

WU HAN

2018–19 Program Biography (747 Words)

Pianist Wu Han ranks among the most esteemed and influential classical musicians in the world today. Leading an unusually multifaceted artistic career, she has risen to international prominence through her wide-ranging activities as a concert performer, artistic director, recording artist, educator, and cultural entrepreneur. In recognition of artistic excellence and achievement in the arts, Wu Han and her longtime recital partner, cellist David Finckel, are recipients of *Musical America's* Musicians of the Year award, one of the highest honors granted by the music industry.

In high demand as a recitalist, concerto soloist, and chamber musician, Wu Han annually performs at the most prestigious concert venues and series across the world in recital with David Finckel, in piano trios with violinist Philip Setzer, and in piano quartets with violinist Daniel Hope and violist Paul Neubauer. Her most recent concerto appearances were with the Aspen Chamber Orchestra, the Atlanta Symphony, and the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Highlights of her 2018–19 season include international and domestic tours as a duo with David Finckel and collaborations with a stellar lineup of artists and ensembles. She continues to perform with The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center (CMS) in New York and on tour; reunites with violinist Daniel Hope and violist Paul Neubauer for a U.S. tour reaching seven cities; and embarks on a series of piano trio performances in Canada and the United States with violinist Philip Setzer. As the winter unfolds, she joins CMS artists on tour to the Far East with appearances in Taipei and Hsinchu, Taiwan and Shanghai, China. Together with David Finckel, she will be the subject of two television features to be broadcast on PBS stations across the country.

Now in their third term as Artistic Directors of The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Wu Han and David Finckel hold the longest tenure as directors since CMS founder Charles Wadsworth. Together with David Finckel, she is the founder and Co-Artistic Director of Music@Menlo, the San Francisco Bay Area's premier summer chamber music festival and institute, approaching its seventeenth season in 2019. From 2011 to 2018, Wu Han served as founding Co-Artistic Director of Chamber Music Today, an annual festival held in Seoul, South Korea, which marks its eighth season in 2018. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts recently appointed Wu Han Artistic Advisor for Chamber Music at the Barns for 2018–19 and 2019–20. She is the first Artistic Advisor to hold the position for two full seasons. In the spring, David Finckel and Wu Han inaugurate an immersive, week-long festival in Palm Beach that explores German and Austrian chamber music through an array of performances and interactive events.

In addition to her distinction as a world-class performer, Wu Han has established a reputation for her dynamic and innovative approach to the recording studio. She opened up a whole new world in the classical recording industry when she co-created ArtistLed, the first musician-directed and internet-based classical recording company. *BBC Music Magazine* recently saluted the label's twentieth anniversary featuring the duo on its cover CD. This new recording is to be released on the ArtistLed label in the fall. Wu Han has also overseen the establishment of the CMS Studio Recordings label, the Society's partnership with Deutsche Grammophon, CMS's live stream programming, and Music@Menlo *LIVE*, which has been praised as "the most ambitious recording project of any classical music festival in the world" (*San Jose Mercury News*). Her most recent addition to the ArtistLed catalogue, Wu Han *LIVE II*,

was released in collaboration with the Music@Menlo *LIVE* label and features her recordings of piano quintets by Taneyev and Dohnányi.

Wu Han has received universal praise for her passionate commitment to nurturing the artistic growth of countless young artists through a wide array of educational initiatives. Under her leadership at the Chamber Music Society, the CMS Two program identifies and inducts the finest young chamber artists into the entire spectrum of CMS activities. As Co-Artistic Director of Music@Menlo, her Chamber Music Institute has provided hundreds of students with incomparable, immersive musical experiences over sixteen summers. Since 2009, Wu Han has co-directed the LG Chamber Music School in South Korea, which serves dozens of young musicians annually. From 2013 to 2018, Wu Han and David Finckel led an intensive chamber music studio at the Aspen Music Festival and School. This season, the duo's website introduces a new initiative which addresses the challenges and opportunities facing today's classical music performers and presenters.

For more information, please visit www.davidfinckelandwuhan.com.