

Ms. Joanne Chang Chew Ann

Indiana University Jacobs School of Music (USA)

Biography

Described for her captivating and poetic musical interpretations, Malaysian pianist, Joanne Chang Chew Ann has performed and taught internationally in Asia, North America, and Europe. Joanne has been featured on WQXR's Young Artist Showcase (New York), WFMT's Fiesta Latin America (Chicago), International Menuhin Music Academy (Switzerland), BFM's Front Row Podcast (Kuala Lumpur), Indiana University's Latin American Music Center (Bloomington), Sphinx Connect (Detroit), and the National Youth Orchestra of China (Beijing), among others.

Recent success and upcoming projects include a US/Mexico recital tour and debut CD "Dialogos" (2018) featuring Mexican violin and piano music with violinist Alan Snow, lecture recital and paper publication at the 9th Hawaii University International Conference, and performances at North America, Hong Kong, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

As a pedagogue, Joanne is faculty member at the Indiana University Young Pianists Academy and Camp Encore/Coda (Maine). She also held teaching positions at Indiana University and Florida State University. At IU, Joanne also served as Associate Instructor in Piano and program assistant to the Secondary Piano and Accompanying Departments. Joanne is the founder of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Collegiate Chapter at IU, established in 2019.

An ABD doctoral candidate in Piano Performance and Literature at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, Joanne also holds Minors in Music Theory and Arts Administration. Joanne received a Master's degree in piano from Florida State University, and a Bachelor's degree in piano from Kent State University where she graduated summa cum laude, alongside an honors thesis written on French piano duet music. Joanne is currently working on a written project titled "Franz Liszt: The Bridge to Modernism."

Joanne's primary teachers are Karen Shaw, Read Gainsford, Jerry Wong, Patricia Lim, and additional studies with Menahem Pressler and Olga Sitkovetsky

Topic Presented

Chopin and Liszt: On Teaching the Art of Piano Playing

Abstract

After Beethoven, the Romantic period saw the popular growth of the piano as a solo instrument. The demand was significant: pianos became a staple in almost every household, manufacturers were in constant production, and the number of piano students grew tremendously. Many great compositions by Romantic composers remain standard repertoire for pianists today, yet, the names Frederic Chopin (1810 – 1849) and Franz Liszt (1811 – 1886) contributed more than just repertoire. Prodiges and teachers of the time, both masters left a legacy in the art of piano playing.

This presentation aims to discuss the significance of Chopin and Liszt's contribution in the art of piano playing through their varied teaching styles and development of piano repertoire and technique. Chopin favored private teaching, required no memorization, and "the poet of the piano" was known for his obsession in 'bel canto' singing lines and subtle blending of sonorities. Liszt, however, was pioneer of the piano masterclass and only taught in groups, championed score memorization, and famously known for pianistic virtuosity. This presentation will demonstrate Chopin and Liszt's similarities and differences in teaching philosophies, piano technique, repertoire choices, and style and interpretation. A short performance featuring repertoire selections from both composers will conclude this presentation.

Despite their differences, the legacy of Chopin and Liszt's teaching lineage continue till this day. In a nutshell, this presentation seeks to provide all pianists and teachers performance practice resources as we continue to study and teach works by these masters for the piano.