

IOWA

School of Music



FACULTY AND STUDENT RECITAL

**KEY CHANGE: BRAHMS
AND HIS LEGACY,
CONCERT #5**

Sunday, March 29, 2026, 7:30 p.m.
Concert Hall, Voxman Music Building

PROGRAM

*KEY CHANGE: BRAHMS AND
HIS PIANO LEGACY,
CONCERT #5*

RHAPSODY OP. 79 NO. 1 IN B MINOR

Johannes Brahms

Sarah Zhang

RHAPSODY OP. 79 NO. 2 IN G MINOR

Johannes Brahms

Alejandro Jimenez Zapata

ETUDE OP. 16 NO. 2 IN A MINOR

Ferruccio Busoni

Chaylie Davis

**VARIATIONS ON A THEME BY
PAGANINI, OP. 31 (BOOK 1)**

Johannes Brahms

Yimu Wang

INTERMISSION

**VARIATIONS ON A THEME BY
PAGANINI, OP. 35 (BOOK 2)**

Johannes Brahms

Chieh-Chun (Anna) Chen

FANTASIEN, OP. 116

Johannes Brahm

- I. Capriccio — Presto energico
- II. Intermezzo — Andante
- III. Capriccio — Allegro passionato

Zijie Wang

HUNGARIAN DANCES FOR PIANO

FOUR HANDS

Johannes Brahms

No. 2: Allegro non assai

No. 11: Poco Andante

No. 1: Allegro Molto

No. 5: Allegro

René Lecuona
Alan Huckleberry

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

SARAH ZHANG

Sarah Zhang is an undergraduate student from Northbrook, Illinois. She is pursuing a dual degree in choral music education and piano performance at the University of Iowa, where she studies under Dr. Ksenia Nosikova. Her past performances include playing in chamber recitals, competitions, and the Key Change concert series. This past summer, Sarah participated in the Festival Connections in Natal, Brazil, where she collaborated with singers and other pianists at the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte.

ALEJANDRO JIMENEZ ZAPATA

Alejandro Jimenez is a first-year master's student under the guidance of Dr. Lecuona and a recipient of the Martha Watson Piano Scholarship. He completed his bachelor's degree at EAFIT Uni-

versity in Medellín, Colombia, where he studied with Dr. Gomez- Bravo under the University President's Scholarship and graduated with highest honors. As part of his undergraduate studies, he attended The University of Oklahoma, studying with pianist Dr. Lipinski and collaborative piano with Professor Shames. In addition to piano, he has a strong interest in music theory, and previously worked as a research assistant on a systematic study examining common-practice conventions from the 18th to 19th centuries.

CHAYLIE DAVIS

Chaylie Davis is a fourth-year undergraduate student at the University of Iowa studying music and computer science. She has been studying piano for fifteen years and is currently under the instruction of Dr. Rene Lecuona. As an undergrad, Chaylie has performed in recitals for Piano Sundays, Key Change Series, and was a finalist in the 2025-26 UISO Concerto Competition. Chaylie grew up

in Steamboat Rock, IA, and has enjoyed studying with many excellent teachers including Dr. Ted Reuter and Dr. Uriel Tsachor. Outside of Dr. Lecuona's studio, Chaylie enjoys playing keyboard for Iowa City Salt Company and spending time with her husband, Bowen Davis.

YIMU WANG

Yimu Wang is a 2nd-year DMA student in Dr. Nosikova's studio. From 2008 to 2014, she studied in Sichuan Conservatory of Music and participated in different piano competitions held in China with various honors. After finishing her undergraduate studies at Oberlin College with Professor Robert Shannon, she then gained her master's degree and performance certificate in Piano Performance between 2019 and 2022 at the University of Wyoming with Dr. Theresa Bogard.

Chieh-Chun (Anna) Chen

Chieh-Chun (Anna) Chen is an award-winning pianist known for her expressive artistry and technical brilliance. She was honored to win first prize in the American Virtuoso International Music Competition, culminating in a Carnegie Hall Winners Recital in January 2025. In 2024, she won first prize in the International Music Competition Salzburg Grand Prize Virtuoso and will perform at the Solitär Mozarteum in Salzburg. She has also been awarded top prizes in the Ad Libitum International Piano Competition, the Franz Schubert International Music Competition, and the Vivaldi International Music Competition. An active performer, she has appeared at Taiwan's National Concert Hall, the World Piano Meeting in Portugal, and the Red Note Festival in America. In addition to her solo career, she has collaborated with orchestras, performing Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 1 as a competition winner. Originally from Kaohsiung, Taiwan, Anna is currently

pursuing her Doctoral Degree in Piano Performance at the University of Iowa and serves as Piano and Music Theory Professor at Southwestern Community College.

ZIJIE WANG

Zijie Wang is a Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) student in Piano Performance at the University of Iowa, where he studies with Professor Ksenia Nosikova and serves as a Teaching Assistant. He earned both his Bachelor's degree in Musicology and Master's degree in Piano Performance from Hunan Normal University. During his studies, he received top rankings in both performance and academic evaluations and graduated with first place in thesis assessment. Wang represented Hunan Normal University in the Provincial College Student Arts Competition, where he received First Prize in the Instrumental Solo category. He was also recognized in the Hunan Provincial Chopin International Youth Piano Com-

petition. An experienced educator, Wang holds a Chinese High School Teacher Certification and has taught at secondary schools in China. His academic interests include piano pedagogy, music education, and musical aesthetics. His article “Problems and Countermeasures in the Music Appreciation Course Module” was published in Juying Yuebao and indexed by CNKI.

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 Con-

rad, 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.

ALAN HUCKLEBERRY

Praised for his “impeccable musicianship, exhilarating technique, and panache” (American Record Guide), pianist Alan Huckleberry is recognized as a multi-faceted artist on the classical music scene. He has performed both in solo recitals, as a soloist with orchestras, as well as a chamber musician across Europe, North and South America, as well as Australia. He can be heard on 15 compact disc recordings on among others, the Crystal Record, Albany Record, and MSR labels, most recently with mezzo-soprano Élise DesChamps with the world premiere recording of the complete songs by Pierre-Max Dubois. His recording of the complete wind and piano chamber music of Francis Poulenc was named one of the top classical releases of 2015.

In addition to his performing career, Dr. Huckleberry is equally passionate about his role as an educator. He is currently professor of piano and piano pedago-

gy at The University of Iowa. There he heads the piano pedagogy program, which is now recognized as one of the leading programs in the nation. He is a sought-after speaker on pedagogical topics, including talks at the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy, the Music Teachers National Conference, as well as guest clinician at many state conferences. At the University of Iowa, he also maintains a studio of national and international students, who themselves are leaving their mark in their field. He has been named Teacher of the Year in Iowa, Foundation Fellow of the Music Teachers National Association, and was the recipient of the Frances Clark Keyboard Pedagogy Award for his work, together with Dr. Jason Sifford, on the University of Iowa Piano Pedagogy Video Recording Project.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

EVENTS CALENDAR 