

Claire Huangci

Biography

If looking for characteristics of Huangci's piano playing, one finds them in her superior focus, imaginative abilities, and the resulting poetry of her interpretation. (Thomas Schacher, Neue Zürcher Zeitung)

The American pianist Claire Huangci, winner of the 2018 Geza Anda Competition, continuously captivates audiences with her "radiant virtuosity, artistic sensitivity, keen interactive sense and subtle auditory dramaturgy" (Salzburger Nachrichten). With an irrepressible curiosity and penchant for unusual repertoire, she proves her versatility with a wide range in repertoire spanning from Bach and Scarlatti, via German and Russian romanticism, to Bernstein, Gulda, and Corigliano.

In solo recitals and with international orchestras, Claire has appeared in some of the most prestigious halls such as Carnegie Hall, Suntory Hall Tokyo, NCPA Beijing, Paris Philharmonie, Munich Gasteig, Leipzig Gewandhaus, Hamburg Elbphilharmonie, Vienna Concerthouse, Salzburg Festspielhaus, and the Budapest Franz Liszt Akademie. She is a welcome guest in renowned festivals including Lucerne Festival, Verbier Festival, Rheingau Musik Festival, and Klavier Festival Ruhr. Her esteemed musical partners include the Mozarteumorchester Salzburg, Stuttgart Radio Symphony Orchestra, Tonhalle-Orchester Zurich, ORF Radio Orchester Vienna, Vancouver Symphony, and China Philharmonic Orchestra, together with Sir Roger Norrington, Eva Ollikainen, Pietari Inkinen, Mario Venzago, Howard Griffiths, Cornelius Meister, and Elim Chan.

During the season 2021/22, Claire is again travelling all over the world, following invitations to the US, Japan, Colombia, and Russia next to her extensive work in Europe. In the start of 2022, she will present the complete cycle of the five piano concertos by Prokofiev in a major project with the Biel Solothurn Orchestra. Touring Beethoven's piano concerto No.2 with Le Concert Olympique as a soloist, she will return to Berlin Philharmonie and Hamburg Elbphilharmonie, among others. Further orchestra appearances will be made with Wuerttemberg's Staatsorchester Stuttgart, the Musikkollegium Winterthur, Munich Chamber Orchestra, Nordic Chamber Orchestra, and the Basel Chamber Orchestra.

Claire Huangci began her international career at the age of nine with concert performances and competition wins. After studying with Eleanor Sokoloff and Gary Graffman at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, she moved to Germany in 2007 for further studies with Arie Vardi at the Hannover Musikhochschule, graduating with honors in 2016. Early in her artistic career, she stood out as an expressive interpreter of Chopin, winning first prizes at the Chopin competitions in Darmstadt and Miami in 2009 and 2010. She was also the youngest participant to receive second prize at the International ARD Music Competition in 2011.

Releasing her new solo album with Bach Toccatas at the start of 2021/22, she is adding yet another recording to her already highly acclaimed discography. After recording her debut CD with solo works of Tchaikovsky and Prokofiev and her prizewinning double album of Scarlatti sonatas (German Record Critics' Award and Gramophone Editor's Choice), her solo albums included complete recordings of Chopin's Nocturnes and Rachmaninoff's Préludes, followed by her first chamber music album with Trio Machiavelli in 2020, whose interpretations of Ravel's trio and Chausson's piano quartet proved "a wholly exhilarating debut [...] splendidly transparent, and always expressive." (BR Klassik). After recordings of Beethoven's violin concerto in the piano version and Schubert's Fantasy for piano and orchestra (arranged by Kabalevsky) with the RSO Vienna, her first orchestral album with the Deutsche Radiophilharmonie Saarbrücken under Shiyeon Sung was released in Fall 2019 with concertos by Chopin and Paderewski.

2021/2022 season

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