



SCHOOL OF
MUSIC, THEATRE & DANCE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

GUEST RECITAL

CHENYI AVSHARIAN, VIOLIN

AMY I-LIN CHENG, PIANO

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Walgreen Drama Center, Stamps Auditorium

7:30 PM

BOUNDLESS HORIZON

- | | |
|---|---|
| Old Folks at Home (1851) 3'30" | Stephen Foster
(1826-1864)
arr. Jascha Heifetz
(1901-1987) |
| Zapateado, Op. 23, no. 2 (1880) 6' | Pablo de Sarasate
(1844-1908) |
| On Wings of Song, Op. 34, No. 2 (1834) 3'55" | Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)
arr. Jascha Heifetz |
| Fantaisie Brillante on Rossini's Othello,
Op. 11 (1834) 13'12" | Heinrich Wilhelm Ernst
(1814-1865) |

Intermission

- | | |
|---|--|
| Sonatasatz, Scherzo in C Minor (1853) 5'31" | Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897) |
| Summertime and A Woman is a Sometime Thing
from Porgy and Bess (1944) 4' | George Gershwin
(1898-1937)
trans. Jasha Heifetz |

*This program was drafted and created by the artist in support of their performance
smt.d.umich.edu @umichsmt #umicharts #umichsmt*



umichsmt

Le Grand Tango (1982) 12'08"

Astor Piazzolla
(1921-1992)
arr. Sofia Gubaidulina
(b. 1931)

Mo Li Hua 3'

Traditional Chinese Folk Song
edited by Chenyi Avsharian

Carmen Fantasy (1947) 10'56"

Franz Waxman
(1906-1967)

Internationally recognized violin virtuoso, ChenYi Avsharian, has built an exceptional reputation as a soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician. With her performances characterized by technical prowess, profound musical understanding, and magnetic stage presence, she enchants audiences worldwide, and has earned her the esteem of her peers within the music industry. Her commitment and dedication to her craft is driven by a singular passion: to inspire joy through music.

Ms. Avsharian's journey began in Beijing, China, where, under the watchful guidance of her violinist father, Mr. Chen Yong-Gang, she started displaying her extraordinary talent at a mere four years old. She was handpicked to study with the legendary Professor Lin Yao Ji at the Central Conservatory of Music (CCOM). During her tenure, she enriched her skills by serving as the concertmaster of the China Youth Symphony Orchestra for over eight years and delved into the nuances of chamber music, forming a piano trio and a string quartet. A significant turn in her career came when she secured a four-year scholarship to the esteemed Ivan Galamian summer school, Meadowmount, located in New York State. This prestigious opportunity led her to meet Charles Avsharian, who would become not only a mentor but later her husband.

Her exceptional career is adorned with numerous accolades, from securing the third prize at the third Violin Competition of the CCOM at age 12, winning the silver medal at the first Sino-French Miduo International Violin Competition, to ranking among the top 15 at the first Sendai Japan International Violin Competition. She clinched the first place at the second Concert Artist for Chinese Youth Musician, a silver medal at the sixth Golden Bell National Competition of China and became the first Asian Gold Medal winner at the second China International Violin Competition in Qingdao, China, 2008.

In the past decade, Ms. Avsharian has expertly merged her executive capabilities with her thriving musical career. She has served as the Chief Operating Officer of Shar Music Company for 10 years. Founded 62 years ago by her husband, Charles Avsharian and family, Shar Music has been a stalwart in the bowed string music community, providing musicians worldwide with the highest quality instruments,

bows, strings, and accessories. It continues to echo its passion to inspire joy through music, mirroring ChenYi's deep-rooted passion for music.

In addition to her flourishing professional life, Ms. Avsharian is a devoted mother to three lovely daughters aged 14, 11, and 10, balancing her career and personal life with grace and dedication.

The accolades from her peers in the industry and critics have been effusive. Classical Guitar Magazine, in November 2010, wrote of her "charisma". Pizzicato Music Magazine lauded her for her "grace and great technical precision" in September 2010. She was praised by Rainer Kussmaul, a renowned German violinist and conductor, who considered her performance as "the most melting performance I have ever heard in a concert", while the world-renowned violinist and conductor, Maxim Vengerov extolled her as a "Brilliant Violinist!" "Her exquisite music and deep poetic tone leaving her playing a distinctive luster, takes you to another world." — Xincao LI, Principal Resident Conductor of CNSO, Music Director of the Pusan Philharmonic Orchestra, Republic of Korea, Music Director of GSO, Principal of the China Conservatory.

Today, ChenYi Avsharian stands as a beacon in the international music community, a testament to her exceptional talent, relentless ambition, and unwavering passion for inspiring joy through music. Her life, marked by musical mastery, accomplished executive leadership, and the role of a loving mother, paints the portrait of an inspiring woman whose influence reaches far beyond the world of music.

Born in Taiwan, pianist Amy I-Lin Cheng has appeared in recitals and music festivals across the United States and around the world. Amy's live performances have been heard on WGBH, KUCCO, WHYY, La Radio Suisse Romande-Espace 2, and NPR in Houston. Amy has recorded for Centaur, Albany, CDBaby and Naxos, with a recent release of the Piano Concerto by Vítězslava Kaprálová on Naxos, after she gave the North American premiere of the concerto at the Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor in 2015. Other concerto premieres include the 2017 US premiere of Improvisation on Misirlou, a single movement piano concerto by Israeli-American composer Daniel Rein at the Sewanee Summer Music Festival, and 2019 world premiere of the Double Concerto for Yang Qin and Piano by Taiwanese composer Chun-Da Huang, collaborating with the National Chinese Orchestra Taiwan (NCO), at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She also recorded solo piano works by French composer Fernande Decruck, released on the Éditions Billaudot's youtube channel in fall 2022. As a chamber musician, Amy is the co-Artistic Director and pianist for the Brightmusic Chamber Music Series in Oklahoma City, and has toured with Duo Clarion, Trio Solari and the American Chamber Players. A dedicated teacher, Amy's students have won awards at local, regional and national competitions and college teaching positions in the US and abroad. Amy is a graduate of The Curtis Institute of Music (BM), Yale University School of Music (MM and Artist Diploma), and the New England Conservatory

(DMA). Amy is an Assistant Professor Music in Piano and Piano Chamber Music at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance in Ann Arbor, MI, where she lives with her family and two family pets.