

PUNAHOU MUSIC DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

Concerto Showcase

2022



Christine Dong, piano



Ellie Ochiai, violin



Christian Yamada, cello



Bao Nguyen, violin



Jairus Rhoades, piano

Photos: Duane Padilla

*Featuring 5 extraordinary soloists
from the Class of 2022*

Livestreamed from Dillingham Hall
on Punahou School's YouTube Channel

Friday, Feb. 25, 2022 | 7 p.m.

Program

Violin Concerto in E minor, Op. 64Felix Mendelssohn
III. Allegretto non troppo - Allegro molto vivace (1809-1847)

Bao Nguyen, violin
Jairus Rhoades, piano

Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor, Op. 18..... Sergei Rachmaninoff
III. Allegro scherzando (1873-1943)

Christine Dong, piano
Dr. Thomas Yee, piano

Cello Concerto No, 2 in A minor, Op. 14..... Karl Davidov
I. Allegro (1838-1889)

Christian Yamada, cello
Mr. Deven Kono, piano

Symphonie Espagnole in D minor, Op. 21..... Édouard Lalo
V. Rondo: Allegro (1823-1892)

Ellie Ochiai, violin
Dr. Thomas Yee, piano

Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor, Op. 15 No. 1 Johannes Brahms
III. Rondo: Allegro non troppo (1833-1897)

Jairus Rhoades, piano
Mr. Deven Kono, piano



Bao Nguyen has been studying violin for eight years under the instruction of Mr. Colin Belisle. He is a member of the Punahou Symphony, the Hawaii Youth Symphony, and the Vaught Memorial Piano Quintet in the Punahou Chamber Music Program. Bao also studies piano under the instruction of Dr. Wendy Yamashita. In addition to music, he is a member of Punahou's Science Bowl Team and Math Team and performs chemistry research at the Hyvl Group at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. In his free time, Bao enjoys reading and biking. He will always cherish the wonderful friendships and fun he has shared with his fellow Punahou student musicians. He hopes to continue playing music in college while earning a degree in chemistry. Bao is incredibly grateful for the guidance of Mr. Craig Young, Dr. Jonas Carlson, Mrs. Helen Chao-Casano, and his many other mentors. He is also extremely thankful for the many years of support from his parents Hao and Lanh Nguyen.



When **Christine Dong** was five, the only thing she wanted to play on the piano was "The Entertainer" by Scott Joplin. In the 11 years of her piano teacher Ms. Bichuan Li's guidance, she has developed a lifelong passion for classical music. Piano has given Christine so much, including friendships across continents, the opportunity to learn from world-renowned musicians, and several national distinctions such as the Paderewski Gold Medal award. Outside of music, Christine is a self-proclaimed television connoisseur, part-time mathlete, and professional nightowl. She especially enjoys playing (and failing miserably at) geography games with friends in her free time. In the fall, Christine plans on majoring in engineering with a concentration in applied physics. Christine extends her deepest gratitude to her parents, Shu and Liangjie, and her brother Nate, as they have been a great source of inspiration, motivation, and countless car rides over the years. She is eternally grateful to Ms. Bichuan Li, for her unwavering support in and beyond music, and Dr. Thomas Yee, for his invaluable time and wisdom. And of course, Christine would like to say a tremendous thanks to the Punahou Symphony Orchestra Directors, Mr. Craig Young and Dr. Jonas Carlson for their kindness, instruction, hilarious anecdotes, and the opportunity to perform today.



Christian Yamada has been playing cello for ten years and he currently studies with Mrs. Anna Callner-Pare. Christian is a member of the Punahou Symphony and the Punahou Chamber Music Program. He also enjoys participating in extracurricular activities like Mock Trial, Swim Team, and the Academy Music Club. As vice president of this club, Christian has been able to coordinate music-centered service opportunities for students from across the island. Looking forward, he plans to study mechanical engineering in college and minor in cello performance. He would like to thank his parents, Allie and Clayton, and his stepparents, Lenny and Liane for their love and support. He would also like to give a special thanks to his past instructors, Mrs. Gail Yoneshige and Mrs. Joanna Morrison, his chamber music coaches, Mr. Deven Kono and Ms. Maile Reeves, and his conductors Mr. Joseph Stepec, Mr. Craig Young, and Dr. Jonas Carlson.



Ellie Ochiai is the daughter of Dean and Rene Ochiai, who have provided her with endless support, encouragement, and sacrifices ever since she started playing the violin at age three. In addition to being a dedicated member of the Punahou Symphony Orchestra, the Punahou Chamber Music Program, and the Hawaii Youth Symphony, Ellie participates in the Punahou Cross Country and Track and Field teams, where she is a Varsity sprinter. She hopes to attend college on the West Coast where she can pursue a career in criminal justice in an exciting new environment while still remaining close to her family and those she loves the most. Ellie is tremendously thankful for her private teacher, Ms. Kathy Hafner, who has made an enormous impact on Ellie's life as both a mentor and inspirational role model. She is especially grateful to have worked with Dr. Thomas Yee, whose patience and kindness enhance her appreciation for every piece they perform together. Ellie also extends her genuine gratitude to Mr. Craig Young, Dr. Jonas Carlson, Mrs. Helen Chao-Casano, and each mentor and friend who has been a part of her lifelong musical journey. Her love for classical music and everything she has experienced through violin would not have been possible without each and every one of them.

Jairus Rhoades has played the piano since the age of four and has been studying under the tutelage of Ms. Joanna Zane Fan for eleven years. He is ever grateful to Mrs. Fan for her countless hours of hard work, love, and her never-ending supply of Ferrero-Rocher chocolates! Jairus has garnered top prizes in national and international competitions, including the Cooper International Piano Festival, the Steinway Piano Competition, the Worldvision International Music Competition, the Aloha International Piano Competition, and the YoungArts National Competition. Jairus is a member of the Punahou Symphony and the Punahou Chamber Music Program. When not playing piano, cello, or tennis, he enjoys competing on the Punahou Science Bowl team and walking his extremely cute dog, Kaja. Jairus plans on double majoring in piano performance and biophysics. Jairus sends his deepest love and gratitude to his parents, Robert and Ta'u, for their tough love, dedication, and undying patience; and his admiration for his younger sister, Jariah, '25, who always aces him on the tennis court. Jairus is also very grateful to Mr. Craig Young and Dr. Jonas Carlson for their continued support, guidance and inspiration throughout his years in the Punahou Orchestra Program. He also cannot thank Mrs. Chao-Casano enough for her patience, resourcefulness, and encouragement throughout his musical career.



The Punahou Concerto Concert: Celebrating Thirty Years of Excellence

The concept of the Punahou Concerto Concert was created by Ms. Priscilla Smith, Professor Emerita of Music Education at Oberlin College, who served as interim Director of Orchestras at Punahou for the 1991-1992 school year. Recognizing an abundance of Symphony Orchestra students deeply dedicated to the study of their orchestral instruments, Ms. Smith felt that there should be an opportunity to present students as soloists in a concerto concert setting, accompanied by the combined students of the Punahou Symphony Orchestra and Punahou Wind Ensemble performing as a full orchestral ensemble.

Senior student soloists are traditionally selected by a live audition. However, for the past two years due to the pandemic, auditions have been held virtually via performance video submissions, which were adjudicated by a committee of professional musicians and music educators. Another pivot was made as the pandemic also impacted the ability to have an orchestral accompaniment, hence the use of piano accompaniment for this evening's performance. Some past soloists continued their involvement in music while pursuing other fields of study and work, and some went on to become professional musicians such as Grammy Award-winning bassist, Shawn Conley and Laura Jean Keller, a violinist with the San Francisco Ballet. Tonight, the Concerto Concert tradition continues featuring the Class of 2022 soloists Christine Dong, Bao Nguyen, Ellie Ochiai, Jairus Rhoades, and Christian Yamada.

The Concerto Concert has become an annual tradition carried forth by the Punahou Symphony Orchestra since 1992, but what remains unchanged through all the years is the gratitude and appreciation we have for the incredible commitment of the students, their families and their teachers. Tonight, we acknowledge and celebrate their collective dedication to music making of the highest standards, as well as the individual talents and unique musical journeys of each of the soloists. Thank you for joining us for tonight's performance!

Craig Young
Director of Orchestras

Acknowledgments

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Ms. Trisha Caley, Academy Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Faculty
Mr. James Kakos, Academy Assistant Principal
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Craig Young, Director of Orchestras
Chrisann Sills, Music Department Administrative Assistant
Chris Patrinos, Theatre Technical Director