

JOEL FAN

“IMPRESSIVE
PIANIST”

– Anthony Tommasini, *The New York Times*



CRITICAL ACCLAIM

The New York Times

“Mr. Fan has a powerful touch and a big sound... his playing was the picture of textural clarity...with the sparkle and rhythmic suppleness of a jazz improviser.”

The Washington Post

“Nothing in these daunting scores – the Carter most punishing of all – ruffled Fan’s commanding technique, and he deserves special praise for the spontaneity, wit and emotional urgency he drew from music that in other hands might sound merely thorny.”

The Boston Globe

“Fan played with eloquence and sensitivity, phrasing lines in a natural, unhurried way.”

THE DAILY GAZETTE

“Beethoven’s Triple Concerto with soloists Yo-Yo Ma, Jonathan Gandelman and Joel Fan was a delight. Fan was exceptional. His technique was exact; his touch was feathery light. His articulations were remarkably consistent.”

SAN FRANCISCO CLASSICAL VOICE

“Appearing in an unusual and memorable San Francisco recital debut, Joel Fan unveiled a well-developed musical personality, one built around intelligent eclecticism, a strong and versatile interpretive sense, and commanding technique that serves the music and avoids self-importance.”

METROPULSE

“Pianist Joel Fan joined the orchestra on the second half of the program for Sergei Rachmaninoff’s Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini. Fan navigated the virtuosic minefield with daring, grace, and wonderful technique, without over-emotionalizing those melodic passages that have become synonymous with Rachmaninoff’s 20th-century romanticism. Fan is also a master of rhythm as a storyteller as was evidenced by his encore piece, Piazzolla’s “Flora’s Game,” the second of the 3 Preludes for Piano.”

CONNECTICUT POST

“‘Phenomenal’ says conductor Gustav Meier of Fan’s performance. ‘I heard him perform the Brahms Piano Concerto No. 2, a very challenging piece. He had total control and performed with such ease. He is a rare find.’”

ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL

“Joel Fan is precisely the kind of performer needed to keep the classical music scene alive and vibrant. Not only immensely talented, he is a bundle of infectious energy that cannot help but catch his audience in the net of his enthusiasm.”

MILWAUKEE - WISCONSIN JOURNAL SENTINEL

“Seven Last Words suddenly came to feel dramatically and emotionally satisfying. Surely, that had something to do with the fiercely committed, commanding performance of soloist Joel Fan.”

The Boston Musical Intelligencer

“We’ve heard many of the great pianists...Fan belongs in the company of the best.”

BIOGRAPHY

Pianist Joel Fan is acclaimed as “soaring” (*Los Angeles Times*), “fantastic” (*Washington Post*), and possessing a “probing intellect and vivid imagination” (*New York Times*). Celebrated for his exuberant virtuosity, and a bold repertoire that embraces piano classics and inspired discoveries of contemporary and world music, Fan re-invents the piano recital by illuminating the rare and unexpected - creating, in the words of the *Baltimore Sun*’s critic Tim Smith, “one of the most satisfying piano performances I’ve heard.”

Joel Fan’s discography illustrates Fan’s highly creative musical persona. Following his work on *Leon Kirchner: Revelations* – critic Anthony Tommasini of *The New York Times* proclaimed Fan as an “impressive pianist.” Of Fan’s recital disc, *West of the Sun*, the *Toronto Star* stated, “Fan offers nine stunningly brilliant renditions drawn from a wide range of styles and sources... Capping it all off is an arresting interpretation of Samuel Barber’s fearsome 1949 Piano Sonata. Wow.” Fan’s solo CD *World Keys* contains five world premiere recording tracks – creating a “deeper, more rewarding experience” (*Minnesota Public Radio*) - and reaching #3 on Billboard’s Classical Chart.

As a concerto soloist, Fan has performed over 40 different concertos with orchestras worldwide, including the New York Philharmonic, the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, the Odessa Philharmonic, Singapore Symphony, and London Sinfonietta, with conductors such as David Zinman, Zubin Mehta, Alan Gilbert, and David Robertson. According to the *Boston Music-Intelligencer*: “We’ve heard many of the great pianists... Fan belongs in the company of the best.”

As a recitalist, Joel Fan has found an enthusiastic following on numerous stages ranging from the Ravinia Festival in Chicago, Jordan Hall in Boston, Calgary Celebrity Series, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC, to the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C. Internationally, Fan has performed recitals on four continents - most recently in tours of China, Cuba and South America. Along with his innovative programming, Fan delivers Mozart with “eloquence and sensitivity” (*Boston Globe*), and brings “a steely power and feather-light touch to Prokofiev.. and red-blooded Romantic gestures in Kirchner’s sonata” (*New York Times*). “He deserves special praise for the spontaneity, wit, and emotional urgency he drew from the music” of Bolcom and Carter (*Washington Post*).

As a “champion of new music” (*Boston Globe*), Joel Fan is also recognized for his work with cellist Yo-Yo Ma as a member of the Silk Road Ensemble, appearing at Carnegie Hall and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C., and on the television programs Good Morning America and Late Night with David Letterman. Fan has also collaborated with numerous leading ensembles, including the Shanghai Quartet, Orion Quartet, Imani Winds, and A Far Cry chamber orchestra.

Joel Fan’s latest album, *Dances for Piano and Orchestra*, presents another turn in Fan’s original approach to repertoire. The disc is a wide-ranging journey focusing on the intersection of music and dance, with rarely heard compositions by Chopin, Saint-Saëns, Pierné, Weber-Liszt, Gottschalk, and culminating in a world premiere recording of Charles Cadman’s *Dark Dancers of the Mardi Gras*.

Joel Fan was born in New York City to Taiwanese parents, began early musical studies at the Juilliard School, earned his undergraduate degree from Harvard University, and a Master of Music degree in piano performance from the Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University. He attended the Tanglewood Music Center and the Steans Institute at the Ravinia Festival. Fan is a prize winner of several international competitions, including the Busoni International Piano Competition in Italy. He was also the winner of the Kosciuzko Foundation’s Chopin Prize, and named a Presidential Scholar by the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts. Fan studied with the composer Leon Kirchner and the pianist Leon Fleisher.

Joel Fan has recorded for Reference Recordings, Sony Classical, Verdant World Records, and Albany Records. He is a Steinway Artist.

REPERTOIRE

Concerto Repertoire

Bach: D minor Concerto BWV1052, A major BWV1055
Beethoven: 5 Concertos, Triple Concerto
Bernstein: Symphony No. 2 "Age of Anxiety"
Brahms: Concerto No. 1 D minor, Concerto No. 2 in B-flat
Chopin: Concerto No. 1 in E minor, Concerto No. 2 in F
minor, Krakowiak Op. 14
Gershwin: Concerto in F, Rhapsody in Blue
Ginastera: Concerto No. 1
Gould, Morton: Interplay
Grieg: Concerto
Haydn: D major Concerto
Hagen, Daron Aric: Seven Last Words (for Left hand)
Leon Kirchner: Concerto No. 1
Lutoslawski: Piano Concerto
Mendelssohn: Concerto No. 1 in G minor
Messiaen: Couleurs de la Cite Celeste, Turangalila Symphony
Mozart: Concertos K. 271, 413, 414, 415, 453, 467, 488, 491, 595
Liszt: Concerto No. 1 in E-flat, No. 2 in A major
Prokofiev: Concerto No. 1, Concerto No. 2, Concerto No. 3
Rachmaninov: Concerto No. 2, Concerto No. 3, Paganini
Rhapsody
Ravel: Concerto for Left Hand, Concerto in G Major
Saint-Saens: Concerto No. 2 , Wedding Cake
Schumann: Concerto
Sheng: Red Silk Dance
Shostakovich: Concerto No. 1
Szymanowski: Symphony-Concertante #4
Tchaikovsky: Concerto No. 1
Villa-Lobos: Piano Concerto No.1

SAMPLE RECITALS

Program #1: American Kaleidoscope

Bolcom: Nine New Bagatelles
Kirchner: Piano Sonata No. 3 "The Forbidden"
Bermel: Funk Studies
Carter: Piano Sonata

Program #2: World Keys

Saygun: Sketch on Aksak Rhythm (Turkey)
Prokofiev: Sonata No. 3 in A Minor
Succari: La Nuit du Destin (Syria)
Chen: Instants d'un Opéra de Pékin (China)
Beethoven: Sonatas Op. 110, 109 or 101
Villa-Lobos: Alma Brasileira (Brazil)
Bonds: Troubled Water (USA)
Chopin: Sonatas No. 2 or No. 3
Liszt: "Rigoletto" Paraphrase

Program #3: Ginastera and Liszt

Ginastera: Sonata No. 1
Ginastera: Danzas Argentinas
Jianzhong Wang: Plum Flower, Liuyang River
Liszt: Sonata

Program #4: Monster Sonatas

Beethoven: Sonata Op. 106 ("Hammerklavier")
Scriabin: Sonata No. 5, Op. 53
Rachmaninov: Sonata No. 2, Op. 36

Program #5: Wagner Re-Imagined

Wagner: Overture to die Meistersinger
Wagner: Sonata in A Major
Chopin: Polonaise-Fantaisie Op. 61
Brahms: Klavierstucke Op. 118
Liszt: Mephisto Waltz No. 1

DISCOGRAPHY



DANCES FOR PIANO AND ORCHESTRA

“Does more than just show off Fan’s brilliance at the keyboard - it spins the virtuoso Romantic piano genre into something much wider and deeper.” - *The News Tribune*

Works include Chopin, Pierné, Weber-Liszt, Saint-Saëns, Gótschalk, Cadman (world premiere recording)



LEON KIRCHNER: 'REVELATIONS'

“Important recording of diverse works - the music is alluring, pungent and intelligent” - *The New York Times*

Works include Little Suite (1949), Sonata No. 3 “The Forbidden”, and Dawn (world premiere recording)



WORLD KEYS

“Joel Fan takes you inside the music, offering a deeper, more rewarding experience.” - *Minnesota Public Radio*

Works include Prokofiev Sonata No. 3, Schumann Sonata No. 2, Succari, Qigang Chen, Bolcom, Liszt

5 world premiere recordings

#3 on Billboard Classical Chart



WEST OF THE SUN

“A well performed and diverse disc that brilliantly demonstrates Fan’s versatility.” - *Gramophone*

Works include Barber Sonata, Ginastera Sonata No. 1, Piazzolla, Nazareth, Beach, Bolcom (world premiere recording)

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“FANTASTIC”

– Washington Post