

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

KEYBOARD SERIES

PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS 2024–25



RACHEL NAOMI KUDO
piano

Tuesday, Jan. 28
Schneebeck Concert Hall
7:30 p.m.



*This event is sponsored by the Catharine Gould Chism Fund
for the Humanities.*

KEYBOARD SERIES

Rachel Naomi Kudo, piano

Jan. 28, 2025

PROGRAM

- Ballade No.1 in G minor, Op.23.....Fryderyk Chopin
(1810–1849)
- Barcarolle in F-sharp major, Op.60.....Chopin
- Sheep May Safely Graze,.....Johann Sebastian Bach
from Cantata BWV 208 (1685–1750)
arr. Egon Petri
- Italian Concerto in F major, BWV 971.....Bach
[no tempo marking]
Andante
Presto
- Valses Nobles, D.969.....Franz Schubert
(1797–1828)
- Fantasy in C major, D.760, "Wanderer".....Schubert
Allegro con fuoco ma non troppo
Adagio
Presto
Allegro

BIOGRAPHY

Rachel Naomi Kudo, first-prize winner of the International Johann Sebastian Bach Competition in Leipzig, captivates audiences worldwide with her “heartfelt, courageous, and flawless playing” (Lübecker Nachrichten). Hailed as a “thrilling” artist of “exceptional artistic merit and meticulous precision,” Rachel’s performances are a powerful testament to her profound artistry and deep musical insight.

Since her debut with the Chicago and Fort Worth Symphony Orchestras, Rachel has graced stages across the globe. Highlights of her distinguished career include solo and chamber performances at iconic venues such as Bachfest Leipzig, the Royal Castle in Warsaw, Salle Cortot in Paris, the Musikverein in Vienna, the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, the International Chopin Festival in Duszynki-Zdrój, the Tivoli International Festival in Denmark, the Bergen International Festival in Norway, as well as Washington, D.C.'s John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and New York's Alice Tully Hall, David Geffen Hall, and Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall.

Rachel’s accolades reflect her dedication and excellence in the field. She is the recipient of the Gilmore Young Artist Award, a Davidson Fellow Laureate, and a Salon de Virtuosi Grant winner. Her talents have been recognized through the National YoungArts Foundation and Rohm Music Foundation scholarships. She has also garnered top prizes at the U.S. National Chopin Competition in Miami and was a finalist at the 15th International Chopin Competition in Warsaw.

Born in Washington, D.C., to Japanese-Korean parents, Rachel began her musical studies at age four with Emilio del Rosario at the Music Institute of Chicago. After spending her early years in Japan, she returned to the U.S., where she pursued her passion for chamber music and played violin in her high school orchestra. She was a featured performer on NPR’s *From the Top* and later studied with Kum-Sing Lee in Vancouver, Canada.

Rachel earned her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from The Juilliard School under the tutelage of Yoheved Kaplinsky and Joseph Kalichstein. Her many honors include the Arthur Rubinstein Prize, the Chopin Prize, the Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship, and the Sanders/Tel Aviv Art Museum Prize. A two-time first-prize winner of the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition at Juilliard, she furthered her education with a Professional Studies Diploma under Richard Goode at Mannes College of Music. She completed a Doctor of Musical Arts degree with Gilbert Kalish at Stony Brook University, and her studies were enriched by mentorship with Leon Fleisher at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University.

Rachel has benefited from invaluable guidance in master classes led by luminaries such as Robert Levin, Emanuel Ax, and Sir András Schiff at Carnegie Hall's Professional Training Workshops. She has expanded her artistic reach through programs including the Aspen Music Festival and School, Juilliard ChamberFest, the International Musicians Seminar Prussia Cove, Music@Menlo, the Perlman Music Program's Chamber Music Workshop, and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's "Chamber Music Encounters."

A passionate advocate for the transformative power of music, Rachel is deeply committed to fostering cultural engagement and human connection through her performances and teaching. Dedicated to mentoring young musicians, she has led master classes worldwide and served as a live-stream host for the Eighteenth International Chopin Competition in Warsaw and the U.S. National Chopin and Cliburn Junior International Piano Competitions. In February 2021, she premiered Marc-André Hamelin's *Suite à l'ancienne*, commissioned by the Gilmore Piano Festival, in a Virtual Special Event. In January 2025, she will serve as a jury member for the 11th National Chopin Piano Competition of the United States.

UPCOMING SCHOOL OF MUSIC EVENTS

All events are free unless noted otherwise. Most performances are broadcast at pugetsound.edu/schneebecklive.

Tickets available at tickets.pugetsound.edu, in the Logger Store, or at the door.

FRIDAY, JAN. 31

Jacobsen Series: *Inspirations* -- A Celebration of Music Teachers

School of Music faculty members and students

Schneebeck Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets required, free for students. This event will not be broadcast.

SUNDAY, FEB. 2

Keyboard Series: Harpsichord Recital

Wyatt Smith, harpsichord

Kilworth Memorial Chapel, 2 p.m.

MONDAY, FEB. 3

Concert in Collins – Library at Noon Series

Collins Memorial Library West Wing, noon

MONDAY, FEB. 3

Student Solo Recital

Avi Graf '25, cello

Schneebeck Concert Hall, 6 p.m.

MONDAY, FEB. 3

Student Solo Recital

Liam Abbott '26, cello

Schneebeck Concert Hall, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 7

Jacobsen Series: Dawn Padula, mezzo-soprano and guests

Schneebeck Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets required, free for students. This event will not be broadcast.

All listings are subject to change. For the most current information about upcoming arts events and lectures, visit pugetsound.edu/events.

Puget Sound is committed to being accessible to all people. If you have questions about event accessibility, please contact 25Live@pugetsound.edu, or visit pugetsound.edu/accessibility.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that this event takes place on the ancestral territory of the Puyallup Tribe and the Lushootseed-speaking people, whose relationship with the land continues to this day.

We respectfully acknowledge and honor the history and presence of Indigenous students, staff, and faculty here at Puget Sound. We who are guests on this land offer our gratitude for the opportunity to make music together here.

The School of Music strives to recognize, include, and respect all of the peoples and musical traditions that make up our community.

The School of Music at University of Puget Sound, situated within a nationally recognized liberal arts university, prepares students to be broad-minded, creative, arts-aware social leaders. We attract highly engaged student musicians and empower them to create the diverse musical offerings and effective educational programs of the future.

From the classroom to the concert hall, we cultivate students' self-expression, cultural competency, and critical engagement. Through a wide variety of public offerings and a vibrant Community Music program, the School of Music enriches the cultural life of both the Puget Sound campus and surrounding communities.

Community Music, a division of the School of Music, welcomes people of all ages and skill levels to participate in music lessons and classes throughout the year.

pugetsound.edu/communitymusic | 253.879.3575





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