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# FREDERIC CHIU

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*"Chiu is a stunningly virtuosic pianist with a dynamic range that almost defies the capabilities of modern recording techniques..."*

*– BBC Music Magazine*

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## Piano Music of Claude Debussy and Gao Ping

Claude Debussy	Gao Ping
Images Book I (1904) Reflets dans l'eau Hommage à Rameau Mouvement	Distant Voices (1999)  Nostalgia Love Song of Kangdin Blue Flower
Estampes (1903) Pagodes Jardins sous la pluie	Concealed kisses for Vocalizing Pianist (2006)
Images Book II (1907) Cloches à travers les feuilles ...et la lune descend sur le temple qui fut Poissons d'or	Two Soviet love songs for Vocalizing Pianist (2003)  Evenings in Suburban Moscow Katyusha, Homage to D. Shostakovich
Clair de Lune Rêverie	

Discovering Debussy was a revelation to me, that went beyond the music itself, into the listening experience.

Gao Ping, one of the most important Chinese composers today, clearly shows his admiration for the music of Debussy. *Distant Voices* works with Chinese folk music, but Gao Ping's treatment qualifies this to be called Images Books 3. When I heard Gao Ping perform the pieces for Vocalizing Pianist the first time, I began to pay attention to the entire performance; the groaning, the foot stomps are all part of our sonic world, and push us to open up our listening. Gao Ping is the natural complement to Debussy – he makes us "Listen More."



Shin Joong Kim, photo

*"Mister Chiu offers richly colored, fiery interpretations of both books of Debussy's 'Images,' the rippling figurations articulated with a crystalline touch. There are echoes of Debussy in 'Nostalgia,' 'Love Song of Kangdin' and the tumultuous 'Blue Flower' by Gao Ping. Inspired by the humming that accompanied some of Glenn Gould's performances, Mr. Ping decided to experiment with vocalization in his own piano works, the wry results of which can be heard in 'Concealed Kisses #1' and 'Katyusha: Homage to D. Shostakovich.' – New York Times*

# Frederic Chiu

## Classical Smackdown

2 Composers, 2 Styles, 1 Vote per audience member

Classical Smackdown gives the audience the opportunity to make a statement! They listen to two composers and mark their votes for their favorite. The pieces have been selected to make the choice very difficult!

By inviting the audience to delve deeper into the music through their personal involvement, Frederic Chiu continues his pioneering efforts to champion the piano recital as a special genre that gets people talking.

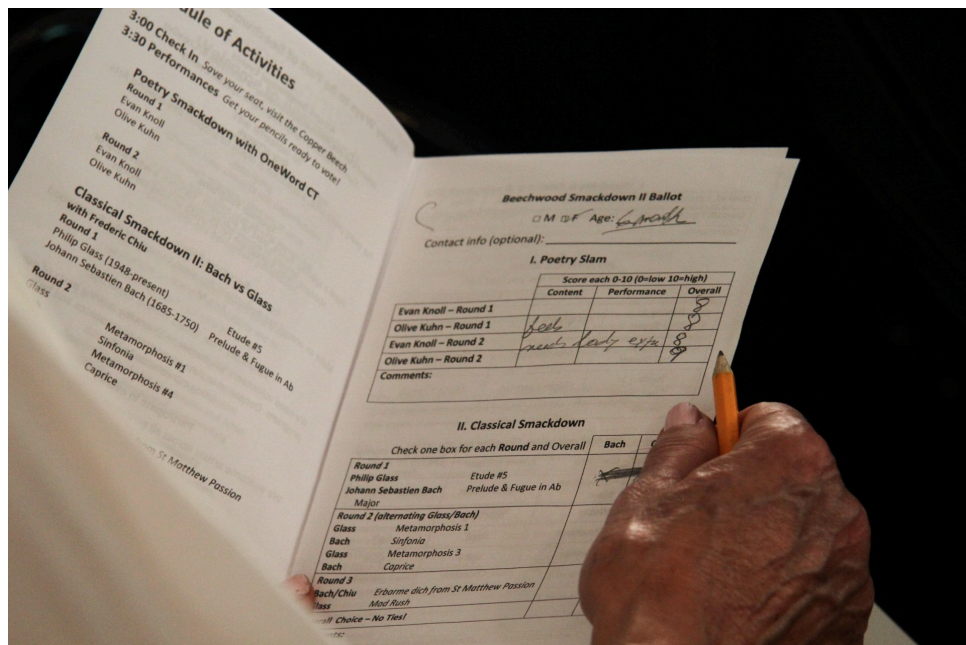
Read more at [www.ClassicalSmackdown.com](http://www.ClassicalSmackdown.com)

Audience  
Comments:

*"I would never have believe I loved Classical Music so much. Thank you for opening my eyes!"*

*"I came in ready to love Prokofiev, and then voted straight ticket for Debussy! Who would have thunk!"*

*"You revealed a depth and richness in Prokofiev's music that I didn't realize was there."*



The series includes three programs so far:

*Debussy v. Prokofiev / Bach v. Glass / Prodigy Mendelssohn v. Prodigy Chopin*

<u>Debussy v. Prokofiev</u>	<u>Bach v. Glass</u>
Round 1: Debussy Suite Bergamasque / Prokofiev Romeo & Juliet	Round 1: Bach Prelude and Fugue / Glass Etude
Round 2: Prokofiev Sonata #3 / Debussy L'isle Joyeuse	Round 2: Bach Partita #2 / Glass 5 Metamorphoses
Round 3: Prokofiev Sarcasm, Visions Fugitives, Suggestion diabolique / Debussy Cloches a travers les feuilles, Jardins sous la pluie	Round 3: Bach Erbarme dich from St Matthew Passion / Glass Mad Rush
Round 4 Debussy Reverie / Prokofiev Toccata	<u>Prodigy Mendelssohn v. Prodigy Chopin</u> Program TBD, inquire for details



# Frederic Chiu

## Portrait of Prokofiev

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Includes Unpublished works and Transcriptions

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Frederic Chiu has recorded the most extensive collection of the complete piano works of Prokofiev. His reputation as one of the world's experts on this music was created with his first recording of the complete Sonatas in 1993. His long study of the works, along with his personal friendship with the Prokofiev family, has brought a unique and deep insight into the meaning behind the virtuosity and steely demeanor one usually associates with Prokofiev's music. A reference, and a revelation.



Chris Craymer, photo

*Complete Piano Works in 10 volumes (Harmonia Mundi)*

*"Finally, I've heard a pianist who plays like my father used to play." – Oleg Prokofiev, son of the composer*

*"Excellent Concerto #1 – Bravo!" – Serge Prokofiev, grandson of the composer*

*"Indeed, much as I've admired the earlier installments of this series, nothing in them quite prepared me for the level of invention in his iconoclastic Visions fugitives. A winner." - Fanfare*

*"\* \* \* \* - Chiu's playing is remarkable not only for its dazzling pianism but for the independent and penetrating quality of the mind behind it, though there's nothing arid or "intellectual" about it. Indeed, its sense of spontaneity is often incandescent. This is a man who knows exactly where he's going – and more to the point, where the music is going. The pianism is both breathtaking and extraordinarily subtle, the rhythms buoyant, driving and caressing by turns, but ultimately it's the particular blend of characterization and structure which lifts most of these performances so far out of the ordinary. The playing lacks nothing in the way of motoric excitement but in many ways it's far more sophisticated and refined than Prokofiev's own playing. " – BBC Music Magazine*

## The Evolution of Piano

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### The changing piano techniques across the centuries

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In the 300+ year history of the piano, composers and performers have approached the instrument in incredibly diverse ways. Frederic Chiu demonstrates the evolution of these techniques through the works of some key composers: Bach, Chopin, Debussy, Prokofiev and Beethoven.

Bach (1685-1750): Prelude and Fugue

Chopin (1810-1849): Etudes from Opus 10 and 25

Debussy (1862-1918): Images

Prokofiev (1891-1953): Lt Kije and Toccata

Beethoven (1770-1825)/Liszt (1811-1886) Symphony VII

“Frederic Chiu’s performance of Beethoven’s Symphony VII brought to life details that I rarely hear with a full orchestra. An eye-opening experience!”

*Maestro Gerard Schwarz*



Chris Craymer, photo



## Monument to Beethoven

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The monument to Beethoven is a giant bronze of Ludwig Van Beethoven, located on the Munsterplatz in the composer's home of Bonn. It was unveiled in 1845, in honor of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Beethoven.

A fundraising campaign, launched in the 1830s to create this monument, floundered for years. In the end, Liszt became the angel donor, investing the majority of the funds needed, through the proceeds of his recitals.

The effort may have failed to raise money but it inspired numerous musical compositions, most notably the Beethoven Symphony transcriptions of Liszt, as well as the Fantasy of Schumann, inspired by Clara and dedicated to Liszt. Two towering and contrasting monuments to the great musical genius.

Beethoven/Liszt Symphony V –  
Allegro con brio  
Andante con moto  
Scherzo: Allegro  
Allegro

Fantaisie – Robert Schumann  
Durchaus fantastisch und leidenschaftlich  
vorzutragen; Im Legenden-Ton  
Massig. Durchaus energisch  
Langsam getragen. Durchweg leise zu halten.

"The Schumann Fantasie is a work requiring extraordinary technical facility, featuring as it does extremes in dynamics and passages both of poetic eloquence and hair-raising climaxes. Chiu's performance was exemplary, properly flamboyant in moments and introspective in total. Liszt, to transfer the Fifth Symphony from an orchestral score to one for piano, tore down the composition to its essentials and then rebuilt it note for note, substituting piano keys for what had been fodder for a stage-filling ensemble of instruments and instrumentalists. Chiu miraculously voiced every note, stroking and pounding the keyboard with amazing clarity, sensitivity to musical weights and measures, and expressive gusto. It was a feat to remember." – Peter Jacobi, Herald-Times



Chris Craymer, photo

## Carnival of the Animals

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Family program, with David Gonzalez, storyteller

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Saint-Saëns' all-time favorite was banned from publication during his lifetime because he was afraid it would become too popular and overshadow his other work. He was right! The work instantly became a classic.

Frederic Chiu and David Gonzalez, storyteller extraordinaire, bring a modern twist to this classic, with new poetry by Gonzalez and a solo piano version of the orchestral work. Gonzalez' poems bring a modern day, hip-hop, philosophic perspective to the collection of animals. And Chiu's virtuosity and engaging coloring guarantees that no one misses the original orchestral version.

LE LION – Lion  
LES POULES ET COQS – Hens and Roosters  
LES HEMIONES – Wild Horses from Tibet  
LES TORTUES – Tortoises  
L'ELEPHANT – Elephant  
LE KANGOUROU – Kangaroo  
L'AQUARIUM – Aquarium  
LES PERSONNAGES A LONGUES OREILLES –  
    Characters with Long Ears  
LE COUCOU – Cuckoo bird  
LA VOLIERE – Aviary  
LES PIANISTES – Pianists  
LES FOSSILES – Fossils  
LE CYGNE – Swan  
FINALE

Study Guide available for  
Educational Audiences



## Hymns & Dervishes

Gurdjieff / De Hartmann

### FREDERIC CHIU: HYMNS & DERVISHES BRIDGES CLASSICAL, NEW AGE AND WORLD MUSIC UNIVERSES

*Frederic Chiu has produced a unique aural experience, blending music inspired by ancient Middle-Eastern and Western traditions and composed in a unique collaboration between mystic philosopher Georgi Gurdjieff and Russian composer Thomas De Hartmann.*



*In this recording the piano has been tuned to many different scales based on Middle-Eastern traditions, with each piece tuned differently than its neighbors, creating a musical effect unexpected on the piano.*

*"A Tour de Force."*

*– Daniel Wakin, New York Times*

Details and videos at [www.HymnsandDervishesCD.com](http://www.HymnsandDervishesCD.com)  
Live performance recorded at LACMA at [this link](#).

Sayyid Chant (#15)  
Hymns of a great temple #2 – Lento  
Bayaty (#35)  
Hymn #3 – Lento  
Sayyid Chant and Dance (#8)  
Hymn #4 – Larghetto  
Sayyid Chant and Dance (#42) – Moderato  
Hymn #1 – Lento  
Dervish Chant and Dance (#7) – Andante con moto  
Hymn #5 – Andante cantabile  
Dance (#24)  
Hymn #7 – Rythme oriental  
Sayyid Chant and Dance (#3)  
Hymn #6 – Allegretto con moto  
Sayyid Chant and Dance (#23) – Liberamente  
Hymn #8 – En Contrepoint de rythme  
Sayyid Chant and Dance (#29)  
Hymn #9 – Pesante e molto largo  
Sayyid Chant and Dance (#10) – Andante e Molto cantabile ed espressivo  
Bach/Chiu *Erbarme dich* from St Matthew Passion

## Deeper Piano Studies Workshops and Masterclasses

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Frederic Chiu created the Deeper Piano Studies workshop series in 2000, which has seen the passage of hundreds of professional pianists through this unique, holistic approach to piano playing. The focus on Heart/Mind/Body encourages pianists in the use of unusual techniques, such as cooking, meditation and learning without practicing. This workshop series has been offered to finalists of the American Pianist Association auditions, as well as the Utrecht International Liszt Competition. A documentary tracing the development of one of his DPS workshop groups is available on YouTube.



Frederic Chiu's masterclasses are also highly sought after in major music schools, including the Jacobs School at Indiana University, The Juilliard School, The New England Conservatory, The Banff Center, and all the major conservatories in China and South Korea. He has presented seminars at numerous MTNA conferences, the NCKP and MTAC conferences, and has been the featured presenter at many state MTA conferences. His masterclass topics range from Prokofiev to Debussy, from undiscovered piano pedaling techniques to topics developed from his DPS workshops: Learning without Practicing, Stage Fright and Emotional Practicing.

## Deeper Piano Studies Workshops

[www.fredericchiu.com/DeeperPianoStudies](http://www.fredericchiu.com/DeeperPianoStudies)



## Biography



### Concerts

- Has performed on 5 continents, 34 countries, all 50 States, in major venues such as Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center, The Châtelet in Paris, the Mozarteum in Buenos Aires.
- Partners regularly with Classical music friends Joshua Bell, Pierre Amoyal, St. Lawrence String Quartet, as well as non-Classical friends like jazz pianist Bob James, writer/storyteller David Gonzalez, actress Marie Christine Barrault, and the clown Buffo.
- Worked with conductors John Nelson, Stefan Sanderling, Rodolfo Fischer, Susan Haig, Bernhard Klee, Xian Zhang and Alexander Titov.

### Programs

- His programs include the Classical Smackdown series, Distant Voices, Monument to Beethoven, Carnival of the Animals and a Prokofiev Portrait, among others.

### Recordings

- His 27 recordings include the most extensive complete piano works of Prokofiev, and works of Chopin, Liszt, Ravel, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Rossini, Grieg, Debussy and Gurdjieff/De Hartmann.
- He is the first Classical pianist to record for Yamaha Entertainment Group.
- He is a regular on St Paul Sunday and Performance Today.

### Teaching

- Chiu's unique teaching program is called Deeper Piano Studies, a series of workshops that take professional pianists through a philosophic and holistic approach to piano playing.
- DPS has been presented at the Juilliard School, Indiana University's Jacob School of Music, the Manhattan School of Music, the New England Conservatory, the Banff Centre and most of the National Conservatories in China.
- His masterclasses present topics such as Emotional Practicing, Learning without practicing, Stage Fright, Undiscovered Pedal Techniques, and thematic programs on Prokofiev and Debussy, among others.

### Other

- He is co-founder and director of Beechwood Arts and Innovation in Connecticut, focused on the crossroads between art, innovation and transformation.
- His efforts to promote music coincide with his desire to foster peace and understanding, recently recognized by a Senatorial Commendation from the United States Congress.
- He has been a Yamaha artist for 27 years, and is the first Classical pianist to record for Yamaha Entertainment Group.

## In The Media

"Chiu is a stunningly virtuosic pianist with a dynamic range that almost defies the capabilities of modern recording techniques...Chiu's playing is remarkable not only for its dazzling pianism but for the independent and penetrating quality of the mind behind it, though there's nothing arid or "intellectual" about it. Indeed, its sense of spontaneity is often incandescent...The display of sustained pianistic brilliance explains not only why many performers avoid these pieces, but also why they are perfect material for this remarkable, thinking virtuoso." Reflections: Ravel, Decaux, Schoenberg – **BBC Music Magazine**

"This CD is the best of its kind in the repertoire... This is simply playing on an exalted level." Prokofiev Complete Piano Works Volume 6 – **Fanfare**

"Chiu seemed to brush aside the piece's myriad technical demands, while delivering bewitching musical imagery that fired our collective imagination. I wonder if I've ever heard this music with such an infinitely varied array of tonal effects—even in the most delicate quiet passages." – **Lindsay Koob, Charleston Today**

"I cannot imagine more effective advocacy for any of these works. Chiu makes his enthusiasm for them brilliantly evident in his absolutely wonderful playing, which is instinctively elegant, charged with exhilarating vitality and at the same time unfailingly tasteful. This is the way to play this music. Best of the Year"  
Mendelssohn Sonatas - **Stereo Review**

"For the first time, I didn't feel "What are these doing, when I can listen to them being sung?" In the case of one or two of them I might even say that I was more moved than I ever have been listening to them being sung." Schubert/Liszt Schwanengesang – **Classic CD**

# Frederic Chiu

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[www.HymnsandDervishesCD.com](http://www.HymnsandDervishesCD.com)

[www.ClassicalSmackdown.com](http://www.ClassicalSmackdown.com)

Videos at Frederic Chiu's Youtube Channel <http://youtube.com/user/fredericch>

## Biography

Frederic Chiu performs in major venues on five continents, such as Lincoln Center in New York, the Kennedy Center in Washington, The Chatelet in Paris, or the Mozarteum in Buenos Aires, as well as touring extensively in smaller and unusual venues. He collaborates with Classical music friends Joshua Bell, Pierre Amoyal, Gary Hoffman and the St Lawrence String Quartet, as well as non-Classical friends like jazz pianist Bob James, writer/storyteller David Gonzalez, Shakespearean actor Brian Bedford, and the clown Buffo, trying to bring the vivid live concert experience to as many people as possible. He has worked with conductors such as John Nelson, Stefan Sanderling, Rodolfo Fischer, Susan Haig, Bernhard Klee, Xian Zhang and Alexander Titov.



In addition to his usual recital programs, Frederic Chiu also presents “Classical Smackdown”, a multi-year series where composers face off in head-to-head comparisons, with listeners voting for their favorite composer. After his first successful Smackdown between Debussy and Prokofiev, he debuted Bach vs. Philip Glass in 2014, with results tracked at [ClassicalSmackdown.com](http://ClassicalSmackdown.com).

Frederic Chiu has released over 27 recordings, including the most extensive complete piano works of Prokofiev, and works of Chopin, Liszt, Ravel, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Rossini and Grieg, as well as the Beethoven/Liszt Symphony V and the solo piano version of Carnival of the Animals. His latest projects include “Hymns and Dervishes,” music of Gurdjieff/de Hartmann, and Distant Voices: Piano music of Claude Debussy & Gao Ping. He is a regular on St. Paul Sunday and Performance Today, and a favorite of public radios across the country.

Chiu's teaching program Deeper Piano Studies – a philosophic and holistic approach to piano playing – has been presented at the Juilliard School, Indiana University's Jacob School of Music, the Manhattan School of Music, the New England Conservatory, the Banff Centre and most of the National Conservatories in China.

He is also co-founder and director of Beechwood Arts and Innovation in Connecticut, focused on the crossroads between art, innovation and transformation. His efforts to promote music coincide with his desire to foster peace and understanding, recently recognized by a Senatorial Commendation from the United States Congress. He has been a Yamaha artist for 27 years.