Senior Piano Adjudicator

Derek Zhi Guang Chiu

"...adept at playing many different types of piano literature, having particular affinity for the music of the Classical period, especially that of Mozart, a composer in which he truly understood. Also, his technical mastery of the keyboard allowed him to easily perform the more difficult works of Franz Liszt and Sergei Rachmaninoff." – Steinway Artist Joel Hastings



Canadian pianist and pedagogue Derek Zhi Guang Chiu enjoys an active international career. He is an active performer, music educator, clinician, adjudicator, and music consultant. Chiu is a celebrated and award-winning music educator. Most notably, he is a three-time recipient of Steinway & Sons Top Piano Teacher Award in Calgary (2016, 2018 & 2020).

As a performer, Chiu has performed solo and chamber music recitals in Canada, England, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the United States. His orchestral engagements have included performances with the Windsor Community Orchestra, Briercrest College Orchestra, Rockland Symphony Orchestras and The Rocky Mountain Symphony Orchestra. In 2021, Chiu collaborated with Canadian composer Vince Ho on his composition *The Twelve Chinese Zodiac Animals, Book 1*. In 2022, Chiu gave the world premier performance of the pieces in Canada and subsequent performances in Germany and Italy.

Chiu is a leader in online music education. Chiu presented online professional development workshops on remote music lessons to help music teachers make the transition from in person to online teaching at the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. His workshops were attended by over two thousand music teachers in Canada and the United States. In addition, Chiu maintains a private studio in Calgary where his piano students have earned scholarships to attend undergraduate and graduate music schools; have received gold medals from The Royal Conservatory of Music; and are prize winners at local, national, and international piano competitions.

In November 2013, he was awarded The Odyssey Award by the University of Windsor Alumni Association. The award recognizes alumni who are in the early years of their career path, having distinguished themselves through successes in career endeavors, notable achievements in their local community, or through a significant or innovative achievement in their professional or personal life.