

NICHOLAS ROERICH MUSEUM

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Sunday, April 15, 2018

Amber Yiu-Hsuan Liao, piano

PROGRAM

On an Overgrown Path

Leoš Janáček (1854-1928)

1. *Naše večery (Our Evenings)*
2. *Lístek odvanutý (A Blown-Away Leaf)*
3. *Pojďte s námi! (Come With Us!)*
4. *Frydecká panna Maria (The Madonna of Frydek)*
5. *Štěbetaly jak laštovičky (They Chattered Like Swallows)*
6. *Dobrou noc! (Good Night!)*
7. *Tak neskonale úzko (Unutterable Anguish)*
8. *Sýček neodletěl! (The Barn Owl Has Not Flown Away!)*

Selections from *Catalogue d'oiseaux* (Catalogue of birds)

Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

- Lalouette calandrelle (The Greater short-toed lark)*
La traquet rieur (The Black wheatear)

Intermission

4 Lieder for Piano, Op.8

Fanny Mendelssohn (1805-1847)

1. *Allegro moderato*
2. *Andante con expression*
3. *Lied (Lenau): Larghetto*
4. *Wanderlied: Presto*

Selections from *Goyescas*, Op. 11

Enrique Granados (1867-1916)

- Quejas, o La Maja y el ruiseñor (Complaint, or the Girl and the Nightingale)*
Los requiebros (The Compliments)

Known for her nimble technique, nuanced tone and impeccable sense of timing, pianist **Amber Yiu-Hsuan Liao** has presented solo performances in venues such as Lincoln Center, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Temple Square in Utah, the National Concert Hall in Taiwan, and the Chicago Cultural Center. Her first solo album of works by Granados, Schumann and Beethoven was released by MSR Classics in 2010. MusicWeb International praised the album, describing Liao's playing as "energetic and brisk... elegant and thoughtful." Fanfare described "very impressive and well-thought-out program," and Audiophile Audition noted that her Granados "captures the folk element in the music very well, bringing color and dash to her performance."

An active collaborative pianist as well, Amber Liao has worked with numerous musicians and ensembles, including members of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, the Albany Symphony Orchestra, and the Juilliard School. Ms. Liao formed a piano quintet with peers at the Manhattan School of Music and the experience piqued her interest, resulting in her doctoral dissertation on piano quintets written after 1950, with focus on works by Schnittke, Ginastera and Feldman.

Ms. Liao's inventive recital programming frequently includes lesser known works, and unusual pairings of compositions of contrasting styles—an early Mozart sonata followed by the last completed piano work by Schumann, or pairing suites by Fauré's with one of Handel's. An avid supporter of contemporary music, she has premiered a work for solo piano by Chih-Chen Wei and a piano quintet by Scott Wollschleger. Amber Liao's recent themed programs include one featuring works by Eastern European composers from the beginning of the Twentieth Century, and another containing works with movements inspired by the evening or the night.

Ms. Liao began her musical training in Taiwan. She continued her studies in the United States with Boris Slutsky and Arkady Aronov, and has performed in the master classes of John Perry, Leon Fleisher and Dimitri Bashkirov. Ms. Liao holds a Doctor of Musical Arts from the Manhattan School of Music and a Master of Music from the Peabody Institute. She is the winner of the Bradshaw & Buono International Piano Competition, the Taiwan Classical Music Society Young Artist, and the Lillian Fuchs Memorial Chamber Music Competition. A devoted educator, Ms. Liao has served on the faculty of Montclair State University, Seton Hall University and Snow College. She is currently Assistant Professor at Borough of Manhattan Community College of City University of New York.

Selected recordings of Amber Liao's performances can be heard on soundcloud.com/liaoyo.



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