

Solungga Liu, pianist



Solungga Liu has been acclaimed as a pianist of great breadth. She is a champion of early twentieth-century American music and underrepresented works of the standard repertoire. She is also known as an uncanny interpreter of new music. Her November 2017 debut at the Library of Congress was praised as “moving and passionate, with the melodies pouring forth like an aria. Her supple approach at the keyboard created warm, orchestral-like support for the melodic lines.” There she performed a solo recital of works by Charles Griffes, Amy Beach and César Franck, a concert tailored to her strengths and uniquely composed of music from the Library’s manuscript collection.

Of her recording “The Pleasure-Dome of Kubla Khan: Piano Works of Charles Tomlinson Griffes” for Centaur Records, the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* wrote, “This is an excellent recording. Liu has done justice to this sometime overlooked body of work with her playing, as she pays tribute to a unique and evocative composer.” This recording led to the special request by the Library of Congress that she premiere Griffes’s 1915 piano transcription of Debussy’s *Les parfums de la nuit* from his orchestral work *Iberia*, once

thought lost by Griffes's biographers. About this world premiere, the Washington Classical Review wrote, "The piece retained an orchestral spectrum of colors in Liu's hands. She served as the knowing conductor—the glue that held it all together while still allowing the transcription to shine through on its own merits".

A dedicated performer of new music, Liu has performed numerous composers of our time, including Lutoslawski's *Piano Concerto* with OSSIA, Steve Reich's *The Desert Music* and *Tehillim* with Alarm Will Sound, *Meandering River* and *Three Braided-River* for solo piano by Robert Morris (both are dedicated to her), and Aaron Travers's *Concierto de Milonga*, written for her and the Indiana University New Music Ensemble. She recorded two CDs of Reich's major works with AWS, and Albany Records released her recording of *Meandering River*. In addition, Liu premiered and recorded Gregory Mertl's *Piano Concerto* commissioned by the Barlow Endowment for her, conductor Craig Kirchhoff and the University of Minnesota Wind Ensemble. The 2017 Bridge Records release has received great praise from the American Record Guide, Toronto's WholeNote and Fanfare.

Liu enjoys an active career across five continents, with concerts in the USA, Canada, Austria, Australia, Romania, Brazil, China, Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Hong Kong. Notable performances include Ravel's *Concerto in G Major* with the Taipei Metropolitan Orchestra, performances of concerti with the Indiana University New Music Ensemble as well as members of the Toledo Symphony Orchestra/Choral Society, solo recitals at Taiwan's National Concert Hall, the Goethe Center in Bangkok, the Central Conservatory in Beijing, the Thailand International Mozart Festival, a chamber concert with new music ensemble Open Gate at Carnegie Hall, and three annual recitals at the prestigious Brazilian Museum of Sculpture (MUBE) Concert Series in São Paulo, Brazil.

Following up her Griffes CD, Centaur Records will issue Liu's newest recording – solo and chamber works by Amy Beach – in 2019.

Concert

The Library of Congress Recital

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=apYP3qnSoZg>

Review

The Washington Classical Review

<http://washingtonclassicalreview.com/2017/11/05/pianist-liu-offers-a-thoughtful-program-of-american-music-with-a-lost-work-rediscovered/>

Website for other Performances, Reviews and Sample Programs

www.solungga.com

Contact: Gregory Mertl

Email: fourglimpsesmusic2@gmail.com