

Kaleidoscope Program Notes

Endeavor (Soprano, Trumpet, and Piano)

Composer: Hyekyung Lee (b.1959)

Endeavour was commissioned by Craig B. Parker and the 4th Composition in Asia Symposium (CIA) to premiere at the Symposium/Festvial on Jan. 27, 2023. It was performed by Craig B. Parker (trumpet), Jumi Kim (soprano) and Ko Eun Grace Lee (piano).

The piece is about an evocation of inner emotions between frustration and struggles to stay hopeful/positive during COVID times. A soprano chooses the vowels to sing without any text. Beginning with tense irregular chords, the agitation and tension between these emotions continually grows and changes. The perpetual motion on piano keeps the piece constantly moving forward until it reaches an outburst, then to conclude with calm optimism.

Snake White Suite (Film score arrangement for two pianos)

Composer: Huizhi Chen (b.1983)

Adapted by Chinese cross-genre composer Huizhi Chen from his original film score for "Snake White: Love Endures"—China's first 4K Cantonese opera film—this work reimagines the timeless Chinese love legend "Snake White" through a contemporary Cantonese opera film lens. Fusing elements of Cantonese opera, Chinese literary narrative structure, cinematic musical language, and Western pianism, the suite bridges the boundaries between traditional and contemporary, East and West, creating a multi-aesthetic cross-cultural expression and a shared space of emotional resonance.

Rooted in the Chinese philosophical concept of "情 (qing, the Chinese concept encompassing sentiment, affection, and love) as the foundation", which holds that "情" is the inner thread connecting art, life, and the universe, the composition is deeply rooted in this fundamental principle. The suite consists of five movements—"My Yearning Wish Fulfilled", "Blue Sky", "Misty Rain on West Lake", "Flooding the Golden Mountain Temple" and "Whose Thoughts warm the springs"—which are drawn directly from the film's key musical moments and newly-composed Cantonese opera traditional melodic patterns (qupai). They symbolize five emotional stages of love's journey: Destined Encounter, Awakening Love, Passionate Connection, Conflict and Struggle, and Spiritual Transcendence.

Structured cyclically, the beginning and ending movements of the suite call and respond to each other, with the first and final chords designed to connect seamlessly, suggesting the cyclical nature of sentiment and fate. While grounded in Snake White's story, the music portrayed through the dual pianos ultimately reflects a universal human emotional journey—an artistic mirror for all who seek the true essence of love.

I took the threads of your gaze and weaved a forest around me for solo piano

Composer: Aida Shirazi (b.1987)

we will be screening a world premiere mini-documentary, produced as part of a winning grant from The Hall Center for the Humanities. This project is led by co-PIs Dr. David Mai (KU Film Department) and Dr. Yi-Yang Chen (KU School of Music), in collaboration with the Hall Center for the Humanities, the Asian Classical Music Initiative, the Center for East Asian Studies, and the Student Senate. The screening is free and open to the public, and the composer will personally introduce herself and her works in the mini-documentary.

Nuo: Under the Mask for two pianos

Composer: Shuqin Li (b.1998)

Nuo, is a traditional Chinese folk drama, especially prevalent in Hunan, known for its distinctive use of elaborate, often fearsome masks. These masks, crafted from wood and bamboo, symbolize spirits or deities, transforming performers into supernatural figures. In Nuo-Under the Mask, composer Shuqin Li delves into the mystery of these ancient traditions, musically exploring the tension between the mundane world and supernatural beings hidden beneath the mask.

Shuqin was inspired to create Nuo after visiting a village in western Hunan in 2013, where he encountered the raw, lifelike Nuo masks. Fascinated by their strange beauty, he wondered: Who is under the mask? Is it a human embodying a spirit, or a spirit posing as a human? This question is at the core of the piece, touching on themes of identity, performance, and the blurred line between the physical and spiritual.

The music reflects the duality of Nuo through two pianos, symbolizing the performer and the mask. In Nuo-Under the Mask, the pianos engage in constant dialogue, at times competing for dominance, and at other times merging, representing the symbiotic relationship between performer and mask. Both pianos are treated equally, creating a dramatic struggle that ultimately resolves in unity.

In Nuo-Under the Mask, Shuqin Li invites the audience into a world where the boundaries between human and spirit, performance and reality, are fluid and ever-shifting, much like the Nuo tradition itself.

Soka for solo piano

Composer: Wai Hin Ko Ko (b.1985)

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

Matthew 5:4 (NIV)

"Soka," drawing its title from the Pali term for "burning grief," is my composition that delves into emotive depths while drawing from cultural roots. Initially conceived in 2016, it mirrors the melancholic melodies of Burmese theater music, particularly the revered "Zat Taw Gyi" tradition. In this genre, tales of Buddha's incarnations unfold, captivating audiences with the raw emotion conveyed through song without diminishing the beauty of vocal expression.

At the core of "Soka" lies its longing melody, reflecting the mournful strains found in traditional Burmese storytelling. Inspired by these narratives, I integrated rhythmic cadence and fluidity reminiscent of Burmese piano music, infusing the piece with grace and introspection.

Central to its thematic exploration is the expansion of traditional Burmese modes, gradually introducing new pitches and vibrant hybrid modes as the composition unfolds. This journey serves as a testament to my artistic vision, where tradition and innovation intertwine.

In its revised 2024 rendition, "Soka" takes on new significance as a tribute to those who sacrificed their lives in the face of tyranny, particularly the young martyrs who stood against the Myanmar military junta following the events of February 1, 2021. Through its evocative melodies and poignant harmonies, "Soka" encapsulates my profound sense of grief and solidarity with those who have suffered unjustly.

Dreams for Piano Six-Hands

Composer: Le Chang (b.1998)

Le's "Dreams" was selected for QQ Music's 2022 Top Chart as the Best Album in the Classical Crossover category, establishing it as one of the most acclaimed mini-albums on China's premier digital music platform (widely regarded as China's equivalent to Apple Music and YouTube Music).

The composition features three distinct movements, each evoking unique imagery and atmosphere. Through its one-piano, six-hands format, the piece expands the piano's sonic possibilities, creating lush textures rich with color and imagination. "Dreams" serves as a reflection on the expansion of human consciousness—illustrating how music both shapes and transcends reality.

As the grand finale of the "Kaleidoscope: Asian Classical Music Initiative Premiere Concert" at the 2025 College Music Society Central Chapter International Conference, the special version of "Dreams" will be performed by nine pianists from diverse nationalities and cultural backgrounds. This performance symbolizes the intersection of Eastern and Western artistic traditions which—like images in a kaleidoscope—converge, inspire, blend, and generate new creative energies, embodying the beautiful 'dreams' and vision of global artistic exchange across cultures.

Composed in 2021, "Dreams" world premiered by internationally celebrated pianist Sa Chen, acclaimed pianist Chao Xiong, and composer-pianist Le Chang in 2022. Today's performance on April, 5th marks its U.S. premiere.

*Special thanks to Igor&Musicians for their invaluable support for Asian Classical Music Initiative, bringing this premiere to American audiences.

Kaleidoscope Concert Bios

Aida Shirazi, Born and raised in Tehran, Iran, Aida Shirazi is a composer of acoustic and electroacoustic music. Shirazi's music is described as "unfolding with deliberation" by *The New York Times*, "well-made" and "affecting" by *The New Yorker*, and "unusually creative" by *San Francisco Classical Voice*. In her works for solo instruments, voice, ensemble, orchestra, and electronics, she mainly focuses on timbre for organizing structures inspired by Persian and English languages and literature. Shirazi's music has been featured at festivals and concert series, including Manifeste, Wien Modern, Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, Mostly Mozart, OutHear New Music Week, MATA, Marlboro Music Festival, Direct Current, Taproot, and Tehran Contemporary Music Festival in venues such as Maison de la Radio France, Radialsystem Berlin, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and Kennedy Center.

HyeKyung Lee's music has been described as "virtuosic fantasy where continuous rhythmic motion smoothly joins contrasting moods and effectively propels from one section to another, showing a penchant for colorful timbres, expressive lines, and lively rhythmic interaction of instruments." An active composer/pianist, Lee has written works for diverse genres, from toy piano to big concertos, and to electronic music. She received 2017 Bonnie McElveen-Hunter Commission for Maestro Gerard Schwarz & Eastern Music Festival. Other commissions include Renée B. Fisher Piano Competition and Meg Quigley Vivaldi Bassoon Competition. One highlight as a pianist was a performance of Hindemith Sonata for Clarinet and Piano with Stanley Drucker at Latin American Clarinet Congress in Lima, Peru, 2012.

Lee studied at Yonsei University (Seoul, Korea) and University of Texas at Austin, where she earned her MM, DMA in composition and piano performance certificate. She is Associate Professor at Denison University in Granville, Ohio.

HuiZhi Chen, born in 1983 and based in Foshan, China, is a versatile film score composer and cross-genre music producer celebrated for his expansive contributions across various musical domains, including classical, pop, film scores, ethnic music, Chinese opera, and game soundtracks. Among his prominent works are the film scores for "The Monkey King: Reborn" and "Snake White: Love Endures," the soundtrack for the 100-episode Chinese animated series "Confucius," and compositions for popular video games like "Arena of Valor" and "Iron Blood Martial Arts." His foray into crossover projects is marked by the online game and Cantonese opera stage drama "Decisive Battle at Tiance Mansion," alongside contributions to Chinese opera musical works such as "Snake White: Love Endures (Cantonese Opera)," "Dream of the Red Boat (Cantonese Opera)," "Lady Qiao Guo (Cantonese Opera)," "GuWeiLu (Yi Opera)," "The Story of Changdu (Tibetan Musical)," and "The Legend of the White Snake (Yang Opera)."

Throughout his brilliant career, Chen has engaged in collaborations with an array of national and world-class orchestras and prestigious art institutions. These collaborations include work with the Singapore Chinese Orchestra, Budapest Film Symphony Orchestra, China Philharmonic Orchestra, Chinese Symphony Orchestra, Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra, Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra, Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra, Macao Chinese Orchestra, Guangdong National Orchestra, as well as partnerships with EMI Records, the National Centre for the Performing Arts in China, the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, the Guangdong Modern Dance Company, China Central Television, and Asia Television Digital Media Limited. His talent also shines through in the multiple promotional film scores and various venue theme music compositions for the World University Games in Shenzhen and the Asian Olympic Games in Guangzhou.

Chen's work on "Snake White: Love Endures" was honored with the Best Opera Musical Film award at the Canada Golden Maple Film Festival. Furthermore, his score for "Eagle-bone Flute & Saussurea Involucrata" received the accolade for Best Film Score at the San Diego International Children's Film Festival. A graduate of the Xinghai Conservatory of Music in China, Chen's educational journey in composition and orchestration was guided by esteemed Chinese composers such as Shi Yongkang, Li Fang, Fang Xiaomin, and Ren Damin, underscoring a foundation that has propelled him to achievements in the composition area.

WAI HIN KO KO is a Myanmar composer and scholar known for his work integrating traditional Myanmar music with Western influences. As a composer, he has contributed significantly to the dialogue between cultural and musical traditions.

In 2016, he received recognition for a composition that brought together Myanmar's traditional ensemble and a Western orchestra, highlighting his interest in cross-cultural collaboration. His works, including Myine Wathan and the string quartet Citta, have been featured at music festivals and demonstrate his commitment to both contemporary and traditional music practices.

Currently a Ph.D. candidate in Composition at the University of California, Berkeley, Wai Hin Ko Ko continues to explore Myanmar's musical heritage while engaging with contemporary music practices. His dual roles as a composer and scholar enable him to contribute both artistically and academically to the evolving landscape of music. Wai Hin Ko Ko is deeply grateful to his longtime mentors, Chinariy Ung and Koji Nakano, whose guidance has profoundly influenced his development as a composer.

Le Chang is a Chinese improvising pianist and composer acclaimed by Sa Chen, a world-renowned pianist and Chopin International Piano Competition judge, for his "extraordinary sonic imagination and exceptional multidimensional qualities.

Le's compositions have been presented at important occasions including the Belt and Road International Cooperation Summit Forum, the 70th Anniversary of China-Russia Diplomatic Relations, the 70th Anniversary of the People's Republic of China, the National Centre for the Performing Arts, and the China Pavilion at Shanghai World Expo. His piano six-hands mini album "Dreams" was named Best Album in the Classical Crossover category on China's leading digital music platform QQ Music's 2022 Top Chart. In 2023, Le Chang participated in QQ Music's "Rhythm of Four Seasons" project, creating nature-inspired compositions. Same year, his works "拾翠洲印记" (Impressions of Shicui Island) and "行街三拼" (Street Stroll Medley) were premiered and recorded by Qing Chen, Liang Meng, and the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra String Quartet.

In 2024, Le Chang collaborated with world-renowned pianist Sa Chen, acclaimed young pianists Yutong Sun and Xu Guo, and the NCPA Orchestra performing Bach's concertos for one, two, three, and four harpsichords (piano version) at major venues across China, where his composition "Threads—for Four Pianos and String Orchestra" was premiered. Le Chang graduated from the China Conservatory of Music, studying under professor Di Zhu and renowned Chinese jazz pianist Hongwei Kong.

Shuqin Li is a Chinese composer, pianist, and educator. He is unafraid to pursue his own musical language in various ways, whether through intuitive expression or by precisely designing mathematical structures. Shuqin is passionate about traveling and is attracted to various spectacular or unique natural landscapes on the Earth and in the sky. Influenced by his mother, a scholar of Chinese folk arts, he has a deep interest in Chinese culture, particularly ancient literature and folklore related to mythology. Furthermore, Shuqin enjoys using music to depict images, tell stories, and explore the interaction between sound, space, and visible or invisible scenes. As a piano player, he has rich experience collaborating with musicians during recording sessions, music festivals, and competitions. Shuqin obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree from the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing. He also earned a master's degree in composition from the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University, where he studied under Michael Hersch and Eric Wubbels.

Dr. David Mai, film scholar and filmmaker, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Film and Media Studies at the University of Kansas. His creative work in narratives, animations, and interactive media is inflected by his interests in experimental forms of aesthetics. Through social narratives, his work aims to examine and broaden intersectional representations of Asian Americans in film. In his collaborative film work, he specializes in post-production having worked as a picture editor, visual effects artist,

and animator. His research activity has seen different modes of exhibition from VR installations, to audiovisual essays, and to cinemetric analyses. He received his M.F.A. in Cinema from San Francisco State University.

Dr. Yi-Yang Chen is an internationally acclaimed pianist, praised for his “musical and emotional intelligence, dexterity, and virtuosity” (Worthing Herald). He gained recognition with victories at the Sussex (UK), Washington, and Pacific International Piano Competitions, among others. His dynamic performances have captivated audiences worldwide, from Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center to venues across Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia, collaborating with orchestras such as the Worthing Symphony Orchestra, Brevard Music Center Orchestra, and Thailand Philharmonic Orchestra.

A Steinway Artist, Dr. Chen has appeared at major festivals, including the Perlman Music Festival, Taos School of Music, Banff Music Centre, and Music Academy of the West. His artistry was hailed in a New York Concert Review of his Carnegie Weill Hall recital: "A powerhouse performance... Mr. Chen delivered a bold, take-no-holds approach, ranking among the best performances of this sonata." Dr. Chen is Associate Professor of Piano at the University of Kansas and Artistic Director of the Orbifold Music Festival. His 2026 album release with Champs Hill Records (UK) will showcase new works of voices worldwide. Beyond music, he enjoys swimming, biking, traveling, and composing.

Dr. Craig B. Parker: Professor Parker has presented numerous papers at regional, national, and international conferences of the CMS and many other scholarly organizations. While president of the CMS Great Plains chapter, he established the Paul Revitt Award for the most outstanding paper by a student presented at the chapter’s annual meeting. Dr. Parker is currently the CMS Board Member for Musicology.

Dr. ZHENGYINGYUE (ELAINE) HUANG, has performed at renowned institutions such as the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory, the San Miguel Institute of Bel Canto in Mexico, the Temple University Opera Theater, the Lyric Opera of Orange County, and the Opera Italia. She has portrayed leading roles in operas including *Così fan tutte*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Die Zauberflöte*, and *Suor Angelica*. Additionally, she has successfully held solo recitals at prestigious venues such as the Shanghai Concert Hall, Swarthout Recital Hall in Kansas, Laguna Art Center in Los Angeles, and Zipper hall. Dr. Huang has received numerous accolades, including the Gold Prize at the Russian International Vocal Competition and the Gold Prize at the London International Classical Music Competition. She has also premiered commissioned works by composers such as Ke-Jia Chen and Kui Dong. As a scholar, she has presented at multiple international forums and founded the Asian Classical Music Initiative (ACMI) to promote the performance and global exchange of works by Asian musicians. She was selected as a Midwest Asian American representative for the White House. In addition to performing, Dr. Huang is also an opera director. She directed *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, which toured ten cities across the United States. She is actively involved in music education and interdisciplinary diversity initiatives. She currently serves as the Executive Committee of the China Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS), a member of the International Alliance for Women in Music and the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), and an editor for 3-E Music Journal.

DAN (LORI) LUO, a DMA candidate in Piano Performance at the University of Kansas, studying under Steinway Artist Dr. Yiyang Chen. She began her piano journey at the age of three with Li Mei at the Xinghai Conservatory and further studied with renowned pianists such as Steven Spooner, Eric Zuber, Michael Kirkendoll, and Michael Bauer (harpichord). Holding dual master's degrees in Piano Performance (U.S.) and Music Pedagogy (China), she combines expertise in Western classical and Chinese traditional music. A recipient of multiple awards, including National and First-Class Academic Scholarships in China and the KUSOM Scholarship, Dan (Lori) is a prize winner in numerous international competitions, such as second place in the 2023 Orbifold Global Music Competition, first place in the 2023 Charleston International Classical Music Competition, second place in 2022 Asia International Piano Grand Prix, and second place in 2021 KMTA Piano Competition. Beyond performance, her scholarly work includes six papers indexed in the China National Knowledge Infrastructure Database, with one selected for the Ministry of Education's Humanities and Social Science Fund and published in a monograph. She also won second place in China's National Research Competition on Music Pedagogy and contributed to the Chinese music theory pedagogy design for Oxford University Press's forthcoming textbook *Music Theory Matters* (2026).

Linlin He, a Chinese pianist, has performed in prestigious venues across Asia, Europe, and the United States, including the Esplanade Concert Hall in Singapore, Duke's Hall in the UK. She has also performed at festivals such as the Deíá International Music Festival in Spain and the Orphio Concert Season in Holland.

Linlin has performed with the Euregio Chamber Orchestra and conducted by Alfredo Oyágüez Montero and Anar Bramo in Germany. Her competition achievements include accolades at the III Danubia Talents Liszt, Windsor International Piano, and Sergio Fiorentino Piano Competitions.

Linlin earned her bachelor's degree at the Royal Academy of Music, studying with Mei-ting Sun, and completed her master's at Indiana University with Norman Krieger, supported by the John Winston Spanier Fellowship. Now a first-year DMA student at the University of Kansas, she studies with Dr. Yi-Yang Chen on a full scholarship, also serving as a graduate teaching assistant.

Xinni Liu, a pianist and pedagogue from Shenzhen, China, is currently pursuing a DMA in Piano Performance and Pedagogy at the University of Kansas under the mentorship of Dr. Priscila Navarro. She holds a Master's degree from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and a Bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan.

Xinni has performed solo recitals in the U.S. and U.K. and gained valuable experience through internships at secondary schools in Glasgow. She is also a Graduate Teaching Assistant at KU. Passionate about pedagogy and musical growth, Xinni strives to nurture the next generation of musicians while enriching her own professional development. Outside of music, she enjoys traveling.

Xinyue Gu is a Doctoral student in Piano Performance at the University of Kansas School of Music. She previously earned a Master of Music in Piano Performance from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music.

Competitions and Awards throughout her career, Xinyue has received numerous prestigious awards, including First Place at the 2021 Ageio International Piano Competition in Canada and First Prize at both the 7th Hong Kong International Piano Competition and the Minnesota Piano Concerto Competition in 2017. She also earned prizes at the American Classical Pianist International Piano Competition, and the Steinway & Sons Competition.

Performance experience an accomplished performer, Xinyue has given solo recitals globally. She was selected as an outstanding pianist at the 2022 Antonio Vivaldi Music Festival, performing in Vienna, Austria. She has appeared at esteemed venues such as the Gasteig Concert Hall in Munich, the Steinway Concert Hall in Shanghai, and the Hong Kong Cultural Centre.

Pianist **Ting-An Chiu** is originally from Taiwan. He graduated from the Central Conservatory of Music - Piano Academy at Gulangyu in China and earned his bachelor's degree from Weber State University. He is now pursuing a master in Piano Performance and Pedagogy at the University of Kansas studying with Dr. Yi-Yang Chen. He is actively performing in Asia and the U.S. He is also a frequent winner of piano competitions, including winner of the 2024 Music Teachers National Association (Kansas) competition and first prize at the 33rd Smetana International Piano Competition (Hong-Kong). As a pianist with classical and jazz experience, Ting-An has given several solo concerts and performed works dating from 1600 to 2000. He also has extensive experience in chamber music performing with vocalists, violinists, cellists, trumpeters, and trombonists. Ting-An is a student member of the Music Teachers National Association where he stays connected with the teaching field.

KEVIN KYAW's musical journey began at the age of 12 in his home country of Myanmar (formerly Burma), where he taught himself the piano throughout his high school years. What started as a hobby grew into a lifelong passion when he met concert pianists Kimball Gallagher and Kai-Yin Huang at their workshop in Myanmar while attending Mandalay Technological University as a mechatronic engineering student. Kevin was deeply inspired by the encounter which eventually led him to pursue a career in music. With the guidance of his two mentors, Kevin earned a full scholarship to attend Missouri Western State University, where he completed his B.A. under Nathanael May, graduating summa cum laude. He then continued his M.M. in Piano Performance at the University of Kansas, where he also received a full scholarship and a teaching assistantship to study with Jack Winerock. Now a doctoral candidate at SUNY Stony Brook, he studies with Christina Dahl on a full scholarship while serving as a teaching assistant.

Kevin has appeared in performances across four continents at venues including Yangon's City Hall, Taiwan's Legislative Yuan, Italy's Sala dei Notari, and Tunisia's Acropolium of Carthage. As a soloist, Kevin has performed with the MWSU Symphony Orchestra and the Virtuosi Brunenses Orchestra. He has also earned first prizes in the Kansas MTNA-Steinway Young Artist Competition, the MWSU Concerto/Aria Competition, the ATLAS Music Academy Competition in Tunisia, and the Philharmonic Society of Myanmar Competition. Beyond performing, Kevin is dedicated to fostering music education and artistic exchange in Myanmar, where he serves as Co-Artistic Director of the Myanmar Music Festival.

Born in Grand Island, **Nebraska, Oscar Alejandro Erives** is a Mexican-American pianist and composer. He is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Piano Performance at the University of Kansas with Dr. Yi-Yang Chen. Despite being classically trained, his passion extends into multiple styles and genres ranging from jazz, film scores, video game soundtracks, to regional Mexican music. He has performed as a soloist with the Kearney Symphony Orchestra, as the pianist for the Topeka Symphony, the national anthem at the University of Nebraska Kearney's graduation ceremony, and in masterclasses with Carlo Palese, Timour Shapiro, and Sohee Kwon. Outside of school, Oscar has also performed solo concerts for the Grand Island Music Series and the Three Cultures Festival in Chihuahua, Mexico. He is a member of Mu Phi Epsilon and regularly plays piano and organ at church.

Ross Mosier is a second-year Masters student studying Piano Performance at the University of Kansas, studying with Dr. Yi-Yang Chen. Mosier received his Bachelors from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln under the tutelage of Dr. Mark Clinton. Mosier also studies organ, currently with Dr. James Higdon. At KU, Mosier serves as the President for the KUCMS student chapter. Mosier recently won the KMTA Young Artist competition in the Fall of 2023, and also competed in the IX Tkaczewski International Piano Competition in Busko Zdrój, Poland. Ross had his European concert debut with the Tarnow Chamber Orchestra in August of 2024, performing Schumann's Piano Concert in A minor, op. 54. Mosier has also performed in masterclasses for Sookkyung Cho, WindSync, Barry Douglas, Carter Pann, Spencer Myer, and Paul Barnes. Mosier currently teaches at The Music Clubhouse in Lawrence, KS.

Born in Taipei, Taiwan. **Szu-Chia Lin** began her music studies at the age of nine, and has since performed as soloist and chamber pianist in Italy, Poland, Taiwan, and the United States. Lin holds her Master degree from Boston University and bachelor's degree from the University of Taipei. Her principal teachers include Tanya Gabrielian, Cheng-Yao Lee, and San-San Wang. She is currently pursuing her Doctoral of Musical Arts degree at the University of

Kansas under the guidance of Dr. Yi-Yang Chen.

Szu-Chia has always been passionate and persistent in being a collaborative pianist and has performed with instrumentalists at numbers of venues in the United States, Europe, and Taiwan. She is currently a Graduate Teaching Assistant, being a music instructor and a collaborative pianist at the University of Kansas.

Veerle Winkelmolen is a pianist and singer from The Netherlands who is currently based in Lawrence, Kansas. She has been praised for her honesty in music and diversity of sound, as well as for her virtuosic outbursts. As a soloist she is interested in the whole spectrum of the piano repertoire, from Baroque composers to the contemporary styles of Saariaho and Kapustin. Together with her chamber group 'Red Room' she explores works of composers who are currently active in the field. She has played new music with numerous chamber music groups of composers such as JacobTV, Roel van Oosten, Henry Kelder, Missy Mazzoli, and Fazil Say. Performances have taken her to the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, TivoliVredenburg, and multiple theaters in the Netherlands. Additionally, she has performed in Italy, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Bulgaria, Slovakia, and the United States. Her love of singing and songwriting have led her to the stage of TedX events, international festivals such as Bochum Total, and pop-music venues like the Melkweg in Amsterdam. Veerle is currently enrolled in the Doctor of Musical Arts Program at the University of Kansas, studying Piano Performance with Dr. Michael Kirkendoll. She has also recently begun taking composition lessons with Dr. Forrest Pierce.

Ruizhe Zhong is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) in Piano Performance at the University of Kansas, studying under Dr. Scott McBride Smith. He began piano at seven with Qing Zhu and earned bachelor's and master's degrees at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, studying under renowned pianists and educators including Yingdi Sun, Gaode Dai, and Hong Huang. Since 2024, he has continued doctoral studies in the University of Kansas to further develop artistry. During his studies, he received numerous scholarships including the People's Scholarship and Academic Scholarship. He has also excelled in many piano competitions, earning top prizes in prestigious events such as the KMTA Piano Competition, the Santa Cecilia International Piano Competition (China Region) and the AMIGDALA International Music Competition.

Yang Yang is a Doctor of Musical Arts candidate in Piano Performance at the University of Kansas, where she currently serves as a teaching assistant under the mentorship of Zacharia Plavin and Priscila Navarro. A graduate of the Wuhan Conservatory of Music, she earned her Master's degree at Oakland University under Dr. Tian Tian, receiving the 2022 Outstanding Collaborative Piano MaTilDa Award. Recognized by instructor I-Chen Yeh as "an outstanding musician with deep musical sensitivity." Her achievements include top prizes at the "Academy Cup" Piano Duet and "Yangtze River" Ensemble competitions, alongside solo performances at Italy's Amalfi Music Festival and its Young Artists Concert in Maiori. She has honed her craft in masterclasses with Boris Berman, Yoshi Nagai, and James Giles, and previously curated events as art director for the Wuhan Vocal Music Art Competition. At Kansas, Yang bridges solo, collaborative, and teaching artistry with academic rigor.