

Mei Yi Foo

PIANIST

"Once again, Foo wows with her touch, clarity and naturalness."

International Piano Magazine



Hailed "a pianist to watch" by BBC Radio 3, "Rising Star" by International Piano Magazine, and the winner of the Maria Callas Grand Prix 2008 in Athens, Malaysian pianist Mei Yi Foo has earned her reputation as an outstanding musician with a "special and unclassifiable talent" (www.inkpot.com).

Mei Yi has captivated audiences across Europe, America and Asia at venues including the Royal Festival Hall, Finlandia Hall, Hong Kong City Hall, Wigmore Hall, Verona Filarmonica, Megaron Athens and the Zurich Kammerorchester Haus. She worked alongside conductors such as Matthias Bamert, Martyn Brabbins, Claus Peter Flor, János Fürst and Christopher Warren-Green; with the BBC Concert Orchestra, Fort Worth Symphony, Helsinki Philharmonic, Hong Kong Sinfonietta, London Chamber Orchestra and Malaysian Philharmonic. Her appearances bring her from St Petersburg's Musical Olympus Festival to Granada's Rachmaninov Festival where critics praised her "unusual interior strength" together with her "personal, intelligent and unique interpretation" (La Opinion Granada).

Mei Yi started her concert season 2010/11 as artist-in-residence at the Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur, collaborating and directing the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra for a nationwide tour of concerto and chamber music concerts. This season, Mei Yi has been invited to appear at the Castletown Festival by Lorin Maazel, and to work with Mitsuko Uchida at the Britten Pears Foundation in Aldeburgh. She was also reinvited by the Pharos Arts Foundation in Cyprus, Mänttä Festival in Finland, Kosterfestivalen in Sweden and Bravissimo Festival in Guatemala, where she was awarded Artist of the Year in the preceding season.

Mei Yi lives in London and enjoys playing chamber music with Dimitri Ashkenazy, Shlomy Dobrinsky, Cristina Ortiz, Antti Siirala, soloists of the Philharmonia Orchestra and London Chamber Orchestra, as well as working with prominent composers such as Dai Fujikura and Unsuk Chin. "Mei Yi Foo is a unique musician, who has played my Piano Etudes with astounding perfection and creativity." - Unsuk Chin

Mei Yi is indebted to a multitude of foundations and awards for their support including the Hattori, Keyboard Trust, MBF, Munster Trust, Philharmonia/MMSF and Wingate. She was guided by Yonty Solomon, Christopher Elton and Alexander Satz at the Royal College and the Royal Academy of Music in London; after graduating from the class of Michael Young at the Wells Cathedral School and Miss Lai Mei Kuen in Malaysia. Her achievements are widely recognised at home, culminating awards such as the BOH Cameronian Best Instrumentalist Arts Award and CLEO Malaysian Young Achievers Award. In January 2011, Mei Yi was awarded the medal of Setiawan Tuanku Muhriz by DYMM Tuanku Muhriz, Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan Malaysia, for her contribution towards art and music in her home country.

"It's Great to be Young"

"The young Mei Yi Foo conquered the great challenge. Behind her delicate figure and elegant interpretive style, she reveals a powerful vision of Rachmaninov 4th Concerto."

Granada Hoy

"Creativity itself... Mei Yi Foo's performance of Ravel "Gaspard de la Nuit" caused the temperature in the concert hall to rise several degrees."

Helsinki Sanomat