J. Isaac Chua

Born on June 14, 1993 in Manila, Philippines, J. Isaac Chua began learning the piano at the age of eight after he and his family immigrated to the United States.

After three years of studying under a number of local teachers, he began studying intensely with Hania Kyrcz-Dec and concurrently with Leonard Richter as of 2010. At fourteen, Chua gave his orchestral debut with the Mid-Columbia Symphony Orchestra playing Chopin's Concerto E-minor, and at fifteen, he performed at Carnegie Hall in New York. Among numerous awards, he was the first prize winner of the International American Protégé Piano and Strings Competition and the gold medalist of the Sixth International Chopin Youth Piano Competition where he also received the special award for best polonaise. Most recently, he was the sole winner of the "Margie May Ott Piano Award" from pool of over 800 competing pianists.

Chua has appeared as a guest artist for numerous orchestras and has performed in many venues around the world. Along the way, Chua has received instructions from notable pianists and pedagogues including Andrzej Jasinski, Lee Kum Sing, Natalya Antonova, Robert McDonald, Steven Spooner, Peter Mack, Anthony Padilla, Zbigniew Raubo, Alexander Shtarkman, and Sam Rotman. He also studied at the "Szkoła Mistrzów Fortepianu" program in Katowice, Poland.

A recipient of the "Howard Hanson Scholarship," Chua will begin studying at the Eastman School of Music under Nelita True, pursuing his Bachelor of Music degree beginning fall of 2011.

SET LIST:

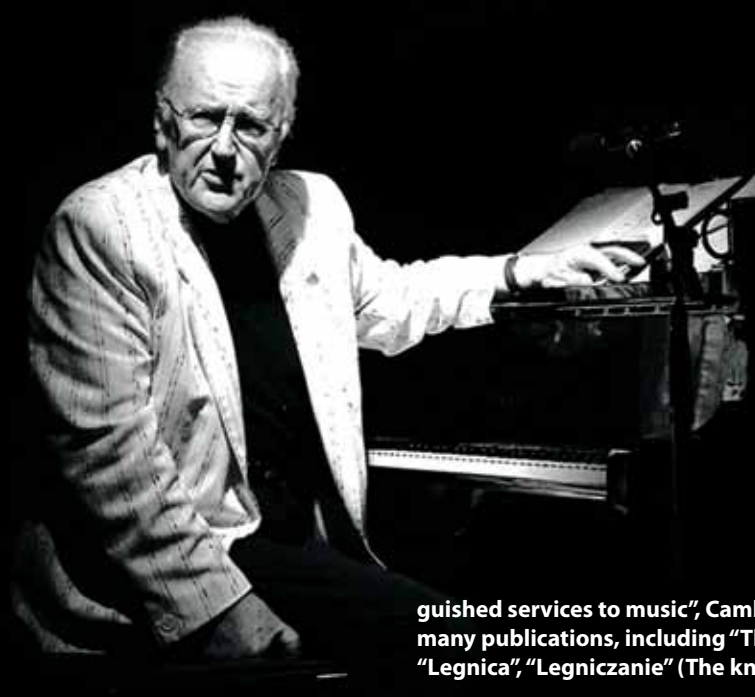
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) - Prelude and Fugue in C sharp major, BWV 848
Fyderyk Chopin (1810-1849) - Scherzo in B-flat minor Op. 31 No. 2
- Polonaise in A-flat major, Op. 53
Maurice Ravel (1875-1937) - "Scarbo" from Gaspard de la Nuit

-----Intermission-----

Sergei. Rachmaninov (1873-1943)- Etude in E-flat minor, Op. 39 No. 5
L. van Beethoven (1770-1827) - Sonata in F minor, Op. 57 No. 23
I. Allegro assai
II. Andante con moto - attacca
III. Allegro ma non troppo – Presto

-----after longer Intermission-----

Ryszard Wrzaskala



Ryszard Wrzaskala was born (1932) in Żnin, Poland. He achieved a Master of Arts from the Conservatory of Music in Wrocław and became director/conductor of the Legnica Symphony Orchestra. After wining first prize in a music competition, organized by the Polish Radio in Wroclaw, he moved to Warsaw, where he was active as a composer, arranger for the Polish National Radio & TV, and later as a Music director and conductor of the National Dance Company of Poland "Mazowsze".

In 1969 he immigrated to Canada, where he worked in night clubs, taught school band and music in Vancouver. He continued to compose in many genres: classical, jazz and pop for solo instruments as well as symphonic works. Wrzaskala has completed many commissioned works and won over thirty international awards, including three gold medals for his song writing skills. His music was performed by many Canadian orchestras: the Vancouver Symphony, the Delta Symphony, the Vancouver Philharmonic Orchestra among them.
His ten piano pieces are used by the Canadian National Conservatory of Music as an educational material, which is published by the Northern Lights. Polish publishers: PWM and Syncopa.
He is recipient of several distinctions; medal "For distinguished services to the Legnica Province", Poland; Diploma "For distinguished services to music", Cambridge, England (1980), among others. His name is mentioned in many publications, including "The International Who's Who in Music", "Legnica", "Legniczanie" (The known, famous, distinguished 1945 - 2007).

He is an associate composer of the Canadian Music Centre and lives in Port Moody, BC, Canada.

"Meet the Composer" – Diverse program, from Classical to Jazz and everything in between.