



VIRGINIA G. PIPER
CONCERT SERIES

**CONRAD TAO,
PIANO**

Scottsdale Center for the
Performing Arts
Virginia G. Piper Theater

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Virginia G. Piper Concert Series
Presents

CONRAD TAO, PIANO

Friday, April 9, 2021
8:00 p.m.

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Virginia G. Piper Theater

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PROGRAM

Conrad Tao
(b. 1994)

All I had Forgotten, or Tried to

J.S. Bach
(1685–1750)

Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue D minor, BWV 903

Jason Eckardt
(b. 1971)

Echoes' White Veil

Robert Schumann
(1810–1856)

Kreisleriana

CONRAD TAO

Pianist Conrad Tao has appeared worldwide as a pianist and composer and has been dubbed a musician of “probing intellect and open-hearted vision” by *The New York Times*. He is the recipient of the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant and was named a Gilmore Young Artist—an honor awarded every two years highlighting the most promising American pianists of the new generation. As a composer, he was also the recipient of a 2019 New York Dance & Performance Award (a Bessie) for Outstanding Sound Design / Music Composition for his work on *More Forever*, a collaboration with Caleb Teicher.

Conrad Tao has recently appeared with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, and Boston Symphony. In 2020–21, he was the focus of a series of concerts and interviews with the Finnish Radio Symphony, performing Beethoven’s 4th with Hannu Lintu and Andrew Norman’s *Suspend* with Sakari Oramo live on television. While most performances in the 2020–21 season were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, he appeared with the Cincinnati Symphony and Louis Langree, and he returned to the Seattle Symphony to perform Beethoven’s 4th. Further invitations included the National Symphony Orchestra, the San Francisco Symphony, New Jersey Symphony, and St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. His creation with dancer Caleb Teicher, *More Forever*, was planned for tours across the United States, including Dance Cleveland and Fall for Dance, Toronto.

In the 2019–20 season, Tao was presented in recital by Carnegie Hall, performing works by David Lang, Bach, Julia Wolfe, Jason Eckhardt, Carter, Rachmaninoff, and Schumann. He also made his debut in recital at Walt Disney Hall, where the LA Phil presented him in works by Copland and Frederic Rzewski. Following his debut at Blossom, the Cleveland Orchestra invited Tao to perform at Severance Hall in a special program featuring music by Mary Lou Williams and Ligeti, and improvisation alongside pianist Aaron Diehl. And after his debut with the Boston Symphony at Tanglewood, he was invited to give a streamed recital in the Great Performers series, where he played works by Felipe Lara, Crawford Seeger, Tania Leong, David Lang, and Beethoven.

In 2018, the New York Philharmonic and Jaap van Zweden gave the world premiere of Tao’s work *Everything Must Go*. The European premiere will take place in 2021–22 with the Antwerp Symphony. Other recent performances of his work include his own performance of *The Oneiroi in New York* with the Seattle Symphony and *Spoonfuls* with the IRIS Orchestra. His Violin Concerto for Stefan Jackiw will be premiered in the 2021–22 season.

Other recent highlights include Tao’s LA Opera debut in the West Coast premiere of David Lang’s adaptation of Thomas Bernhard’s *the loser*. In Europe, he has been presented by the Swedish Radio Symphony in recital and in Andrew Norman’s *Suspend* alongside Susanna Mälkki. He also recently returned to the Orchestra dell’Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, performing with Antonio Pappano.

A Warner Classics recording artist, Tao’s *Voyages* was declared a “spiky debut” by *The New Yorker’s* Alex Ross. Of the album, NPR wrote: “Tao proves himself to be a musician of deep intellectual and emotional means—as the thoughtful programming on this album . . . proclaims.” His next album, *Pictures*, with works by David Lang, Toru Takemitsu, Elliott Carter, Mussorgsky, and Tao himself, was hailed by *The New York Times* as “a fascinating album [by] a thoughtful artist and dynamic performer . . . played with enormous imagination, color, and command.” His third album, *American Rage*, was released in the fall of 2019 and featured works by Julia Wolfe, Frederic Rzewski, and Aaron Copland.

Tao was born in Urbana, Illinois, in 1994. He has studied piano with Emilio del Rosario in Chicago and Yoheved Kaplinsky in New York, and he studied composition with Christopher Theofanidis.

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