

(le) Poisson Rouge Presents:
JENNY Q CHAI, pianist
Tuesday, January 21, 2014, 7:30pm

If on a Winter's Night...

György Kurtág (b.1928): Selections from *Játékok*:

Flowers We Are...1/a
Flowers We Are...1/b
...flowers also the stars...
Walking
Toddling
Bored
Let's Be Silly
The Bunny and the Fox
Stubbunny
Hommage a Domenico Scarlatti

Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625): *Italian Ground*

Kurtág: Selections from *Játékok*:

Quiet Talk with the Devil
Les Adieux (in Janáček's Manier)
Kondor Rock (in the manner of the aging Liszt)
A Voice in the Distance (for Alfred Schlee's 80th birthday)
Bells for Margit Mandy
Shadow-play (4) (Hommage a Somlyo György)
A fills aux cheveux de lin-enragée

Claude Debussy (1862-1918): *Ondine*

Kurtág: Selections from *Játékok*:

Melancholic Overtones
Little Chorale 2
Flowers We Are...3
(Hommage a Beethoven)
Playing with Overtones 2
Fugitive thoughts about the Alberti Bass
Sleepily
Falling Asleep
Flowers We Are...4/a,b
Hommage a J.S.Bach

J.S. Bach (1685-1750): *Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit* (transcription)

Kurtág: Selections from *Játékok*:

Hommage a Schubert
Hommage a Farkas Ferenc (3) (evocation of Petrushka)
Hommage a Farkas Ferenc (4) (Adoration, adoration, accursed desolation)
Reticent Question
Waltz
Reticent Question
Valse
Hommage a Christian Wolff (Half-asleep)
Hommage à Stockhausen

Karlheinz Stockhausen (1928-2007): *Klavierstücke VIII*

Kurtág: Selections from *Játékok*:

Flowers we are...
Grass Blades in memory of Klára Martyn (Ophelia: There's rosemary, that's for remembrance...and there is pansies, that's for thoughts.)
Like the flowers of the field... (in memoriam Ligeti Ilona)
Organ and Bells in memory of Doctor László Dobszay
Doina
Tears
*** -[I will tell my mother Mátáró]*

Guillaume Apollinaire: L'Adieu (I picked...more on earth...and to remember...smell of the time...)

Marco Stroppa (b.1958): *Ninnananna*

Kurtág: Selections from *Játékok*:

Kurtág: selections from Játékok
...and once more: Flowers We Are...
Merran's Dream (Caliban detecting-rebuilding Miranda's dream)
Adventure in the Past (Ligatura for Ligeti)
Hommage a Bartók
Hommage a Tchaikovsky
Hommage a Paganini
Perpetuum mobile

Robert Schumann (1810-1856): "Marche des 'Davidsbündler' contre les Philistin" from *Carnaval*

::ABOUT:: Jenny Q Chai

An adventurous and prodigiously talented young player, Jenny Q Chai cultivates a mercurial and engrossing stage presence and seeks to create “fairy tales for grown-ups” in her themed and multimedia concert performances. Ms. Chai’s unique programs include standard classical repertoire such as Schumann and Debussy to 20th and 21st century piano works, often by living composers, such as Marco Stroppa, with whom she has a close affiliation.

Recently having made her Carnegie Hall debut at Zankel Hall, Chai was praised by the *New York Times*’ Anthony Tommasini for her “resourceful technique and sensitivity” as well as playing that is “admirable for its refinement and directness.” Of her performance at the Keys to the Future Festival, Zachary Woolfe wrote in the *New York Times*: “Jenny Q Chai opened the concert playing two of Ligeti’s *Études* with rich tone and rhythmic clarity; especially strong was her “Cordes à vide.” In addition to Carnegie Hall and (le) Poisson Rouge, Chai has played at New York venues such as Roulette, Symphony Space, the Stone and recently made her Chicago debut playing Schumann’s *Kreisleriana* on the Dame Myra Hess Series.

Recipient of the Yvar Mikhashoff Trust’s 2011 Pianist/Composer Commissioning Project, first prize winner of the Keys to the Future Contemporary Solo Piano Festival, and recipient of the DAAD Arts and Performance award in 2010, Chai has premiered, most notably, *Life Sketches* and *Five Pieces* (for Jenny Q Chai) by Nils Vigeland, *Intimate Rejection* by Ashley Fu-Tsun Wang, Messiaen’s *Canteyodjaya* (China premiere) and Marco Stroppa’s *Innige Cavatina* (US premiere). Chai has also premiered “Marriage (Mile 58) Section F” from *The Road* by Frederick Rzewski in Ghent, Belgium, where she was given the Logos Award for the best performance of 2008. Chai played the first contemporary solo piano concert in China this June at the National Performing Arts Center in Beijing; and she recently had the privilege of introducing the concept of prepared piano to a Chinese audience, with the world premiere of *Mallet Dance* by John Slover, in Shanghai Concert Hall.

Chai’s talents have been showcased on recordings with Ensemble 20/21 on the Deutschlandfunk label (performing music by Hanns Eisler) and as solo pianist/vocalist on ArpaViva’s *New York Love Songs*. Chai recently received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Manhattan School of Music, where she wrote her thesis (advisor, Marilyn Nonken) on composer Marco Stroppa. Chai has also studied at the Shanghai Music Conservatory, at Curtis Institute of Music with Seymour Lipkin, and has received two degrees from the Manhattan School of Music where she studied with Solomon Mikowsky, Nils Vigeland, and Anthony de Mare. In Germany, she studied with Pierre-Laurent Aimard, and performed in Ensemble 20/21, directed by David Smeyers, as well as the group Musikfabrik.

For Chai, near-total immersion in the contemporary music world has only enhanced her appreciation of the classical repertoire. “I feel a sense of contentment programming creative concerts,” says Chai, “mixing and matching old and new works, so as to highlight what is most special in each piece. After all, nothing comes from nothing, and new music is very much connected to that which came before.” Now splitting her time between the U.S. and China, Chai serves on the Board of Directors for the New York City-based contemporary music organization Ear to Mind. In Ear to Mind performances in 2011 and 2012, Chai premiered a number of new works, including *Five Pieces (for Jenny Q Chai)* by Nils Vigeland as well as works by Inhyun Kim and Ashley Fu-Tsun Wang. Jenny is also founder of FaceArt Music InterNations (www.Faceart.info) in Shanghai. FaceArt is an educational center, contemporary music presenter and cultural exchange organization at the frontier of bringing Western contemporary music and the philosophy of American music education to China.

Future engagements for Ms. Chai include NYC’s Spectrum and a forthcoming CD of the works of composer Nils Vigeland for Naxos Records.

www.jennychai.com

Jenny Q Chai is represented worldwide by ARIEL ARTISTS. Please visit www.arielartists.com for more information.