



CLEVELAND  
INSTITUTE OF MUSIC

2025-26  
SEASON

# CONCERT SERIES



## About the Cleveland Institute of Music

The Cleveland Institute of Music empowers the world's most talented classical music students to fulfill their dreams and potential. Its alumni command hallowed stages across the globe as soloists, opera leads, chamber musicians, and ensemble members; compose meaningful, award-winning music; produce Grammy Award-winning recordings; and are highly sought-after teaching artists, administrators, and thought leaders. CIM's faculty likewise hail from around the country and across the world, giving students "The CIM Advantage" as they embark on professional careers. The school's increasingly diverse collegiate and pre-college student bodies benefit from access to world-renowned visiting artists and abundant performance and outreach opportunities, and from the rich curriculum offered by CIM's partner, Case Western Reserve University. A leader among its peers, CIM is the largest presenter of free performances, masterclasses, and community concerts in the Midwest, hosting hundreds of events each year on campus and at locations regionwide, including Severance Music Center. Explore [cim.edu](http://cim.edu) to learn more.



CIM students are positioned for success, developing 21st-century skills to thrive musically and in life. This is possible because of the **CIM Advantage**, where students' artistic potential is unlocked in our nurturing environment, and hours of work and training are transformed into first-rate performances on professional stages and in the community.

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## PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, October 15, 2025  
7:30pm | Kulas Hall

**James (Zijian) Wei**, piano  
*Kulas Foundation Visiting Artist*

*Co-presented with Piano Cleveland*

*Piano Cleveland wishes to thank Daniel and Linda Silverberg for their generous underwriting of James (Zijian) Wei's CIM residency.*

Wolfgang Amadeus  
Mozart  
(1756–1791)

Piano Sonata No. 11 in A Major, K. 331  
Andante grazioso  
Menuetto  
Alla Turca: Allegretto

Ludwig van Beethoven  
(1770–1827)

Piano Sonata No. 28 in A Major, Op. 101  
Etwas lebhaft, und mit der innigsten  
Empfindung. Allegretto, ma non  
troppo  
Lebhaft. Marschmäßig. Vivace alla  
Marcia  
Langsam und sehnsuchtsvoll. Adagio,  
ma non troppo, con affetto  
Geschwind, doch nicht zu sehr, und  
mit Entschlossenheit. Allegro

*Intermission*

Alexander Scriabin  
(1872–1915)

Piano Sonata No. 5, Op. 53

Samuel Barber  
(1910–1981)

Excursions, Op. 20

Percy Grainger  
(1882–1961)

Ramble on the Last Love-Duet in Richard  
Strauss' Opera *Der Rosenkavalier*

Maurice Ravel  
(1875–1937)

La Valse, M. 72

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Chinese pianist **James (Zijian) Wei** is rapidly becoming a rising star among his generation of pianists. His performances are characterized by genuine emotion and unique charm and are loved and acclaimed by audiences around the world.

In 2024, Wei triumphed as the Mixon First Prize winner in the prestigious Cleveland International Piano Competition, while securing accolades including the Best Chamber Music Performance Award, the Henle Verlag Urtext Special Prize, the Audience Choice prize, and the Young Judge Prize. He is poised to embark on his inaugural recital tour with performances at the esteemed Carnegie Hall in New York City in 2025 and the Tonhalle in Zurich, Switzerland in 2026.

In recent years, Wei has frequently performed as a soloist with renowned orchestras in North America, Europe, and China. Wei has performed with The Cleveland Orchestra, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra, Central Conservatory of Music Symphony Orchestra, Changsha Symphony Orchestra, Sichuan Conservatory of Music Symphony Orchestra, Zhengzhou Philharmonic Orchestra, and Wuhan Philharmonic Orchestra.

Wei pursued his secondary education at the high school affiliated with the Xinghai Conservatory of Music, mentored by Professor Jay Pengjie Sun, Professor Liu Xi, and Professor Popova. In 2016, he was successfully admitted to the Central Conservatory of Music, and has been undergoing musical education under the esteemed guidance of Professor Wei Danwen, a celebrated pianist and the piano department chair at the Central Conservatory of Music.

Wei has achieved remarkable distinctions, including first prize in the 2017 Changjiang Cup National University Piano Competition, grand prize in the Professional Category of the 2018 Huanglong Music Season Piano Competition, first prize in the 2018 Jianfa Gulangyu International Piano Competition, and third prize in the 76th Geneva International Music Competition, and received the Rose-Marie Huguenin Award in 2022.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Friday, October 17

7:30pm | Kulas Hall

#### **CIM Orchestra**

**Tito Muñoz**, conductor

**Hiroka Matsumoto**, violin, student artist

TATE Bakbak (Woodpecker) from Woodland Songs (2025)

BRAHMS Academic Festival Overture, Op. 80

KORNGOLD Violin Concerto in D Major, Op. 35

BRAHMS Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Op. 68

### Wednesday, October 22

7:30pm | Kulas Hall

#### **Sphinx Virtuosi**

*Kulas Foundation Visiting Artists*

The flagship ensemble of the Detroit-based Sphinx Organization helps celebrate the reopening of Kulas Hall with one of its trademark programs showcasing the breadth and depth of music by Black and Latino composers.

### Tuesday, October 28

7:30pm | Mixon Hall

**Catherine Cho**, violin

**Albert Cano Smit**, piano

*Kulas Foundation Visiting Artists*

CIM artist-in-residence Catherine Cho, a member of the faculty at The Juilliard School, joins forces with pianist Albert Cano Smit to present a program featuring the music of Bach, Beethoven, and Schubert.

### Thursday, October 30

7:30pm | Mixon Hall

#### **CIM Virtuosi**

**Todd Phillips**, leader

**Antonio Pompa-Baldi**, piano

MOZART Divertimento in D Major, K. 136

MOZART Piano Concerto No. 23 in A Major, K. 488

TCHAIKOVSKY Serenade for Strings, Op. 48

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As of September 29, 2025



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