

NICHOLAS ROERICH MUSEUM

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Sunday, May 22, 2016, at 5 p.m.

Gershwin: Double Life of an American Icon
George Gershwin (1898-1937)

Alexander Wu, Yamaha Piano Artist

PROGRAM

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| I. An American in Paris in Miniature (1928) | arr. by Maurice C. Whitney |
| II. Three-Quarter Blues (circa early 1920s) | George Gershwin |
| Impromptu in Two Keys (1929) | |
| Novelette in Fourths (1918-1919) | arr. by Richard Dowling |
| III. Virtuoso Etudes based on Gershwin songs (1924) | arr. by Earl Wild |
| Etude no. 3, The Man I Love | |
| Etude no. 7, Fascinatin' Rhythm | |
| IV. Three Preludes for piano solo (1926) | George Gershwin |
| Prelude I (in B flat) | |
| Prelude II (Blue Lullaby) | |
| Prelude III (Spanish Prelude) | |
| V. Merry Andrew (1927) | George Gershwin |
| Virtuoso Etudes based on Gershwin songs (1924) | arr. by Earl Wild |
| Etude no. 4, Embraceable You | |
| VI. Rhapsody in Blue for piano solo (1924) | George Gershwin |

“Wu’s exuberant etudes on Gershwin songs and the dreamy Ellington’s Reflections in D – sounded assured and settled. Wu is uncommonly attractive and entertaining....his introduction to each piece was handled beautifully as he managed a comfortable balance of the formal and of the casual, and the large audience that lined up early to fill the hall loved it all.”

The Washington Post

In 2010, pianist and arranger, **Alexander Wu** joined the elite roster of Yamaha Performing Artists alongside classical and jazz pianists Abbey Simon, Olga Kern, Hank Jones and Dr. John to pop artists Sir Paul McCartney, Sir Elton John, Alicia Keys, and Norah Jones. On tour, he has been invited to perform on and to inaugurate Yamaha's AvantGrand Hybrid and CFX Concert Grand Pianos. Wu's discography, all available on cdbaby.com and itunes.com, includes his solo CDs, *Bach to the Future: Classical & Jazz Piano* and *Rhythm Road across the Americas*, a newly released Broadway to Classical piano four-hand CD *Four Hand Band*, a crossover chamber jazz band CD *ZigZag Quartet* and the much anticipated all Gershwin piano solo CD in late 2016.

Recently, Wu has given concerts and master classes, specializing in cultural program presentations for lecture/performances and education outreach, that include the Millennium Stage at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Steinway Series at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, 92nd St Y, Merkin Concert Hall, Bargemusic, Spiegeltent Festival at Bard College, Mannes College, The New School, Hofstra University, Trinity Church Wall Street, Bryant Park, the Bass Museum, Norton Gallery Museum and Hibel Museum at Florida Atlantic University in South Florida and Musikfest (PA).

Wu performs on the international stage as a soloist, collaborative chamber player and arranger. He played George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with the Millennium Chamber Symphony at Lincoln Center, and in Europe, Asia and South America at venues including St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church (London) and Academia di Chigiana (Siena). In 2009, he performed and conducted a series of recitals and master classes of Spanish and Latin American music by invitation from the Spanish Embassy in Paraguay, South America. And in 2007 and 2008, he was a guest artist and a faculty member of the Interpretation of Spanish Song Festival, in Granada, Spain, and at the Mannes College of Music at The New School in New York City. He performed at the Hotel del Agua, Hotel del Ornia and Auditorio del Conservatorio Victoria Superior in Granada and at the Mannes College Auditorium.

Wu's live performances and interviews have been featured on radio with WADO/Univision, WXEL, NPR, WUSF, WKCR and on KABC, KCBS and Taiwanese television. His concerts have been sponsored by Lincoln Center, Starbucks Coffee, Target, Artists International, the New York State Council of the Arts, Yamaha Corporation of America & Europe, Florida Atlantic University and Project Cancion Espanola, The Embassy of Spain and Republic of Malta.

Originally a California native, Wu is a longtime resident of Manhattan, where he teaches privately. He has served on the faculty of the City College at the City University of New York and as Artist in Residence at the Black Bear Conservatory of Music in northeastern Pennsylvania.

For more information about the artist and his programs please visit
www.chamber-music.org/member/alexanderawu