



2025 20th/21st-Century Piano Festival

Dr. Sookkyung Cho, Director

Saturday, October 25th, 2025
Louis Armstrong Theatre
Haas Center for Performing Arts

Welcome!

We're thrilled to have you join us for a full day dedicated to piano music from the past 125 years. To make the most of your experience, we encourage you to browse through the festival booklet and attend as many sessions as you can — beyond the one you're performing in! All recitals and sessions are open to the public, so feel free to explore and enjoy.

Here are just a few festival highlights you won't want to miss:

- 1:00 PM Recital: A 2-minute improvised performance by Adam West
- 11:00 AM Recital: *World premiere* of Hansol Choi's "Yo_Rahm_Gá," performed by Sam Bergman
- 12:10 PM Special Session: *A Conversation with Composer Hansol Choi* — Submit your questions at the front desk anytime during the morning!
- 1-Piano, 8-Hands pieces written for GVSU:
 - *Movement I*: 9:00 AM & 1:00 PM
 - *Movement II*: 10:00 AM & 2:00 PM
 - *Movement III*: 11:00 AM & 3:00 PM

We hope you enjoy the performances, conversations, and community throughout the day. Let the music inspire you!

Musically,
Dr. Sookkyung Cho, Director

Recital No. 1 – 9:00 a.m.

Welcome Performances by Dr. Cho and GVSU Students

Rachmaninoff Op 23. No 2 in B-flat Major (1903)

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

Isaac DeBruine

First Year: Double-Major in Music (BM in Piano) and Biomedical Science (BS)

Three Operatic Arrangements

Edward Neeman (b. 1984)

I. Overture to *The Marriage of Figaro* (from Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*)

Noah Carr, Sam Bergman, Dr. Cho, and Bri Hofman

Performances by Pre-College Pianists

1. Little Whirlwind

Myla Koerber

Mary Leaf

2. Chanson

Mattisyn Alexander

Rhene-Baton

3. Moonlight

Miles K Koerber

William Gillock

4. On a Paris Boulevard

Chloe Liu*

William Gillock

5. Water Lilies

Thieana Alexander

Valerie Roth Roubos

6. Medieval Interlude

Diego Dean**

Melody Bobee

7. Carnival in Rio

Andrew Smigielski***

William Gillock

8. March Royale

Judah McCourt

Melody Bober

9. Old Time Rag	Annalise Molina-Gonzalez*	Carolyn Miller
10. Jazz Prelude	Jude Peter**	Catherine Rollin
11. Prelude No.9 in Eb Major	Naomi Tamae**	Timothy Brown
12. Rialto Ripples	Ayan Shukla*	George Gershwin
13. Ice Crystals	Peter Wu	Kevin Olson
14. New Beginning	David Wu	Mona Rejino
15. Prelude No.1 in D Minor	Aletheia Kim	Timothy Brown
16. Sonatina in C Major	Evan Yan	Aram Khachaturian

* third-time participant

** fifth-time participant

*** sixth-time participant

Presentation of the certificates and trophies follows the recital.

Recital No. 2 – 10:00 a.m.

Welcome Performances by Dr. Cho and GVSU Students

Fifteen Hungarian Peasant Songs:

Bela Bartók (1881-1945)

No. 5 *Scherzo*; Nos. 14 & 15, *Old Dance Tunes*

Felicia DeVisser

First Year: Major in Piano Performance (BM)

Three Operatic Arrangements

Edward Neeman (b. 1984)

II. *Faust Waltz* (from Gounod's *Faust*)

Dr. Cho, Sam Bergman, Noah Carr, and Bri Hofman

Performances by Pre-College Pianists

1. #1. Peasant Dance and

#2. Dance of the Noblemen

Julius Chajes

Davynn Ahn

2. Bumper Car

Kevin Olson

Yelyn Yun

3. Try Everything

Shakira arr.
Rebekah Johnson

Eleanor Heyboer-Nye

4. Tomorrow

Charles Strouse

Sydney Hullah

5. Sailboats in the Wind / Dragon Fly

Nancy Faber / William Gillock

Riu Kwon*

6. French Doll

William Gillock

Colette Donelson

7. Pagoda Bells

William Gillock

Vel Kumar

8. Classic Sonatina Mvt. I (Allegro) and III (Presto)

Nancy Faber

Daniel Jung

9. A Stately Sarabande	Ashley Yim*	William Gillock
10. Nostalgie	Kate Bui	O. Tussen
11. Springtime Waltz	Avery Donelson	Glenda Austin
12. Butterfly Dance	Gloria Smigiel	Carolyn Miller
13. Whirling Snowflake Waltz	Allison Yim**	Julie Knerr Hague
14. Improvisation	JaeEun Yun	MacDowell
15. Prelude No. 3	Bryn Peterson	George Gershwin
16. Clair de Lune	Rowan Kozminski***	Claude Debussy

* third-time participant

** seventh-time participant

*** eighth-time participant

Presentation of the certificates and trophies follows the recital.

Recital No. 3 – 11:00 a.m.

Welcome Performances by Dr. Cho and GVSU Students

Yo_Rahm_Gá (2025), *world premiere*

Hansol Choi (b. 1992)

Sam Bergman

Third Year: Major in Piano Performance (BM) and Computer Science Minor

Three Operatic Arrangements

Edward Neeman (b. 1984)

Excerpt from III. *Bacchanale* (from Saint-Saëns' *Samson et Dalila*)

Noah Carr, Dr. Cho, Sam Bergman, and Adam West

Performances by Pre-College Pianists

1. You were there

Devansh Muddam

W.T Skye Garcia

2. Carnival in Rio

Claire Shi**

William Gillock

3. The Evening Star

Frank Jablonski

Timothy Brown

4. Pumpkin Boogie

Talia Han

Nancy & Randall Faber

5. Wind Chimes

Fischer Feenstra

Paula Dreyer

6. Three Fantastic Dances

Nava Bonakdarpour**

Dmitri Shostakovich

7. Toccata Festivo

Grady Morris

Jennifer Linn

8. Steppin Out

Benjamin Van Kempen

Daniel McFarlane

9. Blue Sky I

Chloe Zhu

Alexina Louie

10. Arabesque No. 1	Raymin Zhu	Claude Debussy
11. Reverie	Maria Guber	Claude Debussy
12. Midnight Reverie	Hannah Liu*	Carolyn Miller
13. Three Preludes	Chase Zhu	Kent Kennan
14. Fountain of Diana	Vincent Nguyen	William Gillock
15. Only Time Will Tell	Jiya Singh	Dennis Alexander
16. Clair de lune	Evelyn Smith	Claude Debussy

* third-time participant

** fourth-time participant

Presentation of the certificates and trophies follows the recital.

Special Session at 12:10pm: A Conversation with Composer Hansol Choi

Join us for a unique opportunity to hear from Hansol Choi, a doctoral candidate in composition at the University of Michigan, as he shares his personal journey as a musician and composer. Earlier in the day at the 11pm recital, his solo piano piece, written for GVSU student Sam Bergman, will receive its world premiere at the GVSU 20th/21st-Century Piano Festival. In this special session, Mr. Choi offers insights into his creative process and artistic influences—both in general and in the context of this new work. Festival participants will be invited to submit questions throughout the morning, which will be addressed during the conversation.



Hansol Choi is a Korean American composer and percussionist from Queens, NY. Inspired by singing hymns and performing Samulnori, he explores integrating elements of Traditional Korean Folk music (Gu-Gak), psychological phenomena, and theology. His works have been performed by the Great Falls Symphony Orchestra, the University of Michigan's University Symphony Orchestra, Classical Tahoe, and American Composer's Orchestra Earshot readings with the Jacobs School of Music's Chamber Orchestra, among others. Choi holds a master's degree in composition from The Manhattan School of Music and a bachelor's in percussion from the Aaron Copland School of Music. He currently resides in Ann Arbor, MI, pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Michigan under the tutelage of

Roshanne Etezady and Kristin Kuster. To learn more about Mr. Choi and explore his works, please visit www.hansolchoi.com.

Recital No. 4 – 1:00 p.m.

Welcome Performances by Dr. Cho and GVSU Students

Improvisation

Adam West

Second Year: Major in Piano and Composition (BA)

Three Operatic Arrangements

Edward Neeman (b. 1984)

I. Overture to *The Marriage of Figaro* (from Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*)

Noah Carr, Sam Bergman, Dr. Cho, and Bri Hofman

Performances by Pre-College Pianists

1. The Crab Walk

Lincoln Triggs

Jeanne Costello

2. Ivan is Busy

Charlie Yasugi

Aram Khatchaturian

3. French doll, A Witch's Cat

Haeun Kim

William Gillock

4. The Cat and The Mouse

Ethan Zhang

Aaron Copland

5. The Magic Man

Hsaung-yoon Han

Palmer

6. Diversions, Op. 23

Ron Yu

Robert Muczynski

7. Fountain in the rain

Maria Romanov

William Gillock

8. A Gentle Joke

Eleanor Poland*

Lynn Freeman Olson

9. Speechless

Adelyn Crum

Alan Menken

10. Danse Caprise	Mark McGraw	Timothy Brown
11. Summertime Caprice	Jubilee Heys	William Gillock
12. Happy Birthday to You	Ashleigh Barger	William Gillock
13. A la maniere de Borodin	Ian Mateev	Maurice Ravel
14. Whirlwind	Celine Dai*	Dennis Alexander
15. Two Peasant Dances	Sherman Poland*	Bela Bartok
16. Piano Sonata No. 4, Mvmt. 2	Frances Heethuis	Vincent Persechetti
17. Long Ago	Caitlin Barger*	Nicholas Zamoroko
18. Soaring	Isabella Vinecki	William Gillock

* third-time participant

Presentation of the certificates and trophies follows the recital.

Recital No. 5 – 2:00 p.m.

Welcome Performances by Dr. Cho and GVSU Students

12 Etudes, Op. 39, No. 6 “Dance of the Gnomes” Edward MacDowell (1860-1908)
 Julian Moore
 Frist Year: Major in Piano Performance (BM)

Three Operatic Arrangements Edward Neeman (b. 1984)
 II. *Faust Waltz* (from Gounod’s *Faust*)
 Dr. Cho, Sam Bergman, Noah Carr, and Bri Hofman

Performances by Pre-College Pianists

1. Moonlight	William Gillock
Estelle Lee*	
2. Classical Sonatina	Nan Faber
Charis Liu	
3. Having Fun on My Pogo Stick	Dianne G. Rahbee
Teagan McGee	
4. Sunset in Rio	Mike Springer
Kensley Wernet**	
5. Play it Again	Christopher Norton
Aela McGee	
6. Little Sister	Norman Dello Joio
Angel Pham*	
7. The Ice Skaters	Eric Waldeufel
Kevin Li*	
8. The Elegant Toreador	Seymour Bernstein
Arin Goel	
9. The Fly's Adventure	Nan Faber
Jaxon Braman*	

10. Sonatina in C Major mvt 1 (Allegro)	Elleah Reese*	Frank Lynes
11. Prelude No. 2 in F# minor	Emma Lee***	Timothy Brown
12. No Fundo Do Mei Quintal from Guia Pratico for Piano (Deep in My Backyard from Twice Five Pieces)	Carine Jawad	Heitor Villa-Lobos
13. Dawn	Han Pham*	Dario Marianelli
14. Little Shooting Star	Josve Vega	June Montgomery
15. Flight of the Morning Dove	Gavin Rodriguez**	Mary Leaf
16. Bumblee Boogie	Aleister Angier	Jack Fina
17. Mi-La	Cayden Duursma	Mario Castelnuovo Tedesco

* third-time participant

** fourth-time participant

*** seventh-time participant

Presentation of the certificates and trophies follows the recital.

Recital No. 6 – 3:00 p.m.

Welcome Performances by Dr. Cho and GVSU Students

Three Miniature Portraits of Uncle Ned

Florence Price (1887-1953)

I. 17

II. 27

III. 70

Bri Hofman

Fourth Year: Double-Major in Music (BA in Piano/Saxophone) and Cell and Molecular Biology (BS)

Sarcasms, Op. 17

Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953)

I. Tempestoso

Noah Carr

Third Year: Major in Piano Performance (BM)

Three Operatic Arrangements

Edward Neeman (b. 1984)

Excerpt from III. *Bacchanale* (from Saint-Saëns' *Samson et Dalila*)

Noah Carr, Dr. Cho, Sam Bergman, and Adam West

Performances by Pre-College Pianists

1. My Laughing Chimpanzee

Catherine Rollin

Rylin Smith

2. Sonatina No.2, Mvt.3

Keith Snell

Greta Fahrenkopf*

3. Raindrops on the Window

Kevin Costley

Hudson Smith*

4. The mouse in the coal bin

Charles Peerson

Brandon Wang

5. The Great Smoky Mountains

David Carr Glover

Yumi Nelson

6. Springtime Waltz

Glenda Austin

Heidi Fahrenkopf***

7. Tarantella

Frank Lynes

Eli Heredia

8. Dragon Fly	Gracelyn Smith**	William Gillock
9. Prelude No.8 in A minor	Quinn Smith***	Timothy Brown
10. Prelude No.1 in D minor	Bennett Smith****	Timothy Brown
11. Daydreaming	Nino Grias**	Timothy Brown
12. Golliwogg's Cakewalk	Sabrina Park*****	Claude Debussy
13. The Entertainer	Naomi Nelson	Scott Joplin
14. Prelude and Fugue No. 4 in E minor, Op. 87	Liam Graham	Dmitri Shostakovich
15. Gold Fish	Ariston Liu*	William Gillock
16. Prelude No.5 in A minor	Colton Smith*****	Timothy Brown
17. Sonatina in C Major, Movement 1	Annie Lou Howell	Aram Khachaturian
18. Gymnopédie No. 1	Zhuowei Zhou	Erik Satie
19. Prelude in C sharp minor	Adam Lobo*****	Rachmaninov
20. The Girl with the Flaxen Hair	Maya Lobo*****	Claude Debussy
21. Sonata in E-minor	Miles Lou**	Florence B. Price

- * third-time participant
- ** fourth-time participant
- *** fifth-time participant
- **** seventh-time participant
- ***** eighth-time participant
- ***** eleventh-time participant

Presentation of the certificates and trophies follows the recital.

Adjudicators

Dr. Sookkyung Cho

Noted for her “sensitive and imaginative” (New York Concert Review) playing, Korean-born pianist Sookkyung Cho has been captivating worldwide audiences with her personal, thoughtful expressionist style. She 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, Canada, Xi'an Conservatory, Zhejiang University in China, and Château de Fontainebleau in France, among others, and was recently heard on Chicago’s WFMT.

A founding member of the New York-based Almava trio, Dr. Cho has also been featured in major music festivals including Yellow Barn, Norfolk, and Sarasota, and was a Performing Associate at Bowdoin International Music Festival in Maine. A seasoned adjudicator, she has judged Osaka International Music Competition China Regional Preliminary Round, University of Michigan Concerto Competition, New England Conservatory Preparatory School for its Concerto Competition Finals, Walnut Hill School for the Arts Honors Chamber Music auditions, MMTA Concerto Competition, MMTA SAT state final, and many others. She has also taught piano and chamber music faculty at NEC Preparatory in Boston, theory at Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, and piano for the LINKS Signature Arts Program at The Juilliard School in New York. Her students have been accepted to prestigious music programs, such as the graduate program at the University of Michigan and the Orford Music Academy in Canada, and have placed in numerous competitions including St. Cecilia Music Center's Concerto and Scholarship Competitions, Grand Rapids Youth Symphony Competition, and Michigan Music Teachers Association's Student Achievement Testing.

Dr. Cho earned her Bachelor of Music degree from Juilliard, where she was honored with John Erskine Graduation prize for "an exceptional level of scholastic and artistic achievement" and a Master of Music degree from Peabody as a full graduate assistantship recipient, where she also received Grace Clagett Ranney Prize in Chamber Music. She earned her terminal degree, Doctor of Musical Arts, from Juilliard as a C. V. Starr Doctoral Fellow, where she also taught as a teaching fellow both in Piano Minor and Literature and Materials departments. Her teachers include Boris Slutsky, Julian Martin, Matti Raekallio, and Jonathan Bass. Associate Professor of Piano, Artist-Performer at Grand Valley State University, Dr. Cho has also served on faculty at InterHarmony Music Festival in Italy, ESME String Virtual Camp, and Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Michigan during the summer. www.sookkyungcho.com

Dr. Sheng-Yuan Kuan

Praised for her "admirable technical finesse and expressive flair" (Baltimore Sun), pianist Sheng-Yuan Kuan has garnered enthusiastic receptions for her solo and chamber music performances at the Kennedy Center, Weill Recital Hall, Taiwan National Concert Hall, Musikverein in Vienna, and various music festivals and concert series throughout the US. Sheng-Yuan's collaborations with renowned musicians such as Chad Hoopes, Nobuko Imai, Stefan Jackiw, Espen Lilleslatten, Elmar Oliveira, Sir Angel Romero, Richard Stolzman, Stephen Taylor, Keng-Yuen Tseng, Time for Three, and Latin Grammy Award winning flautist Nestor Torres, reflect her passion in making chamber music of eclectic styles.

Born in Taipei, Taiwan, Sheng-Yuan relocated to America to further her music education. She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts from The Peabody Conservatory, Master of Music from Yale School of Music, and Bachelor of Music from the Manhattan School of Music, studying with famed pedagogues like Boris Slutsky, Peter Frankl, Scott McCarrey and Constance Keene. She garnered awards at competitions worldwide, including the 13th Beethoven Piano Competition in Vienna (Best Female Pianist Award, 2009), the 12th Taipei Chopin International Piano Competition (3rd Prize, 2008), Corpus Christi International Competition in Texas (2nd Prize, 2008), and New York Kosciuszko Chopin Piano Competition (3rd Prize, 2003). Sheng-Yuan performs with a wide array of ensembles, including Florida-based A's Duo, Con Brio Ensemble, Scherzo Trio, and the South Florida Chamber Ensemble. She is also a founding member of Femina Camera Trio and has played orchestra piano with the Palm Beach Symphony and New World Symphony. Sheng-Yuan is currently serving as staff collaborative pianist and keyboard instructor at Lynn University Conservatory of Music in Boca Raton, Florida. In the summer, you can find her performing at the Heifetz International Music Institute and the Josef Gingold Chamber Music Festival.

Photos from this event will be posted on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

CONGRATULATIONS to all the participants!

SPECIAL THANKS to the parents and the teachers of our wonderful performers!

The use of cameras, video cameras, or recording devices is strictly prohibited.
Please remember to turn off your cell phones.



www.gvsu.edu/mtd/piano



2025-2026 SEASON CALENDAR

GVSU - PIANO

ALL events are free and open to the public.

Friday, 9/5, 7:30pm, SVS

Unearthing Three American Composers
Zenas Hsu - Sookkyung Cho Violin-Piano Duo Recital



Thursday, 9/11, 4:30pm, SVS

Lecture-Recital: Harmonic Significance in Sergei Rachmaninoff's Piano Sonata no. 1 in D minor, op. 28
John Solari

Presented in partnership with



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THEATRE & DANCE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



Thursday, 10/2, 4:30pm, SVS

Lecture Recital: Adagio and the fantastic style:
searching for traces of improvisatory traditions in
the Wunderkammern of the Classical Period
Pedro Sperandio



Friday, 10/10, 7:30pm, LAT

Beethoven Concerto No. 3 with GVSU Orchestra
Dr. Sookkyung Cho



Monday, 10/13, 7:30pm, SVS

Guest Artist Recital: Dr. Sergei Kvitko



Monday, 1/12, 7:30pm, SVS

Guest Piano Trio Recital: Kim-Singer-Woo Trio

Thursday, 1/22, 4:30pm, SVS

Lecture-Recital: Women of the Chicago Black Renaissance
Mira Walker

Presented in partnership with



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Sunday, 3/29, 2pm, SVS

Guest Piano Recital: Dr. Dror Biran
Supported by William Baum Endowment Fund



Thursday, 4/16, 7:30pm, SVS

Guest Piano Recital: Dr. Nicholas Susi



Masterclass Series

9/11, 5:30pm, John Solari
9/12, 1pm, Paulina Zamora
10/2, 5:30pm, Pedro Sperandio
11/13, 4:30pm Margarita Denenburg
1/12, 3:45pm, Alan Woo
1/22, 5:30pm, Mira Walker
3/29, 5pm, Dror Biran
4/17, 5pm, Nicholas Susi

Program subject to change without prior notice.

Please check our website before each event.

www.gvsu.edu/mtd/events



Our “1 Piano 8 Hands” recording is available on all streaming services!



YouTube



Spotify