

SHELDON ARTISTS

47 Water Street, Colonia, NJ 07067, USA | +1 (732) 397-9976 | sheldonartists.com

Claire Huangci, piano

"If looking for characteristics of Huangci's piano playing, one finds them in her superior focus, imaginative abilities, and the resulting poetry of her interpretation."

Thomas Schacher, *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*

"...the flamboyant Claire Huangci, winner for the 2019 edition. In Mozart 24th concerto, [...] her result is a formidably full orchestra sound, all in the service of a highly dramatic interpretation, leaning into the temptation of turning into a show, but with the result of revitalizing the soloist/instrument dialog."

Christian Merlin, *Le Figaro*

Winner of Chopin Competitions (Darmstadt, 2009; Miami 2010) and the 2018 Géza Anda Competition (First Prize & Mozart Prize), American pianist **Claire Huangci** continually captivates audiences with her "radiant virtuosity, artistic sensitivity, keen interactive sense and subtle auditory dramaturgy" (*Salzburger Nachrichten*). With an irrepressible curiosity and penchant for unusual repertoire, she proves her versatility with a wide range in repertoire spanning from Bach and Scarlatti, to Bernstein, Gulda, and Corigliano.

Claire Huangci started off her 2020-21 season with concerts paying homage to Beethoven's anniversary -- with a compelling interpretation of his *Pastorale* Symphony [arranged for solo piano by Franz Liszt] in concert at the Berlin Philharmonie, Hamburg Elbphilharmonie, Klavier-Festival Ruhr, and the Rheingau Musik Festival. Later this season, after appearances with Alexei Volodin as a piano duo at the Hamburg Elbphilharmonie and the release of a new album of Ravel and Chausson with her *Trio Machiavelli*, Claire will make her debut in the Great Performers series of Lincoln Center as well as give concerts at the Ravinia Festival and Frankfurt Alte Oper. Among her orchestra engagements this season are dates with the Deutsche Radiophilharmonie Saarbrücken, Museumsorchester Frankfurt, Basel Chamber Orchestra, and the Slovak Philharmonic.

Fostering a newly-discovered love for conducting from the keyboard, Claire won the Grand Prix of the 2019 Paris Play-Direct Academy, co-organized by the Orchestre Chambre de Paris and Steinway & Sons. Already having led performances leading the Munich Chamber Orchestra, Zagreb Solisti, and Festival Strings Lucerne, she will play/conduct concertos of Mozart and Chopin with the Nordic Chamber Orchestra this season, and return to the Paris Chamber Orchestra in 2021-22.

In solo recitals and with international orchestras, Claire has appeared in some of the most prestigious halls such as Carnegie Hall, Suntory Hall Tokyo, NCPA Beijing, Paris Philharmonie, Munich Gasteig, Leipzig Gewandhaus, Hamburg Elbphilharmonie, Salzburg Festspielhaus, and the Budapest Franc Liszt Akademie. She is a welcome guest in renowned festivals including Lucerne Festival, Verbier Festival, Schleswig Holstein Musik Festival, Rheingau Musik Festival, and Klavier Festival Ruhr. Her musical partners include Mozarteumorchester Salzburg, Stuttgart Radio Symphony Orchestra, Tonhalle-Orchester Zurich, ORF Radio-Symphonieorchester Vienna, Vancouver Symphony, and the China Philharmonic, together with Sir Roger Norrington, Howard Griffiths, Eva Ollikainen, Mario Venzago, Cornelius Meister, and Elim Chan.

Claire is an exclusive **Berlin Classics** recording artist, having released highly-acclaimed recordings of Chopin's complete Nocturnes (2017), Rachmaninoff's complete Préludes (2018), and solo works of Tchaikovsky and Prokofiev, among other prize-winning albums (*German Record Critics' Award & Gramophone Editor's Choice*). Her first orchestral album of concertos by Paderewski and Chopin with the Deutsche Radiophilharmonie Saarbrücken under Shiyeon Sung was released in fall of 2019. In summer of 2020, her first chamber music album was released with her *Trio Machiavelli*, whose interpretations of Ravel trio and Chausson piano quartet proved "a wholly exhilarating debut (...) splendidly transparent, and always expressive." (*BR Klassik*).

Following studies with Eleanor Sokoloff and Gary Graffman at the Curtis Institute, Claire continued her education with Arie Vardi at the Hannover Musikhochschule, becoming his assistant in 2015.

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