die »Governors Awards«-Gala sollte ursprünglich Mitte Januar stattfinden, wurde aber wegen der zugeplanten Corona-Lage verschoben. Einzelheiten über das Format der zwölften Verteilung Ende März wurden nicht bekannt.

Für die Ehren-Oscars gibt es keine Jury, sondern die Akademie sucht Personen aus, deren Wirken eine tiefgreifende Bedeutung für Film und Gesellschaft hat. dpa

PANDEMIE

Buchmesse erneut abgesagt

Leipzig. Die Leipziger Buchmesse ist nun doch auch für 2022 abgesagt worden. Das teilten die Veranstalter am Mittwoch mit. Zu viele große Verlage hätten sich in der unsicheren Pandemie-Lage gegen eine Teilnahme an der Messe entschieden. Damit wäre eine Leipziger Buchmesse in ihrer Vielfalt nicht mehr zu machen gewesen. Es ist die dritte Absage der zweitgrößten deutschen Buchmesse seit Beginn der Pandemie. Sie hätte vom 17. bis 20. März veranstaltet werden sollen.

In den vergangenen Tagen hatten Branchenberichten zufolge große Verlagsgruppen wie Cotta und Penguin Random House ihre Teilnahme abgesagt. Allerdings gab es auch ausdrückliche Bekannnisse zur Messe wie von der Kurt Wolff Stiftung, der Interessenvertretung unabhängiger Verlage.

Die Leipziger Messe hatte sich trotz der ankündenden Pandemie entschieden, die Buchmesse an ihrem angestammten März-Termin zu planen. Direktor Oliver Zille hatte dies damit begründet, dass 75 Prozent der Aussteller aus Vorjahreszeiten eine Teilnahme für 2022 zugesagt hätten. Aus der sächsischen Landespolitik hatte es positive Signale für die Messe gegeben. dpa



Ruebin Chen meisterte mit Leichtigkeit den Solopart in Rachmaninows Klavierkonzert Nr. 2. Foto: Ben Chan

RESUME

In sin fjerde sæsonkoncert spillede Slesvig-Holstens Symfoniorkester værker fra Rumænien (George Enescu), Rusland (Sergej Rachmaninov) og Finland (Jean Sibelius), som alle på hver sin vis repræsenterer deres hjemlands kulturelle identitet. Gæstledende Josif Jon Prunner, der selv stammer fra Rumænien, havde et godt greb om det amer engang meget velspillende orkester. Af tænder solist, pianisten Ruebin Chen fra Taiwan, mestrede Rachmaninovs svære klaverkoncert uden problemer.

Einblicke in die Seelen dreier Länder

Mit Werken aus Rumänien, Russland und Finnland unterhalten die Landessinfoniker in dieser Woche ihr Publikum.

REZENSION

Lars Gaardes
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Flensburg. Der deutsche Dichter Johann Wolfgang Goethe wird in der laufenden Saison mehrfach vom Schleswig-Holsteinischen Landesbühnen gewürdigt. Dessen Faust wohnen einst sprechwürdig zwei Seelen in der Brust. Beim jüngsten Konzert des Sinfoniorchesters machte das Publikum Bekanntschaft gleich mit drei Seelen.

Das als »Drei-Klang-Meile« überschriebene vierte Saisonzusatz – gesehen am Mittwoch im Deutschen Haus in Flensburg – gibt in dieser Woche einen Einblick in die kulturelle Identitäten dreier Länder: Rumänien, Russland und Finnland. Die sind durchaus verschieden, die für das Konzert ausgewählten Werke weisen aber

doch einige Übereinstimmungen auf. Vor allem ist festzuhalten, dass sie alle um das Jahr 1900 entstanden. Aus Rumänien stammt nicht nur das erste Werk des Abends, sondern auch Gæstledende Josif Jon Prunner. George Enescu (1881-1955) gilt als der größte Komponist Rumäniens, und so sind denn mehrere Inszenierungen und das größte Kulturereignis Rumäniens, das Internationale George-Enescu-Festival, nach ihm benannt. Prunner selbst hat im Laufe seiner Karriere sowohl die George-Enescu-Philharmonie und den Philharmonischen Chor gleichen Namens geleitet.

Atemberaubendes

Tempo In seine »Rumänische Rhapsodie« von 1901 ließ Enescu musikalische Traditionen seiner Heimat einfließen und verarbeitete diese zu einer sehr abwechslungsreichen Melodienfolge, bei der vor allem das immer wieder einschlagende, atemberaubende

Tempo in Erinnerung bleibt. Dabei beginnt das Stück mit einem ausgesprochen lieblichen Vorspiel der Holzbläser, bevor Enescu alle Register zieht, schrille Harmonien und schrille Flötenröhre inklusive. Dass dabei teilweise ein merkwürdig-breitiges Klangbild entsteht, mindert den Gesamteindruck, aber nicht die Leistung der Musiker.

Für die russische Seele steht Sergei Rachmaninow (1873-1943) auf dem Programm. Sein Klavierkonzert Nr. 2, auch von 1901 und gerne als »Rach 2« tituliert, ist ebenfalls ein rasantes Vergnügen, jedenfalls in den beiden Eckstücken. Solist Ruebin Chen, der 1967 in Taiwan geboren wurde, meistert das Tempo problemlos sowohl im schwerförmig-dunklen ersten – das Werk steht in c-Moll – als auch im anspruchsvollen Finalsatz. Die schnellen Läufe über die Tasten des Flügels beendet Chen gern, indem er beide Arme fast triumphierend in die Höhe reckt. Zwischen ihm und

Dirigent Prunner herrscht enger Blickkontakt, das Zusammenspiel mit dem Orchester klappt so wunderbar.

Im Pop verarbeitet

Der Mittelsatz, Adagio sostenuto, hat eine einschmeichelnde Melodie, die wie eine Oase wirkt – und es sogar in die Popmusik schaffte und so einen gewissen Bekanntheitsgrad auch außerhalb der klassischen Konzertsäle erlangte: 1975 nutzte der amerikanische Musiker Eric Carmen das Thema für seinen Song »All By Myself«, der in vielen Ländern hohe Chartpositionen erlangte und später von Künstlern wie Frank Sinatra, Shirley Bassey, Celine Dion und Tom Jones gecovert wurde.

Mit Jean Sibelius' Sinfonie Nr. 1 in e-Moll, ungeführt 1899, revidiert 1900, geht es nach der Pause auf der letzten Etappe der musikalischen Reise nach Finnland. Wie Enescus Rhapsodie beginnt auch diese Sinfonie mit einem zarten Vorspiel, das aber schon von einem

dunklen Grollen der Pauken unterlegt ist. Ansonsten bietet sich hier aber ein ganz anderes, wohlklingendes Klangbild. Dabei spielen die Pauken fast durchgehend eine tragende Rolle, aber auch sonst hat der Komponist an dramatischen Elementen nicht gespart, was vor allem im Finalsatz zur Geltung kommt.

Das Publikum im relativ dünn besetzten Deutschen Haus – es herrschen immer noch Corona und Maskenpflicht auch am Sitzplatz – spendete kräftigen Beifall für die gute Leistung des Orchesters und Gæstledende Josif Jon Prunner.

Schleswig-Holsteinisches Sinfoniorchester: 4. Sinfoniekonzert: »Drei-Klang-Meile«, Werke von Enescu, Rachmaninow und Sibelius, dirigiert von Josif Jon Prunner, Solist: Ruebin Chen, Klavier. Mittwochabend, Deutsches Haus Flensburg. Wiederholung am 11. Februar in Rendsburg.

220 junge Talente zum Landeswettbewerb

370 Kinder und Jugendliche nahmen an den Regionalwettbewerben von »Jugend musiziert« teil. Landeswettbewerb erneut digital.

NACHWUCHSARBEIT

Kiel. Den Auftakt zum »Jugend musiziert«-Jahr 2022 in Schleswig-Holstein gaben an den letzten drei Wochenenden die Regionalwettbewerbe. Dies teilte der Landesmusikrat mit. Insgesamt 370 Kinder und Jugendliche nahmen an der ersten Runde des Wettbewerbs teil, von denen sich 220 junge Musikerinnen und Musiker eine Weiterleitung zum digitalen Landeswettbewerb erspielten, der

vom 18. bis zum 20. März stattfinden wird. Die jungen schleswig-holsteinischen Musikler begeben sich mit ihren Auftritten in den fünf schleswig-holsteinischen »Jugend musiziert«-Regionen jedes Jahr auf eine Reise. Für die ganz Kleinen der Altersgruppen Ia und Ib stellt der Auftritt beim Regionalwettbewerb bereits den spannenden Höhepunkt des Wettbewerbsjahres dar, die älteren Jahrgänge können sich für den Landeswettbewerb qualifizieren. Ausgeschrieben ist »Jugend

musiziert« dieses Jahr in den Solo-Kategorien Streichinstrumente, Akkordeon, Percussion, Mallets und Gesang (Pop). Gruppen nehmen in den Kategorien Duo: Klavier und ein Blasinstrument, Klavier-Kammernmusik, Vokal-Ensemble, Zupf-Ensemble, Harfen-Ensemble. Besondere Besetzung Alte Musik sowie Besondere Instrumente teil. »Wir unterstützen den Wettbewerb aus großer Überzeugung, da wir so die musikalischen Leistungen der Kinder und Jugendlichen anerkennen und ihre Ent-

wicklung fördern können«, sagte Oliver Smilz, Präsident des Sparkassen- und Gremienverbandes für Schleswig-Holstein. Die Sparkassen im Land haben den Wettbewerb von Beginn an begleitet. Willi Neu, Präsident des Landesmusikrats Schleswig-Holstein, fügte hinzu: »Wir freuen uns sehr über jede Anmeldung bei Deutschlands größtem Nachwuchsmusikwettbewerb. So vielen Talenten aus Schleswig-Holstein können wir bei »Jugend musiziert« jedes Jahr eine Chance bieten.«

In diesem Jahr hätte der 50. Landeswettbewerb vom 18. bis 20. März in Schleswig stattgefunden. Aufgrund der Corona-Pandemie findet der Wettbewerb wieder online statt. Die Teilnehmerinnen haben die Möglichkeit, sich für den Bundeswettbewerb zu qualifizieren, der vom 2. bis 5. Juni in Oldenburg veranstaltet wird.

How Taiwanese pianist Chen Ruei-bin has struck a chord with Hong Kong

Interviewed by South China Morning Post ,26 January, 2015

Chen Ruei-bin said thank you through music for city's response to tragedy in his native Taiwan



Vienna-based Taiwanese pianist Chen Ruei-bin during his most recent visit to Hong Kong. The exaggerated stage etiquette of mainland pianist Lang Lang has found an antithesis in his Taiwanese counterpart, Chen Ruei-bin.

The Tainan-born musician could be just as bombastic on the keyboard. But his diffidence in telling how Hong Kong played a role in his music-making - from here to Los Angeles, where he returns for a concert this week - was like an anticlimax to his piano forte.

"You may not know that Kaohsiung is the city where many Hong Kong people emigrated to after 1997," said while in town recently. "I always hear people speak Cantonese in the subway there."

In fact, ties were so close that donations and relief supplies from Hong Kong were among the first to arrive in the southern Taiwanese city shortly after massive gas explosions last summer that killed 32 people.

To express his gratitude, Chen agreed to perform a concert, Pray for Kaohsiung, for a Hong Kong audience in November, only to find the city engulfed in Occupy Central, and the venue, the City Hall concert hall, right in the middle of the protests.

"It was a concert to say thank you to Hong Kong for the timely subsidies to Kaohsiung after

the explosions," the soft-spoken, Austria-based pianist recalled.

The piano recital, he said, was put together on a tight schedule. Both the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and RTHK helped by allocating a venue slot on November 4 and promoting the concert on air, respectively.



Pianist Chen Ruei-bin performs at a recital

"It was no easy thing to get a full-house audience during the Occupy Central protests because of the inconvenient traffic conditions," he said. "I was especially surprised that officials from both sides of the strait, Hong Kong and Macau, were in the audience. Hong Kong is truly unique as the platform for cultural exchange in the greater China region."

The programme began with Ave Maria, a soul-searching classic arranged by Charles Gounod from Johann Sebastian Bach's scores through which Chen wanted to convey tranquillity to the city. The peace motif continued with the next piece, Love River by Taiwanese composer Lu Liang-hui, which Chen arranged into a piano solo for the Hong Kong premiere.

"The Love River is a landmark of Kaohsiung city and it was a pleasant surprise that the piece was very well received by mainland officials, who invited me to perform at future cultural exchanges in China," he said.

Chen is equally versatile in performing another river work, the boisterous Yellow River Piano Concerto, which features such revolutionary tunes as The East is Red and The Internationale in the climaxes. This piece took him to the opening of the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai - and then to Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles last summer, in front of an outdoor audience of more than 10,000. There, he performed with Perry So, a conductor from Hong Kong who conducted the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

At the end of this week, Chen will return to Los Angeles to deliver a pre-Lunar New Year programme at the Wallis Annenberg Centre for the Performing Arts in Beverly Hills. "It will be a new experience for me to play famous folk tunes from both sides of the Taiwan Strait, such as the much beloved Jasmine Flower, for piano and Chinese traditional instruments, including my own arrangements," he said.

"If I could get Under the Lion Rock into the programme, that would put Hong Kong into a concert about the greater China region," he laughed.

Schleswiger Nachrichten

Trotz Corona – diese Veranstaltungen finden in Schleswig und Umgebung statt

Schleswiger Nachrichten , 德國 Schleswiger 聯邦新聞報, 12. Januar 2022,

Eine Auswahl von Freizeit-Tipps, Events und Ausstellungen.

Schleswig und Umgebung | Trotz Corona finden zahlreiche Veranstaltungen statt

- hier eine Auswahl

8. Februar: 4. Sinfoniekonzert - Drei-Klang-Menü mit Rueibin Chen



Am Dienstag, 8. Februar, findet um 19.30 Uhr in der Schleswiger A.P. Møller Skolen das 4. Sinfoniekonzert statt: Drei-Klang-Menü mit Rueibin Chen (Klavier).

Dargeboten werden die Rumänische Rhapsodie Nr. 1 A-Dur op. 11/1 von George Enescu, das Klavierkonzert Nr. 2 c-Moll op. 18 von Sergei Rachmaninow und die Sinfonie Nr. 1 e-Moll op. 39 (1900) von Jean Sibelius.

Rueibin Chen spielt erstmals als Solist mit dem Schleswig-Holsteinischen Sinfonieorchester .

Chen ist ein international gefeierter Pianist, der in Taiwan geboren wurde und seinen ersten Klavierunterricht im Alter von fünf Jahren bei seinem Vater erhielt. Mit dreizehn Jahren erhielt er ein Stipendium zum Studium am Wiener Konservatorium und wechselte anschließend an die Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien Hannover zu Lazar Berman. Er ist Preisträger zahlreicher internationaler Wettbewerbe. Neben seiner solistischen Tätigkeit ist Chen auch begeisterter Kammermusiker.

Musical destiny

Pianist Chen Rueibin takes Beijing 'Somewhere in Time'

Interviewed By Global Times March 10, 2015



Pianist Chen Rueibin

Unlike his music, which is described as "white-hot energy, steel-fingered, power and athletic virtuosity" by critics, my time talking with pianist Chen Rueibin was a quiet and pleasant experience.

Active around concert halls in Europe and the US, the Chinese-Austrian pianist has performed in Chinese mainland multiple times, including playing the Yellow River Piano Concerto during the open ceremony of the Shanghai World Expo in 2010. Next month, he is set to bring Rachmaninoff's piano concerto *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* (1934), famous in China for its use in the film *Somewhere in Time* and one of Chen's more representative performances, to the stage in China.

Chen has played Rachmaninoff's works for most of his life. As we began talking about his favorite musician his eyes suddenly shined bright and he became especially passionate. He went on to talk about how he always felt a strong connection with this Russian composer and how he came to appreciate him.

At age 16, Chen won his first international prize at the Rachmaninoff International Piano

Competition in Italy. Four years later, he became the only Asian student of Lazar Berman, the late great Russian pianist whose records of his performances of Rachmaninoff's works with Claudio Abbado are still in high demand, after the latter heard Chen playing Rachmaninoff's music.

Chen excitedly pointed out to me that Berman's teacher was actually one of Rachmaninoff's classmates and that he found it fascinating that the Russian composer made his way to the US where he passed away. Chen explained that his love for this composer was so great he once held a two-night concert where he performed five of Rachmaninoff's piano concertos - anyone of which can be an exhausting task for a pianist.

In 2013, Chen performed Rachmaninoff's Three Nocturnes in Asia and the US for the first time. A rare piece of music written when Rachmaninoff was only 16, it was later discovered with the final page missing. To perform the work, Chen took it upon himself to finish them on his own.

"I hope I will have more opportunities to perform these rarities for Asian audiences and help them to get to know more about this composer.

"When I was young, I chose Rachmaninoff's works because they are difficult to play. I wanted to show off my technique. But after so many years, I now pay more attention to the profound meaning behind his music," Chen said, going on to tell me that after so many years living far away from home, he feels himself getting closer to his favorite composer in his heart.

Born in Tainan, Taiwan, Chen set his feet on a musical path when only a child. He first began getting a feel for music on a third-hand antique piano his philharmonic father bought before Chen's birth. Beginning formal lessons when he was 5, he won first prize in a local city-level competition when he was 6.

A year after graduating from primary school, Chen entered the Vienna Conservatory as the youngest student ever admitted at that time. He was shocked by the entirely different cultural environment and atmosphere towards enjoying classical music. "I found a lot of musical treasures in Vienna. There were so many concerts and stories related to music... It is the hometown to so many musicians," Chen said.

European's strong cultural background made him curious about his own culture. Forming his own traditional Chinese musical ensemble, he is now working to actively introduce Chinese music to the Western world.

"People liked to talk proudly about their own culture there, which instilled in me a strong desire to speak out for my own. I think that is also duty of a musician," said Chen.

Pianist Rueibin Chen to perform at the Hollywood Bowl July 5

Reported by Taiwan News

2014-07-01

Internationally renowned Taiwanese pianist Rueibin Chen will perform July 5 at the Hollywood Bowl with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. The Hollywood Bowl is an outdoor amphitheater that seats close to 20,000 and Chen will be the first Taiwan born musician to perform at this venue with the world renowned Los Angeles Philharmonic. Chen will perform the Yellow River Piano Concerto. In addition, Chen has prepared a crossover adaptation of east and west, classical and popular music for this concert. As always, Chen's superb talent and rich interpretations are expected to attract a full house of music lovers who enjoy his keyboard skills as well as his infectious charm.

Chen was the first piano soloist to perform in the recently completed Wallis Annenberg Center, a performing arts center in Beverly Hills that took 15 years and US\$70 million to complete. Chen has noted that it is a truly great honor for him to be the first solo performer to appear there, and he is proud to open the center to the public. In addition, 2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Beverly Hills, adding to the meaning of the debut performance in the Wallis Annenberg Center.

Chen was the first Chinese Pianist to perform at the Bing Concert Hall at Stanford University early last year, and in February this year he was invited back to perform a Chinese New Year Concert featuring the "Yellow River Piano Concerto." This is always a performance that audiences of all nationalities enjoy and appreciate for its festive Chinese New Year atmosphere.

Chen was also the first Chinese musician born in Taiwan to ever appear in the latest and most modern Center for the Performing Arts in Southern California scale — the Orange County Performing Arts Center Concert Hall, also known as the Renee and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall.

Chen was the only soloist to perform at the opening ceremonies of the 2014 Beijing International Film Festival.

Chen's performances come during the 140th anniversary commemoration of Rachmaninoff, and Beverly Hills is one of the places where Rachmaninoff spent the twilight years of his outstanding career. He spent much of his life in foreign lands, and many of his works are full of melancholy. Chen, who traveled to Vienna at a young age to study the piano, has many parallels in his own life, making Rachmaninoff's works even more vivid and poignant for him. Chen says sometimes he wonders if he has some Russian blood in his ancestry. He notes that no one ever taught him how to play Rachmaninoff, he just sat down at the piano and let Rachmaninoff's works resonate through his fingertips. With Rueibin Chen, the whole Rachmaninoff experience is something that cannot be explained in words.

Chen's performance at Beverly Hills echoed his triumphant appearance in Taiwan, with a comprehensive range of Rachmaninoff's works including his piano transcriptions The Three Nocturnes. This is a feat that demands great skill but produces tremendous feelings of nostalgia for the listener.

Review of the 2 sold-out Rachmaninoff recitals as the inaugural soloist the Wallis Center for Performing Arts in Beverly Hills

Review: Taiwanese Pianist Rueibin Chen Hands Masterful Performance at The Wallis

Living Out Loud LA March 29, 2014



Classical music is seen by many as a white European art form and its audience made up of mostly older fans. Symphony halls and other venues offering this type of music are trying their best to see how to pull in a younger and more diverse audience.

There is one ethnic group though that not only attends these concerts in large numbers but has produced many of today's most important classical music artists and whose presence in symphony orchestra musicians may be the highest. Asian and Asian-Americans comprise the youngest demographic group attending classical concerts and many of the hot classical performers are coming from this community.

These artists include Chinese pianists Yuja Wang, Lang Lang, cellist Yo Yo Ma (French born of Chinese parents) amongst others.

One of Taiwan's best pianists, Rueibin Chen performed two sold-out nights at The Bram Goldsmith Theater at The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts in Beverly Hills on Thursday and Friday evening.

A Chinese-Austrian born in Taiwan, Chen has a reputation for a brilliant technique and intense artistic expression as well as an expertise on the works of Russian composer, conductor and master pianist Sergei Vasilievich Rachmaninoff, whose date of death in this city of Beverly Hills coincided with Friday's performance.

Chen's selected program titled "Total Rachmaninoff" began with three of Rachmaninoff Preludes, which were written for solo piano. "Prelude in G Major Opus 32 No. 5" began with a soft, rain-like sound with multiple layers, followed by "Prelude in D Major Opus 23 No. 4," which had a fuller and stronger sound showcasing Chen's virtuosity. A more lyrical and melodic piece was "Prelude in D Major Opus 23 No. 4," which was the longest of the three.

The "Three Nocturne Opus 1" (1887), a premier for California, is regarded as the first serious attempt by the composer to write for the piano at all 14-years of age. These included "No.1 in F-sharp Minor," "No. 2 in F Major" and "No. 3 in C Minor." The pieces vary in tone and speed from a slow, soft, gentle sound to a full one with increase speed and complexity that Chen was able to transmit with great artistry and command.

"Lilacs Opus 21 No." was a beautiful, contemplative melody with a more modern feel while the following piece, "Gavotte from Partita No. 3 in E Major," was a baroque number by Johan Sebastian Bach; it was originally for lute and was transcribed by Rachmaninoff for piano. In "Etude-Tableau in D Major Opus 39," Chen showcased a very animated, virtuoso technique in fast pace that increased with complexity as time went on.

After the intermission, the audience was treated to several other transcribed pieces for piano by Rachmaninoff such as "Lullaby" by Russian composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and "Minuet from L'Arlesienne" by French composer Gerge Bizet. These were followed by two intense pieces by Austrian-born violinist and composer Fritz Kreisler, a contemporary of Rachmaninoff whose "Liebesleid" (Love's Sorrow) and "Liebesfreud" (Love's Joy) were packed with layers of complexities and so much power that Chen's cufflinks flew off of his wrists.

After two standing ovations, Chen finally addressed the audience in his limited English thanking them for attending the concert and The Wallis for hosting him that evening. Not to disappoint he turned to the piano and gave a haunting version of Polish composer Frédéric Chopin's "Piano Sonata No. 2 in B-flat minor, Op. 35," popularly known as The Funeral March.

Fortunately, the evening's selections and compositions of Vasilievich Rachmaninoff, interpreted in the power and artistry of Chen, had all in the audience "living it up."

Husumer Nachrichten

Das sind die Veranstaltungs-Highlights im Winter 2022 in Husum und Umgebung

Husumer Nachrichten , 德國 Husumer 聯邦新聞報 , 02. Februar 2022,



Das Landes-Sinfonieorchester präsentiert das 4. Sinfoniekonzert – mit Rueibin Chen am Klavier.

Trotz der aktuellen Corona-Regeln sind Veranstaltungen nach wie vor möglich. Die Redaktion der Husumer Nachrichten präsentiert eine Übersicht der Events in Husum und Umgebung: Konzerte, Feste und Ausstellungen.

Das Schleswig-Holsteinische Sinfonieorchester präsentiert am Donnerstag, 10. Februar, 20 Uhr, im NCC das Sinfoniekonzert „Drei-Klang-Menü“. Zu hören sind die Rumänische Rhapsodie Nr. 1 A-Dur op.11/1 von George Enescu, das Klavierkonzert Nr. 2 c-Moll op. 18 von Sergei Rachmaninow und die Sinfonie Nr. 1 e-Moll op 39 von Jean Sibelius – mit Rueibin Chen am Klavier.



Taiwanese concert pianist performs in United States

Reported by The Central News Agency ,Aug. 13 ,2015



Concert pianist Rueibin Chen , one of Taiwan's best-known musical exports, performed July 25 at the Orange County Summer Music Festival in the United States.

Chen was invited as guest pianist to perform Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5, "Emperor" and Rimsky-Korsakov's "Scheherazade," with the Orange County Pacific Symphony at Irvine Meadows Amphitheater.

Music critic Timothy Mangan said in an article published in The Orange County Register that " It satisfied with its abiding intensity and sensitivity, the outer movements were on the fast and forward side, though flexible as need be, with Chen digging into phrases robustly. To the slow movement he brought a lovely sense of the weight of each note, as if they were fat raindrops falling gently in a pond."

Nearly 20,000 people crowded the venue to hear the concert.

Chen said he was honored to be the first pianist from Taiwan to perform with the orchestra and conductor Alejandro Gutierrez, and that he hopes the outdoor concert can encourage audiences to attend more concerts and appreciate classical music.

Orange County's Summer Music Festival has been running for more than 20 years.

Rueibin Chen spielt mit dem Schleswig-Holsteinischen Sinfonieorchester

Interviewed by Radio Taiwan International , 27 January, 2022



Vom 8.02.2022 - 11.02.2022 wird der international ausgezeichnete Pianist Rueibin Chen (陳瑞斌) als Solist mit dem Schleswig-Holsteinischen Sinfonieorchester auftreten.

Herr Chen wird dabei das Klavierkonzert Nr. 2 von Sergei Rachmaninow spielen. Rueibin Chen ist einer der wenigen Pianisten, die Rachmaninows Stücke auswendig spielen können. Kurz vor seiner Abreise nach Deutschland nahm sich Rueibin Chen die Zeit zu einem Gespräch mit RTI.

Im ersten Teil des Gespräches erzählt Herr Chen u.a. wie es zu der Zusammenarbeit mit dem dem Schleswig-Holsteinischen Sinfonieorchester gekommen ist und was Rachmaninow für Ihn bedeutet. Außerdem gibt es eine kleine musikalische Kostprobe von Rueibin Chen

Die Konzerte finden an vier verschiedenen Spielorten statt:

A.P. MØLLER SKOLEN (SCHLESWIG), DEUTSCHES HAUS (FLENSBURG), STADTTHEATER (RENDSBURG), NORDSEECONGRESSCENTRUM (HUSUM)



Rueibin Chen performs 'Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini' in Beijing

Reported by The Central News Agency , May 3, 2015

Chinese Austrian pianist Rueibin Chen played Sergei Rachmaninoff's "Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini" with the China National Symphony Orchestra in Beijing in late April, captivating the audience with his impeccable skill and classical Russian flavor.

Chen, who was born to an elementary school music teacher's family in Tainan in 1967 and studied in Austria when he was 13, is the only Asian student of renowned Russian pianist Lazar Berman, whose teacher Alecander Goldenweiser (1875-1961) was a classmate and friend of Rachmaninoff (1873-1943).

Chen's virtuoso performance of the rhapsody magnificently conveyed charm and passion to his audience at the National Centre for the Performing Arts on April 24. For an encore, Chen played his own condensed version of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 to the passionate applause of the audience.

The melody of the rhapsody, especially the 18th variation, was made popular by the US movie "Somewhere in Time" in 1980.

In 1984, Chen became the youngest winner of the Rachmaninoff International Piano Competition in Italy.

Chen said the rhapsody was Rachmaninoff's "most representative work" and "the piece has so many different levels you can savor -- passion, as well as serenity," according to a report on CNTV (China Network Television).

Chen said he gained a deeper understanding and grasp of the work's emotional subtlety as well as the meaning of a pure Russian performance style, from his mentor Berman and studying Rachmaninoff's life with his late teacher.

Chen said his choice of the encore was intended to echo Rachmaninoff's work, so "the whole performance is one hundred percent Russian," which is "a nod to the Russian music maestros and my mentor, Lazar Berman," the CNTV report said.

Ms. Jane Seymour, lead actress in the movie "Somewhere in Time," was in the audience when Chen played the rhapsody in Los Angeles.

Taipei announces details of 2019 countdown party

To set this year's event apart from the concerts in the past years, the organizer will introduce electroacoustic elements

Reported by Taiwan News 2018/12/12



TAIPEI (Taiwan News) – Taipei's Department of Information and Tourism (TPEDOIT) announced in a Wednesday press release details of the city's upcoming 2019 New Year's Eve Countdown Party in the square, in front of the city hall.

Besides the fireworks displays at Taipei 101, the countdown party will feature the on-stage appearance of celebrities, including the Korean pop group EXID, A-Mei, MJ116, Anna, Ben Wu, Hsieh He-hsian, Lu Kuo-wei, Ting Ting, and others, the TPEDOIT said.

To set this year's event apart from the concerts in the past years, the organizer will introduce electroacoustic elements, "inviting DJ Cookie to collaborate with pianist Rueibin Chen in the performance of music combining visual and audio extravagance," the agency added.

For more information, please visit the official Chinese website of the countdown party or the Facebook fan page of Taipei Travel Net.

Review :

Rueibin Chen's "Total Rachmaninoff" piano recital Dec. 7- impressive virtuosity

AXS Entertainment (USA) ,December 14, 2013



This past weekend the internationally celebrated Chinese/Austrian Pianist, Rueibin Chen, performed a solo piano recital featuring an all Rachmaninoff program, on Dec.7, 2013 at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Costa Mesa, CA.

While people familiar with Rachmaninoff's famous Piano Concertos may have found this eclectic program challenging, lovers of classical music

were in for a fascinating evening of rarely performed works. Chen, who has performed with all the major orchestras of the world, gave a recital that showed the depth of his musical taste and virtuoso skills.

The impressive Segerstrom Recital Hall was a good venue for Chen's playing, despite the acoustics which sometimes caused his tones to sound blurry. Especially refreshing to see, was the attendance of so many young families with children, along with many classical music supporters from our Asian community.

Rueibin Chen has been on the stage most of his life. He began his career as a child prodigy and went on to win the most prestigious International Piano awards including the

Rachmaninoff Piano Competition. With an international solo career already now decades long, he is making another world-wide tour with his new Total Rachmaninoff Recital.

Chen opened the program with Rachmaninoff's playful Lilacs, Op.21, spun out with an alluring warm tone and perfect balance between left and right hands. Without break, he went on to play a completely contrasting work, bringing out the piano's metallic tones for Rachmaninoff's brilliant arrangement of Bach's Gavotte, No. 3.

Next was a heartfelt and nuanced performance of the Southern California premiere of Three Nocturnes, Op. 1, the first works composed by Rachmaninoff when he was just 14 years old. Chen then played the astonishingly difficult Rachmaninoff Preludes - Prelude in G Major, Op 32, No.5, Prelude in G Sharp Minor, No.12 and Prelude in D Major, Op.23 No. 4. After these demanding works, Chen closed out the first half with another fabulously intricate work, the Etude-Tableau in D Major, Op. 39, No.9, brilliantly executing complex passages with a myriad of tonal colors.

After intermission, the second half of Chen's ambitious recital presented the more familiar melodic and flashy Rachmaninoff style. Featured were arrangements by the composer of Tchaikovsky's Lullaby, Bizet's Minuet from L'Arlésienne, Fritz Kreisler's Leibeslied and Leibesfreud, along with Rachmaninoff's Daises, No. 5. In this repertoire, Chen seemed more at ease as did the audience. Concluding his recital with a thunderous Liebesfreude, a rowdy piece all fireworks and cascades of sound played at a tremendous pace, the audience responded with a very appreciative applause, calling the artist back for more.

Despite having given this demanding recital, Chen seemed visibly more relaxed and plunged into two encores from the famous Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No.2. Beaming and smiling on stage, he played with great power and flair. Responding to this encore performance, the audience gave him the thunderous applause he deserved.

Music is without boundaries

Interviewed by Macau Daily ,Dec. 7, 2016

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA-SOUTH SUDAN The first 120 troops of a 700-member Chinese U.N. peacekeeping force depart for South Sudan, deepening China's commitment to the troubled East African nation, where two of its peacekeepers were killed in fighting over the summer.
More on p11

PHILIPPINES A survey conducted by UNICEF and the Philippine government has found a high prevalence of violence against Filipino children, with eight out of ten suffering some form of physical or psychological abuse. The two organizations said yesterday that their first nationwide survey of children and youth aged 13-24 also found one in five respondents had been sexually violated.

INDONESIA strengthens its moratorium on converting peat swamps to plantations in a move a conservation research group says will help prevent annual fires and substantially cut the country's carbon emissions if properly implemented.

THAILAND's new king names an 11-member council of advisers, bringing in three new officials, including a former army chief and two representatives of the ruling junta.
More on p13

More on backpage

PISA TEST

Macau students are getting smarter. P3

RUEIBIN CHEN
The Pianist P2

Times
MOVIES of a lifetime
IFFAM SUPPLEMENT INSIDE

I&A RUEIBIN CHEN
PIANIST

RUEIBIN Chen, a Taiwanese pianist, who performed at the 2010 World Expo in China, started his career as a child prodigy and concert pianist at age ten when he made his debut with the Taipei Symphony Orchestra. Following that, he was named the Principal Soloist of "Moldova" Iasi and Tirgu Mures Philharmonic Orchestra in Romania.

In 2014, he was invited to perform with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, which is the biggest outdoor venue in the U.S.

A Chinese-Austrian born in Taiwan, Chen won a total of 18 medals, including five gold medals, which were won before he was 20, in various international piano competitions in Tel Aviv (Rubinstein), Warsaw (Chopin), Salt Lake City (Bachauer), Athens (Callas), Vienna, Manresa, and Italy (Rome, Rachmaninoff, Bellini, and Stresa) to name just a few. Here's what he told the Times:

Macau Daily Times (MDT)
- What is your schedule looking like for this coming year?

Rueibin Chen (RC) - Currently, I will have events in Hong Kong. When I go to Hong Kong, it is not a must for me to go to Macau. [...] I like Macau too much. I think Macau has a more mixed culture when compared to Hong Kong, Taiwan and mainland China. People in Macau, since ancient times, speak Mandarin well.

MDT - Which regions or countries leave you the most memorable experiences?

RC - I have performed in many eastern European countries, including Romania and Ukraine. Looking at them, their economy is not that good, but people's participation in culture is high. I was once performing in Israel, and I won a prize. What I am very impressed about is not that I won a prize, but the person who delivered the prize to me. It was Yitzhak Rabin. Back in that time, he had just won the Nobel Peace Prize. Several months after I received the prize from his hands, he was assassinated.

MDT - Besides your performances, what musical genres interest you in a professional capacity?

'Music is without boundaries'



RC - I not only play Western music, but I am very focused on the communication between Western and Eastern music. Two years ago, I organized a symphony, which mixed traditional Chinese instruments and piano. First, many of our generation, of the next generation and of the one after are getting Western musical education. Many [aspects] of Chinese culture are good and very beautiful, but Chinese [people and artists] maybe have forgotten and they don't know. When I was promoting our culture in the West, in the U.S. actually, people there like [our Eastern culture] very much. I will continue to promote the combination between the West and the East.

These are my own cultures. I wish that, within my ability, I can promote them at a global scale.

MDT - As a Taiwanese pianist, how are you handling the relationship between Taiwan and China?

RC - I want to talk about this topic. If I am not wrong, I might be the musician, who was born in Taiwan, who showed up the most times in both sides for big celebrations. I played in the World Expo in Shanghai, Macau's handover anniversary ceremony, Beijing International Film Festival, and I also

played in the office of the President in Taiwan. I think music is not just only about no borders, but it is without boundaries. If I can, I am willing to continue promoting musical communication between both sides.

MDT - Will you focus more on Chinese communities and on this part of the world in your future?

RC - If time allows me, I am very willing to spend more time here. In Macau, I have performed several times. My second language is German. As to the cultures from Europe, I am very willing to bring them back here [Asia].

MDT - Nowadays, how do you see Chinese students studying music, in particular their way of learning it?

RC - The parents should communicate more with children in terms of music, but not make it [instrument learning] a priority for students. It's not that the students must reach a certain level or must win certain prizes. I have seen many examples of children who gave up learning. They can't handle the pressure. [Not only in mainland China], but in Chinese communities and Chinese culture.

Talking from my own experience, [...] I chose playing music as my career. I don't think I am a pianist, I am a music lover. That makes me have no concerns so that I can keep on doing my job and enjoy my performance. The west European musicians are the same as me, their parents did not supervise them. In the end, it is the [musician's] own choice. Therefore, when they are performing, you can see that they have many different ideas, maybe everyone plays differently.

Probably Chinese musicians, are seriously depending on the teachers and the parents. In the end, you can see that their skills are very good, [reflect] a mold. On the good side, you have people supervising you. But as an artist, society might hope to see something different.

“**Parents should communicate more with children in terms of music, but not make it a priority for students.**”



The Amazing Musical Journey of Rueibin Chen

Interviewed by Panorama Magazine , Aug 2015



The taiwanese musical prodigy who became famous at a young age: Rueibin Chen, a pianist who now lives in Austria.

In 1980, then only 13 years old, Chen traveled on his own to Austria to study music. At age 16, he came to public attention by winning the Rachmaninoff International Piano Competition in Italy. In the more than three decades since then, Chen has won countless

prizes from all over the world and received rave reviews for his performances. Naturally, accolades have also come from the land of his birth—Taiwan.

Although this internationally renowned pianist left home at a young age, his local accent remains unchanged and today Chen still speaks in heavily Taiwanese-accented Mandarin Chinese. It gives one a sense of familiarity, and the sense of distance that one might feel talking with a world-famous classical musician disappears. In addition, his music carries a profound nostalgia for home, and reminds us that music has no borders.

Rueibin Chen had already won gold medals in five major international competitions before he was 20. His technique and his sensitive musicality had critics saying he has “the fingers of an angel,” and his natural, passionate on-stage charisma made him beloved among music fans around the world.

In 2013, the 140th anniversary of the birth of the Russian pianist and composer Sergei Rachmaninoff, in order to show his profound respect for this great musician Chen embarked on a world tour of recitals entitled “Listen: Total Rachmaninoff.” The tour began in his motherland Taiwan, and from there went on to Beijing, New York, and elsewhere.

“This was not something you could describe as ‘fun,’” says Chen. The first night he performed three pieces, and had to change shirts three times, because he was soaked through with sweat after each composition.

In the process of performing works by Rachmaninoff, Rueibin Chen has re-experienced that first challenging and incredible journey to another land when he was 13, and that moment at age 16 when he dazzled the entire audience in Italy during the Rachmaninoff Piano Competition.

Far from home, alone

Chen was born into a musical family, and says of himself: “There was a piano waiting from the moment I was born.”

But Chen did not, as one might think, have an exceptional musical education. His father taught school in Tainan, and Chen grew up in the countryside, where there was no music track in the schools and he had no opportunities to travel to Taipei to study with any master teachers. He had to improvise his own piano education, supplemented by tips he got from his uncle, a music teacher in Taipei who made occasional trips south.

Chen relates that in those days, when there were no IT tools like there are today, any kind of materials about music, whether textual or audio, were in short supply. Anyone who wanted to seriously study music had little choice but to go abroad.

When he was 13, Chen passed the exam qualifying him to go abroad. His father borrowed money through two rotating credit clubs and gathered up just enough cash for Rueibin to travel alone to Vienna.

Thus Chen’s first time away from home was to go abroad, and his first time abroad was to be alone in distant Austria, a country which at that time had very few Chinese people at all. For a 13-year-old child, this was a very severe challenge and even could be considered dangerous.

“Can you imagine a child going on his own to study German, going on his own to find a

guardian, going on his own to the police station to handle his residency process, going on his own to rent an apartment?" Two years later his younger brother, who by then was 13 years old, was also sent to Vienna to study music, meaning that Rueibin, then just 15, had to take on the enormous responsibility of looking after his sibling.

He recalls that at that time it was not possible to remit money directly from Taiwan to Austria, and it had to be routed through the US to Vienna, a process that took six months. Therefore Chen had to estimate all of his expenses half a year in advance, and give his father lots of warning time. "The first thing I did every morning when I woke up was to look at my bank passbook, because I was very scared that I would make a mistake and spend money that I didn't have!"

Because it is impossible to practice piano without making noise, Chen was several times asked by landlords to move out of places that he had rented, each time making him feel more isolated and helpless. "Eventually I found an old house, nearly 300 years old, where I could play to my heart's content. The walls of this old house were quite thick, and the ceiling was high," he reminisces, "It was a great place to practice. Almost every piece that I won a prize with in competitions was practiced there."

At age 16 Chen began to be entirely responsible for himself, earning his living expenses through performances and competitions. "I brooded and felt down when I lost a competition or things weren't going well, and I often couldn't get to sleep without sleeping tablets."

Even more heartbreaking was that ten years after arriving in Vienna, Chen had still not returned to Taiwan even once, nor had any family members gone to Austria to visit him. There was no email, and no mobile apps such as LINE, so he and his family in Taiwan had to rely entirely on snail mail. The only two chances per year he had to speak by phone with his family were at Chinese New Year and Mid-Autumn Festival, when overseas phone calls were at a discount, and his family could call him from Taiwan.

"It was always very painful to receive these phone calls," recalls Chen. Most of the time, because the distance was so vast, there was no point in even thinking about his family. But as soon as he heard their voices, all the defenses he had built up to stay strong day after day completely collapsed.

No pain, no gain. In Austria, one of the capitals of classical music in the West, Chen was able to find rich musical sustenance. But he missed out on the childhood experiences and loving family that most children his age enjoyed. Chen says: "Paying these dues was extremely beneficial to my musical formation, and also had a tremendous impact on the way I perform and interpret music."

No music, no life

Chen returned to Taiwan to give a performance at age 23. This was the first time he had come back since going abroad ten years previously, and the first time he met with the family he had not seen for such a long time. "When I saw my father at the airport, he was like a stranger to me, and we were hesitant about greeting, not sure that we recognized each other," Chen recalls.

“My family didn’t have a very clear idea of how my career had developed in Europe. They didn’t know that besides getting certifications for completing studies in both Vienna and Germany, I had also attended other major music schools in Italy, Austria, and France.” It was only two or three years ago that Chen told his mother all of this, and she was dumbfounded.

Why did he travel all over to learn? Chen explains that in Europe people put a lot of emphasis on tradition, and each country or location has unique features or characteristics to its musical traditions. Therefore, except for Britain, which wasn’t directly accessible by train in those days, he wanted to visit as many places as he could to get a taste of what they had to teach.

At age 20 Chen traveled to Israel, where he won a prize in the Rubinstein International Competition. It was there that he met a man who would influence him profoundly: the Soviet Jewish pianist Lazar Berman. Chen became Berman’s one and only Asian student. For a full six or seven years thereafter, an average of once a month he would travel over ten hours by train to have a class with Berman. “Each time we would play for four or five hours, and by the end of class my hands were really hurting, so I would have to rest for two days before I could play again.”

Chen tried, from Berman’s music and life, to understand the enigmatic, profound, and sometimes grandiose Russian soul. “My teacher only became famous when he was 50 years old, because the KGB would not let him go abroad,” recounts Chen, saying that his teacher’s perseverance and refusal to give up inspired the same attitude in him.

The fingers of an angel

The media has often described Chen’s deft touch and technique at the piano by saying he has “the fingers of an angel.” But when he performs, not only do you see his digits flying across the keyboard, he uses the energy and vitality of his whole body in the performance. Chen smiles as he tells us, “My friends have laughed at me, telling me that ‘the return on my investment’ is definitely too low!” But he does not act this way deliberately or consciously; rather it is the music that causes him to quite naturally express himself in this way.

One music critic has written: “Chen’s ‘deep touch’ is firm and powerful, his fingering is very clean and accurate, and when his fingers race across the keyboard the articulation is clear, each note is pearl-like, and the tone is full and resonant. All of these things are purely and directly derived from the technique and style of the Russian school of piano.”

The respected Swiss newspaper *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* even wrote of him: “He is that rare kind of talent that comes along only once every 20 years.”

But what does the expression “the fingers of an angel” really mean? Chen replies: “Maybe it’s a kind of infectiousness that links the onstage emotionally with the offstage!”

Chen confesses, “I was basically forced to reach the level I’m at.” Chen says straight out that for Asians, who generally have a smaller physique, it is more difficult to command the entire piano, especially given that the pieces he performs are all extremely challenging. However, his teachers have never for this reason lowered their expectations or demands. Difficulty is

not decided by technique alone, says Chen, but also by “state of mind.” No matter what, resonance, dramatization, passion... he was required to do the same as his teachers. Some have said that you can hear a deep and rich nostalgia for his motherland in Chen’s performances. Maybe that is why Chen says that works by Rachmaninoff, compared to those of other composers, definitely have a different feeling for him.

Because of the Russian Revolution, Rachmaninoff spent the latter half of his life living in exile in the western United States. His later works all evoke a profound nostalgia and sense of loss for his homeland. Chen, who left home as a mere child, can very much relate to this feeling.

Having played all of the canonical works of classical music, in recent years Chen has devoted more attention to premiering new compositions for piano or symphony. For example, his fingertips have carried works like Love River Concerto, which was inspired by the Love River in Kaohsiung, and Cold Night, which is based on Hakka themes, to New York’s Lincoln Center for the Arts, Australia’s Sydney Opera House, and the Hong Kong Cultural Centre.

The same music can produce different emotional effects depending upon the listener. When Chen performed Love River Concerto in New York, some Taiwanese who had not been back home for more than 30 years shed tears of homesickness. On the other hand, foreigners who heard the piece got a romanticized notion of the Love River, and some even said they wanted to come to Taiwan to see it for themselves.

Music is his home

If you ask Chen where his home is, the still unmarried pianist says, “That’s hard to say!” If home means ‘house,’ then it’s Austria. But since he is generally on the road performing, his house in Vienna is normally empty.

Call it drifting, if you will, or nomadic. But in any case Chen’s performing career means that he has virtually no “home.”

Over the last couple of years, Chen has performed in a number of benefit events. Last July, after the underground gas explosions in Kaohsiung, Chen, who happened to be near the area where the explosions occurred on that night, was deeply touched by the assistance that poured in from the outside world. In order to thank the citizens of Hong Kong for their generosity, the Capriccio Chamber Orchestra and the Kaohsiung City Tourism Association jointly organized a charity concert at the Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall, at which Chen gave solo performances as his way of giving something back to Hong Kong.

The environment and experiences of days gone by created the high-risk, high-thrill, fantasy-like musical journey of Rueibin Chen. It is his belief that musicians today are unlikely ever to have to face such extraordinarily challenging circumstances as he did. Whether that is for better or for worse, only Chen himself can really understand.

Chen Ruei-bin Rachmaninoff tour thrills California music lovers

Interviewed by Taiwan News

December 10, 2013

Chen Ruei-bin thrilled a full house of music lovers Saturday night, December 7, with his program of "Total Rachmaninoff" at Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall in Costa Mesa, California. The evening was another stop in a wide-ranging tour of Asia and other areas that Chen has undertaken in celebration of Sergei Rachmaninoff's 140th birthday on April 1 and in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of his death on March 28 this year. The Rachmaninoff tour is a follow-up to a similar series of concerts he staged from 2008 to 2010 for the 200th anniversary of Frederic Chopin's birth.

Described as having the fingers of an angel, Chen Ruei-bin has won a well-deserved worldwide reputation as a classical pianist. He was the youngest ever Rachmaninoff International Competition winner and lists as his greatest influences the composers Franz Liszt, Alexander Siloti, a Alexander Goldenweiser and Rachmaninoff as well as his teacher Lazar Berman .

Chen's repertoire for this performance included several of Rachnaninoff's most popular piano transcriptions which have been used in movie soundtracks and in commercial advertising, such as Gavotte from a Partita by J. S. Bach, Minuet from L'Arlesienne by Georges Bizet and Lullaby by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. He also demonstrated his extraordinary skill at the piano keyboard with interpretations of Rachmaninoff 's famous Liebeslied and Liebesfreud and Preludes as well as the composer's three Nocturnes. Chen won another measure of recognition when he was the first Chinese to perform the three Nocturnes – written when Rachnmaninoff was only 14 – in Asia. His performance Saturday also marked the debut of the three pieces in Southern California.

In 2014 Chen Ruei-bin will continue his worldwide tour with many concerts in China, performing both concertos with orchestras and solo recitals. Wherever he goes around the world, Chen is certain to attract many of his ardent fans and win over new followers to him and to classical music.

德國聯邦 Shz 報, 07. Februar 2022

Mit Schleswig-Holsteinischem Sinfonieorchester: Pianist Rueibin Chen tritt in SH auf



Das Schleswig-Holsteinische Sinfonieorchester spielt mit Rueibin Chen am Klavier, Der Preisgekrönte Pianist aus Taiwan tritt ab dem 8. Februar in Schleswig, Flensburg, Husum und Rendsburg auf.

Der bekannte, in Taiwan geborene Pianist Rueibin Chen gibt im Februar vier Konzerte in Schleswig-Holstein. Wie berichtete, wird er mit dem Schleswig-Holsteinischen Sinfonieorchester auftreten.

Gespielt werden Werke des rumänischen Komponisten George Enescu, des Russen Sergej Rachmaninow und des Finnen Jean Sibelius.

Vier Konzerte ab dem 8. Februar

Der international gefeierte und preisgekrönte Pianist ist unter anderem für seine Interpretation von Rachmaninow bekannt. Chen ist in Taiwan geboren, erhielt mit fünf Jahren schon Klavierunterricht und gab mit zehn sein Debüt mit dem Sinfonieorchester Taipeh.

Er erhielt im Alter von 13 Jahren ein Stipendium am Wiener Konservatorium und wechselte anschließend an die Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien in Hannover.

Als Solist ist Chen seither in großen Konzerthäusern weltweit mit berühmten Orchestern aufgetreten. Es sei sein erster Auftritt mit dem Schleswig-Holsteinischen Landes-Sinfonieorchester, hieß es. Die Konzerte finden in Schleswig (8.2.), Flensburg (9.2.), Husum (10.2.) und Rendsburg (11.2.) statt.

A look at a former prodigy's career as an international concert pianist

Interviewed by Taipei Times , Apr 05, 2014



Rueibin Chen (陳瑞斌) is on a brief stop in Taiwan to see immediate family, before flying out for two sold-out recitals to open the Wallis Annenberg Center in California. He is a former prodigy with a crown-jewel job, a solo pianist who follows gigs from one continent to the next.

When I meet him, he is a bit jet-lagged. He doesn't sound like the way he plays, which the Boston Globe hails as "white-hot energy, steel-fingered, power and athletic virtuosity." Offstage, he is a plain-spoken Greater Tainan native with good manners and a slight stammer, who is apparently without the motivation to punch up his statements and make a

dazzling impression. He ends long sentences deferentially: “I don’t know the words to express it.”

The son of a public-school music teacher, Chen took up piano at five years old and learned instinctively, making his stage debut with the Taipei Symphony Orchestra at age 10. Shortly afterward, his father wanted to give him a shot at making it in Vienna.

“My father made the decision. I was 13 and couldn’t say no, I didn’t have a choice ... Once I was there, I had to finish my education, otherwise how could I find a job?” Chen says.

For the next few years, Chen studied unaccompanied at the Vienna Conservatory under a special waiver of age requirement. In between classes, the teen struggled to find rice at the supermarket and tried to learn German. He also searched for appropriate places to practice his etudes.

“When you are playing piano, you bother your neighbors,” Chen says. “I was evicted many times.”

Meanwhile, he wanted to go home.

“I was so far from Taiwan. When I was little I liked playing Rachmaninoff and Chopin, and I felt that we shared a culture,” he says.

“Rachmaninoff went from Moscow to California’s Beverly Hills, and he never went back. Even though it was so sunny and beautiful there, what he composed was depressive and deep. You could tell that this person was never very happy because he could not go back.”

LIFE AS A TOURING PIANIST

These days, with at least one major engagement per month, Chen is perpetually jet lagged and often spends nights practicing while his home time zone rests.

It’s a solitary lifestyle similar to his childhood in Vienna, with the difference that he has the means to fly to Taiwan whenever he wants. He treats his career like a nine-to-five job, dedicating regular hours and creating timely programs that match the needs of audiences.

“I want to deliver good music to people,” he says. “Taiwanese audiences have a very high expectation of me, because they are familiar with my sound. They want something different each time. I want to create something different each time.”

His latest major tour marks Rachmaninoff’s 140th anniversary. It’s a popular program, and he is among the world’s best at this repertoire — in 1984, he became the youngest winner of the Rachmaninoff International Piano Competition in Italy.

But Chen’s relationship with music has moved beyond his years as a prodigy. In some ways, music has become a much more private matter.

“For example, the older I get, the more I like Brahms,” he says.

“Some composers have a knack for sharing, and have the ability to create communion — for instance Rachmaninoff and Tchaikovsky, they spark chemistry with an audience. But others don’t have that quality, for instance Brahms,” he says.

“For an outdoor concert for 2,000 people, you would not hear anybody performing Brahms, because he is indirect with the emotions. Yet you can hear him when you listen by yourself behind a closed door,” Chen says.

He can now appreciate Vienna, in which the majority of people could not play classical music but were taught how to approach and engage with it. In Taiwan, many children like himself were taught to perform, but not to listen. Most eventually quit, he says.

“It’s more fortunate to have a relationship with music throughout your life,” he says.



Pianist Rueibin Chen to perform in Taipei

Reported by The Central News Agency

2017-9-26



Taipei, Sept. 26 (CNA) Taiwanese-Austrian pianist Rueibin Chen (陳瑞斌) will give a concert in Taipei, performing pieces from the works of Schubert, Scriabin, Tcherepnin and other famous composers.

The program will include Italian composer Ottorino Respighi's "Nocturne;" Schubert's "Liszt: Serenade" and "Liszt: Ave Maria;" and Beethoven's Piano Sonata in F minor, Op.57 ("Appassionata").

Chen will also perform the music of Russian composers Alexander Tcherepnin and Alexander Scriabin, including "Punch and Judy;" "Shadow Play;" Prelude and Nocturne for the Left Hand, Op.9; and Etude Op. 8 No. 11 and No. 12.

Chen said Tuesday he has put together a diverse program because he wants to introduce a variety of pieces to classical music fans in Taiwan.

He said he chose pieces from Tchernin because of the composer's deep connections with the Chinese community.

Not only was Tchernin married to a Chinese pianist, but two of his students Chiang Wen-yeh (江文也) and He Luting (賀綠汀) were from Taiwan and China, respectively, and were major influences on the classical music scene in their respective countries, Chen noted.

Meanwhile, Scriabin's Prelude and Nocturne for the Left Hand, Op.9, are pieces that have a special place in his heart, Chen said.

Scriabin composed the two pieces at time when his right hand was injured, Chen noted.

"But he never gave up, even if he could only play with one hand," said Chen, adding that he also sustained injuries in the past and was inspired by Scriabin's spirit.

At the Taipei concert in October, Chen said, he will take up the challenge of playing the two pieces with only his left hand.

Chen began playing piano at the age of five, with his father as his teacher, and eventually went on to study under the late revered Russian pianist Lazar Berman.

He was named one of Ten Outstanding Young Persons of the Republic of China in 2004 and performed at the opening ceremony of Shanghai's World Expo in 2010.

In 2014, Chen performed the "Yellow River Piano Concerto" with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, a large outdoor venue.

That year, he also became the first piano soloist to perform during the inaugural season of the Wallis Annenberg Center for Performing Arts in Beverly Hills.

Interviewed by Taipei Times , Oct 11, 2017

Taiwan's 'Russian soul'

Pianist Chen Ruei-bin talks to the 'Taipei Times' about the 2014 earthquake that devastated parts of Tainan, growing up in Europe and his passion for Sergei Rachmaninoff and Alexander Scriabin



Chen Ruei-bin poses for a promotional photo of his Dreams and Passion Concert.



Chen performs last year at the Renee & Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall in Southern California.

Chen Ruei-bin (陳瑞斌) doesn't get stage fright, but as the concert pianist enters the 3,000-seat performance space in Los Angeles he's shaking with anxiety. He sits at the piano, straightens himself, pauses and begins to play. A magnitude 6.4 earthquake had just hit southern Taiwan, devastating much of his home neighborhood of Yongkang District (永康).

"I was in the air when it happened," he recalls. "I only found out after landing in LA." As he begins to play, he still has no word of his family's whereabouts. Many in the audience were aware of the situation.

Chen's ability to persevere under intense pressure is a reason why he is one of the world's most sought after pianists.

After Chen finishes his final piece, the crowd erupts in a roar.

"It was the most touching ovation I'd ever received," he says.

SOUTHERN BOY

Born to music teachers, Chen grew up in a school staff dormitory: a little Japanese-style house built on short wooden stilts with cats chasing mice under floorboards.

Chen spent much of his childhood at the family piano — a third-hand ivory-keyed 140-year old relic bought from a doctor.

Chen was destined for the stage. After making his debut with the Taipei Symphony Orchestra at age 10, he was sent to Austria to study at the Vienna Conservatory at 13, leaving his family behind in Tainan.

Unable to speak German, he says he barely left the comfort of his piano chair for those first months.

RUSSIAN MASTER

Chen was trained by Lazar Berman, one of the greats of the Russian romantic tradition, who only took on a handful of students, Chen being the only non-European among them. As a former KGB officer, Berman was barred from performing in the West for much of the Cold War.

"He was incredibly strict," Chen says. "If you didn't play exactly as he told you to, he'd just get up, walk away and stop teaching you. You had to learn to endure his wrath."

Chen says Berman calls this the "Russian soul," a tragic musical outlook that accepts no compromise.

Having lived through World War II and the Cold War, Chen believes it was the brutality and hardship his teacher had experienced that connected him on such a deep emotional level to music.

"Understanding his story and how he related his life to music was the greatest thing I learned from him," he says.

It takes 20 or 30 years of playing pieces from masters such as Sergei Rachmaninoff and Alexander Scriabin to fully comprehend the meaning of their work. Chen says this immense

undertaking is compounded by other factors such as historical context, the composer's personal life and its cultural and philosophical milieu.

"I can feel the weight of history on my shoulders as I play," Chen says.

MUSICAL HEALING

To honor the victims of the earthquake, Chen performed Scriabin's Nocturn for the Left Hand in April of last year. Thankfully, he didn't have to play at his parents funeral because they survived the earthquake.

"Scriabin suffered from depression," Chen says, "You can feel his sorrow in his music."

Scriabin's music resonates with those who are in the depths of despair, he says, because it encourages them to keep going.

"Music amplifies people's emotions," he chuckles, adding that it has to have a greater purpose.

Active in numerous charities, he offers free tickets for families with disabled children to his concerts.

"Whether it's making music or doing volunteer work, I want to leave behind as much as I can for this world.

Pianist Rueibin Chen to reinterpret Taiwanese folk songs using classical music

Internationally renowned Taiwan-born Austrian pianist Rueibin Chen is performing a selection of well-known pieces for all ages!

Interview by Taiwan News ,2018/03/19



Internationally renowned Taiwan-born Austrian pianist Rueibin Chen (陳瑞斌), one of Taiwan's best-known musical experts, is giving piano recitals at the Taipei Zhongshan Hall on March 28 and at the Chiayi City Concert Hall on April 23.

This time, Chen is performing a selection of well-known pieces for all ages. In the first half of the concert, Chen will present Taiwanese Hokkien songs including Ú iā hue (The Torment of a Flower) and Bāng Chhun-hong (Awaiting the Spring Breeze) composed by the “Father of Taiwanese Folk Songs” Teng Yu-hsien.

Apart from the well-known pieces that older fans may be familiar with, Chen will also present “Formosan Dance” in commemoration of the 35 anniversary of the death of

Taiwanese composer Jiang Wen-Ye, better known as Bunya Koh. Jiang's "Formosan Dance" even won a musical competition at the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

Another piece will be "Homage to China" by Koh's teacher A.Tcherepnin. Both pieces are part of the important history of classical music in Taiwan.

The second half of the concert, Chen will play kids' favorites: "Ma Mere l'Oye" by M.Ravel and Peer Gynt's "Suites No.1", "Op.46" and "Piano 4 Hands" by E.Grieg.

Having years of performing experience in major concert halls all over the world, Chen noted that it isn't the venue that he considers the most important thing in a concert but the inspiration he can give to his audience. "I am willing and would put in the same effort when playing for one single person or playing to an audience of thousands," said Chen.

Besides the two recitals, Chen will also hold two master classes in Taipei and Chiayi in late April to pass on his experience and playing techniques to Taiwanese students. Amateur students are also welcome to join. For more information, please visit the organizer Capriccio Chamber Orchestra.

Piano prodigy Rueibin Chen speaks to Taiwan News about upcoming tour

World-renowned concert pianist Rueibin Chen is making his way back to Taiwan in November for three special concerts in Taipei, Kaohsiung and Taichung

Interviewed by Taiwan News
2018/10/17



Rueibin Chen (陳瑞斌) is no run-of-the-mill concert pianist. His prodigious talent was showcased to the nation when he debuted with the Taipei Symphony Orchestra at just 10 years old. Aged 13, he was recognized by the government as an extraordinarily gifted student and granted a passport to study at a Viennese conservatory.

Chen grew up in a musical family and attributes his initial accomplishments to a strict schedule of daily lessons implemented by his father.

He reflects that he was lucky, in a sense, as being musically-inclined meant his family knew they would have to take pains to ensure his success. His father managed to

acquire a 150-year-old concert piano for him to practice on, a feat unimaginable in the southern city of Tainan at the time, he jokes.

After being granted a scholarship to study in Vienna, the performer embarked on a whirlwind adventure across Europe, where he was invited to study in Germany, France, and Italy, winning 18 concert medals before he turned 20.

Winning the Rubinstein competition in Tel Aviv, he recalls, was a key moment in his life. It was there he was approached by the illustrious Russian pianist, Lazar Berman, who asked him to become his understudy:

“He had heard about my story. I played for him for almost two hours and after that he said he wanted me to be his student.

I was so lucky to work under him. He told me many things about his life—his mother was an alumnus of the same school that trained Rachmaninoff, he was stopped from playing abroad by Soviet authorities after marrying a foreigner...

He dedicated so much time to becoming a great musician in such a harsh environment. It inspired me so much, and he told me so many stories after each lesson. “

Chen’s experience growing up in Europe and studying in Soviet Russia has undeniably shaped both his performance style and his musical proclivities. The performer expresses that, although his preferences continually evolve with time and age, “Russian soul” music—including the works of Rachmaninoff and Tchaikovsky—will always have a special place in his heart.

His repertoire for this year’s tour of Taiwan, however, comprises exclusively French composers, including Romantic greats Maurice Ravel and Erik Satie, as well works from Jean-Philippe Rameau and Cécile Chaminade. Chen explains:

“I met with a French government representative when I last went to France and they are really willing to promote French composers connected with the First World War. Europe has a rich culture of musical history, one that is important to never forget. Now that the market for classical music has gone up in Asia, I have a responsibility to reintroduce this culture to Taiwan.”

Chen has ardently strived to bring his own culture to the outside world, too. In recent years he collaborated with composers to produce the epic Winter Trilogy, which celebrates his Hakka heritage, and the Love River Concerto, inspired by a river in Taiwan. Both pieces marry Chinese instruments into a Western-style orchestra for a true East-meets-West experience.

Though his prolific talents and achievements make him one of Taiwan’s top stars, he stresses that he organized his tours and collaborative projects on his own, without the

help of the government. In an interview with The News Lens in 2016, he noted that throughout his competition-winning career, he would always see performers from other nations accompanied by government officials.

Chen still believes Taiwan should allow more artists to become ambassadors for the country, and wield its cultural soft power more effectively:

“I still hold the opinion that Taiwan needs to change on this matter. Of course, Taiwan is not like Europe; they have held the tradition for many hundreds of years and have had so much more money poured into developing the art.

But things have begun to change over the past 10 years. I really hope the government can do more and more to support musicians through policy, now that we have new concert halls opening up all over the country.

This is fundamental to preserving the art.”

Although he does not return to Taiwan much, Chen explained that when he does, he is always touched by the warmth and support he receives. He expressed joy at the fact that Taiwanese people are becoming more and more interested in classical music, and how concerned they are with introducing the culture to the newer generation.



(Image provided by Capriccio Chamber Orchestra)

Rueibin Chen will be performing at Chung Shing Hall in Taichung on Nov. 4, the National Concert Hall in Taipei on Nov. 9, and Kaohsiung Cultural Center on Nov. 15.

Acclaimed Rueibin Chen to play Taiwan concerts commemorating WWI armistice

Reported by FTV Formosa English News 2018 年 11 月 6 日



Acclaimed Rueibin Chen to play Taiwan concerts commemorating WWI armistice

Acclaimed Vienna-trained pianist Rueibin Chen has made history for being the first Taiwanese soloist to perform at the Hollywood Bowl. This year marks the 100th year since the end of the First World War. To commemorate the armistice, Chen has planned a rewarding concert repertoire of composers whose works consider the themes of war, hope, and peace. Chen will play three Taiwan concerts. The program features French composers in honor of France, which suffered terrible casualties during the First World War. Through these wartime pieces, Chen hopes to deliver a meditation on the cruelties of war, and the fragility and importance of peace.

Piano virtuoso returns to native Taiwan for twin concerts

Taiwan-born Rueibin Chen will interpret Beethoven and Tchaikovsky in Taipei and Tainan next month

Reported by Taiwan News 2020/11/27

Musical wunderkind Rueibin Chen (陳瑞斌) has returned to his birthplace to channel two Romantic era greats, marking the 250th birthday of Beethoven and 180th year since the birth of Tchaikovsky.

A native son of Tainan, Chen struck a chord at a young age by winning piano competitions, while most of his peers were starting to read Chinese characters. He played with the Taipei Symphony Orchestra at the tender age of 10.

At 13, the government gave him a passport so he could continue his musical education abroad. Chen's family helped him make the move to Austria, where he became the youngest student ever accepted by the prestigious Vienna Conservatory.

He later studied under Russian virtuoso Lazar Berman, becoming his first Asian student. He has performed with orchestras the world over, from the Los Angeles Philharmonic to the Shanghai Symphony, and taken the stage at an equally wide range of events, including the Salzburg Festival, Moscow's International Rachmaninoff Music Festival, and the Auckland International Piano Festival.

Chen has racked up a multitude of accolades over the years, including the Bösendorfer Prize, the Salzburg Festival's Best Prize for Contributions to Music, and the Golden Melody Awards for Best Performance and Best Album. He was also named "Best Young Artist" by Taiwan's minister of culture.

In a 2018 interview with Taiwan News, Chen said Taiwan was a late arrival on the classical music scene due to a dearth of public funding. However, he believes this has begun to change.

"I really hope the government can do more and more to support musicians through policy now that we have new concert halls opening up all over the country," Chen said.

The Taiwanese-Austrian pianist will serenade his hometown with selections from Beethoven and Tchaikovsky at the Tainan Municipal Culture Center next Friday (Dec. 4) at 7:30 p.m., followed by a performance at Taipei's National Concert Hall on Dec. 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Award-winning pianist Rueibin Chen performs – Culture

德國 Exact Release 報 , 07 February.2022



The well-known pianist Rueibin Chen, who was born in Taiwan, will give four concerts in Schleswig-Holstein in February. As reported, He will perform with the Schleswig-Holstein Symphony Orchestra . Works by the Romanian composer George Enescu, the Russian Sergej Rachmaninoff and the Finn Jean Sibelius will be played. The internationally acclaimed and award-winning pianist is known, among other things, for his interpretation of Rachmaninoff. Born in Taiwan, Chen began taking piano lessons at the age of five and made his debut with the Taipei Symphony Orchestra at the age of ten. At the age of 13 he received a scholarship at the Vienna Conservatory and then switched to the University of Music, Drama and Media in Hanover. It was his first appearance with the Schleswig-Holstein State Symphony Orchestra, it was said. The concerts will take place in Schleswig (8 February), Flensburg (9 February), Husum (10 February) and Rendsburg (11 February).

Concert Pianist Rueibin Chen Interviews :

1. Rueibin Chen captivates his audience at NCPA , English Interview by CCTV

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ZkdKvCaY8U>

2. Rueibin Chen English Interview by CCTV News " ICON "

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccxxhSPi6rw>

3. Rueibin Chen Piano chose me English Interview by China Daily

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uiRHDjcrMWA>