



**GRAND VALLEY  
STATE UNIVERSITY**<sup>®</sup>

**DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC,  
THEATRE, AND DANCE**

**Faculty Artist Recital:**  
Sookkyung Cho, piano

7:30 P.M.  
Monday, November 27, 2023  
Cook DeWitt Center  
GVSU Allendale Campus

# Program

Sonata in A minor, D. 845

Allegro giusto

Andante

Allegro vivace

Franz Schubert

(1797-1828)

Sonata for Four Hands in D major, K. 381

Allegro

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

(1756-1791)

Toccata (2023)

*World Premiere*

Cynthia Lee Wong

(b. 1982)

Sonata No. 3 in B minor, Op. 58

Allegro maestoso

Scherzo: Molto vivace

Largo

Finale: Presto, ma non tanto

Frédéric Chopin

(1810-1849)

\* I would like to thank West Michigan Piano for providing Steinway B Spirio for this recital.

## Artist Bio

Noted for her “sensitive and imaginative” (*New York Concert Review*) playing, Korean-born pianist Sookkyung Cho has appeared in venues such as Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Chicago Cultural Center, Sarasota Opera House, Baltimore Museum of Art, Montreal Conservatory, Beaux concerts de la relève in Quebec, Château de Fontainebleau in France, and Zijingang Theater at Zhejiang University in China, among others. An avid chamber music player, she was a founding member of the New York-based Almava trio and has been featured in major music festivals including Yellow Barn, Norfolk, and Sarasota, and was a Performing Associate at Bowdoin International Music Festival in Maine. She earned her Bachelor of Music degree from Juilliard, where she was honored with the prestigious John Erskine Graduation Prize, Master of Music degree from Peabody, and Doctor of Musical Arts from Juilliard as a C.V. Starr Doctoral Fellow. Her doctoral dissertation, “Schubert’s Sonata in B-Major, D. 575, Re-imagined” became an inspiration for her debut CD, “Schubert’s 1817 Sonatas,” released on Centaur in April 2021. Her teachers include Boris Slutsky, Julian Martin, Matti Raekallio, and Jonathan Bass. She was on piano and chamber music faculty at New England Conservatory Preparatory in Boston as well as on music theory faculty at Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. She currently serves as Associate Professor of Piano at Grand Valley State University and is the Artistic Director of the Grand Valley Piano Chamber Series. ([www.sookkyungcho.com](http://www.sookkyungcho.com); [www.gvpcs.org](http://www.gvpcs.org))

## Program Notes

Toccata is dedicated to my wonderful composition teacher and friend, Samuel H. Adler, in celebration of his 95th birthday. The piece is based on letters from his name S, H, A, D, and E, which musically can be expressed as E flat, B, A, D, and E. Additionally, the numbers 9 and 5 are integrated into the Toccata as pitch classes A and F. Lastly, the first 4 notes of “Happy Birthday” (which also occurs as notes in Sam’s musicalized name A, B, A, D) are quoted at various transpositions.

Special thanks to Dr. Sookkyung Cho for giving the world premiere of the *Toccata*!

~Cynthia Lee Wong

If you are interested in supporting the Piano Area at GVSU, please consider contacting Dr. Cho at [choso@gvsu.edu](mailto:choso@gvsu.edu) or Grand Valley's University Development Office at 616-331-6000 or [universitydevelopment@gvsu.edu](mailto:universitydevelopment@gvsu.edu).

For updated information on Music, Theatre, and Dance events, please visit [www.gvsu.edu/mtd](http://www.gvsu.edu/mtd).

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