

THE BUTLER UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
presents

The PIANO *at* BUTLER

STEINWAY & SONS *Series*

EIDSON-DUCKWALL RECITAL HALL

UNISON PIANO DUO

Xiao Hu and Du Huang

Saturday, March 22, 2025
7:30 P.M.
Eidson-Duckwall Recital Hall

PROGRAM

Variations on a Theme by Haydn, Op. 56b

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Introduction and Allegro

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

Intermission

The Rite of Spring

Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971)

Part I: The Adoration of the Earth

Introduction

The Augurs of Spring (Dances of the Young Maidens)

The Ritual of the Abduction

Spring Rounds

The Ritual of the Two Rival Tribes

Procession of the Elders

Dance of the Earth

Part II: The Sacrifice

Introduction

Mystic Circle of the Young Maidens

The Chosen One

Evocation of the Ancestors

Ritual of the Ancestors

Sacrificial Dance of the Chosen One

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

UNISON PIANO DUO

Luther College piano faculty members Xiao Hu and Du Huang perform widely as the Unison Piano Duo. Their heartfelt and exquisite performances have earned praises from critics and audiences around the world, including The New York Concert Review (“...fleet and sparkling...unusually high level of ensemble playing”) and the Wuhan Morning Post in China (“Best piano duo concert heard in years!”). The famous piano duet team Weekley and Arganbright gave the following endorsement: “The Unison Piano Duo displayed extraordinary musical sensitivity to the contrasting styles of composers, clean and strong technique, and both warmth and excitement. They will bring great pleasure and inspiration to audiences everywhere.”

Du Huang and Xiao Hu have performed in concert halls in Europe, Asia, and America, including Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall and Merkin Hall in New York City, Orchestra Hall in Chicago, Grosser Saal of Konzerthaus and the Brahms Saal of the Musikverein in Vienna, Salle Gaveau and Salle Cortot in Paris, Shanghai Music Hall, and Beijing Music Hall. The duo has performed numerous concerts in the Czech Republic as part of the Vysočina Music Festival and the South Bohemia Music Festival. They have also toured Brazil, Japan, the Philippines, Malaysia, and many cities in China. Committed to engaging with the music of our time, the duo has commissioned and premiered many new works for the piano duo medium. Unison Piano Duo has issued recordings on the Innova and MSR Classics labels in the United States, and on the *Yangtze River* label in China. Their performances have been broadcast by National Public Radio’s Performance Today, Minnesota Public Radio, and Iowa Public Television.

Du Huang and Xiao Hu were trained from an early age at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music’s Elementary and Middle Schools in China, and later earned Bachelor and Master’s degrees from the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music, studying with pianist Eugene Pridonoff. They received their Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from the State University of New York at Stony Brook under the tutelage of pianist Gilbert Kalish. They are both tenured piano professors at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, where they have served as faculty members since 2001. They hold guest professorships at the Wuhan Conservatory of Music in their native country of China, and have served as piano faculty at Interlochen Arts Camp in Michigan.

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JCA LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We gather here at Butler University on the traditional homelands of Indigenous peoples who were forcibly removed from this place. These peoples include the Myaamiaki (Miami), Lenape (Delaware), Bodewadmi (Potawatomi), Saawanwa (Shawnee), Kiiikaapoi (Kickapoo), and Peouaroua (Peoria) peoples. We honor with gratitude the land itself and the indigenous peoples past and present who have stewarded it throughout the generations. This acknowledgement calls us to commit to hearing and engaging Indigenous voices and perspectives and to being better stewards of the land we inhabit. It also calls us to action. Learn more by scanning the QR code for additional information.



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