



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.



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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

Tuesday, April 14, 2026  
7:30pm | Mixon Hall

**Inna Faliks**, piano  
*Kulas Foundation Visiting Artist*

### **Manuscripts Don't Burn**

*A recital/reading by Inna Faliks, with excerpts from her memoir "Weight in the Fingertips, A Musical Odyssey from Soviet Ukraine to the World Stage"*

Ljova Zhurbin  
(b. 1978)

#### *Reading*

Sirota, for piano and historical recording  
*Commissioned by Milken Institute of Jewish Music and composed for Faliks, featuring the voice of Gershon Sirota, the cantor and "Caruso of Odesa"*

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685–1750)

#### *Reading*

Prelude and Fugue in G sharp minor,  
Book II

Inna Faliks  
(b. 1978)

#### *Reading*

Old Belltower  
*Composed by Inna at age 10, before leaving Odesa*

Jan Freidlin  
(b. 1944)

Ballade in Black and White  
*Composed for Inna Faliks*

|                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Frédéric Chopin<br>(1810–1849)<br>Franz Liszt<br>(1811–1886) | <i>Reading</i><br>The Maiden’s Wish                                                                                                                                                    |
| Rodion Shchedrin<br>(1932–2025)                              | <i>Reading</i><br>Basso Ostinato                                                                                                                                                       |
| Veronika Krausas<br>(b. 1963)                                | <i>Reading</i><br>Selections from Master and Margarita Suite<br><i>Commissioned by the Wende Museum, composed for Faliks in response to “Master and Margarita” by Mikhail Bulgakov</i> |
| Maya Miro Johnson<br>(b. 2001)                               | <i>Manuscripts Don’t Burn</i><br><i>Commissioned by the Wende Museum, composed for Faliks in response to “Master and Margarita” by Mikhail Bulgakov</i>                                |
| Ludwig van Beethoven<br>(1770–1827)                          | <i>Reading</i><br>Fantasie, Op. 77                                                                                                                                                     |
| Frédéric Chopin                                              | <i>Reading</i><br>Polonaise Fantaisie, Op. 61                                                                                                                                          |
| Niccolò Paganini<br>(1782–1840)<br>Franz Liszt               | <i>Reading</i><br>La Campanella                                                                                                                                                        |

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Described by *The New Yorker* as “adventurous and passionate,” Ukrainian-born pianist **Inna Faliks** is recognized as one of the most poetic and versatile artists of her generation. Known for commanding performances of the standard repertoire, as well as innovative interdisciplinary projects, she has built a music life defined by passion, sincerity, intellectual depth, and creative curiosity.

Faliks has performed thousands of recitals throughout the United States, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. She has appeared at many of the world’s leading venues including Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, National Gallery of Art, Salle Cortot in Paris, Moscow’s Tchaikovsky Hall, Beijing Center for the Performing Arts, and other major halls across China, Oji Hall in Japan, and major festivals such as Ravinia, Verbier, Gilmore, and Newport Classical.

Since her acclaimed debut with the Chicago Symphony, Faliks has remained a sought-after concerto soloist with leading orchestras in the US and abroad in a variety of works spanning from Beethoven’s complete piano concerti to Clara Schumann, Florence Price, Paul Schoenfield, and Sergei Rachmaninoff.

Her interdisciplinary performances include her one-woman show, the monologue-recital *Polonaise-Fantasia, the Story of a Pianist*, and her long-running poetry and music project, *Music/Words*, which features living poets. She is a committed chamber musician, collaborating with major artists such as Rachel Barton Pine, Gilles Apap, Wendy Warner, Hila Plitmann, and many others.

A defining element in her artistry is her commitment to contemporary music. Numerous composers have written works specifically for her, and she has given many world premieres. In 2024, she premiered Clarice Assad’s “Lilith” Concerto, which Assad wrote for her. In the 2025-26 season, she gave the world premiere of Gabriel Prokofiev’s Concerto for Minimoog Synthesizer and Orchestra with Orquestra Sinfonica do Porto Casa da Musica – the first and only concert pianist in the world to appear on stage as a virtuoso of the Minimoog Synthesizer in a concerto format.

She is a prolific recording artist, with albums ranging from Schumann, Beethoven, and Rachmaninoff, to innovative projects such as *Reimagine*

*Beethoven and Ravel, 9 premieres*, and the most recent *Manuscripts Don't Burn*, featured on NPR's Morning Edition.

Faliks is an acclaimed author, with a recently published memoir *Weight in the Fingertips: A Musical Odyssey from Soviet Ukraine to the World Stage* (Bloomsbury, 2023) and articles in *The Washington Post* and the *Los Angeles Times*.

She serves as professor of piano and head of piano at The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music, mentoring the next generation of artists. A Yamaha Artist and internationally respected performer, Faliks continues to shape today's piano landscape with vision, depth, and expressive power.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Thursday, April 16

7:30pm | *Mixon Hall*

**Tommy Mesa**, cello, *Kulas Foundation Visiting Artist*

**Michelle Cann** (BM '09, MM '10), piano, *Kulas Foundation Visiting Artist*

Trailblazing artists Tommy Mesa and Michelle Cann renew their collaboration in a program that reimagines the chamber music canon for the 21st century. This unique concert pairs works by modern composers like Andrea Casarrubios and Kevin Day with Debussy and Rachmaninoff, brought to life by two outstanding musicians.

### Friday, April 17

7:30pm | *Kulas Hall*

#### **CIM Orchestra**

**Tito Muñoz**, conductor

**Davis Fischer**, baritone, student artist

**Kiana Lilly**, soprano, student artist

**Morgan Potts**, mezzo-soprano, student artist

**Hanyue Zhang**, soprano, student artist

**Jingdian Zhou**, tenor, student artist

TATE *Woodland Songs* (2025)

MAHLER *Symphony No. 1 in D Major, "Titan"*

Reserve free seating passes, watch livestreams, and find more upcoming concerts at [cim.edu/events](https://cim.edu/events).

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