

Di Xiao

Piano

"A very clear mind and excellent fingers"
- Alfred Brendel

Described as "a pianist of awesome gifts" by the Birmingham Post, Chinese pianist Di Xiao concluded a major international recital tour in 2009 representing the UK as part of the universally acclaimed 'Rising Stars' series. The tour included sell out concerts at the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Vienna Konzerthaus, Salzburg Mozartium, Stockholm Konserthaus and Luxembourg Philharmonie. Following her Cologne Philharmonie recital, played to an audience of over 1000, the press stated that "Di Xiao presents a demanding programme that takes your breath away." As the tour progressed she went on to thrill audiences at Symphony Hall and Town Hall Birmingham, Brussels Bozar, Athens Megaron, Hamburg Laeiszhalle and Barcelona L'Auditori.

Success began at an early age when she won the 'Most Outstanding Young Musician of Guangdong Province Award' aged just 16. Since then Xiao has won many national and international prizes including; the Ludlow Philharmonic Concerto Prize in 2005, the Birmingham Symphony Hall Prize in 2006, a Worshipful Company of Musicians Silver Medal in 2007 and, in the same year, first prize in the Brant International Piano Competition.

Di Xiao studied at the Odessa Conservatoire and Beijing Central Conservatory of Music before taking a scholarship at BCU Birmingham Conservatoire in 2005. She has held a position at the latter since 2007.

Di's international career started at 17 when she played Chengzong Yin's Yellow River Piano Concerto in Kuala Lumpur and Penang for the Malaysian Royal Family. Subsequently Di has been invited to perform as a soloist in many countries including Ukraine, Singapore, India, China and the UK. In the UK, her concert performances have received much acclaim. Her debut at Symphony Hall

Birmingham in 2006 was described by the UK Chinese Times as "A stunning concert!" and an early performance of the Schumann Concerto prompted The Birmingham Post to say "In her graceful, dancing finale it was easy to imagine Clara Schumann at the keyboard." Di has appeared at many of the UK's leading venues, including Wigmore Hall, St David's Hall, Symphony Hall Birmingham, St George Bristol and St Martin in the Fields. She has also performed for a number of important music festivals including Bremen Musikfest (Germany), New Generation Arts Festival (UK), Buxton Arts Festival (UK) and Leamington Music Festival (UK). In October 2010 Xiao conducted a tour of China during which she played for her home town's enormous inaugural Classical Music Festival in GuangZhou (Canton).

In 2008 Di Xiao released her debut Album "Di Xiao Presents". Her second 'Journey' was released in October 2011. In August of that year Di recorded Ravel's piano works for SOMM Recordings; the resulting CD will be released in 2012. Many of Xiao's live performances have been recorded and transmitted on national radio stations across Europe.

Other media appearances include interviews and live performance on BBC Radio 3's In Tune, BBC Radio 4's Woman's Hour and Classic FM. She has featured in a number of leading music magazines, Classical Music Magazine, Pianist Magazine and International Pianist Magazine among them. In October, Phoenix TV (China) begins filming a documentary on Xiao's musical journey from East to West.

Xiao's repertoire reflects a fabulous spectrum of musical styles. She enjoys collaboration with other artists and works with Julian Lloyd Webber and EMI guitarist Xuefei Yang. She has a keen interest in Chinese classical folk music as well as contemporary piano works. Di Xiao forms a strong bond with audiences everywhere and exudes a special quality and integrity in her music making. She aspires to be an international ambassador for the piano, combining both Chinese and Western repertoire in the programming of her concerts, thereby forming a bridge between two cultures.



Career Highlights

- Performed "Yellow River Concerto" for Malaysian Royal Family at Kuala Lumpur aged 17.
- Birmingham Symphony Hall Debut, 2006.
- First Prize, Brant International Piano Competition, 2007.
- Silver Medal, Worshipful Company of Musicians, 2007.
- First BBC Radio Interview, 2007.
- Debut album 'Di Xiao Presents' released, 2008.
- First track broadcast on BBC Radio 3, 2008.
- UK representative to the European Concert Halls Organisation (ECHO) Rising Star Series, 2008-2009.
- Standing ovation Amsterdam Concertgebouw March 2009
- Classic FM interview 2009.
- Named among the top ten up and coming Chinese pianists by International Piano Magazine, 2009.
- BBC Radio 3 In-Tune feature February and October 2011.
- BBC Radio 4 Woman's Hour October 2011.
- Second album 'Journey' released 2011.
- Signed exclusively to SOMM Recordings August 2011.

CONTACT

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ECHO

Education and Culture

Culture 2000

"She [Di Xiao] has fine technique, wide-ranging repertoire, an extremely pleasant platform manner and the personal qualities and capacity to really engage with an audience."

Andrew Jowett, Director: Symphony Hall/Town Hall Birmingham UK

"The Chinese pianist Di Xiao presents a demanding programme consisting of Beethoven, Chopin, Ravel and Messiaen that takes your breath away".

Kölner Philharmonie

"A deft touch to marvel at" (Following a performance of Beethoven Concerto No 4 with The Sinfonia of Birmingham.)

Christopher Morley; Birmingham Post

"Very clear mind and excellent fingers!"

Alfred Brendel

"A stunning concert. Di Xiao's playing combined power and delicacy, her exceptional talent received long applause from the audience at [the] Symphony Hall Birmingham."

UK Chinese Times

"A piano recital which began with such a serene entrance from the soloist ended with whoops cheers and a standing ovation. What happened in between was entirely due to the quietly impressive musicianship of Di Xiao."

The Birmingham Post

"In the technically much more difficult »Mirrors« by Ravel and in the selection from Messiaen's »Eight Preludes« we experienced an artist who is absolutely at one with what she is playing. Ravel's »Sad Birds« became a fascinating, finely detailed study of the different tonal colours available on the piano and Messiaen's harmonic »stained glass church windows« glittered flamboyantly under Di Xiao's hands"

Hamburger Abendblatt

"Sparkling finger-work (Tchaikovsky; The Seasons), Brutal (Prokofiev; Sonata No6), a tranquil end to a mature performance (Chinese folk-song; Autumn Moon on a Calm Lake)".

Clive Peacock; Leamington Courier.

"A pianist of awesome gifts ...her imperious opening flourish [Schumann Concerto] announced a capacity for full, rich chording. But there was also flowing, rippling figuration as she revealed her instinctive grasp of this wonderful work. In her graceful, dancing finale it was easy to imagine Clara Schumann at the keyboard, Di Xiao's profile and demeanour uncannily close to those of the great lady herself."

The Birmingham Post

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