

IOWA

School of Music



FACULTY AND STUDENT RECITAL

**KEY CHANGE: BRAHMS
AND HIS LEGACY,
CONCERT #4**

Sunday, February 8, 2026, 3:00 p.m.
Concert Hall, Voxman Music Building

PROGRAM

*KEY CHANGE: BRAHMS AND
HIS PIANO LEGACY,
CONCERT #4*

SIX PIECES, OP. 52

Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)

- I. Impromptu. *Presto*
- II. Intermezzo. *Larghetto*
- III. Gigue. *Allegro molto*

Danyun Zhao

KLAVIERSTÜCKE, OP. 76

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

- I. Capriccio. *Un poco Agitato*
- II. Capriccio. *Allegretto non troppo*

Jun Le

KLAVIERSTÜCKE, OP. 76

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

III. Intermezzo. *Grazioso*

IV. Intermezzo. *Allegretto grazioso*

V. Capriccio. *Agitato, ma non troppo presto*

Guoyi Fan

KLAVIERSTÜCKE, OP. 76

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

VI. Intermezzo. *Andante con moto*

VII. Intermezzo. *Moderato semplice*

VIII. Capriccio. *Grazioso ed un poco vivace*

Shu-Min (Alice) Chang

INTERMISSION

SOIRÉES MUSICALES, OP. 6

Clara Schumann (1819-1896)

II. Notturmo

V. Mazurka

VI. Polonaise

Bowen (Peter) Liu

PIANO SONATA IN E MINOR

Florence Price (1887-1953)

III. Scherzo

Helen Mao

BALLADES, OP. 10

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

I. Andante (After the Scottish
Ballade: Edward, in Herder's
Stimmender Völker)

III. Intermezzo. Allegro

IV. Andante con moto

René Lecuona

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

DANYUN ZHAO

Danyun Zhao, a pianist from China, is pursuing her Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Iowa under the guidance of Dr. Rene Lecuona, with a secondary emphasis in composition under Dr. Sam Young. As part of her doctoral studies, she holds a teaching assistantship. In 2024, she performed Barber's Piano Concerto in the UI School of Music Concerto Competition, receiving an honorable mention from the piano faculty. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from the Wuhan Conservatory of Music. Prior to her studies in the United States, she served as a piano teacher at Guangxi Normal University in China. In addition to solo repertoire, she maintains an active interest in collaborative piano and chamber music, with a focus on stylistic versatility and attentive ensemble playing.

JUN LE

Jun (Duong) Le is originally from Vietnam and is currently studying Master of Music in Piano Pedagogy under the tutelage of Dr. Nosikova at the University of Iowa. After spending 10 years at the Vietnam National Academy of Music with Dr. Dao Thu Le, she came to the US for higher education and to pursue her musical career. In her early life, she earned a Silver medal in 2018 - Asia International Piano Academy & Festival with Competition in Korea and participated in Chopin International Piano Competition in Thailand 2019. During her college years, Jun Le has performed at various Series by the School of Music like the Key Change Series: Scriabin, Piano Sundays, and multiple Lunch Concert Series. Jun Le is currently a piano instructor at Music4Life in North Liberty, and has been actively teaching since 2020. She is also involved in community service performances at Oaknoll Retirement Center and MTNA's events.

GUOYI FAN

Guoyi Fan, a native of Chongqing, China, is currently a DMA student in piano performance at the University of Iowa School of Music under the tutelage of Dr. Réne Lecuona. She served as a Teaching Assistant during the 2023–2024 academic year and was a Simms Fellow for the 2024–2025 academic year. Guoyi is a winner of the 2025–2026 University of Iowa Symphony Orchestra Concerto/Aria Competition and will appear as a soloist with the orchestra in an upcoming concert. Her performances have taken her to the United States, Germany, Australia, Hong Kong, and China. She has been actively involved in solo and chamber music performances, including solo recitals and chamber music seasons in New York City, and has appeared as a harpsichordist in 100 Years of German Harpsichord Music in NYC. Guoyi completed both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees at the Manhattan School of Music, where she studied with the late Professor Phillip

Kawin and Dr. Joanne Polk.

SHU-MIN (ALICE) CHANG

Taiwanese pianist Dr. Shu-Min (Alice) Chang holds degrees from Concordia College, Moorhead, MN (B.M. in Piano Performance, Dr. Jay Hershberger as the primary instructor) and the University of Iowa in Iowa City, IA (M.A. and D.M.A. degrees in Piano Performance and Pedagogy, under the tutelage of Dr. Ksenia Nosikova), with violin as her secondary instrument. She has attended music festivals throughout the U.S. and Europe, including PianoSummer at New Paltz, NY, Amalfi Coast Music and Arts Festival, Semper International Music Festival, Gilmore International Keyboard Festival, and the International Society for Improvised Music Conference. Chang was appointed as the Audio/Video Coordinator at the University of Iowa School of Music in June 2023. Besides recording the regular concerts, recitals and sessions, she

also plays an essential role in coordinating recording sessions and post-production for the DMA Recording Projects and Faculty CD Projects.

BOWEN (PETER) LIU

Bowen (Peter) Liu is a passionate and accomplished classical pianist whose performances have captivated audiences around the world. He earned his Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance from the University of Northwestern–St. Paul and completed his Master of Music in Piano Performance at the University of Iowa, where he is currently pursuing his Doctor of Musical Arts degree under the mentorship of Dr. Ksenia Nosikova.

A prizewinner of numerous national and international competitions, Peter's accolades include honors from the 2024 Music International Grand Prix, the Schubert Club Competition, and both the Iowa and Minnesota Music Teachers Association Competitions. As the winner of the Uni-

versity of Iowa's Concerto-Aria Competition, he performed Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 2 with the university orchestra. An active soloist and collaborator, Peter has appeared in concert throughout the United States, Brazil, and China. Recent performances include recitals at Grinnell College, the University of Northwestern-St. Paul, and his Carnegie Hall debut, where he performed works by Scriabin. He has also been featured as a collaborative pianist in professional recordings with vocal arrangements of Szechuan Folk songs.

Deeply committed to both performance and pedagogy, Peter maintains a vibrant private teaching studio and serves as piano faculty at the University of Northwestern-St. Paul and McKneely Music Center in White Bear Lake MN. His students have achieved success in regional examinations and international competitions, reflecting his dedication to artistic excellence and musical growth.

HELEN MAO

Freshman Helen Mao developed her strong passion for piano at the age of four with Pam Sibbel, Larisa Kanevski, and Dr. Mei-Hsuan Huang. Helen currently studies with Dr. Ksenia Nosikova at the University of Iowa. This year, Helen was the UI Symphony Band pianist, and will also perform Grieg's Piano Concerto with the UI Symphony Orchestra as a winner of the UI Concerto Competition. She is also the winner of the Terrace Hill Senior Division Piano Competition, semi-finalist of the 2025 Dubois Piano Competition & Festival, three-time IMTA State winner, three-time MTNA State winner, and Victor Borge Legacy winner. Helen is also a Young Artist who performed with the Central Iowa Symphony and the Fort Dodge Symphony. Significant performances include Carnegie Hall and at the Museum of Danish America. Helen enjoys playing tennis, writing, and percussion, where she performed in the All-State Band (2023) and Orchestra (2024).

She loves to perform piano and percussion for her community within ensembles, jazz bands, gigs, and parades. Helen is thankful for the unconditional support of her family, friends, and teachers. She is currently an Honors student majoring in piano performance and pre-med.

RENÉ LECUONA

Pianist Réne Lecuona has performed in Colombia, Chile, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Mexico, Argentina, France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Germany, and Scotland and throughout the United States. She was awarded a Performer's Certificate and a doctorate from Eastman, where she also won the Concerto Competition. She earned BM and MM degrees at Indiana University. Her teachers have included Rebecca Penneys, Menahem Pressler, Edward Auer, Shigeo Neriki, Laurie Conrad, and György Sebők.

Lecuona has established strong professional relationships in South America,

where she has taught and performed more than fifty times, most recently as part of the Rosita Renard Piano Festival in Santiago, Chile. In June 2024, Réne Lecuona, along with colleagues at Universidad de Antioquia, created the piano festival, Making Music Together. As part of this festival, piano students from both universities presented recitals and lectures in Medellín and Jericó, Colombia. Lecuona was the recipient of a 2024 Global Research Partnership Award from International Programs at the University of Iowa for the creation of the festival.

Lecuona's playing is featured on more than fifteen CD recordings and on social media. Her upcoming performances will take her to Pennsylvania and Brazil.

UPCOMING EVENTS

For the most current listing of concerts, recitals, and other School of Music events, visit the events calendar.

EVENTS CALENDAR 