

Dr. Evan Wong, Taiwan/USA



Praised by the Chopin Magazine in Japan for his “transparent, beautiful tone and thoughtful interpretation,” Taiwanese American pianist Evan Wong is the Silver Medalist and audience prize winner of the 6th Sendai International Competition in Japan. He has appeared in recitals and concerts throughout North America, Europe and Asia in venues such as Carnegie’s Weill Hall and Merkin Hall in New York, Jordan Hall and John Hancock Hall in Boston, Chicago Cultural Center and Pick-Staiger Hall in Chicago, Kirishima Concert Hall, Itzumity 21 Concert Hall and Hitachi Systems Hall in Japan, Daegu Concert House in South Korea, Flagey Studio 4 in Belgium, Brussels, Richard Jakoby Saal in Hannover, Germany, Palau de la Música Catalana in Barcelona, Spain, Music Centre in Helsinki, Finland and Taiwan National Concert Hall, Taichung Opera House and Weiwuying National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts in Taiwan.

He released his first solo album under the Acousence Label in Germany in 2020 and has also recorded for the MPR (Minnesota, USA), WFMT (Chicago, USA), KBS (South Korea), Shanghai Classical 94.7 (China), and the Taipei Classical, Radio Taiwan International, National

Education, Bravo 91.3 and Voice of Han (Taiwan) stations.

Mr. Wong has appeared as a soloist with orchestras including the Sendai Philharmonic, Orchestre Royal de Chambre de Wallonie, Orquesta de Cámara de Bellas Artes de México, Southern Illinois Festival Orchestra, National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra, Evergreen Symphony Orchestra, Taipei Century Symphony Orchestra, New Sendai Philharmonic, Saga Symphony Orchestra, World Civic Orchestra, Northwestern University Symphony Orchestra and the NEC Philharmonia Orchestra and conductors Pascal Verrot, Julian Kuerti, Victor Yampolsky, Daniela Candillari, Paul Meyer, Yuri Nitta, Edward Benyas, Kuokman Lio, Seitaro Ishikawa, Tung-Chieh Chuang, Gernot Schmalfluss and Ludwig Carrasco.

A frequent guest in several renowned festivals, Mr. Wong has performed at the Verbier, Lucerne, Ravinia, Aspen, Gilmore, Kneisel Hall festivals where he has worked and collaborated with musicians such as Itzak Perlman, Miriam Fried, Gary Hoffman, Midori, Mihaela Martin, Pamela Frank, Franz Helmerson, Laurence Lesser, Kim Kashkashian and members of the Cleveland, Takacs and Juilliard Quartets.

Mr. Wong holds degrees from the Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien Hannover in Germany (Konzertexamen), Northwestern University’s Bienen School of Music (D.M.A), The Juilliard School (M.M) and the New England Conservatory (B.M). His teachers include Matti Raekallio, Jerome Lowenthal, Wha Kyung Byun, Boris Slutsky, Mengchieh Liu, Alan Chow, Ewa Kupiec and Rolf-Peter Wille.

Currently, Mr. Wong is a full-time piano faculty at Fu Jen University in Taiwan. He is also the distinguished professor at Harbin Conservatory of Music in China and serves on the faculty at the University of Taipei.

Dr. Cahill Smith, USA



Pianist **Cahill Smith** has performed in major venues in the United States and abroad, including four programs at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in New York, Chongqing's PolyTheatre, Zhuhai's Mozart Hall, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum's Calderwood Hall in Boston, Cleveland Museum of Art, the Royal Dublin Society's Concert Hall, Buffalo's Kleinhan's Music Hall, and Birmingham's Alys Stephens Center. Cahill has been featured as a concerto soloist with the National Ukrainian Symphony Orchestra in Kiev, the Mongolian Symphony Orchestra in Hohhot, China, the Eastman Philharmonia, the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, the Chattanooga Symphony, the Butler Symphony Orchestra, the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra, and others. His live and studio recordings have been broadcast on WQXR, New York's Classical Music Radio Station, WCRB, Classical Radio Boston, and WSMC, Chattanooga Public Radio.

Cahill gave his first recital at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in 2013 with a program dedicated entirely to works of Nikolai Medtner. Two years later, in a review of his 2015 solo recital in the same venue, *New York Concert Review* wrote, "The entire second half was devoted to a special "cause" of

Mr. Smith: the piano music of Nikolai Medtner [...]. Here, Mr. Smith was in his element, revealing every twist and turn, every poignant repeat of the cyclic themes, with beautiful shimmering colors I haven't heard since Gilels played the *Sonata reminiscenza* in Carnegie Hall in 1980." Cahill has given recitals and lectures on Medtner's music at Yale University, the International Medtner Festival in London, and others. In January of 2019, his debut album "Medtner: Forgotten Melodies" was featured as Classical Radio Boston's "CD of the Week" for its "irresistible lyricism" and "a palpable sense of love – a real affinity for the directness and honesty in Medtner's music, which goes straight to the heart."

Cahill completed his Doctorate of Musical Arts at the Eastman School of Music, where he served as the teaching assistant to Natalya Antonova. At Eastman, Cahill was the inaugural recipient of the Douglas Lowry award for excellence in degree recital performance, won the Eastman Concerto Competition, received honors in chamber music, and was awarded the Prize for Excellence in Teaching. Cahill completed his Master's degree at the University of Michigan with Arthur Greene, and his Bachelor's at the University of Alabama at Birmingham with Yakov Kasman. Cahill previously served as Keyboard Area Coordinator and Artistic Director of the International Piano Festival and Competition at Lee University. He joined the faculty of Utah State University in 2019. Cahill is a Yamaha Artist.

Dr. Edith Widayani, Indonesia



Hailed as one of the most accomplished young pianists in her home country of Indonesia, Dr. Edith Widayani has established herself as performing solo artist, chamber musician, and music educator, with appearances in North, Central, and South Americas, Europe, and Asia.

Recently released two albums - "Imagination" and "Memories" - with the aim of making classical music more accessible through celebrating contemporary composers, telling stories, and sharing inspirations, Edith is currently the President of the World Piano Teachers Association - Indonesia.

Having earned her Doctorate of Musical Arts degree in Performance and Literature with double minors in Chamber Music/Collaborative Piano and Music Theory from the Eastman School of Music - the first Indonesian to earn a doctorate from Eastman - Edith graduated as a *Pi Kappa Lambda* and was awarded the prestigious Henry Cobos Endowed Piano Prize for demonstrating excellence in piano performance.

She also holds a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance, *magna cum laude*, from Texas Christian University School of Music and a Master of Music in Piano Performance and Literature from Eastman School of Music. Her teachers include Mrs. Edmay Solaiman, Mrs. Aisha Pletscher, Dr. Johannes Nugroho, Prof. Ling Yuan, Dr. Tamás Ungár, and most recently, Prof. Barry Snyder.

As laureate of both solo and chamber music competitions, including the 1st Prize Winner at Indonesia International Piano Competition, the 1st Prize and Best Instrumentalist Award at the *Concurso de Música Cámara Ecomarque Trasmiera* in Arnuero, Spain, 1st Prize Winners in the 2014 Kosciuszko Foundation Chopin Piano Competition in New York City, 2013 Jakarta International Open Piano Competition, and Ananda Sukarlan Award 2010, Edith has also received Award of Achievement in International Forum given by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Indonesia.

Committed to music education as a young on-demand pedagogue, Edith has taught intensively at Eastman, as assistant to Prof. Snyder for piano, instructor for keyboard literature, and teaching assistant in musicology and theory departments. In the recent years she did both performances and residencies at the *Escuela de Música Victoriano López* in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, and at the *Escuela Superior de Música, Universidad Juárez del Estado de Durango* in Mexico. She also performed and gave masterclasses as a guest artist in Del Mar College, Corpus Christi, TX in 2016 and at 2013 Bogotá International Piano Festival in Colombia.

An avid chamber musician, Edith was a guest artist on the 6th Asia Region Suzuki Conference in Bali in 2016. As a collaborative artist at Eastman, Edith was given Award of Excellence in Accompanying two years in a row and featured at the Eastman Virtuosi Concert Series, performing with Eastman faculty - bass-baritone Jan Opalach, violinist Federico Agostini and double-bassist James VanDemark. Edith is also a graduate of the 2019 cohort of The Global Leaders Program, focusing on transforming lives around the world through music, cultural agency, social entrepreneurship, community development and teaching artistry.