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News Release
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Upright & Grand Piano Festival
Jan 29, 30, 31: Arnaldo Cohen Performs Brahms Piano Concerto No. 1; Conrad Tao, Jessie Chang and Jahja Ling Perform Mozart’s Concerto No. 7 for Three Pianos; Music Director Jahja Ling Also Conducts

San Diego Symphony’s Upright & Grand Piano Festival continues next weekend with Arnaldo Cohen performing Brahms Piano Concerto No. 1 on Friday, January 29; 8pm; also on the program is Beethoven’s Symphony No. 6: Pastorale, both pieces of which will be repeated on Sunday, January 31; conducted by music director Jahja Ling. On Saturday, January 30, Jahja Ling joins his wife and pianist, Jessie Chang, along with Conrad Tao for Mozart’s Concerto No. 7 for Three Pianos: Lodron. Pianist Horacio Gutiérrez previously scheduled for the weekend concerts is unable to perform and has been replaced by Cohen and Tao.

Brazilian-born pianist Arnaldo Cohen has a reputation for astonishing audiences with the musical authority and blistering virtuosity of his performances. His graceful and unaffected platform manner belies playing of white-hot intensity, intellectual probity and glittering bravura technique bordering on sheer wizardry.

Pianist Jessie Chang is admired for her beautiful tone, commanding technique, and magnetic personality. Among the highlights of her career, Chang appeared at the Blossom Festival with The Cleveland Orchestra playing Mozart’s Double Concerto with her duo-partner and husband, Jahja Ling. She has been featured at the Carnegie Hall’s Isaac Stern Auditorium, Pasadena’s Ambassador Auditorium and in front of 28,000 people at Bung Karno stadium in Jakarta.

Conrad Tao has appeared worldwide as a pianist and composer, and he has been dubbed a musician of “probing intellect and open-hearted vision” by The New York Times, a “thoughtful and mature composer” by NPR and “ferociously talented” by TimeOut New York. In June 2011 the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars and the Department of Education named Tao a Presidential Scholar in the Arts, and the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts awarded him a YoungArts gold medal in music.

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