

## Program

Sonata in A Major, D. 959.....Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

I. Allegro

ELLEN LI, piano

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Winner, Van Waynen Performance Award

Romance in A Major, op. 23.....Amy Beach (1867-1944)

PHOEBE WU, violin

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Winner, Van Waynen Performance Award

VANESS YU, piano

Piano Sonata, op. 1.....Henri Dutilleux (1916-2013)

III. Choral et variations

JOHN GARO LONERGAN, piano

Marliave Prize Winner

-Intermission-

Am I In Your Light? From Dr. Atomic.....John Adams (b. 1947)

mother, from devoted.....Cecelia Olszewski (b. 2003)

ISABEL YANG, mezzo-soprano

Emerging Artists Grant Recipient

HYE YEONG MIN, piano

(Piano Club member)

Five Bagatelles (1994).....Carl Vine (b. 1954)

I. Darkly

II. Leggiero e legato

III. (Quarter note = 50)

IV. (Dotted quarter note = 120)

OLIVER CORRO, piano

Emerging Artists Grant Recipient

Sonata in F Major for Cello and Piano, op. 99....Johannes Brahms  
(1833-1897)

I. Allegro vivace

II. Adagio affettuoso

IV. Allegro molto

AYOUN ALEXANDRA KIM, cello

1<sup>st</sup> Prize Winner, Van Waynen Performance Award

ALISON LEE, piano

(Piano Club member, and former winner Van Waynen Competition)

## AYOUN ALEXANDRA KIM

First Prize Winner, Van Waynen Performance Award

Cellist AYOUN ALEXANDRA KIM, is a dynamic performer who excels in both chamber music and solo performance, with a strong commitment to community engagement. She has collaborated with acclaimed artists including Inon Barnatan and Julio Elizalde in SFCM's Chamber Music Tuesday series. Kim has earned recognition in competitions such as Yamaha Young Performing Artist, the Artist Presentation Society, and the Musicians Club of Women. She has appeared at festivals including Music@Menlo, Norfolk, Sarasota, Kneisel Hall, Verão Clássico and the Mozarteum Sommerakademie, working with renowned cellists such as Laurence Lesser, Steven Doane, Myung-Wha Chung, Frans Helmerson, Gary Hoffman and Maria Kliegel. A dedicated educator, she has served on the junior faculty of the Vivace! Foundation and as guest faculty at the Hawaii Chamber Music Festival. She performs regularly with the Ethea Trio. Kim holds degrees from The Julliard School and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

## ELLEN LI

Co-2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Winner, Van Waynen Performance Award

Pianist Ellen Li is a senior at Stanford University majoring in music with concentrations in piano performance and music history. She studies with Kumaran Arul. She has recently attended summer festivals at the Chautauqua Institute and the Brevard Music Center, and will be attending the Aspen Music Festival this summer. She is honored to have played in masterclasses for artists such as Richard Goode, Hélène Grimaud, Michelle Cann, Victor Rosenbaum, Ilana Vered, Vlada Vassilieva and Anatoly Zatin. She has won top prizes at the Pacific International Piano Competition, the Steinway Regional Piano Competition and the Outstanding Artist Competition. She has been invited to perform at venues such as Bin Concert Hall, Benaroya Hall and Meydenbauer Center Theatre. This fall, Ellen will be starting an MM in piano performance at USC Thornton School of Music.

## PHOEBE WU

Co-2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Winner, Van Waynen Performance Award

Violinist Phoebe Wu is an Economics and Music double major at UC Berkeley, studying with Professor Antoine van Dongen. Alongside her academics, she has cultivated a vibrant performance career in both solo and ensemble settings. Phoebe was a recipient of the UC Berkeley Concerto Competition and performed with the UC Berkeley Symphony Orchestra. She also served as concertmaster of the California Orchestra Institute and Principal Second Violin of the Taipei Philharmonic Youth Ensemble. Her recent accolades

include First Prize at the International Schubert Competition Vienna and the Roselyn Schneider Eisner Prize in Music. Phoebe's musical practice is rooted in community engagement and interdisciplinary exploration. Phoebe is the co-founder of Saplings of Music, an organization based in Taipei providing music education to children in underserved communities. In 2025, Phoebe launched Savoring the Score, an immersive performance experience that pairs live classical music with a tasting menu, centered on sensory narratives and interactive audience engagement.

## JOHN GARO LONERGAN

Marliave Prize Winner for best solo piano performance

Canadian-American pianist John Garo Lonergan is emerging as an increasingly prominent young artist. Since beginning his piano studies at age 6, he has appeared on stages across North America and Europe, with performances in Germany, Italy and Spain. John has participated in a number of respected international competitions, including the Weatherford College International Piano Competition, the Alicante International Piano Competition in Spain and the Canada International Artists Piano Competition. He was awarded first prize in the CAPMT Sonata Competition of 2023, as well as second prize in both the MTNA California Young Artist Competition and the MTAC Young Artist Colo Competition of 2020. John is currently pursuing postgraduate studies on scholarship at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music under the guidance of Jon Nakamatsu and Sharon Mann. He previously studied with Craig Richey at the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at CSU Long Beach, where he earned both a Bachelor of Music and Master of Music on full scholarship. Information about John's upcoming performances can be found at [johngaropiano.com](http://johngaropiano.com).

## OLIVER CORRO

Emerging Artist Grant Recipient

Pianist Oliver Corro began learning piano at the age of 3 with his mother and studied with John McCarthy since 2022. He currently studies with David Kaplan at UCLA's Herb Alpert School of Music. He has won first place in numerous competitions, including the Burlingame Music Competition, Sylvia M. Ghieglieri Piano Competition, Celia Mendez Beethoven Competition, East Bay Music Foundation Piano Competition, and the United States International Music Competition. He has received top prizes at the Arthur Fraser Piano Competition, San Francisco International Piano Competitions, the Henry and Carol Zeiter Piano Competition and the MTNA Colo Competition. He has also been named a recipient of the National Chopin Foundation Scholarship for 2025-2026. Oliver has performed as soloist with the Peninsula Symphony

and will be performing with the GSYO Senior Symphony in the 2025-2026 season. He has participated in summer festivals such as the Julliard Summer Piano, PianoTexas, the Southeastern Piano Festival and the Tanglewood Music Festival. He is fluent in Japanese and Spanish, and he also plays the guitar and violin. Outside of music he enjoys running and skateboarding with his siblings.

## ISABEL YANG

Emerging Artist Grant Recipient

Isabel Yang is a Chinese-American mezzo-soprano from San Francisco, California. Growing up, she sang in the San Francisco Girls chorus, which introduced her to opera and established her passion for new music. Yang is in her last year of under-graduate study with Professor Pamela Hinchman at Northwestern University. Notable roles with Northwestern Opera Theater include *Third Spirit/Die Zauberflöte* and *Nancy/Albert Herring*. In Summer 2025, Yang participated in the Grant Park Music Festival as their mezzo-soprano Vocal Fellow. She is a recipient of the Bienen Endowed Music Scholarship. This summer, she will sing *Le Prince/Cendrillon* with Miami Music Festival and conduct Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 4 and Brahms Symphony No. 1 at Maestro Masterclasses New York City workshop with Maestro Donald Schleicher.

Kitty's Aria from Act I, scene two  
Dr. Atomic, by John Adams

Am I in your light? Am I in your light? Am I in your light?  
No, go on reading  
(the hackneyed light of evening quarrelling with the bulbs;  
the book's bent rectangle solid on your knees)  
only my fingers in your hair, only, only,  
my eyes splitting the skull  
to tickle your brain in a slow caress  
blurring the mind,  
kissing your mouth awake  
op'ning the body's mouth  
stopping the words.

This light is thick with birds, and evening warns us,  
warns us beautif'ly of death.  
Slowly I bend over you,  
slowly, slowly your breath runs rhythms through my blood  
as if I said I love you and you should raise your head.  
I love you, as if I said I love you,  
as if I said I love, I love you,  
and you should raise your head.

listening, listening, speaking into the covert night:  
Did someone say something?  
Love, love, am I in your light? Am I in your light? Am I in your light?  
Am I?

See how love alters the living face  
go spin the immortal coin through time  
watch the thing flip through space  
tick tick  
tick tick  
tick tick  
tick tick

mother

from devoted  
By Cecelia Olszewski

Last night, I dreamed we sat at the kitchen table, my mother and I.  
The sea rose up through the open window, flooding the room.  
The blue seemed eternal.  
In my reflection were the lines of your face.

Last night, I dreamed, and I have tried.

Oh Mother, I know I'm often wrong.  
Will I feel like a girl all my life?  
Oh Mother, sing me a song,  
so I can fall asleep

Oh Mother, Oh Mother, Oh Mother,  
Why do you cry?

## WE HONOR OUR BENEFACTORS

### DOROTHY GALLATIN VAN WAYNEN (1911-1995)

Dorothy was a renowned Bay Area pianist and organist. She joined Berkeley Piano Club in 1955 and was a devoted member for 40 years. When she passed in 1995, she made a generous bequest to Berkeley Piano Club, which became the endowment for scholarships for gifted young Bay Area musicians. Prior to her gift, Berkeley Piano Club held a yearly Young Artists Competition, a piano competition held every other year interspersed in the alternate years with competitions for strings, winds or voice. From 1996, the competition became known as The Dorothy Van Waynen Young Artists Awards, then in 2000, simply The Dorothy Van Waynen Awards. Acknowledging that musicians who were not pianists often missed the age window in which they could seek the awards, in 2025, the competition was opened to all musicians and the scholarship re-titled the Van Waynen Performance Awards.

### DORIS MARLIAVE (1911-2011)

Doris was a pianist, a dedicated teacher, and a performing member of Berkeley Piano Club for 41 years. In 2013, to honor her memory and to establish her legacy, her children Richard, Carol, Hobart and Jeffrey made a generous endowment to Berkeley Piano Club to establish an award in her name. The Marliave Award acknowledges the best performance of a single piece by a pianist auditioning for the Van Waynen Performance Awards.

### BARBARA FRITZ (1921-2014)

A life-long resident of Berkeley, proud graduate of UC Berkeley (1943) and Berkeley Piano Club member for 65 years, concert singer and philanthropist Barbara Fritz supported the musical education of young people throughout her life. In 1993, Barbara made a generous gift to Berkeley Piano Club, half of which was used to establish and seed the Emerging Artists Fund. Emerging Artists awards are grants-in-aid made to young artists to fill specific needs related to the pursuit of their careers.