



For Immediate Release:

PSU Steinway Piano Series Showcases Far-Reaching Talent

"one of the secretly best concert series in Portland... an impressive array of some of the best pianists alive"

- Oregon ArtsWatch

PORTLAND, OR (March 7, 2023): The PSU Steinway Piano Series is proud to announce its 2023 residencies, featuring the legendary Scottish pedagogue, soloist and recording artist Murray McLachlan this spring, and the "adventurous and passionate" (*The New Yorker*) Ukrainian-born pianist Inna Faliks this fall. Together, these two artists represent a diverse cross-section of piano expertise, entrepreneurship, and contribution to the field that is nothing short of inspirational.



The PSU Steinway Piano Series thrives under the direction of its founder, Susan Chan. A phenomenal talent in her own right, Chan attracts a diverse array of the world's exceptional artists to Portland. She notes:

"Murray is one of my most inspiring colleagues. I've been reading his articles in piano magazines for years, and was thrilled to finally meet and correspond with him. In addition to being a wonderful writer, pianist, teacher, and lecturer, he is an incredible person. His interpretations of the classics are second to none. In contrast, upon meeting Inna, I was immediately struck by her refreshing and unique approach, incorporating new repertoire in unexpected but well-contextualized ways, to help us all think beyond tradition. Her teaching delivers very practical and to-the-point suggestions with wonderful clarity. Both of these artists will be tremendously inspiring for our students and audiences."

McLachlan's recital this spring features some of the choicest, most thought-provoking, and universally loved masterpieces from eighteenth and nineteenth-century keyboard literature. The first half highlights the entirely different final thoughts on the sonata from the Greats: Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven - including new harmonic experimentation, increased emphasis on polyphony, and a showcase of drama and energetic zeal set against the most serene, transcendently spiritual journey ever conceived for keyboard. In the second half of the program, Chopin's four *Ballades* span a journey of narrative poetry, in which the piano sings, speaks, and cries as never before. Though completely varied, the four pieces unite through the employment of compound time rhythms, steady build-ups to ferociously virtuosic finales, and their use of elements from both modified sonata and variation form.

"Though I first played this music over thirty years ago, the greatness of the notes themselves makes the challenge of communicating them always exciting, fresh and stimulating. Audiences love the music as

much as performers relish the opportunity to present it. Truly we are blessed to have such sublime yet universally accessible masterpieces to present in concert.” - Murray McLachlan

Spring 2023 Residency: Friday, Apr. 28 - Saturday, Apr. 29

CONCERT: *Masterworks for Keyboard:
The Final Sonatas of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven with Chopin’s Ballades*
Starring Murray McLachlan
Friday, April 28 at 7pm - PSU Lincoln Hall 75
\$25 General Admission; \$10 Students, Seniors, PSU Faculty/Staff, OMTA teachers

GUEST ARTIST With guest pianist Murray McLachlan and featuring PSU students
MASTER CLASS: Saturday, April 29 at 7pm - PSU Lincoln Hall 326
FREE and open to the public

GUEST ARTIST *The Universality of Practice and Practising*
LECTURE: With guest pianist Murray McLachlan
Saturday, April 29 at 8:15pm - PSU Lincoln Hall 225
FREE and open to the public

There is a universe of practicing possibilities. Mental, literal, physical, spiritual, intellectual, kinaesthetic and multi-sensory approaches work alongside our daily lifestyles and choices to continue the lifelong learning journey that is every musician's continuous development. This talk will outline some of the options and strategies that we can all explore.

FACULTY With PSU piano faculty Susan Chan and featuring students from the community
MASTER CLASS: Sunday, April 30 at 2pm - PSU Lincoln Hall 326
FREE and open to the public

TICKETS: Available at pdx.edu/music-theater/steinway-piano-series

Fall 2023 Residency: Thursday, Nov. 16 - Friday, Nov. 17 (Full Details Forthcoming)

CONCERT: *Reimagine Beethoven & Ravel - 9 New Works*
Starring Inna Faliks

In this homage to Beethoven and Ravel, the Ukrainian-born American pianist ties together three centuries of music and a range of social commentary and interpretations with her acclaimed artistry and impressive technique. Faliks chose *Bagatelles* Op. 126, the last work that Beethoven wrote for piano, and Ravel’s *Gaspard de la Nuit* as jumping off points, and commissioned Billy Childs, Timo Andres, Paola Prestini, as well as her UCLA colleagues Richard Danielpour, Ian Krouse, David Lefkowitz, Peter Golub, Tamir Hendelman and Mark Carlson to compose responses to these masterworks. The world premiere recordings, alongside her performance of the Bagatelles, are collected on her new album.

“**Murray McLachlan** is a pianist with a virtuoso technique and a sure sense of line. His timing and phrasing are impeccable, and his tone - full but unforced in the powerful passages, gentle and restrained in the more lyrical - is a perpetual delight.” (*BBC Music Magazine*) Since making his professional debut in 1986 at the age of 21

under the baton of Sir Alexander Gibson, Murray McLachlan has consistently received outstanding critical acclaim. His recordings of contemporary music have won numerous accolades, including full star ratings, as well as ‘rosette’ and ‘key recording’ status in the Penguin Guide to CDs, and ‘Disc of the month’ and ‘Record of the month’ in *Music on the Web* and *The Herald*. McLachlan’s repertoire includes over 40 concertos and 25 recital programmes with performances on all five continents. McLachlan teaches at the Royal Northern College of Music and at Chetham’s School of Music in Manchester where he has been Head of Keyboard since 1997. In 2001 he founded the world famous Chetham’s International Summer School and Festival for Pianists, now in its 22nd season, and the largest event of its kind devoted exclusively to piano with an international faculty of over sixty celebrated pianist-teachers. His three books on technique - ‘The Foundations of Technique,’ ‘Piano Technique in Practice’ and ‘The Psychology of Piano Technique’ (Faber), have received wide international acclaim. McLachlan received his education at Chetham’s School of Music and Cambridge University, and an honorary doctorate from the University of Dundee. Murraymclachlan.co.uk

“Adventurous and passionate” (*The New Yorker*) Ukrainian-born American pianist **Inna Faliks** offers commanding performances of standard piano repertoire, as well genre-bending interdisciplinary projects and inquisitive work with contemporary composers. After her acclaimed teenage debuts at the Gilmore Festival and with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, she has appeared on many of the world’s great stages in recital and with many major orchestras, performing with conductors Leonard Slatkin, Keith Lockhart and many others. Her recent seasons include performances at Ravinia Festival in Chicago, National Gallery in Washington DC, Chigiana Academy in Italy, as soloist with US orchestras nation-wide, and repeated tours of all the major venues in China. Ms. Faliks founded the award-winning poetry-music series Music/Words in 2008, with dozens of performances in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles, both on stage and on WFMT radio. She regularly tours her monologue-recital *Polonaise-Fantasia, the Story of a Pianist*, which tells the story of her immigration to the United States from Odessa with music by Bach, Chopin, Gershwin and Carter (recorded on Delos). Inna Faliks’ discography includes releases on Navona, MSR Classics, and Sono Luminus labels. Ms. Faliks is professor and head of Piano Studies at UCLA, and in demand world-wide as a masterclass artist and adjudicator. She is also a published writer, with articles and essays appearing in *Los Angeles Times* and *The Washington Post*, among other media outlets. A musical memoir, titled *Weight in the Fingertips*, will be published in 2023 by Globe Pequot. innafaliks.com

The PSU Steinway Piano Series brings internationally recognized performers and educators to Portland for a weekend of public recitals and masterclasses each year. Acting as a bridge between world-class stages and the college classroom, the series elevates awareness for PSU’s outstanding music program while providing students and concertgoers with access to a broad spectrum of the highest-level professional pianists performing today. Founded in 2015 and directed by piano professor Dr. Susan Chan, the PSU Steinway Piano Series is sponsored by the Arima Schumann Fund of Schwab Charitable, Layzell Family Foundation, Steinway & Sons Portland, and other donors with additional support from PSU College of the Arts and PSU School of Music & Theater. pdx.edu/music-theater/steinway-piano-series



College of the Arts

PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY



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