



GUEST MASTERCLASS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2024 | 11:30 AM

Phillip T. Young Recital Hall, MacLaurin Building

The School of Music & the Martha Cooke Visiting Artist Fund presents

GUEST PIANIST **MINSOO SOHN**

PROGRAM

“Un Sospiro” from *Three Concert Etudes*

Franz Liszt
(1811–1886)

Easton Roy

Scherzo No. 4, Op. 54

Frédéric Chopin
(1810–1849)

Patrick Cao

Sonata No. 4, Op. 30

Alexander Scriabin
(1872–1915)

Carey Wang

We acknowledge and respect the Lək̓ʷəŋən (Songhees and Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands and the Lək̓ʷəŋən and WSÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

MARTHA COOKE LEGACY FUND

With a generous gift from the estate of Martha Cooke, The Martha Cooke Visiting Artist Fund presents the second year of three annual visits to the University of Victoria School of Music by renowned pianist Minsoo Sohn. The Martha Cooke bequest also established two substantial funds for piano maintenance at the School of Music. We are delighted that Minsoo Sohn will return to present concerts and masterclasses once again in October 2025. All ticket proceeds from Mr. Sohn's concerts will go to the piano maintenance legacy fund.

BIOGRAPHY

Minsoo Sohn is a Korean American pianist known for his musical intelligence and masterful virtuosity. Described by the New York Times as "a genuine artist, with a thoughtful and poetic interpretation" and the Boston Globe as "born to play the piano," Sohn continues to expand his reputation as one of the foremost pianists of his day. Sohn has toured extensively throughout North and South America, Europe, Israel and Korea and has appeared in important venues and festivals.

Sohn is particularly noted for his interpretation of Bach's *Goldberg Variations*. The New York Times praised his Honens-label recording of the work as a "beautifully articulated, radiant interpretation," placing it one of the top classical recordings of 2011. His recordings have also received critical acclaim from the New Yorker Magazine, the Cleveland Plain Dealer, Gramophone Magazine, the Calgary Herald and Toronto Star, among many others.

In 2020, coinciding with the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth, Mr. Sohn concluded his four year immersion in the composer's music, which has included concert performances, recordings and writings. Over the course of his Beethoven project, Mr. Sohn performed and recorded the composer's thirty-two sonatas in a series of recitals at the Seoul Arts Center, and in recording sessions at Tongyeong Concert Hall. The recital series also included Beethoven's monumental *Diabelli Variations* and *Bagatelles*. Sony Classical released the highly anticipated nine-album set of "Complete Beethoven Piano Sonatas" in the Fall of 2020.

Mr. Sohn previously held positions at Michigan State University and Korean National University of Arts before joining his alma mater, The New England Conservatory of Music, where he began teaching in the Fall of 2023. He is indebted to Russell Sherman and Wha Kyung Byun for guiding him to follow his bliss.