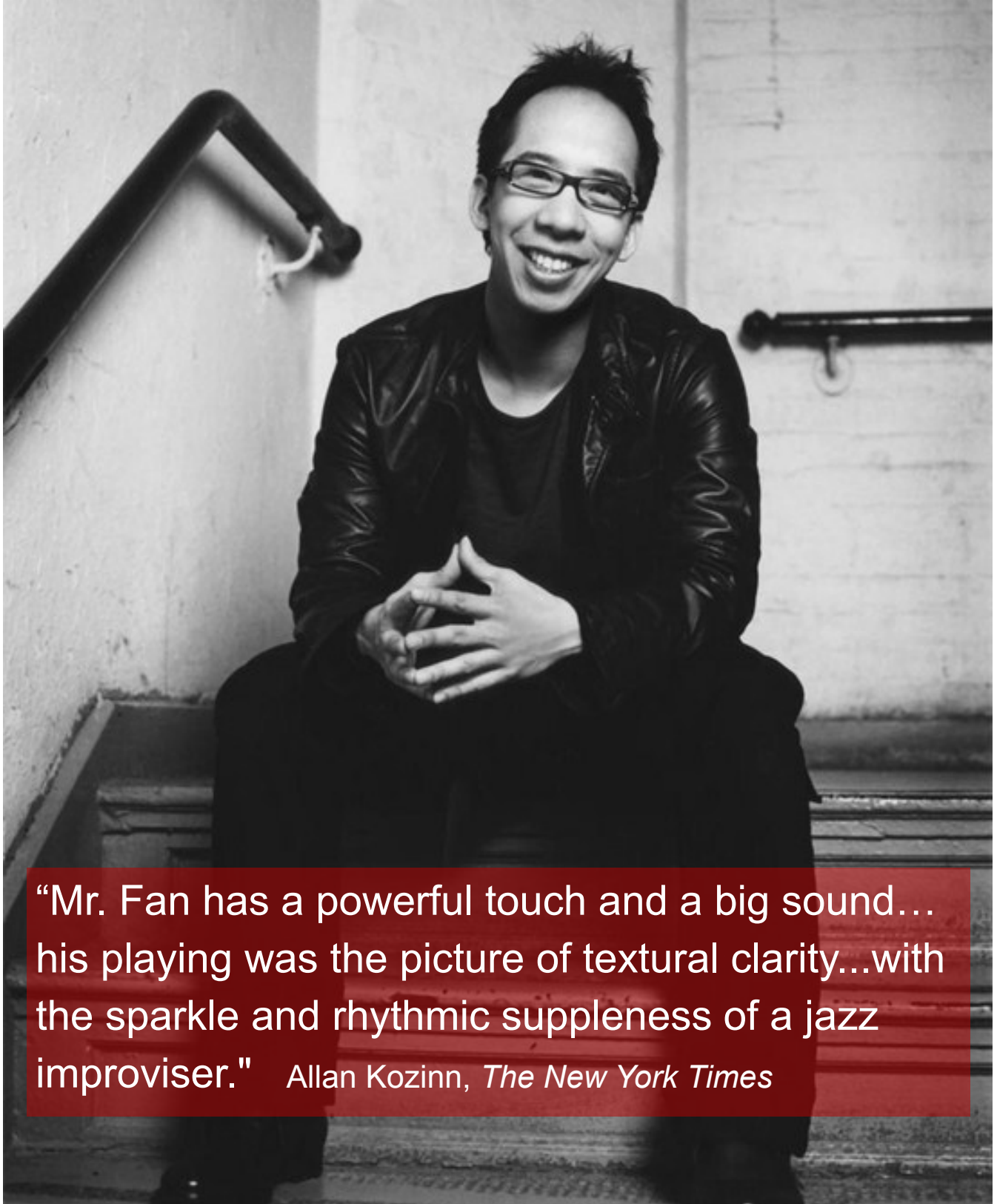


JOEL FAN



“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.” Allan Kozinn, *The New York Times*

HIGHLIGHTS OF CRITICAL ACCLAIM

“Pianist Joel Fan joined the orchestra on the second half of the program for Sergei Rachmaninoff’s Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini. Like many of his other works, Rachmaninoff wrote the set of variations to highlight his own skills as a piano soloist—he was the pianist for its premiere with the Philadelphia Orchestra in 1934. 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*.”

Alan Sherrod, Metro Pulse

“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.”

San Francisco Classical Voice

“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..”

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

“‘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.’”

Connecticut Post

“Beethoven’s Triple Concerto with soloists Yo-Yo Ma, Jonathan Gandelman and Joel Fan was a delight. Rarely have three soloists been so well matched in parts that were written with such equal levels of challenge. Fan was exceptional. His technique was exact; his touch was feathery light. His articulations were remarkably consistent.”

The Daily Gazette, Albany

“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. He established an immediate rapport with verbal comments preceding nearly every piece, conveying not only the nature of each work, but his understanding of its interpretation.”

Albuquerque Journal

“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.”

Joe Banno, Washington Post

BIOGRAPHY

From recitals at Ravinia Festival in Chicago, Jordan Hall in Boston, the Metropolitan Museum of Arts in NYC and The National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C., to the University of Calgary Celebrity Series, and performances with the chamber orchestra, *A Far Cry*, performing Mozart at the Gardner Museum in Boston, the Newman Center in Denver and the Vilar Center in Beaver Creek, Colorado, Joel has found an enthusiastic following that landed his first CD at No. 3 on the Billboard Classical Chart. Joel's past appearances also include performances with Yo-Yo Ma with the New York Philharmonic, The Boston Symphony Orchestra, as well as performances with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, The New Hampshire Festival Orchestra, and the Singapore Philharmonic. He has worked with conductors such as Alan Gilbert, Zubin Mehta, David Alan Miller, Gustav Meier, and David Robertson, all the while traversing an ever-expanding repertoire of piano music. Playing composers such as Olivier Messiaen, Leon Kirchner, William Bolcom, Derek Bermel, Eliot Carter, Alexander Scriabin, Mozart, Beethoven, Gershwin and Rachmaninoff, and bringing to the fore music of the East and South America, Fan has been hailed by critics as having "uncanny technical skill..." (*Washington Post*) and as possessing playing that is "the picture of textural clarity," and a "probing intellect and vivid imagination," (*New York Times*).

Joel is now moving forward with an even more assertive path towards commissioning younger composers who are on the rise and creating programs that reflect a pianist who "takes you inside the music offering a deeper, more rewarding experience..." (*Minnesota Public Radio*). With two impressive CDs, Joel has established himself as a seeker of unusual works and the way they intermingle with classic standards of the past. *World-Keys*, is an album featuring five world premiere recordings, ten composers from ten different countries including Peteris Vasks, Dia Succari, Qigang Chen, Adnan Saygun, as well as Prokofiev, Liszt, and Schumann, and *West of The Sun*, displays his "spice and pizzazz ..." with readings of Barber, Bolcom, Ginastera, Gottschalk, Piazzolla and Villa-Lobos and two little-known works by Amy Beach and the African-American composer Margaret Bonds.

In collaboration with cellist Yo-Yo Ma as a member of the Silk Road Ensemble, Joel has appeared in numerous venues such as Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, and on the popular nationally televised programs *Good Morning America* and *Late Night with David Letterman*. He also shared the stage with Mr. Ma for performances of Beethoven's *Triple Concerto* with the New York Philharmonic under the baton of David Zinman. Mr. Fan has appeared as soloist with numerous orchestras throughout the world, including the New York Philharmonic, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, London Sinfonietta, Singapore Symphony, New Symphony Orchestra of Bulgaria, and Odessa Philharmonic, among others.

As a "champion of new music" (*Boston Globe*), Mr. Fan commissioned, performed and recorded the world premiere of Leon Kirchner's Sonata No. 3, "The Forbidden." His album *West of the Sun* includes the world premiere recording of William Bolcom's "Nine New Bagatelles." He is active as a chamber musician as well having played with The Shanghai String Quartet, The Enso String Quartet and the Imani Winds. Joel Fan began his performing career with the New York Philharmonic at age 11, as a winner of the Philharmonic's Young People's Concert Auditions. A native New Yorker, he studied at the Juilliard Pre-College Division as a student of Katherine Parker and Martin Canin. He received his bachelor's degree from Harvard University, where his teachers included the composer Leon Kirchner. He holds a Master of Music Degree in Piano Performance from the Peabody Conservatory, where he studied with Leon Fleisher. He is also 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. Joel Fan is a Steinway Artist.

CONCERT THEMES & REPERTOIRE

Joel's exploration of world and ethnic music on solo piano, from diverse places such as Syria, Turkey, Latvia, China, Japan, India, Africa, Australia, and Brazil.

New Concerto Project (with orchestra)

These are unique, contemporary concerto masterpieces that deserve to be performed more often.

- ◆ Daron Aric Hagen Left Hand Concerto
- ◆ Messaien Couleurs de la Cite Celeste
- ◆ Messaien Turangalila
- ◆ Bright Sheng Red Silk Dance
- ◆ Bright Sheng Song and Dance of Tears (with sheng, pipa and cello)

Transcriptions and Cadenzas

Joel's solo transcriptions of works such as:

- ◆ Rachmaninoff Cello Sonata (slow movement)
- ◆ Cadenza to Mozart Concerto K.595 and K.467

Sample Programs

Program #1

Bolcom: "Nine New Bagatelles"

Kirchner: Piano Sonata No. 3 "The Forbidden"

Bermel: "Funk Studies"

Carter: Piano Sonata

Program #2

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

Nazareth: Vem ca Branquinha (Brazil)

Villa-Lobos: Alma Brasileira (Brazil)

Bonds: Troubled Water (USA)

Bolcom: "Nine New Bagatelles"

Succari: La Nuit du Destin (Syria)

Ginastera: Sonata No. 1

Piazzolla: "Flora's Game" (Milonga Prelude)



Program #4 "Three Great Sonatas"
Beethoven Sonata Op. 106 ("Hammerklavier")
-- **Intermission** --
Scriabin Sonata No. 5, Op. 53
Rachmaninoff Sonata No. 2, Op. 36

Program #5 "My Favorite Chopin Masterpieces"
Chopin Preludes (selected)
Chopin Ballade No. 1 in G minor , Op. 23
Chopin Nocturne Op. 27 No.1 and No. 2
Chopin Polonaise-Fantaisie
Chopin Ballade No. 4 in F minor , Op. 52
--- **Intermission** ---
Chopin Sonata No. 2 in B-Flat Minor, Op. 35 ("Funeral March")

SAMPLE RECORDINGS



WORLD KEYS

Virtuoso Piano Music

Reference Recordings

Joel Fan, Piano

Works by SAYGUN, PROKOFIEV,
SUCCARI, EL-DABH, CHEN, LISZT

#3 on Billboard Classical Chart



WEST OF THE SUN

Music Of The Americas

Reference Recordings

Joel Fan, Piano

Works by GINASTERA & BARBER, GOT-
TSCHALK, PIAZZOLLA & VILLA-LOBO

#3 on Billboard Classical Chart

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